



4-H NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025

TREASURER CLUB OFFICER NOTEBOOKS DUE

Each 4-H Club is responsible for turning in their Treasurer notebook by Monday, November 3rd.

THANK YOU FOR JUDGING RECORD BOOKS

A special thank you goes out to everyone that helped with judging record books. Taking time out of your busy lives to come and help with judging books is greatly appreciated.

ENROLLMENT DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1, 2025

Enrollment and payment must be completed by December 1, 2025.

FAMILIES WILL PAY 2026 4-H PROGRAM FEE

Enrollment and payment must be completed by December 1, 2025. Due to payment issues in the past, families will pay the \$15.00 4-H Program Fee per member when enrolling. It's best to do this with a credit or debit card. This will ensure your enrollment and fees are processed more quickly. In December, Clubs will receive a list of 4-H'ers who received reimbursement and a check. The club treasurer will then write a check per family to reimburse for the program fee. Cloverbuds and Volunteers are exempt.

VOLUNTEERS RENEW BY DECEMBER 1, 2025

All volunteers working with youth must be registered volunteers. This includes ALL Club Leaders, Project Leaders, and anyone else who will be working with youth without a registered volunteer. The first step is completing a profile on 4Honline. If you are brand new to being a volunteer or have been a volunteer for 3 years, there is a background check process that will need to be completed as well. It is also good to reach out to Jennifer or Kendal and visit with them about your volunteer plans if you are new.

PROGRAM FEE SPONSORSHIP 2027

Just a reminder all youth could get their \$15.00 program fee reimbursed by completing the following requirements:

- Submit **one** complete project record report.
- Submit **one** complete MIG book to your club leader by their deadline.
- Attend a minimum of **six** monthly 4-H Club meetings in the previous year.

Reimbursement will be made in December.

INDEPENDENT ENROLLMENT OPTION FOR 4-H MEMBERS

Local units with members enrolling as Independent Members should review Kansas 4-H Program Policy regarding independent members. The Independent Member option does not simply allow a youth to enroll in the program with no guidance and no mentorship. Please refer to the Kansas 4-H Individual Study Agreement [Here](#). An independent membership is not valid until the youth project and study plan is reviewed and approved BY THE Extension Board. Independent members should be engaging regularly with local agents and must review their project and study plans annually. Independent members can contribute to the larger 4-H program by participating in county, district, regional, and state events; volunteering to lead or assist with 4-H committees, programs, and activities; reading and responding to extension office correspondence; and remaining informed and Current on 4-H opportunities, procedures, and guidelines. Independent members may participate in organized fundraising activities that benefit the local unit program. Independent 4-H youths may not do independent fundraising as 4-H youths.

BEST PRACTICES FOR 4-H PUBLICITY: WHAT FAMILIES AND VOLUNTEERS NEED TO KNOW

As we begin the 2025–2026 4-H year, it's important to understand how publicity permissions are handled and how we, as Extension professionals, can responsibly share the stories and successes of you, our 4-H members.

What Is the Publicity Release?

When families enroll in 4-H Online, they are asked to agree (or not agree) to a publicity release. This release gives permission for the use of a member's name, image, and likeness by:

Local Extension Units, Kansas State University (including the State 4-H Office) The Kansas 4-H Foundation. This includes use in photos, videos, social media, websites, press releases, and more. If a family selects "I Do Not Agree," their child's name and image cannot be used. Some examples include Kansas State Fair & County Fair entry cards, schedules, or results, Local or state contests, social media posts, News articles or promotional materials, Additional Consent Questions. To provide more clarity, families are asked to give specific permission for: First and last name, Extension unit, 4-H club or town name, Media (photos, video, audio, etc.)

Print-only media, social media, County fair related publicity. These responses override the general publicity release and help guide what can or cannot be shared publicly. Best Practices for Sharing Youth Information for Extension Professionals. Even when full permission is granted, it is best practice to: Use first names only in social media posts. If no consent is given, refer to youth as: "A 4-H member from [Club Name]" Or use initials, e.g., "C.C., participant from Cloverville 4-H Club". These practices help protect youth privacy while still celebrating their achievements. To view the complete best practices document please go [here](#). If you have questions about publicity permissions or how to apply these best practices, please contact your local Extension Office.



4-H CLOVERBUDS

Designed for youth age 5-6 Cloverbuds is activity focused, rather than project focused. Meaning

4-H Cloverbuds may not participate in any competitive 4-H events, but they may showcase their exhibits at county fair and public events. 4-H Cloverbuds are allowed to showcase a pet from the approved list in accordance with 4-H Cloverbuds pet policies. 4-H Cloverbuds may not own and/or show 4-H livestock. This program is available for all Southwind District 4-H Clubs.

TRY A NEW PROJECT

Did you know that 4-H has over 35 projects that you could explore? With the start of the new year, make plans to check out all that is available. There is a resource page with all of the available projects and resources to learn more about those projects. You can find it [here](#).

4-H AGE DIVISIONS

In the Southwind District, all age divisions will be referred to as follows:

Junior – age 7-9

Intermediate – age 10-13

Senior – 14 and older

PROJECT PALOOZA

Explore projects, ask questions, and discover new 4-H opportunities. New challenges. New skills. New you. Your next favorite 4-H project is waiting – find it at Project Palooza. Contact Kendal Henson with questions 620-625-8620 or email klhenson@ksu.edu. Come and go!

Yates Center – November 1st 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Yates Center 4-H Community Building

STATE 4-H HORSE JUDGING CONTEST

The 2026 Kansas State 4-H Horse Judging Contest will be held January 23, 2026, at EquiFest of Kansas in Topeka. Early bird registration is due January 2, 2026, and final registration is due January 9, 2026. Registration for the contest will not be accepted after

January 9. Information will be posted [here](#).

DISTRICT AND REGIONAL 4-H DAYS

District 4-H Day will be held on February 7, 2026, at Marmaton Valley School, Moran. Regional 4-H Day

will be held February 28, 2026, at Neosho Community College in Chanute.

STEM AND ENTOMOLOGY PROJECT MEETINGS

S.T.E.M. meeting will be 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and Entomology meeting will be from 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Allen County Extension Office on the following dates:

November 8, 2025

December 13, 2025

January 10, 2026

February 21, 2026

March 14, 2026

April 11, 2026

May 02, 2026

June 06, 2026

July 11, 2026

August 08, 2026

September 19, 2026

October 10, 2026

Also, a reminder that Insect Spectacular is scheduled for June 19 & 20, 2026 in Yates Center. S.T.E.M. questions, please call 620-365-2242 or call Heather Mentzer 785-410-6081 or e-mail mentzerfarms@gmail.com. Entomology questions call Vicky at (620)804-9170 or email her at vicky.wallace55@gmail.com.

BUGS ARE INSECTS, BUT INSECTS ARE NOT BUGS!

Do you have a 4-Her who might be interested in the Entomology project? Come join us Saturday November 8th for Family Day and learn what the 4-H Entomology project is all about! Join the SE Kansas 4-H Entomology group for a fun filled afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Allen County Extension Office meeting room. Games, refreshments, and lots of laughs are on the schedule for the day. Hope to see you there! Questions? Call Vicky at (620)804-9170 or email vicky.wallace55@gmail.com.

SOUTHWIND 4-H STEM PROJECT MEETINGS

Our November STEM Project Meeting will be on Saturday, November 8th, from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Allen County Extension Office in Iola.

This month we'll build on our brainstorming and communication skills, while learning about incorporating form and function into project design and selecting the best materials. Lots of hands-on fun! For more information, please contact Heather Mentzer at 785-410-6081 or by emailing mentzerfarms@gmail.com.

NEW DEADLINE ALERT FOR KANSAS 4-H SCHOLARSHIPS!

Attention, Kansas 4-H members! The deadline for the Kansas 4-H Scholarships is Monday, January 5, 2026. We know spring is packed with 4-H activities and deadlines, so this change is designed to make your scholarship experience smoother and less stressful. With two separate due dates for project award applications and scholarships, you'll have more time to prepare for your best work in both areas! Plus, selections will be completed early enough for seniors to share scholarship results with their high schools, so you can be recognized for all your accomplishments. The scholarship application is now live on the Kansas 4-H website — don't wait, start yours today! [Here](#).

2025 KANSAS 4-H LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

The Kansas 4-H Leadership Weekend will be held November 22-23, 2025, at Rock Springs 4-H Center. KYLF is for youth ages 14-18 years of age before January 1, 2026. KYLF will feature leadership workshops, Youth Council Elections, and opportunities to gain experience and have fun. The Kansas 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum will feature workshops and information to help volunteers be more effective and learn from each other. Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 15, 2025. For more information visit [here](#).



CASEY'S AND 4-H

From October 1–November 4, Casey's and 4-H are joining forces to strengthen the communities they call home. With more than 2,900 stores across the Midwest and South, and more than 2.5 million active 4-H'ers in those areas, this partnership is

helping more young people become Beyond Ready to lead and give back locally and beyond. Support 4-H from October 1 – November 4: Add a donation to any order made online or in the Casey's app. Every donation benefits local 4-H programs.

TRACTOR SUPPLY CO.

Support 4-H youth from November 28-December 14, 2025, by purchasing a paper clover both online and in TSC stores for just \$1!

<https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h>

NEW AND UPDATED PROJECT AWARD RESOURCES COMING SOON

The Kansas 4-H Youth Development team has been hard at work revising and improving the Project Award resources available on the Kansas 4-H website. These updates are designed to make the materials more cohesive, user-friendly, and visually consistent across all resources.

Families and staff can look forward to:

- More cohesive language throughout the materials, ensuring clarity and consistency in how information is presented.
- A unified look and feel across documents and guides, making resources easier to navigate and use.

These enhancements aim to better support youth, families, volunteers, and staff as they engage in the project award process.

Be on the lookout! The new and updated Project Award resources will launch soon on the [Kansas 4-H Youth Development website](#). Stay tuned for more details and prepare to explore these improved tools designed to make the 4-H experience even more impactful.

2025 KANSAS VOLUNTEER LEADER FORUM

The Kansas Volunteer Leaders Forum is an opportunity for volunteers from around the state to learn together while building a network of like-minded enthusiastic adults. Participants will have the opportunity to dive into interactive content they can use to engage their youth members.

Connect with state and local extension staff to learn about new and exciting 4-H happenings and engage with the Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers as a support system for volunteering throughout the year. Visit [here](#) for more information.

UPDATES – HORTICULTURE JUDGING CONTEST ID LIST

At the State Horticulture Judging Contest last year it was announced there would be a new list that will be used in future contests. The following changes have been made:

Flowers and Foliage

- Removed ageratum, gladiolus, pansy, and tulip
- Added columbine, coneflower, coralbells, and sedum
- Renamed sansevieria to snake plant.

Fruits and Nuts

- Removed currant
- Added fig.

Ornamentals

- Removed azalea/rhododendron, cotoneaster, honeysuckle, and privet
- Added boxwood, ginkgo, hydrangea, and spruce
- Renamed American planetree to sycamore.

Vegetables and Herbs

- Removed kohlrabi and rhubarb
- Added dill and rosemary
- Renamed muskmelon to cantaloupe.



ALLEN COUNTY NEWS

4-H ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION

Mark your calendar for November 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Iola High School. Emprise Bank will provide the meal.

BOURBON COUNTY NEWS

4-H ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION

Mark, your calendar for this annual event November 9, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. F.S.C.C. Ag Building. Cookies and punch will follow sponsored by Bourbon County 4-H Council.

FRED AND DORIS FINK SCHOLARSHIP

The Fred and Doris Fink 4-H Scholarship will be given during the 2026 Achievement Recognition. This is a \$750.00 scholarship or could be less depending on how many qualified applicants are selected. Eligibility Requirements are:

- Three or more years in a Bourbon County 4-H Club.
- Must demonstrate outstanding achievement in 4-H activities and project work.
- Must be a resident of Bourbon County.
- Must be a senior in High School or freshman in college.
- Must be used by a student enrolled full time in an accredited Kansas 4-year College or University or a Kansas Community College.

Preference will be given to a student in Agriculture or Family and Consumer Sciences. Scholarships may be awarded to a previous winner one time. We will use the Kansas 4-H Scholarship paper application. Applications are available on our Southwind website and are due in the Fort Scott Extension Office on Monday, January 5, 2026.

NEOSHO COUNTY NEWS

ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION SET UP

4-H Council will set up for the Achievement Recognition and hold a meeting on November 12th at 6:00 p.m.

NEOSHO ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION

Neosho County Achievement Recognition is scheduled for November 13th at 6:00 p.m. dinner is provided by the 4-H Council.

2026 STATIC EXHIBITS: EXTRA SPARK AWARD ENTRY

Thanks to generous donors and creative volunteers, Neosho County will offer a special static (indoor)

exhibit challenge with an extra spark of incentive! As you consider exploring different projects this year, we have grouped projects into four different categories. Entering at least 3 projects in a category will get you in the running for an extra incentive. Please pay attention to your email for full details!

WOODSON COUNTY NEWS

4-H ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION

Sunday, November 9, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the Community Building. Cookies and punch will be provided by Woodson County 4-H Council. 4-H Council will have meeting and set-up time at 2:00 p.m.



Southwind District Offices will be closed November 11th in observance of Veterans Day.



Southwind District Offices will be closed November 28 – 29, 2025