



4-H NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025

4-H RECORD BOOK TIP

Now is the perfect time to complete your personal page while you have a school picture available and have enrolled in your projects. Check your next application for activities and events you may need to attend throughout 2025-2026. Forms can be downloaded from the Southwind website: [Here](#).

DISTRICT 4-H CLUB OFFICERS TRAINING

Newly elected club officers and club leaders are encouraged to attend Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. Marmaton Valley School, Moran.

RECORD BOOK REVIEWERS NEEDED

We need record book reviewers on Sunday, October 5th 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. or for the first few days of October. Dates will be set soon, but we need a list of those who would like to help with the judging process. Please reach out to your local Extension Office if you can help with this very important task. If you know someone in the community who loves to do this kind of thing, please encourage them to help! They can get some training on what to do!

TREASURER CLUB OFFICER NOTEBOOKS DUE

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

ENROLLMENT DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1, 2025

4-H Enrollment opens Wednesday, October 1, 2025. Enrollment and payment must be completed by December 1, 2025.

SOUTHWIND DISTRICT 4-H T-SHIRTS

Every 4-H'er and Volunteer that enrolls by November 1, 2025, will receive a 4-H T-shirt. Each 4-H Council will pay for their own County shirts.

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.

PROGRAM FEE SPONSORSHIP

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.

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.



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.

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

Celebrate National 4-H week October 5-11, 2025. This year's theme is "Beyond Ready You are encouraged to use items from the National 4-H Toolkit to help you with promoting 4-H during the enrollment time. For information link [here](#).

BEYOND READY: GO GREEN

Monday of National 4-H Week, **Go GREEN** and show your 4-H spirit! A simple, cohesive way for youth, professionals, volunteers, alumni & supporters across the country to celebrate their 4-H program *Beyond Ready*. Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint - anything green goes. Let's paint the nation GREEN, on Monday, October 6! Share your Go Green moment on social and tag National 4-H, your State 4-H program, and use #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek.

SHARE THE CLOVER/NATIONAL SPIRIT DAY

Each day of National 4-H Week, wear a 4-H shirt or at least green! National 4-H Spirit Day is Monday, October 6th. Don't forget to take a selfie for FB or Instagram and use the following hashtags:

#4HBeyond Ready

#KS4H

#Southwind4H

SHARE YOUR 4-H WHY!

I want to challenge each 4-H member, parent, and volunteer to share your 4-H why with the world on Facebook! Each day I encourage you to pick a topic and Go Live! To make it easier, I compiled a list of ideas for you (one for each day of the week!). Please make sure to use the following hashtags: 4HBeyond Ready, KS4H, Southwind4H.

Ideas for comments or posts for the week:

- What is 4-H?
- Why 4-H
- Best 4-H Memory
- Favorite Project
- 4-H Community Service Project
- Favorite Club Activity
- How to Join 4-H!

Help our 4-H Family Grow!

48 HOURS OF SERVICE

What: Join us this fall in seeing just how much we can give back to our communities! The weekend after National 4-H Week is the perfect opportunity to set up a service project. Invite your friends, clubs, adult volunteers, and 4-H Alums too! Find all the information here and start planning your projects. Please register your projects and then follow up with a report so we know about all the great things that happened across the state. 48 Hours of 4-H is the perfect complement to **#InspireKidstoDo**. [View our 484H Guide to learn more!](#)

When: October 11-12, 2025

Who: 4-H Members, 4-H Clubs, Friends, Adult Volunteers, Parents, 4-H Alumni, Partnerships, Community Organizations, Potential 4-H Families

Register Your Project: [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 learn 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](#).

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 likeminded passionate 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.

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>

Our Partnership

Tractor Supply proudly began our partnership with 4-H in 2010, and we have since helped raise over \$20 million through our Paper Clover fundraisers. The success of these campaigns has impacted over 80,000 students by providing them with hands-on learning experiences through projects in STEM, agriculture, healthy living, and civic engagement. 100% of funds raised through our two Paper Clover fundraisers directly benefit 4-H and the kids and teens they work with - 90% of donations directly support 4-H youth in the state it was raised, and the remaining 10% supports national 4-H programming.

KANSAS 4-H DOG CONFERENCE

October 18 and 19, Kansas 4-H Dog project members, their dogs, and families will convene at Rock Springs Ranch for a weekend of learning, fellowship, and fun at the 4-H Dog Conference. This year's theme of "Trails and Tails" will be a great fall treat to kick off the new 4-H year in the dog project. Conference sessions will include topics on obedience, searching with Kansas Game Warden, Jake Brooke, and K-9 Creed, and dog photography, dog safety on the trails. Contests will include photography, quiz bowl, and presentations. Don't miss this opportunity for fun and fellowship with your dog and 4-H'ers from across the state! Registration will be open soon! Early bird registration is due September 19th, and late registration is due September 26th. Complete details can be found [here](#). 4-H participants MUST be accompanied by an adult chaperone.

KANSAS YOUTH VIRTUAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE

The Kansas Youth Virtual Entrepreneurship Challenge is a great starting point for young innovators to explore entrepreneurship, build confidence, gain experience, pitching ideas and win cash prizes! Participation in KYVEC also serves as excellent preparation for the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC Summit). Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Who: Open to elementary, middle, and high school students across Kansas.

What: A statewide virtual business pitch competition. Students submit a 3–5-minute video pitching their business idea for a chance to win cash prizes.

Where: Online (virtual submission & judging)

Dates to Remember

Sept. 1 – Registration Opens

Oct. 26 – Submission Deadline

Oct. 28–Nov. 4 – Judging

Nov. 6 – Winners Announced

Prizes

Elementary: 1st – \$300 | 2nd – \$150 | 3rd – \$100

Middle School: 1st – \$500 | 2nd – \$250 | 3rd – \$150

High School: 1st – \$1,000 | 2nd – \$350 | 3rd – \$250

2026 4-H OUTBOUND EXCHANGE APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Kansas 4-H and States' 4-H International Exchange Programs (States' 4-H) have opened applications for outbound travel in five partner countries for 2026. There are two exchange programs to Japan. Youth ages eligible to participate in the exchanges vary between 12 and 18 at the time of the exchange, depending on the exchange program. All are 3–4-week programs with home stays in the host countries. The Japan 8-week exchange adds a month of Japan study in Tokyo before the 4-week exchange with a second family. The exchanges and projected dates are as follows:

Costa Rica—June 26-July 23

Japan 8-week—June 11-August 6

Japan 4-week—July 9-August 6

Taiwan—July 9-August 6

South Korea—July 16-August 13

Argentina--July 12-August 2

Costs and other details for each exchange may be found at www.kansas4-H.org where a flyer is available for each exchange. International airfare estimates listed are based on previous year's fares and begin at a U.S. departure city.

Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the departure city. The online application may be found at the site by following this link: [States' 4-H International Exchange Program](#)

Kansas applications with included documents should be completed by November 1.

Required interviews and first orientation will be conducted at Junction City on November 23, 2025. Interested 4-H'ers may contact Mary Kay Munson, Kansas 4-H Exchange Coordinator, for more information at 785-375-3189 or mkm2@ksu.edu.

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.



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.



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!

Chanute – October 25th 9:00 a.m. – Noon
Chanute Recreation Commission Multi-Purpose Room

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

OCTOBER ENTOMOLOGY PROJECT MEETING

We will not be having an Entomology project meeting in October. I encourage you to participate in the Project Palooza activities in Chanute on October 25th or in Yates Center on November 1st from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. These project fairs will highlight any projects. Take your Entomology exhibits and share with potential 4-Hers about this great project. Or put up a display at a local Library or Tractor Supply for National 4-H week. **Saturday November 8:**

Family Day - Have a young person interested in learning about insects? Come learn what the 4-H Entomology project is all about! Join the SE Kansas 4-H Entomology group for a fun filled afternoon on Saturday November 8 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. 4-Hers please bring your insect exhibits from the County and State Fairs to share with everyone. Questions? Call Vicky at (620)804-9170 or email vicky.wallace55@gmail.com.

STEM PROJECT MEETINGS

Robotics, Electricity, Engineering, Computers, Aerospace on Saturday, October 11, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Southwind Extension Meeting Room 1006 N. State Street, Iola, KS. This month we're building bridges in more ways than one! Come take on this construction challenge while learning about the importance of teamwork and communication. All ages and experience levels welcome. Questions, please call 620-365-2242 or call Heather Mentzer project leader 785-410-6081 or e-mail mentzerfarms@gmail.com.

STEM AND ENTOMOLOGY PROJECT MEETINGS

Stem 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.

STEM DISCOVERY DAY FOR HOMESCHOOLERS

Join us for a day of interactive STEM sessions designed specifically for homeschooled youth. Students will rotate through engaging, age-appropriate stations led by experienced educators and professionals.

Kindergarten - 8th grade sessions: Robotics, Chick Embryology, Cloud Formation, Pollinators, Earthworms, Breakout Boxes, Blender Bike, Glowing Germs

9th grade - 12th grade sessions: Cow Reproductive Tract, Grains: In Everything, DNA Extraction, Honeybees, Feeding Frenzy, Plant Grafting

Free to attend. All materials provided. Parents must accompany youth. Bring a sack lunch. Registration is required by October 10 by calling 620-224-3826.



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 at Casey's in two easy ways:

October 1–10: Round up your in-store purchase to donate to 4-H.

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.



ALLEN COUNTY NEWS

LIVESTOCK CHECKS

Please pick up your livestock check from the Extension Office and cash them as soon as possible.

LOCAL PROMOTION FOR NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

The assignments for this year are:

Iola Elementary – Square B

Iola Middle School – City Slickers

Humboldt Elementary – Logan Pals

Marmaton Valley School – Prairie Rose

Clubs can obtain promotional 4-H items from Jennifer, please give her two weeks' notice.

Clubs are also encouraged to use club flags, billboards, and social media to promote 4-H.

ALLEN COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL MEETING

4-H Council will meet following the District Officer Training on Sunday, October 26th at the Marmaton Valley School, Moran, KS.

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

PREMIUM AND LIVESTOCK CHECKS

Please pick up your premium and livestock check from the Extension Office and cash them as soon as possible.

BOURBON COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL MEETING

4-H Council meeting will be before 4-H Officers training Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Marmaton Valley School, Moran, KS. All 4-H Club Council Representatives and 4-H Community Leaders should attend this meeting.

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.

NEOSHO COUNTY NEWS

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!

NEOSHO COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL MEETING

4-H Council will meet after Officer training October 26, Marmaton Valley School, Moran, KS.

NEOSHO ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION

Neosho County Achievement Recognition is scheduled for November 13th at 6:00 p.m.

MEDALLION AWARD PLAQUES

Any new 4-H member this past year should order a medallion plaque to display awards received at the Achievement Recognition. First-year members will receive medallions for project work, achievement, and years of membership (if correct paperwork has been completed). 4-H Council provides these awards. First-year members need to purchase the 8X10 plaque and nameplate that the medallions will go on. The cost of the plaque and nameplate will be \$10.00, additional hanger bars for plaques are \$3.00 if you need one. Please make all checks payable to the Neosho 4-H Council.

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 at 2:00 p.m.

2025 CROPS ID CONTEST RESULTS

Senior Division: Matthew Stockebrand placed 22nd, Renee Robinson 27th, Jewel Endicott 23rd, Carly Kramer 15th, Henry Kramer 30th, Intermediate Division: Grace Schoenecker placed 21st, Claire Schoenecker 35th, Jack Endicott 38th, Macie Hueston 13th, Kason Botts 12th.

KSF DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHY JUDGING

Judging in the Senior Division: Jackson Han placed 11th, Austin Maycumber placed 36th and Will Maycumber placed 60th. Judging in the Intermediate Division: Jacob Han placed 45th with the Southwind Senior Photo Team placing 11th overall.

KANSAS LIVESTOCK SWEEPSTAKES



The Southwind Extension District 4-H members showcased their talent and determination at the 2025 Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes. Southwind teams placed in the top five of every contest, winning two of the four events and claiming the title of 2025 State 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes Champions. The participants representing the Southwind Extension District were Hailey Shadden, Makinlee Bloesser, Marley Sutton, Kendyl Bloesser, Emery Yoho, Alexa Ellis, Jewel Endicott, Kyser Nemecek, Reegan McDaniel, and Klara Stock. These 4-H members, hailing from Allen, Bourbon, and Woodson Counties, demonstrated exceptional knowledge and livestock skills throughout the competition. The Sweepstakes event consisted of four contests, with scores blended to determine the overall Sweepstakes winners. The Southwind team emerged victoriously in 2 contests, Meats Judging and Livestock Quiz Bowl. This achievement highlights the dedication and hard work of the Southwind 4-H members. Top Individual Sweepstakes Winners: Hailey Shadden, Reserve Individual Overall; Jewel Endicott, 5th; Klara Stock, 7th; Kendyl Bloesser, 8th; Marley Sutton 13th; Makinlee Bloesser, 14th. In the Livestock Judging contest, Southwind #1 (Shadden, K. Bloesser, Ellis, Stock) had an outstanding day, earning 5th in Cattle, 6th in Sheep, 5th in Hogs, 5th in Reasons, and being named 4th High Team Overall. There were 38 teams from across the state and 193 individuals in the contest. Individual highlights include Hailey Shadden – 6th Cattle. The Meats Judging contest involved identifying 30 retail cuts, six placings' classes, and three sets of reasons. Southwind #1 (Sutton, Shadden, K. Bloesser, Stock) Champion Meats Judging Team, with a standout performance by winning Retail Identification, and earning 5th in Placings and 3rd in Reasons. Southwind #2 (M. Bloesser, Ellis,

Endicott) was 8th in Placings, 9th in Reasons, 7th in Retail ID, and 7th Team Overall. Individual accomplishments include Makinlee Bloesser – 10th Individual Overall; 5th Placings; 7th Retail ID, Hailey Shadden – 2nd High Individual Overall; 4th Retail ID; 8th Reasons, Marley Sutton – 9th Individual Overall; 3rd Retail ID, Kendyl Bloesser – 5th Individual Overall; 2nd Retail ID Klara Stock – 4th Individual Overall; 4th Reasons; 10th Retail ID, Jewel Endicott – 6th Retail ID; 10th Placings. In the Livestock Skillathon, 4-H members rotated individually through stations that addressed six areas of animal science. Those included feedstuffs, breed identification, equipment identification, meat identification, wool evaluation, and a written test. There was also a team component where members worked together on evaluating quality assurance protocols and demonstrating proper cattle breeding techniques. Out of 27 teams and 149 individuals, Southwind #1 (Shadden, Ellis, Endicott, K. Bloesser) worked together to be named the 3rd Team Overall. Individual Skillathon results include Jewel Endicott, 2nd Exam, 6th Practicum, 4th Overall Individual; Hailey Shadden, 7th Exam, 9th Practicum, 8th Overall Individual. This Sweepstakes championship is proof that Southwind 4-H knows how to win—with grit, talent, and an unstoppable team spirit. True to their motto of “Making the Best Better,” these members pushed each other to new heights. The district credits its success to the unwavering support of parents, dedicated coaches, loyal alumni, and the entire Southwind 4-H community. *Photo caption:* 4-H members from the Southwind Extension District - Allen, Bourbon, and Woodson Counties – had the opportunity to participate in the annual Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes at Kansas State University. Their skills and knowledge were challenged by participating in Livestock & Meats Judging, Livestock Quiz Bowl and Livestock Skillathon contests. Those attending were (from left to right) Klara Stock, Kendyl Bloesser, Hailey Shadden, Jewel Endicott, Makinlee Bloesser, Marley Sutton, Alexa Ellis, Kyser Nemecek, Emery Yoho, Reegan McDaniel, Carla Nemecek (volunteer/coach).



**Beyond
Ready**