



PROJECT ENROLLMENT ADD/DROP DATE

Southwind Extension District policy is 4-H members have till May 1, 2026, to add or drop projects from their 4-H enrollment. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** This will affect which entries you can enter at the County fair.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Do you have a plan for celebrating your 4-H and Extension Volunteers? National Volunteer Week is April 19-25, 2026. 4-H Clubs please be sure to acknowledge those you know that give of their time to volunteer in 4-H.

HORSE PROJECT INFORMATION

Each year, there is required paperwork each 4-H'er must have on each horse they plan to exhibit at a 4-H Horse Show. Paperwork required is the Horse ID certificate and proof of negative Coggins test certificate (within the last 12 months). The Horse ID Certificate is due to your local Extension Office by June 1. An Extension Agent will sign the certificate and make a copy to have in the office. The negative Coggins Test certificate will need to be on hand along with your Horse ID Certificate, the day of check-in at the 4-H Horse Show. Please don't wait until the last minute to complete these documents. You can find the document [here](#).

4-H SUMMER CONTEST

Youth Livestock Day: TBD

Youth Challenge Day: June 18th at Emporia

4-H DISCOVERY DAYS

4-H Discovery Days will be held June 3 – 5, 2026 at Kansas State University. Classes and learning activities are the focus of this mini-college event. Youth must be at least 13 years old to attend. For more information and registration visit [here](#).



KITCHEN AID MIXER CHALLENGE

The Carol and Larry Crawford Kitchen Aid Mixer Challenge will take place again this year! Eligibility Requirements:

- Senior Division 4-H'er (age 14-18) in the Southwind District
- Enrolled in the Foods & Nutrition Project
- Submit an entry in each of the following categories in the 4-H Division at the county fair:
 - Angel Food or Chiffon Cake
 - Yeast Bread
 - Preserved Soft Spread
 - Preserved Vegetable
 - Gift Basket

The winner will be determined by points system and announced in August. Look for the entry form on the Southwind website under your local fair.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Getting to Know Your Camera: Understand your camera's basic functions, settings, and controls to take more intentional photos.

Basic Editing: Learn simple edits to improve lighting, color, and overall image quality.

Elements & Components: Explore composition, lighting, and visual elements that strengthen photos.

Photos with a Phone: Use your smartphone to capture high-quality, creative images wherever you are.

- April 18th in Woodson County, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Yates Center Community building
- May 2nd in Neosho County, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Fire Escape Coffeehouse in Chanute

YOUTH LIVESTOCK EVENTS

Locate Spring Shows [here](#) click on the events tab.

4-H @ TSC Demo Days

4-H Council will be setting up at Tractor Supply Company on Saturday, April 25th from 9:00 a.m. -

11:00 a.m. to provide cookies and water to customers. All 4-H'ers are welcome to participate. This is TSC's Demo Day where the community can test drive equipment and such. You are welcome to bring any 4-H projects to have on display (please bring your own card table or pens to properly display your project), help with greeting customers with a cookie and water, and even offer to help customers load their vehicles and return carts. This also falls on the Paper Clover Campaign that starts April 17th and runs until May 3rd. If you aren't able to come on April 25th please pick another date to share your project with the community or help load vehicles and return carts.

HORTICULTURE & CROPS/WEEDS ID JUDGING

It is time to spring into judging Crops/Weeds ID and Horticulture. Mark your calendars for the upcoming dates of practice and contests. All practices will be between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Allen County Office in Iola. Horticulture will be first at 6:00 p.m., followed by Crops/Weeds ID at 7:00 p.m.

Practice Dates are on Wednesdays:

April 22nd

May 27th

June 24th

July 29th

August 5th

August 12th

August 26th (Crops/Weeds ID ONLY)

September 2nd (Crops/Weeds ID ONLY)

September 9th (Crops/Weeds ID ONLY)

Contest Dates:

June TBA Regional Contest

August 15th – State Horticulture at Kansas State University, Manhattan

September 12th – State Crops/Weeds ID at Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson

Should you be unable to attend, study material will be available. Just reach out by calling 620-365-2242. You don't have to be enrolled in these projects to participate and learn more!!

COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITIES AT THE STATE FAIR 2026 - PUBLIC SPEAKING TOPIC

Remember that 4-H Members ages 9 and older who participated in 4-H Day and received a Purple or top blue ribbons can take their project talks,

demonstrations, and illustrated talks to the Kansas State Fair. Poetry entries can also be entered. Public Speaking entries can come to the State Fair; however, regardless of the topic used locally, all contestants at the State Fair will use the same topic: "How has your journey in 4-H contributed to being Beyond Ready for current challenges and future goals?" More information can be found in the 2026 State Fair Book.

TWENTY-THREE KANSAS FAMILIES NEEDED FOR HOSTING JAPANESE DELEGATES!

Now is the perfect time to consider hosting a Japanese delegate this summer and I want to challenge you to think of families in your community who would make wonderful hosts. They don't need to be 4-H families; they just need to be welcoming, curious, and willing to share everyday Kansas life. And here's one more challenge: reach out personally to one family who came to mind. A simple conversation can open the door to an unforgettable experience. The Kansas 4-H Japan Exchange Committee is looking for 22 host homes this summer. Delegates are ages 12–18 and are eager to learn about our way of life here in Kansas. Even if your summer is busy, that's often the best environment for these teens, they want to experience real family life, not a curated schedule. If you need a little inspiration, here's a short video: <https://youtu.be/WRGqCZpWEnE> If you're even slightly interested, I'd be happy to share information about the available delegates. If you have any questions, please reach out. You can also learn more about the Global Citizenship project, [here](#).



KANSAS YOUTH LIVESTOCK FAMILIES!

We will be hosting zoom sessions again this spring that cover the state livestock nomination process. This will be an additional resource for you to use as a guide when completing your state livestock nominations. The session will open with a presentation of general information regarding

nominations and requirements. Then, we will transition to logging into the ShoWorks system and doing some live examples of creating exhibitor accounts, submitting animal nomination entries, uploading documents, purchasing DNA envelopes, and printing the correct receipt to mail with your signed DNA envelopes. We'll go through the process step-by-step, as well as answer questions. All market animals, of any breed or sex, and commercial breeding females must be nominated to be eligible for the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and/or KJLS. Additionally, ALL meat goats must be nominated. Attendees need to register by noon on Monday prior to the zoom meeting to receive the link for the meeting. Sign up using the highlighted registration links below. The zoom link will be emailed to those who register prior to the meeting. The sessions will be recorded and posted on the [nomination information](#) page of the youth livestock [website](#), with the other nomination resources, following the meeting. The **beef session** will be hosted on **Wednesday, April 8, at 6:00PM**. We will cover nominating market beef and commercial breeding heifers, as well as sharing some reminders for those planning to exhibit registered breeding heifers. [Beef State Nomination Zoom Registration Link](#)

The **small livestock session** is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 6, at 6:00PM**. We will cover nominating swine, sheep, and meat goats during this meeting. [Small Livestock State Nomination Zoom Registration Link](#)



APRIL ENTOMOLOGY PROJECT MEETING

Pinning and labels will be the focus on the April 11th Entomology project meeting. We will begin at 1:00 p.m. in the Allen County Extension Office meeting room. Bring 3 or 4 insects to pin. Parents bring your laptop or a zip drive so I can get a spreadsheet set up for insect labels. Also, each 4-Her may bring a project talk or demonstration

on any project they are enrolled in - it does not have to be about Entomology. Don't forget to put your insects to pin in the relaxing chamber on Thursday night or Friday morning. Registration for Insect Spectacular is scheduled to open up April 24th.

STEM AND ENTOMOLOGY PROJECT MEETINGS

S.T.E.M. meetings 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Entomology meetings 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Allen County Extension Office.

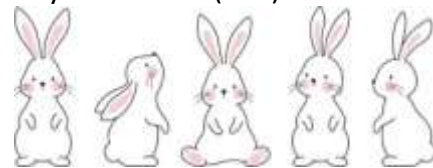
- April 11th
- May 2nd
- June 6th
- July 11th
- August 8th
- September 19th
- October 10th

STEM questions, call Heather Mentzer 785-410-6081 or e-mail mentzerfarms@gmail.com.

Entomology questions call Vicky Wallace 620-804-9170 or email vicky.wallace55@gmail.com.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

We would like a 4-H Club from the Southwind District to prepare and serve a meal for Insect Spectacular on Friday evening June 19th. Location will be the North Community Building in Iola. Meal needs to be ready to be served at 5:30 p.m. The Club would also be responsible for cleaning up after the meal. This can be as simple as hamburgers and hot dogs or pulled pork sandwiches with chips, veggie trays, and drinks. This is an opportunity for a quick and easy fundraising project for a 4-H Club. We will order a set number of meals in advance. If interested, please contact Vicky Wallace at (620)804-9170.



2026 INSECT SPECTACULAR

Beetles, bugs, dragonflies and more! It's time to get registered for the 34th Insect Spectacular. The State Entomology Workshop will be held June 19th and 20th at the North Community building, 505 N. Buckeye Street in Iola, Kansas. Registration is April 24th - May 25th. A parent from each family must pay full registration, attend the workshop, and stay with their child/children at the workshop.

Participants need to wear comfortable clothes and shoes – no sandals or flip-flops please. Please bring long pants for the collection and photo trips. You need your own camera for taking pictures of insects. There will be some insect equipment available for purchase. We should have a few insect display boxes for \$65 each, payable at the time of purchase. 4-Hers are allowed to pick up 3 insects from the collection trips to use in the pinning class. Registration fee of \$85 includes supper Friday, lunch Saturday, bottled water, class materials, T-Shirt, and handouts. Younger siblings, spouses, etc. that may be coming along, but not participating need to pay a fee of \$55. This will pay for meals, bottled water, etc. but will not include a T-shirt or class supplies. Please bring a sack lunch for the noon meal on Friday. If anyone has dietary restrictions, please let us know when you register. For information contact: Vicky Wallace (620) 804-9170 or vicky.wallace55@gmail.com

2026 4-H SHUTTERBUG PHOTOGRAPHY

This year's event will take place at The Midwest Dream Car Museum, an exciting new venue where young photographers will learn how to take detailed car photos, photo composition, how to properly mount a photo, black & white photography, kaleidoscopes, and much more! 4-H members and families need to register [here](#). The cost for each 4-H member is \$25. An adult must accompany youth members. Youth are encouraged to bring their camera, smartphone, and/or tablet to take photos, but 20 SDLR cameras will be available to check out for use that day. Youth members will need to bring their own SD card if they would like to take their photos home with them. Door prizes and many more fun things are planned for this event.

ANNUAL INSECT-THEMED ART CONTEST

The K-State Extension Pesticide Safety and IPM Program is hosting its annual insect-themed art contest, open to all ages and skill levels. Theme is "Metamorphosis Magic". The goal is to explore insects that undergo complete and incomplete metamorphosis, then create artwork that fits the contest theme. Artwork may include drawings, paintings, digital art, or a 3-D piece such as sculpture, stained glass, or other creative media.

Awards will be given for 1st – 3rd place in each of the following age categories:

- Kindergarten – 2nd grade
- 3rd grade – 5th grade
- 6th grade – 8th grade
- High school
- Adult

Entries must be received or postmarked before April 15, 2026. Full contest rules and details are available [here](#).

POULTY PROJECT

Birds exhibited at the county fair in the Southwind Extension District that originated from Kansas will not be tested before the fair until 2027. Birds will then be tested every 5 years. Now, if your bird comes from out of state, you will be required to test within 90 days of the fair or show proof of clean flock certificate.

ALLEN COUNTY NEWS

ALLEN COUNTY FAIR

Allen County Fair is scheduled for July 23 -26, 2026. **Theme:** "Take A Walk on the Wild Side ".

LIVESTOCK TAGGING & WEIGHING

Bucket Calves, Meat Goats, Sheep and Swine will weigh and tag-in on Sunday, April 19th, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Allen County Fairgrounds. Tags will be \$4 a piece, cash or check only.

ALLEN COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL MEETING

The next meeting will be April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Allen County Extension Office.



4-H DAY CAMP

The tentative date is set for June 12th at the Allen County Extension Office. More details to come. Any older 4-H'ers who would like to help are encouraged to reach out to Jennifer.

FRIENDS OF 4-H DINNER DETAILS

4-H Council decided to have the same cater and meal as last year, two \$10 gift cards donated per club, and each family is to provide a dozen cookies.

This event will be on July 21st at the Iola High School.

BOURBON COUNTY NEWS

BOURBON COUNTY FAIR

Bourbon County Fair is scheduled for July 11-18, 2026. **Theme:** "Take A Dive into the Bourbon County Fair".

MEAT GOATS, SHEEP, SWINE TAG-IN

& WEIGH-IN

Small animal **tag-in and weigh-in**

*Sunday, April 19th 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Bourbon County Fairgrounds.

Small animal **tag-in only**

* Wednesday, April 22nd 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the Uniontown School parking lot.

LIVESTOCK INFORMATION

Members may tag as many animals as they wish but after the 2 allowed tags per specie members will be charged \$4 per tag which is **due at tag/weigh-in, cash or check only.**

POULTRY PROJECT MEMBERS

4-H Poultry project members that wish to participate in the Youth Livestock Auction at the Bourbon County Fair will need to have Broiler Chickens ordered by April 15th. All birds for this project will come from the same hatch and will be Cornish cross and will be available approximately 6-7 weeks before the fair. 4-H'ers will be notified when birds are ready for pickup. Price per bid will be determined at order time. Number of bird's minimum order of 10. Contact the Extension Office before April 15th by calling 620-223-3720.

NEOSHO COUNTY NEWS

NEOSHO COUNTY FAIR

Neosho County Fair is scheduled for July 23-27, 2026. **Theme:** "Surf in the USA".

DOG PROJECT MEETINGS

dog project meetings will start April 12th. They will be held every Sunday at 4 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

SHEEP/SWINE/MEAT GOAT TAGGING

& WEIGH-IN

Please mark your calendar for Monday, April 27th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for Sheep, Swine, and Meat Goat tagging. This will be held at the fairgrounds in Erie. The cost per tag is \$4. If you are unable to bring your animals, please arrange for someone else to do it for you.

WOODSON COUNTY NEWS

WOODSON COUNTY FAIR

Woodson County Fair is scheduled for July, 17 -20, 2026. **Theme:** "No time like Fair Time".

SMALL ANIMAL TAG-IN & WEIGH-IN

Bucket Calves, Meat Goats, Sheep and Swine will weigh and tag-in on Wednesday, April 22nd 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Woodson County Fairgrounds.

CLOTHING & FIBER ARTS MEMBERS!

We're excited to share a new schedule for Clothing & Fiber Arts judging! Wednesday, July 15th New York Valley Church, 1432 US-54, Yates Center. Here's what the day will look like:

- **2:00 p.m.** – *All Boys & Girls Shopping in Style and Constructed Garments Style Revue (modeling)*
- **3:00 p.m.** – *Judging of Constructed Garments and Fiber Arts items*
Constructed and fiber arts items must arrive no later than 3:30 p.m.
- **6:00 p.m.** – **Public Style Revue** in the New York Valley Church sanctuary
Family and friends are warmly invited to attend!