KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | 4-H News

4-H UPDATES

Official Newsletter of Meadowlark Extension District 4-H

November 2026

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Online Record Keeping with ZBooks

This year, Senior Level 4-H members (ages 14+) will be required to complete their Project Report Forms using ZBooks. Senior Level members will no longer use the form-fillable PDF version for their record books.

Junior and Intermediate 4-H members may continue to complete the form-fillable PDF version of the Project Report Forms or choose to keep their records online using ZBooks. All records are evaluated using the same score sheet and standards.

Some features of ZBooks include:

- Mobile friendly: Jot down notes, weights, ear tags, expenses, and other information on the spot.
- Internet based: Work on your records from any device connected to the internet.
- Unlimited entries: Add as many entries as needed until the final report is submitted. Youth can then select the allowed number of entries to include in the final report, giving them the opportunity to prioritize and summarize their experiences.

48 Hours of 4-H Wrap Up

If your club or group completed a '48 Hours of 4-H' activity, please go to https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a5m06aP6jzvb2lM and complete the online report. Even if your project wasn't pre-registered, please report your activity so organizers can capture the event's full impact and enjoy your photos.

The report also includes space for your thoughts and feedback. Thank you for truly taking the **"Pledge of Hands to Larger Service"** to heart!

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

It is once again required that YQCA certification must be completed for the Premium Sale Requirements. ALL Youth need to have certification completed by May 1, no exceptions. You are more than welcome to attend ANY in-person class whether it is hosted by our District or a neighboring one! We just need assurance by way of a .pdf or screenshot of your certificate. Online class certifications are also accepted. Registration is now open for web-based ($12.00) and instructor led in-person ($3.00) training events. The first in person event is taking place on Saturday, November 7 at the Livestock Summit event located at the Holton Livestock Exchange.

Youth ages 7-18 are required to be certified each year. 7 yr olds must take an in-person class. 8-18 yr olds may do in-person or online certification. Be watching the newsletter for more in-person certifications in the coming months.

YQCA certification is **required to show at the fairs within the Meadowlark Extension District** for exhibitors in **Beef, Bucket Calf, Dairy Cow, Dairy Goat, Meat Goats, Sheep, Swine, Meat Pen Poultry, and Meat Pen Rabbits.**

The **Kansas State Fair Grand Drive** and **KJLS** are expected to continue requiring all exhibitors to complete YQCA certification to be eligible to show in the 2026–2027 season. Youth must re-certify **prior to nomination** (for market animals and commercial females) or **prior to entry** (for those showing only registered breeding females).

State 4-H Resource Refresher

The Kansas State 4-H website has a great wealth of resources designed to help the 4-H member and/or 4-H Project leader. If you have not yet visited the Kansas Clover Classroom, please check it out at https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/leader-resources/cloverclassroom/index.html. New project lessons are being added all the time.

Another resource is the 4-H Club Corner, which has a wealth of information. Don't forget the sub-pages with Officer and Volunteer Resources, https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/leader-resources/clubcorner/index.html.

4-H Enrollment Update

By the time you receive this newsletter, the **November 1 deadline for returning member re-enrollment** in Kansas 4-HOnline2.0 is very near or just past. This has been covered in past newsletters, emailed to your email account in 4-HOnline and should have been discussed at Club meetings recently! We hope **EVERY** returning 4-H member has been able to complete re-enrollment and pay your program fee by this deadline! Keep in mind that NEW members may join at any time of year but will have deadlines for participation in 4-H events. (example – must be enrolled in 4-H before participation in 4-H Club Day).

Your 4-H enrollment is an important link to participation in the 4-H program. We will use information in your 4-HOnline account to create mailing list (including monthly 4-H Newsletter) emails, project list, reports, etc… It is extremely important that you manage your 4-HOnline account, keeping information current. This is our main form of communication with our 4-H members, families, and volunteers.

4-H Personal Achievement Goals

Start the new year off with individual goals to accomplish great things. 4-H members should review the next Member Achievement Plan for which they are eligible and establish personal goals at this time. Goals serve as a guide to keep you on course when times get tough and help prevent distraction by unimportant matters.

Setting goals has many benefits, including a clearer focus, more effective use of time, better decision-making, and improved communication of both plans and results. To assist with goal setting, a guide was developed several years ago. If you need additional help, check out this publication: https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/4H1100.pdf.

Standards for 4-H and FFA

The purpose of the standards outlined below are to assist in determining eligible participation in FFA and/or 4-H Youth Development learning experiences. Both 4-H and Agriculture Education/FFA promote teaching youth life skills. Each program exists to maximize the participants' knowledge of agriculture and its value to our communities while educating the young people to become productive citizens. Eligible youth may participate in both 4-H and FFA but should avoid duplication. The following standards of participation are used in delivering the 4-H and FFA programs in Kansas.

1. Agriculture Education teachers, FFA Advisors, Extension staff and local volunteers are encouraged to cooperate in sharing information and resources to provide educational opportunities for youth.
2. When young people are members of both 4-H and FFA, they must plan and manage separate projects, and/or supervise agriculture experiences (SAE) programs.
3. FFA and 4-H members may enroll in the same area of experience in 4-H and FFA, however; participants cannot identify, nominate, manage, keep records on, or exhibit the same plants, animals, etc. in both organizations. Members must designate exhibits as either FFA or 4-H at weigh-in, registration, etc.
4. Members may participate in judging contests and related events in FFA and 4-H but cannot represent both organizations at a contest, show or event at the same time.
5. When 4-H and FFA are conducting collaborating activities, both the 4-H and FFA organizations must be represented through emblems and information on all signs, print materials and awards.
6. Collaborating FFA and 4-H activities or events are obligated to have supervision representation from both organizations. The standards are in agreement with Kansas 4-H and FFA and hereby affirmed by members and professionals in order to participate in either educational program.

4-H Club Fundraiser Notice Form

Having funds available for 4-H club activities and charitable donations is essential to the success of your club. To ensure your fundraiser follows proper use of the 4-H logo and that all funds are handled correctly and accounted for, we ask all 4-H clubs to complete and return this fundraiser notice at least **10 days prior** to each event.

The form is available on the Meadowlark Extension District website at https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/docs/4h/forms/Club-Fundraiser-Approval-Fillable-Form.pdf. It is a fillable form that can be submitted to your local Extension office within the Meadowlark Extension District.

Your local Extension office will note when the form was received and who reviewed it. They may also provide recommendations or suggestions to help ensure your fundraiser is safe and successful.

After the event, a fundraiser balance sheet—located on the back side of the notice form—should be completed within **60 days** to report the financial details of the fundraiser. Once completed, the balance sheet serves as an excellent record to share with your 4-H club and a reference if your club decides to hold future similar fundraisers.

Project Spotlight

Wildlife Project: Sportfishing

Within the wildlife project, 4-Hers can cast a line and explore the exciting world of sportfishing! They'll learn fishing skills, discover aquatic life, practice conservation, create their own tackle, and much more while learning how to protect our waters and the wildlife that call them home.

Things to Learn and Do:

- Basic fishing skills
- Fish and aquatic life identification
- Study how organisms interact with each other in water
- Fishing laws, ethics and stewardship
- Tackle crafting – lures, rods, and other fishing equipment
- Outdoor safety and first aid
- Fish habitat management



There is an annual Kansas 4-H Sportfishing Tournament that is open to ALL 4-Hers regardless of whether you're in the wildlife sportfishing project or not. The contest runs throughout the year and **ends September 15**.

One 4-H Angler of the Year will be named in each of the following species/categories: catfish, sunfish, crappie, bass, any rough fish, and any other game fish.

If you are interested in entering, the entry form can be found at: https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/natural-resources/sport-fishing/docs/4-H%20Sportfishing%20Entry%20Form%202026.pdf.

Lantham Kramer
Trailblazers 4-H Club

Why 4-H ???

*(Noting the **IMPACT** of the 4-H Program in the lives of young people, in their own words.)*

"I belong to a countywide 4-H group made up of a lot of different personalities. We plan where we will go, what we will do, and what we will give. I do not agree with every decision, but my ideas get heard and we work together to figure out what is in the best interest of the entire group."

District Shooting Sports Clubs News



Jefferson County Shooting Sports: Successful Summer and Fall

Jefferson County 4-H Shooting Sports members enjoyed a busy and successful summer and fall, competing in archery, small-bore rifle, pistol, and shotgun events.

Two members represented Team Kansas at the 2026 National Shooting Sports Match in Nebraska. Jayden Herrman became National Smallbore Pistol Champion, while Aurora Hoffman placed 12th in Smallbore Rifle. Both helped Team Kansas earn co-champion honors! The Meadowlark District was also represented at the Daisy Nationals BB Match in Arkansas.

Seven youth qualified for the state archery match. Four youth competed in small-bore rifle and pistol, with three participating in both disciplines. Herrman earned the State Smallbore Pistol Champion title, and several members earned individual and team placements. Jefferson County youth also competed in trap, skeet, and sporting clays at the state shotgun match.

These competitions gave 4-H members opportunities to build their skills, demonstrate sportsmanship, and represent their county and district. Congratulations to all participants on their hard work and accomplishments!

For complete individual scores, rankings, and team results, visit the Meadowlark District 4-H website at https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/.

Bullmasters Shooting Sports Stay Active Through Summer & Fall

The Bullmasters 4-H Shooting Sports program had an active summer and fall in archery, small-bore rifle, and shotgun, finishing the season with three state matches in late September and October.

For the second year in a row, the Bullmasters had an archer as a member of the Kansas National Compound Archery Team. Tucker Terry placed 42nd out of 121 compound archers in Grand Island at the 2026 4-H National Championship Match. Tucker helped Team Kansas earn co-champion honors! Corbin Simpson represented the Bullmasters on the Meadowlark District Daisy National BB team and Kenadee Henry participated in the Daisy National Air Rifle Championship.

Eight archers participated, with five qualifying for the State Archery Match near Wakarusa. For the first time in Bullmasters history, the program fielded a team in all four bow types. The Recurve Barebow team placed third, while the Compound Bow Hunter and Compound Open teams each placed fourth. Congratulations to Keatyn Prentice, who won the Recurve Barebow individual aggregate and qualified for Team Kansas at the 4-H National Shooting Sports Competition in Nebraska.

Three youth participated in small-bore rifle, with William Beauchamp qualifying for the state match near Topeka. He placed ninth in 3-Position and fifth in silhouettes. Beauchamp and Aurora Hoffman of Jefferson County combined for a second-place team finish.

The shotgun program served 13 youth from Jackson, Atchison, Brown, and Shawnee counties, providing opportunities for youth in neighboring counties without local shotgun instructors to participate. At the state match near Wichita, Jace Doyle placed third overall, including second in Skeet. Bullmasters also partnered with Jefferson County to form two Meadowlark District teams, which placed sixth and 15th.

For complete individual scores, rankings, and team results, visit https:///www.meadowlark.k-state.edu.

The Bullmasters are also proud of Jace Doyle, who is competing for Fort Hays State University and performing well in his freshman year.

Interested in Shooting Sports? A required new-shooter class will be held **November 21, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Complex.** For questions or to register, email bullmastersshootingsports@yahoo.com. We look forward to another successful year in 2027!

Jackson County News

2026-2027 Jackson County 4-H Ambassadors

Congratulations to our New Ambassadors!

McKinley Bowe	April Slipke
Tinsley Bradley	Lilly Stous
Dani Peters	Jill Walder
Alexa Rash	Gracie White

Record Book Judging Volunteers

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered to judge Record Books this year! We couldn't have done it without you!

Club Project Leaders Needed

Project leaders teach a subject to a small group of 4-H members and help them develop life skills. Resources are available! Interested? Talk to your club leader and contact our office for more information.

Calling all committee members…

Many hands make light work! Committees help get things done, and we need enough volunteers to make our 4-H programs successful.

According to the Jackson County 4-H Council Constitution and Bylaws, each club should elect four (4) 4-H members and two (2) alternates to serve on the 4-H Council. Each club should also have one adult among its four total representatives. These representatives must serve on a 4-H Council committee.

You do not have to serve on the 4-H Council to join a committee! We encourage 4-H members and adults of all ages to get involved.

The 2026 4-H Council Committees are:

- **Finance:** Review the financial audit and present the budget.
- **Concession Stand:** Plan the menu and assist with pre-fair preparations.
- **Achievement Program:** Help set up the program and review awards.
- **Fair Awards:** Help select fair awards.
- **Fair Events:** Plan additional fair activities and games.

4-H Record Book Tip

Now is a great time to complete your personal page while you have a current school picture and have enrolled in your projects. Check your next pin application for activities and events to attend during the 2026-27 4-H year.

Upcoming Events

2026 Thoughtful Giving Day



We have partnered with the Jackson County Community Foundation to participate in Thoughtful Giving Day, **November 6-8, 2026**. This event replaces our previous Fair Booster Program and the Raffle Basket fundraiser.

I will email donation forms and letters for you to share with your donors. Please help spread the word!

Funds raised support fair expenses, including ribbon premiums, ribbons, judges, supplies, Fair Book printing, exhibit cards, and meals for judges and superintendents during pre-fair judging. **Without these funds, our fair would not be possible!**

Learn more or donate online at: https://www.thoughtfulgivingday.com/nonprofits/Jackson-County-4-H-Fair-Fun

November 4-H Council Meeting

The next Council meeting is **Thursday, November 12** at **7:00 P.M**. All club representatives are strongly encouraged to attend, as officer elections will be held.

Each club should have four representatives present: at least one adult and three youth. Only these four representatives may vote at Council meetings.

You do not have to be a Council representative to run for a Council officer position!

New Family Orientation

Welcome, new 4-H families! Join us on **Wednesday, November 18** at **6:30 P.M.** at the NE Kansas Heritage Building to learn what to expect during your first year of 4-H.

Please RSVP to Megan at 785-364-4125 or mvrbka@ksu.edu by **Friday, November 13**.

Club Leaders: Please consider attending with your new families or appointing a club New Family Coordinator to help them feel welcome.

Fair Board Meeting

The Fair Board's annual meeting is scheduled for **December 3**; the public is welcome to attend.

4-H Club Days

Mark your calendars for **March 6**! Club Day will be held at Northridge Church in Sabetha at 9:00 A.M. We will be sharing the facility with Nemaha County.

Regional Club Day will be on **March 20** in Effingham.

Jefferson County News

Record Books
Nine volunteers shared their time on October 12 to review record books from Jackson County. We appreciate each of you and thank you for the time you have given to help provide feedback to others.

For each Jefferson County 4-H member who submitted a record book, great work, and way to see your 4-H year through! Club leaders also deserve a huge thanks for organizing and reviewing numerous books from their individual clubs.

Key Enrollment Notes
Enrollment for our returning 4-H members ended on November 1, but the option to add or delete a project remains available through May 1. Intermediate and senior members who are looking to get a Key Award in the future, make sure you are enrolled in Leadership. You must be enrolled for 4 years to be eligible for the award. Be planning for your future success now! All 4-H members are encouraged to log in to their 4-H Online account to double-check that enrollments are correct.

Project Leader Interest
Is there a particular 4-H project area that interests you and you have expertise in? There could be a project leader or superintendent opening in your area of expertise. Reach out to Ashtyn or Amanda to express your interest!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Achievement Banquet
We look forward to celebrating everyone's success from the 2025-2026 4-H year at the Achievement Banquet. We look forward to seeing you all on **Saturday, November 7**, at **6:00 P.M.** at Oskaloosa Public Schools. Awards will be presented to both youth and volunteers. The Council had voted to offer a meal featuring ham, scalloped potatoes, corn, green beans, rolls, and dessert for $16 per plate. Remember, if you did not qualify for a free meal, get your payment into the office ASAP.

Design the Next Fair T-Shirt
Council members voted "We the people of 4-H" to be the 2027 Jefferson County Fair theme to celebrate the 240th year of the constitution signing. All members are invited to create a design that would bring that theme to life on the 2027 fair t-shirts. Something to remember: it should incorporate the names of the 4-H clubs somewhere in the design and should not be designed with AI. Send your designs to Amanda (ammanville@ksu.edu) by **November 13**. The creator of the design chosen earns a $25 prize.

4-H Council Meeting
Join the Jefferson County 4-H Council **November 23**, **7:00 PM** at the fairgrounds.

Carnival
Save the date for the carnival on **January 16** at **6:00 P.M.** at Oskaloosa Public Schools.

Carnival changes for the year:

- Cake walk is changing from cupcakes to any type of sweet treat.
- Clubs with baskets, make sure that you submit a list of all items that are in your basket prior to the carnival.
- Raffle tickets were distributed to clubs at the fall project fair. Make sure you get your allotment of tickets from your club leaders to sell ASAP.
- If you would like to help man the inflatables, please contact the office.

4-H Club Days
While **February 20** seems like a long way away, it is not too early to start preparing to showcase your talents at the County 4-H Club Day. Find that perfect piece of music, build up your project talk, study up on parliamentary procedure – opportunities are there for you as a 4-H Member.

Regional Club Day will be on **March 20** in Effingham.

Nemaha County News

4-H Activity Calendar
Looking for an easy way to keep track of your family's 4-H activities and events? Check out the 4-H Activity Calendar available on our District website!

You'll find it at the top of the Nemaha/Seneca page: http://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/nemaha.html.

Record Book Reviews
A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to judge Jefferson County record books this year! Your dedication and attention to detail are greatly appreciated. It was wonderful to have senior 4-Hers join in and help with the process. What an awesome example of leadership and teamwork. We had every club represented at the judging with over 30 volunteers! We are truly grateful for our amazing volunteers!

4-H Council
The 4-H Council is a group of 4-H members who help make decisions about county 4-H programs. Each club can have up to 4 voting members at each meeting. If you are your club's council representative and cannot attend a meeting, please reach out to another club member to take your place. Remember, it is not the leader's job to attend and vote — this is your opportunity to do your part and be a leader!
All 4-H members are welcome to get involved! Choose from one of four committees:

1. **Fair Events** – Plan fun fair activities like Barnyard Olympics
2. **Traveling Scholarship** – Review applications & suggest updates
3. **Food Stand** – Help plan menus & prep for fair week
4. **Finance** – Review the budget & audit

Interested? Email Abbie at abbie11@ksu.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November Fair Board Meeting
The Nemaha County Fair Board will hold its annual meeting on **November 16 at 7:00 PM** in the meeting room at the Extension Office. Fair members and interested parties are welcome to attend.

New Family Forum
New 4-H families are invited to attend an orientation session on **November 19**, beginning at **6:30 PM** at the Extension Office. Anyone is welcome to attend this forum. New 4-H members are encouraged to attend with their parents, as Ambassadors will have activities for them.

Achievement Event
Reminder, everyone is welcome to attend our Achievement event, including grandparents, on **Tuesday, November 24**, beginning at **6:30 PM.**

- **Potatoes**: Achievers, Pony Express, Woodlawn Meadowlarks, Red Rustlers
- **Vegetables/Other Side Dish**: Busy Jayhawkers, HHHH, Kelly Twilighters
- **Dessert**: Centralia Aces, Stateliners, Trailblazers

4-H Food Fare
Join us for this year's **4-H Food Fare** on **January 4!**
This fun, food-filled event is open to all 4-H members. Each Club Food Booth is a food station organized by a club and designed around the theme. While no two booths look alike, each will feature:

- Three homemade food samples (one main dish, one side or dessert, and one drink)
- Creative decorations that match the theme

Tables and paper supplies will be provided by the 4-H Council. This is a great opportunity for 4-H'ers to plan a menu, prepare food, and practice cooking skills in a fun and supportive environment. Participants can visit the booths at their own pace and enjoy delicious samples from each club — all for free!

4-H Club Day
Mark your calendars! 4-H Club Day will be held on **Saturday, March 6,** at North Ridge Sabetha. Again, we'll be sharing the facility with Jackson County 4-H members, but don't worry, each county will be judged individually.
Now's a great time to start thinking about which events you'd like to participate in! You can find the Club Day Guide and more details on the District website:
https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/club_day.html

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension
Meadowlark District

Holton Office
114 W 5th St.
Holton, KS 66436

Address Service Requested

Calendar of Events

Nov. 1: Financial Review paperwork due to office
Achievement Program, JA
Nov. 2: Club Financial Reviews due, JF
Nov. 3: 4-H Council meeting, NM
Nov. 6-8: Thoughtful Giving Day, JA
Nov. 7: Achievement Banquet, JF
Livestock Summit, JA
Nov. 9: Fair logo & t-shirt design deadline, JF
Nov. 12: 4-H Council meeting, JA
Nov. 13: New Family Orientation RSVP due, JA
T-shirt design deadline, JF
Nov. 16: Fair board meeting, JF
Fair Board Meeting, NM
Nov. 18: New Family Orientation, JA
Nov. 19: New Family Orientation, NM
Nov. 21-22: Kansas Youth Leadership Forum
Nov. 23: 4-H Council meeting, JF
Nov. 24: Achievement Event, NM
Dec. 3: Fair Board meeting, JA
Jan. 1: Fair Book edits due, JF
Jan. 4: 4-H Food Fair, NM
Club Goals due, JF
Project Committee sign-ups due
Jan. 16: Jefferson County Carnival, Oskaloosa
Jan. 20: Tentative 4-H Foundation Annual meeting, JF
Feb. 20: 4-H Club Day, JF
Mar. 6: 4-H Club Day, JA & NM
Mar. 20: Regional Club Day, Effingham

Holton Office
114 W 5th St.
Holton, KS 66436-1778
785-364-4125

Oskaloosa Office
100 E Washington
Oskaloosa, KS 66066-0326
785-863-2212

Seneca Office
1615 Branch St.
Seneca, KS 66538-1504
785-336-2184

District Office Hours:
Open Monday-Friday; 8:00 AM-Noon & 12:30-4:30 PM
Closed on designated holidays

Websites:
https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/
https://www.facebook.com/KStateExtensionMeadowlarkDistrict

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