**National Volunteer Week - April 19-25**

The 4-H program is what it is because of the AMAZING volunteers we have! Please take time to thank the 4-H volunteers in your life during April, National Volunteer month. National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to celebrate the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle society’s greatest challenges, to build stronger communities and be a force that transforms the world. Each year, we shine a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve, recognizing and thanking volunteers who lend their time, talent and voice to make a difference in their communities. Whether online, at the office, or the local food bank; whether with a vote, a voice, or a wallet – doing good comes in many forms, and we recognize and celebrate them all. Visit [https://www.pointsoflight.org/nvw/](https://www.pointsoflight.org/nvw/) for ideas on ways to celebrate!

**Status of 4-H Events**

By now, everyone should be well aware that life has changed in the world around us in recent weeks. All Face to Face 4-H/Extension events are to be cancelled, postponed or done by digital delivery until after May 16. Meadowlark Extension Offices are closed to the public until after April 6 – BUT we are working from home and here to help! While it could be tempting to withdraw and stop 4-H activities until after May 16, we hope this is NOT the case! 4-H is a year-round experience and there are LOTS of ways to focus on project, leadership and citizenship activities, as we adapt to a new “normal” in life. We would love to hear and see your creative and innovative ways to share 4-H work in this new environment. Keep watching your email, District website and MED 4-H Facebook group for updates, if and when things change. We are all in this together, let’s keep a positive focus and work to follow our motto – TO MAKE THE BEST BETTER!

**May 1 - An IMPORTANT Deadline Date!!!**

There are many important dates in the 4-H calendar year, but May 1 is one of the busiest!! A very important deadline in 4-H is the ADD/DROP project deadline. Have you decided that a 4-H project is simply not working out or that you have found something new you would like to try?? May 1 is the last point in which you can officially add or drop a project from your 4-H enrollment for the year. Remember, this is PROJECT ENROLLMENT, not what you plan to enter for fair. You can be enrolled in a project and not take anything related to that project to the fair, that’s okay!

To ADD or DROP a project, all you need to do is to LOG BACK INTO YOUR 4HONLINE ACCOUNT AND MAKE THE CHANGES YOURSELF! May 1st is the deadline for new members to be enrolled by to participate in fairs this summer as well. Keep in mind, a 4-H project record should be completed on each project you are enrolled in and that you can only enter 4-H classes at the fair related to project that you are enrolled in! May 1st is also the deadline date for other things such as Swine Identification paper submission, KSF/KJLS Market Beef Nomination deadline, Horse ID paper deadline and much more!!!
**Discovery Days Registration Open**

Discovery Days (May 27-29) registration is open! All youth between the ages of 13-18 (as of Jan. 1) are eligible to sign-up, visit Kansas State University and learn about "2020 A Vision for the Future." This 3 day, 2-night event is sure to have something for everyone. To register, visit [https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/discovery-days/index.html](https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/discovery-days/index.html). Registration closes April 15.

The State Office will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and make adjustments as needed. In this time of uncertainty, 4-H Discovery Days registration has opened with the understanding that at any point it may need to be cancelled. If this happens, registration will be closed and information posted, if and when that may be deemed necessary. If canceled, refunds will be processed.

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**4-H Campference—Registration Opens Soon!**

4-H Campference is for youth ages 12-14 (before January 1, 2020), and will be held June 22-25 at Rock Springs 4-H Center. Participants will experience the feel of a conference, while enjoying the 'camp' activities Rock Springs 4-H Center has to offer. This is a great transitional opportunity, as tweens go from being a camper to attending educational conferences.

Detailed information will be on the State 4-H Website in early April. Encourage delegates to register early as the space will fill on a first come basis, and Campference was full the last five years! Register online by May 15 (or earlier, it will close when it is full) and payment must be in the local Extension Offices by May 15.

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**Pioneer Trails 4-H Camp—June 4-7**

Spring just arrived, but it’s not too soon to be thinking about summer and Pioneer Trails 4-H Camp! ALL 4-H youth 4-H age 7, through completed 7th grade, are encouraged to sign up for 4-H camp. We would like to encourage you to make a special effort to invite a non-4-H friend to go with you to camp. 4-H Camp will run from late afternoon of June 4 to early afternoon of June 7. It is expected that youth attend 4-H camp the full time, they will NOT be allowed to come and go from camp. Campers get to stay in a housing unit with 7-8 other campers of about the same age, from all across northeast and north central Kansas. While at camp, this camp “group” experiences many of the activities Rock Springs has to offer - horses, outdoor education, rifles, archery, crafts and more - as well as eat in Williams Dining hall and participate in the fun evening activities.

A complete registration form is enclosed with this 4-H newsletter and can also be found on the Meadowlark District 4-H News Page [http://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/news.html](http://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/news.html). We ask that you submit this form, Pioneer Trails Medication Policy form and payment to your local Extension Office by Friday, May 8. Additionally, all health information needs to be updated in your 4HOnline accounts. Many clubs offer event scholarships to help offset the cost of going to 4-H camp, check to see if your club does. Cost of camp is again $212 this year. With the unknown future ahead of us, we will hold your registration fees until we know camp is “for sure” a go. Should camp need to be cancelled, you will be issued a full refund.

Older teens, ages 16 and up, are needed to serve in the role of a 4-H Camp Counselor. You will go to Rock Springs a day earlier to receive training on what you need to know to be an effective counselor. A registration form can be found at the local Extension Office or via the District 4-H news website mentioned above. Applications for Camp Counselors are due April 15. Decisions on the number of counselors will be made after we have camper registration, so the more campers signed up, the more counselors we need. Don’t delay in signing up for this popular annual 4-H event!
Livestock Weigh-ins

Given the current, ever-changing environment, the remainder of spring weigh-ins and how to best accomplish this is in question. K-State is working to develop some best practices for modified weigh-in events, that minimize risk and adhere to Social Distancing guidelines. If you are in livestock projects, please be watching for specific details on how this will be accomplished and hold the dates as scheduled. Please look at the local pages for details as they stand today.

Kansas 4-H Sportfishing Tournament

The Kansas 4-H Sportfishing Tournament is open to all 4-H members. The contest runs throughout the year and ends September 15, 2020. Anglers can fish year round but entries must be in by the deadline, fish caught after the deadline may be entered in the next contest. Participants can enter in any species/categories that they catch fish – go fishing and have fun!!!

One 4-H Angler of the Year will be named in the rules, which can be found on the News page of the Meadowlark District 4-H website. These are fish commonly found in Kansas waters. Each Angler of the Year will receive a 4-H Sportfishing cap, a frameable certificate, and a Walmart gift certificate to hopefully be used for fishing equipment (one per individual). All participants that enter a certified entry will receive a 4-H Sportfishing cap.

2020 State Livestock Nomination Information

The state livestock nomination season is rapidly approaching! The 2020 materials have been distributed to offices and are posted on the KSU Youth Livestock website, under the “Nomination Information” tab (http://bit.ly/ksunominations). Market Beef nominations will be due on May 1. All other species, which includes commercial heifers, market swine, commercial gilts, market lambs, commercial ewes, and ALL meat goats, will be due June 15.

Please remember there is not a registered breeding doe show at either state show, so all meat goats must be nominated to be eligible. The nomination deadlines are firm postmark deadlines. Any nomination envelope or package received must have a visible postmark prior to the deadline, or it will not be accepted. Certified mail is highly encouraged. Families are also encouraged to use the check list provided for each species to make sure their nominations are complete. Incomplete or incorrect nominations will be returned to the family and cost $20 to correct.

The YQCA certification requirement will also continue for all Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and KJLS exhibitors. For more information, please contact Lexie Hayes (adhayes@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264). The nomination process will proceed as laid out above until we hear differently.

DNA envelopes can be requested from the extension offices. As referenced in the memo, paperwork that has been exchanged electronically between families and extension professionals/ag teachers to obtain the appropriate signatures will be accepted. We want to be flexible, while also upholding the integrity of the process. So, as long as the forms are complete and legible, we’ll take them!

YQCA FLASH Sale!!!

In light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the YQCA Board is announcing a 25% FLASH SALE on the web-based certification. For the time being, WEB certification is the only option to receive this training.

Only during the month of April, web-based training will be offered for $9. Those wishing to take part in the flash sale will need to purchase web-based training coupons from YQCA directly. Coupons order forms can be found on the news page of the MED website or obtained by emailing sales@yqca.org This is the ONLY way to receive this discounted price. Coupons MUST be used during the month of April.

Registration for YQCA certification is the same as it has always been, by going to the https://yqca.learngrow.io website and signing in with your 4HOnline credentials. Make sure the correct YOUTH member registers and that you sign up for a session that is your 4-H AGE on Jan. 1!

Each online learning session features three modules - a knowledge builder, skills lab and quiz. To receive certification, an 80% passing rate must be achieved on each 10 question quiz. These modules, completed in their entirety, will provide 2-3 hours of experience for the users.

We will continue to assess the spring/summer months to see if face to face training can be offered later. In the meantime, this is the recommended option.
Environmental Sciences

We all have an environment around us, the Environmental Sciences is the lowest enrolled project area, yet could be HUGE! For those interested in exploring the world around you, this project is for YOU! Like many projects, Environmental Sciences crosses over into many other projects. The Exploring Your Environment series provides opportunities for youth to engage in learning about environmental science through hands-on, experiential learning experiences in the natural sciences and technology. There's No New Water! is a water conservation and water quality curriculum grounded in the concept that water is a finite natural resource whose quantity and quality must be responsibly preserved, protected, used and reused.

Things to Learn/Do in the Project

Earth's Capacity
- Analyze your environment for abundance and scarcity
- Determine carrying capacity for a specific area
- Study global climate change
- Figure your ecological footprint

Ecosystem Services
- Study where your water comes from
- Learn how soil is formed
- Study the energy required to produce food
- Evaluate recreation and ecotourism

There's No New Water
- Explore natural water cycle
- Study human interventions that affect water quality and quantity
- Analyze rural to urban interventions in water cycle
- Identify and implement service-learning projects that address local water issues

Japanese Exchange Inbound Update

If you have considered hosting this summer and wonder about the continuation of the Japan Inbound Program this summer due to Corona Virus (COVID-19), information from States’ 4-H International Exchange states that plans are being made with LABO and LEX in Japan to continue the exchange.

Inbound participants and chaperones will be required to complete health screening protocol. Current arrangements are to monitor the inbound participants for two weeks prior to their departure. Anyone showing signs of exposure will not be permitted to travel. Delegates, chaperones and host family members will follow Center for Disease Control guidelines (and States' 4-H guidelines if applicable) for health and safety.

Why 4-H ???

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

“4-H created a lifetime of opportunities for me like it does for many others. Not only have I become a more self-confident and outgoing individual, but also a leader and vibrant young person that never stops until succeeding. I credit 4-H for my public speaking skills, interpersonal skills and leadership skills.”
**Beef Weigh In**

We weighed in 80 steers at the 2020 Beef Weigh In. Reminder that we have to have at least 3 to make a class. The following classes will be held at the fair: Angus, Crossbred, Dairy, Charolais and AOB. If you weighed in a breed that isn’t listed, your steer will be placed in AOB (All Other Breed) class.

**4-H Club Day**

Congratulations to all 4-Hers who participated in 4-H Club Days on Saturday, March 7 at Jackson Heights. Thanks goes out to the clubs and volunteers who helped make the day possible.

**Dog Practice Cancelled**

Even though we aren’t getting together weekly for Dog Practice you can still be practicing from home. Take your dog outside and practice walking, turning, sitting and downing your dog. Then when we finally get to start practices back up you and your dog will be ready to go. There is some great Youtube videos out there on how to train your dog if you need help or send me an email with your questions/concerns.

**Camp Counselors Needed**

Older teens who are interested in being a Camp Counselor please fill out a Camp Counselor application and turn into our office. 4-H Camp is a great time to experience Rock Springs 4-H Camp as a Counselor. If you have any questions please contact Cara.

**Ambassador Day Camp**

Right now Ambassador Day Camp is going to be held Wednesday, June 10 at the NE KS Heritage Complex. Please be watching for the flyer to come in an email in the next month or so.

**Swine Tagging**

You should have received all the information in the mail to tag your swine. You may pick up tags at the Extension office anytime after April 6.

**Important Reminders**

Everyone please keep selling the Fair Booster Memberships. Asking each family to sell at least 5 and the money goes towards paying for Fair Judges, Ribbon Premiums and other Fair Expenses. The Superintendent Sign Up Sheet will be e-mailed out to everyone. If you are interested in being a Fair Superintendent please fill out the form and return to the office by April 15. Some fair updates include:

- Horse Show-Saturday, June 27 @ 8 AM
- Pre-Fair Judging at Horton-July 6 from 6-8 PM for following projects – Entomology, Forestry, Geology, Space Tech and Wildlife
- Dog Show-Sunday, July 6 @ 8:30 AM
- Pre-Fair Judging at Holton High School-Tuesday, July 14 at 9 AM
- Jackson Co. Fair-July 20-23

**Important Dates**

**TSC Paper Clover**

The Tractor Supply Company paper clover campaign will run April 29 thru May 10. Please stop by TSC in Holton and pass out paper clovers to customers asking them for their generous donations to our 4-H Program.

**Spring Weigh-in**

**TENTATIVE DATE AND TIME – SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS WE GET RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STATE.** Spring Weigh-in for sheep and meat goats will be Thursday, May 6 from 6-7:30 PM at the NE KS Heritage Complex. You will pay for your tags that day and tags will be $3.00. All sheep and goats must have a scrapies tag in their ear. What you classify your animal at weigh in will be the breed it shows in at fair. There will be more information about how we will handle this weigh in due to current situation.

**4-H Council Meeting**

The April 4-H Council Meeting will be postponed until a later date. The June meeting will be held June 11 at 7 PM. Please be watching for update emails.

**If you are interested in being a fair superintendent in any project area please let our office know.**
**Important Dates**

**Sheep and Goat Weigh-In**
*TENTATIVE DATE AND TIME – SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS WE GET RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STATE.*
From 6:00-8:00 PM on Wednesday, **April 29**-Valley Falls Fairgrounds, market lambs and meat goats must be weighed at this time to enter at the Jefferson County Fair and be eligible for the livestock sale. ID forms will be available at weigh-in on Jefferson webpage by April 1, and tags at weigh-in. Be sure you are enrolled in the project(s) in 4HOnline before weigh-in.

**May 1** - last day to drop or add a project.

**Bucket Calf and Swine Tags**
When the office reopens, tags and paperwork will be available and are $3.00/each. **Swine sheets** must include a picture and be turned into the office by **May 1** at 4:30 PM. **Bucket calf forms** due in office by **June 1**. Both forms will be on the Jefferson webpage by April 1. Tags will be available for purchase at the sheep and goat weigh-in on April 29.

**Pre-Fair Judging**
The Pre-Fair Judging for Entomology, Forestry, Geology, and Wildlife will be on Monday, **July 6**, in Horton. There will be pre-entry for the four projects involved, so be watching for more information.

**Jefferson County Fair Dates**

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**News from the Oskaloosa Office**

**4-H Club Day**
THANK YOU to our many volunteers who helped us 4-H Club Day in Valley Falls be a success! Room monitors, host clubs (Prosperity and Valley Victors), 4-H leaders and parents provided great support for our 4-Hers. We are so proud of the many 4-H members who showcased their various talents, from dances to project talks and music to demonstrations-you all rock!

We also appreciate those who organized the Livestock Skilla-thon. Let us know if you are interested in further judging opportunities.

**COVID-19**
No one knows how the Coronavirus will affect future 4-H events, especially after so many cancellations and postponements in March. Everyone hopes that life can get back to normal as soon as possible. Be watching your emails and our website for any other changes that could occur.

**Archery Project Member/Parents Meeting**
As you know, the Archery informational meeting on Sunday, March 22, was cancelled. Be watching your email for a practice start date and more information. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to contact C.J. via phone at 785-393-3933 or JF County 4-H Archery email at jeffcoarchery@yahoo.com, or cjbowmaster@embarqmail.com.

**Camp Counselors Needed**
If you are at least 16 years old and interested in being a camp counselor this summer, please see the “News” section on the Meadowlark website. Applications due April 15.

**District News**
Be sure to check the District news pages for upcoming events and registration deadlines. Summer is quickly approaching, and we don’t want you to miss out on educational and fun events!

**Volunteers**
4-H Volunteers are some of the best! They come with different talents, ideas, ways of communicating, personalities, and areas of interest, but all have one thing in common—to help our 4-H members and their families be successful in, and enjoy, their 4-H experiences! When is the last time you thanked a volunteer for sharing their time and talents with you? April is National Volunteer Month, so take time now to express your “thanks” to someone who has helped you “Make the Best Better”.

Not volunteering yet? There is always a need for more help in many areas. Talk to your club leader or contact Linda at gantz@ksu.edu if you are interested.

**Livestock Information:**
**Tagging Limits**
At spring weigh-ins, each 4-H member/family is allowed to weigh-in and tag two additional market animals in addition to the two market animal limit allowed for fair entries in each species. Member must designate which animals are for their individual fair entry/entries at fair weigh-in, with no changes allowed after that designation.

**Premium Sale Requirements**
If you plan to sell an animal through the fair auction, make sure you are reviewing the sale requirement form periodically to make sure you qualify. These forms will need to be turned into your club leader by club deadline.
4-H Club Days
WOW… What a great turn out we had for the Jackson / Nemaha 4-H Club Day! Over 60% of 4-Hers from Nemaha County participated in this event. This event could not of went so smoothly without your help. If you have any suggestions, please send them to daheny@ksu.edu
Thank you all!
Results can be found on our website at https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/seneca.html.

If your score sheet had a “Selected for State Fair” sticker on it, you are eligible to take your presentation to the State Fair in September. You will need to pre-enter it with all other State Fair pre-entries.

Sheep & Meat Goat Weigh-In
TENTATIVE DATE AND TIME – SUBJECT TO CHAGE AS WE GET RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE STATE. Please watch your email for more up-to-date information and details. The sheep and meat goat weigh-in will be held on Saturday, April 25, at the Nemaha County Fair North Barn from 7:30–8:30 AM. All market lambs and meat goats must be weighed and tagged to show at the fair and be eligible for the livestock premium sale. Please plan to pay for your tags at weigh-in at a cost of $3.00 per tag. It is not required for the 4-H exhibitor to be present at the tagging. If you cannot be at the weigh-in, you must find someone else to bring your animals.

Drop / Add Deadline
Don’t forget May 1, is the deadline for dropping or adding any projects for this year’s county fair. You will need to do this in your 4honline account.

Summer Camps
Please make sure to check the Meadowlark Website for all upcoming camps this summer.

Swine Tagging
Do you plan to show a pig at the fair this year? You must have your pig purchased, tagged, and paperwork done before May 1. Families must purchase 4-H tags from the Extension office for $3.00 a piece (after April 6), and unused tags MUST BE RETURNED. Tagging information forms and pictures must be returned to the Extension Office by May 1 to be eligible to show and sell your market hog at the Nemaha County Free Fair.

4-H Discount
Did you know 4-Hers can receive a discount on their purchases at Orscheln Farm and Home? Yes, you can. Make sure to ask next time you make a purchase there and at JoAnn Fabric to ask for the 4-H discount.

Fair Activities
Are you a member of a group that is tired of selling items but need a fundraiser? Why not spend one, two, or even three days at the Nemaha County Fair doing something fun! The Fairboard is looking for groups to do games or sell fair food at this year’s fair. These could be ball toss, dunk tank, minnow race or any other fun game. How about selling homemade ice cream or funnel cakes? Please let your school or church groups know this. For more information, contact the Extension office.

2020 Fairbooks
We hope to have your 2020 fair books to your club leaders for your May meetings. Please make sure to attend your meeting and pick up your new fair book. There are many changes.

4-H License Plates
Kansas 4-H Foundation designed vanity license plates last fall. These are available at the county treasurer’s office. Contact the treasurer’s office for more information.

Important Dates

4-H Council Meeting
Don’t forget the next 4-H Council meeting will be held on April 13, at 7:00 PM via Zoom conferencing. https://ksu.zoom.us/j/166259085 Make sure your club is represented at the meeting by encouraging your 4-H Council representatives and your club leaders to log in and participate.

Quilt Class
There will be a quilt class offered at the Seneca Library April 30 & May 2. This class will be on the 9 Patch Variation Quilt. You need to RSVP to the Variety Store at (785) 336-6126 by April 25.

Leader’s Forum
Club Leaders, plan to join us for a Zoom conference on April 20 at 6:30 PM. https://ksu.zoom.us/j/676400433 There are many things to talk about in this current environment! We hope every club can have representation at this meeting.

New Family Orientation
There will be a New Family Forum April 21, at 6:30 PM held via Zoom. https://ksu.zoom.us/j/890679747 This hour-long session will answer your questions on camps, fairs and record book keeping, along with answering any other questions you may have. This is open to anyone, but suggest that those who are new or have never attended one of these forums will plan to attend!

Pre-Fair Judging
Once again we will be having a joint judging on some of the smaller projects July 6, from 5-9 PM at the Horton Blue Building. Projects included in this will be Entomology, Geology, Forestry, and Wildlife. Be watching for more information on this event, as there will be an early pre-entry for these projects.
Calendar of Events

April:
- Sportfishing Tourn. ongoing
- Campference Registration
- Apr 13: NM 4-H Council (Zoom)Seneca
- Apr 15: Leadership Academy reg. due
  Camp Counselors apps due
- April 15: Discovery Days Reg. closes
- Apr 19-25: National Volunteer Week
- Apr 20: NM Club Leader Conf (Zoom)
- Apr 21: NM New Family Forum (Zoom)
- Apr 25: Sheep/Goat weigh-in, Seneca
  NM Quilt Class RSVP due
- Apr 29: Sheep/Goat weigh-in, V Falls
- Apr 30: TSC Clover Campaign
- May 1: Swine Id’s due
  Add/drop project deadline
  Market Beef State nomin due
- May 2: NM Quilt Class, Seneca
- May 6: Sheep/Goat weigh-in, Holton

May 8: Pioneer Trails Camp Reg due
June 1: JF Bucket calf forms due
June 10: Ambass Day Camp, Holton
June 11: JA 4-H Council meeting
June 15: All Othr Lvlstck nomin due
June 27: JA Horse Show
July 6: Pre-Fair Judging, Horton
  JA Dog Show
July 14: JA Pre-Fair Judging, HHS
July 20-23: JA Co Fair
July 27-30: JF Co Fair
July 31: JF Co. Fair Clean-Up
Sept 15: Sportfishing Tourn. ends

Meadowlark District Horse Judging
Team Success!

Two District 4-H members participated in the State 4-H Horse Judging
contest at Equifest in Salina on March 6. Addie Haverkamp and Savannah
Cattrell (along with Kori Wagner from Atchinson) placed as the first place
intermediate team overall, with Addie Haverkamp placing first as an
individual. The team was coached by Dyann Parks.
GREAT WORK 4-Hers!!!