



4-H NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

K-State Research and Extension and Kansas 4-H strive to make its programs and events accessible to all Kansans who are otherwise eligible to participate in the activities. This applies to local and state events /programs. Reasonable accommodations are often possible for persons with disabilities who wish to participate, so long as granting the accommodation does not fundamentally alter the nature of the program, cause undue hardship, or otherwise cause a direct threat to the health or safety of the participant or others. K-State Research and Extension and the Department of 4-H Youth Development will collaborate with the participants to identify a reasonable accommodation that provides access to the desired program. Please note the accommodation may not be the one proposed by the participant. In collaboration with your local Extension professional, it is essential for the Accommodation Request Form to be completed online to launch a formal accommodations process. We recognize that accommodation may be requested up to the date of the event. KSRE requests that this form be submitted no later than four weeks prior to the event or activity. Please note we will continue to accept requests for accommodation up to and including the day of the event. Submitting accommodation requests as soon as possible increases our ability to provide the most effective accommodation. Upon receipt of the Accommodation Request Form, you will be invited to an in-person, virtual or phone intake process. An eligibility team will review the request and determine accommodation. The team may consist of KSRE and K-State Human Resources personnel as well as people knowledgeable about the day-to-day activities of the participant. Following the eligibility meeting, people requesting accommodation will be notified by email.

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](#).

PROGRAM FEE SPONSORSHIP

Just a reminder that all youth have the opportunity to get their \$15 program fee paid for by completing the following requirements in 2026.

- **Submit a complete MIGS Book** to your club leader by their deadline.
- **Submit ONE complete Project Record Report Form** to your club leader by their deadline.
- **Attend a minimum of SIX monthly 4-H Club meetings** in the previous 4-H year.

ATTENTION CLUB REPORTERS

In addition to sending your reports to the local paper, please send your club meeting reports to Andrea at ahilyard@ksu.edu and we will post them on our Southwind District 4-H Facebook page. We understand that sometimes your reports are not printed with the local paper. This will allow you to have a report published.



SENIOR PROJECT RECORD REPORT

If you are a Senior age 14 and up and named a winner/champion for your PRR, your book is eligible for the Southeast Area PRR Screening in January. Please plan to make any changes needed from your score sheet. PRR'S must be turned into your local Extension Office by Friday, January 9, 2026. Emails were sent to those eligible mid – November.

SE REGIONAL PROJECT AWARD JUDGING

Record book screening for the Southeast Region will be Friday, January 16, 2026, at the 4-H Learning Center, Fredonia, KS, 9:30 a.m.

NEW AND UPDATED PROJECT AWARD RESOURCES COMING SOON

The Kansas 4-H Youth Development team has been working hard at 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.

REGISTRATION FOR ROCK SPRINGS RANCH

For more information and to register visit [here](#).



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:

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.

COMING IN DECEMBER: INSECT BASICS 101!

Our Entomology group had a great time at Family Day in November! Now it is time to get started on those insect collections, notebooks, and educational displays for the new 4-H year. Our next project meeting will be on Saturday, December 13th beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Allen County Extension Office. We will be learning about insect anatomy. We will be pinning insect specimens. Please bring your pinning boards, pins and 3 insect specimens to pin. Don't forget to put your insect specimens in your relaxing chambers 12 to 24 hours before the meeting. If you are new and need a pinning set up, I will have some available for \$15. I will also have some extra insects available for pinning in case you do not have any in the freezer. I would like each 4-Her to bring a short project talk on another project you are enrolled in for the new 4-H year. Questions contact Vicky at vicky.wallace55@gmail.com. or call (620)804-9170.

POULTRY PROJECT

Join Us for a Fun & Informative Poultry Judging Basics Webinar! Are you interested in learning more about poultry or thinking about participating in poultry judging this year? We're excited to invite you to a 4-H Poultry Judging Basics Webinar, designed especially for youth who want to build their skills and confidence!

Date: Tuesday, December 11

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Online (Zoom link will be provided after registration)

During this interactive session, you'll learn:

- * The fundamentals of poultry judging
- * How to assess live birds and carcasses
- * What judges look for in different classes
- * How to prepare for contests with confidence

Whether you're brand-new to poultry judging or want a quick refresher, this is a great way to get started and ask questions in a relaxed, supportive environment. Register here:

<https://ksu.zoom.us/meeting/register/STBGzDM7QgS1sDSZgil7zA> Come learn, ask questions, and have fun with fellow 4-H members!

DISTRICT 4-H DAY

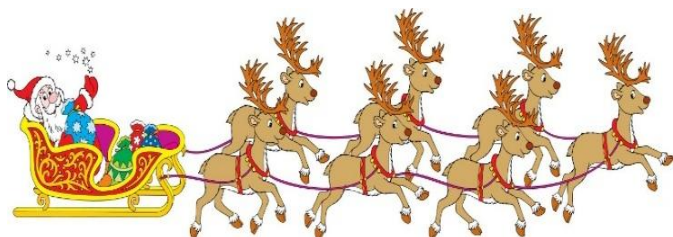
District 4-H Day will be held on February 7, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Everyone will need to be checked in by 11:30 p.m. at Marmaton Valley School, Moran. All entries are due by 4:00 p.m. Friday, January 16 at:

<https://forms.gle/oZ68aG25JszCjEC98>

If you have any questions about the guidelines or rules, please refer to the Southwind District website: [here](#).

REGIONAL 4-H DAY

4-H'ers receiving a Top Blue placing at District 4-H Day will be invited to attend Regionals February 28, 2026, at Neosho County Community College in Chanute. All eligible participants will receive an email.



2025 4-H HORSE PANORAMA

The 4-H Horse Panorama is scheduled for February 21-22, 2026, at Rock Springs. Horse members are encouraged to register to participate in Horse Bowl, Hippology, Presentations and more. Registration information will be posted [here](#) soon.

KANSAS 4-H HORSE JUDGING CONTEST

Kansas 4-H, Kansas Quarter Horse Association, and EquiFest of Kansas are teaming up to host the 2026 Kansas State 4-H Horse Judging Contest. The Contest will be held January 23, 2026, in conjunction with EquiFest of Kansas in Topeka. Two contests are available- an open contest and a 4-H contest. Kansas 4-H members age 9 - 18 are invited to participate in the 4-H contest and may also participate in the open contest. Youth of any age are eligible to participate in the open contest hosted by Kansas Quarter Horse Association. Cost to enter the 4-H contest is \$25. Registration for the open contest is \$15. Coaches will register teams and individuals.

4-H DOG JUDGES AND LEADER TRAINING

The 2026 Kansas 4-H Dog Judges Training/ Recertification and Leader Training will be held in Salina at the Saline County Expo Center, January 31-February 1, 2026. New judges can be certified, returning judges can get a refresher and be re-certified, and leaders can gain a better understanding of the various classes to better prepare local youth for project work. Older 4-H members are invited to observe the training and better understand how they will be judged at the invitational and the Kansas State Fair 4-H Dog Show. Participants must be at least 16 years old to attend this certification and training. Emails will be sent to judges needing to recertify and encourage them to become familiar with the new Kansas 4-H Dog Rule Book, revised in 2023. Registration is due by January 2, 2026. Complete information and registration link is available [here](#).



JUNIOR PRODUCER DAYS 2026

- **Junior Beef Producer Day** – March 7, 2026
Tentative topics range from selection to health, and showmanship. The deadline to register is February 13. The cost is \$20/person by the deadline, or \$30 after. Only those registered by February 13 will receive a T-shirt.
- **Junior Sheep Producer Day** – April 11, 2026
Tentative topics include selection of nutrition, and showmanship. Registration will be due March 20. The cost is \$20/person and T-shirts are only guaranteed for those who sign up by the deadline. Late registrations will be \$30/person.

All youth, parents, leaders, extension agents, and ag teachers are invited to participate in these one-day, family educational experiences. There will also be an optional instructor-led YQCA training at the conclusion of the program for both events. A new registration system will be used this year for the junior day events. Watch the website [here](#) for details!

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

The Wreaths Across America committee in Fort Scott has requested 4-H'ers to assist with leading the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of the Wreath Laying Ceremony. The ceremony will be on December 13, 2025, at 10:00am. Please plan to arrive around 9:50 a.m. to gather and be prepared. Make sure to watch the weather and dress warm! Following the ceremony, they would love volunteers to help lay wreaths on graves. This is quite an undertaking, and they appreciate all the help they can get.

STATE 4-H SCHOLARSHIPS AND THE VANIER FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP CHANGES

The Kansas 4-H Scholarship and Vanier Family Scholarship application process is now open. Applications are due January 5, 2026, at 11:59 PM. To learn more about the scholarship process click [here](#). Scholarships are available to current high school seniors and undergraduate students. There are several scholarships that graduates, and professional students are eligible for. We encourage all of these individuals to apply for one of the Kansas 4-H Scholarships

JAPAN EXCHANGE HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Families looking for a new experience for summer 2026? Host a Japanese delegate in the comforts of your own home while exploring the world. Thirty teens from Japan are needing host families this summer. The Japanese delegate will be in Kansas from July 21 to August 16, but families are needed for hosting from July 23 to August 15. Host families are needed who would be willing to host a Japanese boy or girl. The Japanese youth will be between the ages of 12 and 16. Our responsibility is to make host family assignments matching each delegate with an American same-gender host sibling as soon as possible so that families and exchange delegates can communicate and get to know each other. Any Kansas family with children aged 9-17 who is interested in the Japanese culture may host. A separate bed is required, but not necessarily a separate room from the host sibling. Delegates are 100 percent medically covered with 4-H insurance and bring their own spending money for souvenirs. They can go on host family vacations, camping trips, or join their host siblings for summer camps and the county fair. The focus is on everyday family life as the delegate becomes part of your family. The delegates' information is to be available in February 2026. How to apply: Families may now apply online by visiting: [here](#). There is a required application with references. In addition, there will be an in-home interview conducted, as well as background checks conducted for all adults living in the household. If you have further questions, please call Pam Van Horn, Kansas 4-H Japanese Exchange Coordinator, 785-826-8917, or e-mail pvanhorn@ksu.edu.

SOUTHWIND EXTENSION OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

All Southwind Extension Offices will be closed on the following dates. Please plan ahead if you need support with your 4-H experience or if you need to visit your local Extension Office.

- 🗓 December 19 (Staff Retreat)
- 🗓 December 24th to January 5th (Christmas / New Year's)

ALLEN COUNTY NEWS

2026 ALLEN COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: Lilly Cunningham and Mylee Miller

Vice President: Bryer Grisier

Secretary/Reporter: Doug Dix

Treasurer: Carly Kramer

BOURBON COUNTY NEWS

FRED AND DORIS FINK SCHOLARSHIP

The Fred and Doris Fink 4-H Scholarship will be given during the 2027 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.
- You 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 [here](#) and are due in the Fort Scott Extension Office on Monday, January 5, 2026.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

FCE Council is offering a \$200.00 scholarship to a high school senior or college student who is a Bourbon County resident and will be attending any two-or-four-year college or university in Kansas. All students are welcome to apply; preference will be given to a student who plans to major in Family and Consumer Sciences or a related field. Applications and references must be post marked by Friday, February 13, 2026. Application is available [here](#).

2026 BOURBON COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: Jewel Endicott

Vice President: Hailey Shadden

Secretary: Riley Stephan

Treasurer: Reason Bloesser

Reporter: Austin Maycumber

NEOSHO COUNTY NEWS

FAIR BOARD DONATION TO DINNER AND AUCTION

All clubs are invited to donate an item, a basket, find a sponsor, or a monetary donation by February 1, 2026, to the dinner and auction.

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT THE SHEEP PROJECT?

If you are a new or even seasoned 4-H family that has an interest in exploring the sheep project, please don't hesitate to reach out to county-wide sheep leader Dustie Elsworth for information call 620-432-4563.

BEEF PROJECT OPTIONS

Although "Beef" is the only option when enrolling be sure to keep in mind that there are fair classes for market beef, feeder beef, breeding heifer, and bucket calf. Here are requirements for each:

Market Beef – own a minimum of 140 days – can be steer or heifer. Must weigh a minimum of 1000 pounds to be eligible for grand or reserve and to sell in the premium sale.

Feeder Beef – own a minimum of 140 days – can be steer or heifer. Must weigh a minimum of 600 pounds, maximum of 900 pounds to be eligible for a grand or reserve and to sell in the premium sale.

Breeding Heifer – commercial or registered. If registered, members must have registration or transfer papers in their name by July 1st.

Bucket Calf – for members 7-12 years old. Calf must be born between January 1st -May 1st of current year.

Calf can be male or female – beef, dairy or cross.



SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

\$750 scholarship available for 4-H members who are planning to attend CWF in summer of 2026. For more scholarship information, contact Krista.

2026 NEOSHO COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: Jaylee Kramer

Vice President: Matthew Stockebrand

Secretary: Jackson O'Brien

Treasurer: Sam Fishbach

Fair Board Representatives: Jackson O'Brien and Eli Pemberton

WOODSON COUNTY NEWS

BEEF WEIGH-IN

Woodson County Beef weigh-in date January 24, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

2026 WOODSON COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: Clayton Culver

Vice President: Kinley Moore

Secretary: Camryn Wille

Treasurer: Zoey McIntyre

Fair Board Representatives: Zoey McIntyre and Kaelynn Morrison



Merry Christmas

2026
Happy New Year