



4-H NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

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 [here](#).

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

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. If you are interested in judging, reach out to your local Extension Office.

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 [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.

COMMUNICATION

RESOURCES/OPPORTUNITIES

4-H members age 9 and older participating at District 4-H Day receiving a purple ribbon can take their project talks, demonstrations, and illustrated talks to the Kansas State Fair. Poetry, and Public Speaking can come to the State Fair, however regardless of the topic used locally, all contestants at the State Fair will use the same topic, "What 4-H Means to Me". Information will be in the Kansas State Fair Book. There are some great resources for project talks, illustrated talks, demonstrations, and public speaking [here](#).

4-H DOG JUDGES AND LEADER TRAINING

We're looking for great adults and teens to take part in Kansas 4-H Dog Judges and Leaders for 4-H Dog Judge Certification and Leader Training. This two-day learning opportunity will train judges for Kansas 4-H Dog Shows, recertify current judges, and teach volunteers and teens about the judging and scoring process for Kansas 4-H Dog Shows. The certification will take place January 31-February 1, 2026, in Salina, KS at the Saline County Fairgrounds, 4-H Building. Complete information and registration link is available [here](#). Beginning in 2026, Dog Judge Training and Leader Certification will be offered every other year in even-numbered years. Judges who were certified in 2021 or 2022 should plan to recertify in 2026.



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:

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.

ENTOMOLOGY PROJECT MEETING

Names and Nicknames!

Join us for the SE Kansas Entomology project meeting and learn something new about the fascinating world of insects! We will meet on January 10th beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Allen County Extension Office meeting room. 4-Hers will be working on pinning insects again. So, bring your pinning boards, pinning supplies and 3 or 4 insects to pin. I would like each 4-Her to look up an insect nickname and bring a short project talk on how the insect got its nickname.

A few examples are:

- Dragonflies are called Devil's Darning Needles and several other things.
- Ladybird Beetles are called Lady Bugs
- Sphinx Moths are called Hummingbird Moths

Remember to put the insects you want to pin in a relaxing chamber on Friday before the meeting on Saturday. Hope to see you there!

**TO MAKE THE
BEST BETTER** 

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!

2026 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.

REGISTRATION FOR ROCK SPRINGS RANCH

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

ALLEN COUNTY NEWS

ALLEN COUNTY FAIR

Allen County Fair is scheduled for July 23-26, 2026

BOURBON COUNTY NEWS

BOURBON COUNTY FAIR

Bourbon County Fair is scheduled for July 11-18, 2026.

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](#). Also, see the Southwind website for information on the Kansas Association for Family and Community Education Kansas FCE Scholarship.



4-H COUNCIL MEETING

4-H Council will meet on January 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Common Ground Coffee Shop. All 4-H Club Council Representatives need to attend. What is decided will affect each 4-H Club. Topic – Fair Theme

NEOSHO COUNTY NEWS

NEOSHO COUNTY FAIR

Neosho County Fair is scheduled for July 23-27, 2026.

4-H COUNCIL MEETING

The Neosho 4-H Council meeting is January 18th at 5:30 p.m.

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.

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 TAGGING

Beef Tagging/Weigh-in at the Neosho County Fairgrounds will be held Sunday, March 8th 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. In order for the event to run smoothly all trailers must enter the South gate and the line will form there. Once finished, trailers will exit out the East or West gate. Tags cost \$4.00 each. Beef animals that need to be tagged – market beef and feeder beef. Questions contact Kendal at 620-625-8620.

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.

WOODSON COUNTY NEWS

WOODSON COUNTY FAIR

Woodson County Fair is scheduled for July 17-20, 2026

BEEF WEIGH-IN

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



For my club, my community, my country, and my world.

