



4-H NEWSLETTER MARCH 2026

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.

PROGRAM FEE FOR 2026/2027

To get the program fee reimbursed for 2026/2027, there are three major requirements to be eligible:

- Attend a minimum of six 4-H Club meetings.
- Submit a complete MIG Book (Member in Good Standing).
- Submit at least one PRR (Project Record Report).

WALK KANSAS 2026

Walk Kansas will take place March 22 - May 16 this year! Through this 8-week program, you will work together with your teammates to achieve a physical activity goal. Each team is made up of six people. Youth can participate for free! If your 4-H Club would like to create a team, we will also waive the registration fee for the adult who serves as team captain. Question contact Sandy Haggard e-mail sjhaggard@ksu.edu or call 620-365-2242.

KANSAS 4-H PROJECT CHALLENGES

Looking for a spring activity? Explore the Kansas Clover Classroom. Challenges range from Tracking Wildlife, Photography, Geology Collecting to Macrame and more. Find them [here](#).

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](#).

PASSPORT TO FUN!

Come join us for a trip around the world! The day will have a focus on four different continents by sharing what makes them so unique. There will be a craft, snack, special program, and lots more! Locations and Dates:

Fort Scott - Monday, March 16

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Buck Run

Chanute - Tuesday, March 17

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Central Park Pavilion

Yates Center - Wednesday, March 18

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Community Building

Moran - Thursday, March 19

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Community/Senior Center
Registration is due [here](#) by March 10th!

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.

- March 21 in Allen County, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Allen County Extension Office
- March 28 in Bourbon County, 9:00 a.m. to noon at Papa Don's Pizza in Fort Scott
- April 18 in Woodson County, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Yates Center Community building
- May 2 in Neosho County, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Fire Escape Coffeehouse in Chanute



HORTICULTURE JUDGING TEAM **CROPS/WEED ID JUDGING TEAM**

Regular practices will begin to learn more about plant science and how the Horticulture Judging Contest and Crops/Weeds ID Judging Contest works. The objective is for members to grow in their ability to think, to reason, and to make logical and scientific judgements, through plant identification, knowledge testing, and judging classes. There are several opportunities to learn and then test your knowledge at upcoming judging contest:

- Southeast Area Youth Challenge Day – June (Ages 9-18)
- Each County Fair within the District – July (Ages 7-18)
- State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest – August 15, at Kansas State University (Ages 9-18)
- 4-H Wheat Expo – August
- State 4-H Crops/Weeds Judging Contest – September 12, at Kansas State Fair (Ages 9-18)

If you would like to learn more and join other 4-H'ers on the Southwind District Horticulture Judging Team or Southwind District Crops/Weed ID Judging Team, contact Casey Diver, Program Assistant at 620-365-2242. Practices will be held at the Allen County Extension Office in Iola from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

- March 25
- April 22
- May 27
- June 24
- July 29
- August 5 & 12
- August 25
- September 2 & 9

In 2024, Southwind District was ranked 1st Place Kansas Team and 3rd Place National Team for Horticulture Judging. New this year is a Scholarship Program at the local and area levels. Attend practice to learn more.



GREENBUSH 4-H CAMP AGES 7-9

This camp is for youth ages 7-9 and is scheduled for June 8 and 9. The cost to attend is \$85. This camp fills up fast, so don't delay. Register [here](#) by March 5th.

NEW GREENBUSH 4-H CAMP AGES 10-13

There will be a day camp for youth who are ages 10-13 on June 9 and 10 at Greenbush Camp and Retreat Center. The cost will be \$85. This camp will fill fast! Register by March 5th, [here](#)

POULTY PROJECT

Birds exhibited at the county fair in the Southwind Extension District that originated from Kansas do not need 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.

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.

March 14, 2026

April 11, 2026

May 02, 2026

June 06, 2026

July 11, 2026

August 08, 2026

September 19, 2026

October 10, 2026

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.

ENTOMOLOGY PROJECT MEETING

Time to get some new insect specimens identified! We will work on this March 14th at the Allen County Extension Office 1:00 p.m. Please bring the insects you need help getting identified. Parents please bring your laptop or a zip drive so we can get the insect labels spreadsheet on your computer for you to use. Vicky will plan on staying a little later in the afternoon to help new families pin more insects, so bring your pinning supplies and insects to pin.

4-H AG TECH DAY, APRIL 4, 2026

Kansas 4-H, Kansas State University ID3A (Institute for Digital Agriculture & Advanced Analytics), KCARE (Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment) are co-hosting an engaging Ag Tech Day in Moundridge, Kansas at Flickner Innovation Farm, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, April 4. This event is geared for youth in grades 5 -12 and provides the unique opportunity to explore the farm and learn about both new and established technologies that are helping make farm management easier and more efficient for producers. A wide variety of stations will be set up around the farm for attendees to visit while they learn from presenters. Attendees are welcome to come and go as they please, and snacks will be provided!

Stations may include:

- Unmanned aircraft systems and drone technologies
- John Deere technologies
- Sensors
- An under-canopy robot.
- Technology for finding and tracking insects.

Register [here](#).

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 in Kansas! 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](#).

2026 T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

All creative 4-Hers! Try your hand at creating a design for the 2026 Insect Spectacular T-shirts.

- Theme: Lepidoptera (Butterflies, Skippers, and/or Moths) of Kansas Contest will run from February 1- 6, 2026.
- Design: must be submitted to Vicky Wallace by midnight March 6, 2026, at 2447 40th Road, Humboldt, KS 66748, or email: vicky.wallace55@gmail.com Design must fit on an 8 ½” X 11” sheet of paper. Maximum three colors plus one color for T-Shirt.
- Wording: Must include “Insect Spectacular 2026”. You can include something that goes with the theme if you like. You are creating the design for the graphic that will be on the T-shirts for participants at the 2026 Insect Spectacular.

You can use graphics of true Lepidoptera or create your own artful images. No copy righted clip art, photos or graphics may be used. Remember to use only Lepidoptera found in Kansas. Winner will receive a \$20 gift card to Sonic. This would be a great addition to your 4-H Record Book, especially for the Visual Arts, Entomology, and Leadership projects. On the back of your entry list: 4-Hers Name, 4-H Age, County/District, Mailing address, Phone number, first and second choice of T-shirt color. Questions contact Vicky Wallace at Vicky.wallace55@gami l.com or phone: (620)804-9170. The State 4-H Entomology committee will select the winning design. Anyone submitting a design for competition may not vote on the design selection. Ag Tech Day is FREE and open to the public, but registration is required. Please register by Wednesday, April 1. You can register as an individual or as a group. Group registration allows up to five people at a time.



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 19 and 20. Activities will be based at the North Community building at 505 N. Buckeye Street in Iola, Kansas. Registration will open April 24th through May 25th. Once registration closes, it will not be reopened. There will be no cancellations or refunds of money after registration closes. Cancellations before registration closes are eligible for a 50% refund. A parent from each family must pay full registration and attend the workshop. A parent is to stay with their child/children at the workshop. Participants need to wear comfortable clothes and shoes – no sandals or flip-flops please. If you wear shorts, please bring long pants for the collection and photo trips. Bring insect/tick repellent, sunscreen, collection net, kill jar and lots of specimen containers. You will need your own camera for taking pictures of insects. There will be some insect equipment available for purchase at the workshop. We should have a few insect display boxes available for \$65 each, payable at the time of purchase. All boxes will be sold on a first come-first serve basis. Each 4-Her is allowed to pick up 3 insects from the collection trips to use in the pinning class. Full registration fee of \$85.00 includes supper Friday, lunch Saturday, bottled water, class materials, T-Shirt, and handouts. 4-Hers enrolled in Entomology should pay for full registration. Younger siblings under 4-H age, spouses, etc. that may be coming along, but not participating in the classes will need to pay a fee of \$55.00. 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 more information contact: Vicky Wallace (620) 804-9170 or e-mail vicky.wallace55@gmail.com

Motels:

Super 8 by Wyndham: 200 Bills Way, Iola, KS 66749. \$72.00 to \$84.00 per night plus tax (620)365-3030. Breakfast included and served from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Nice size breakfast area.

Americas Best Value Inn: 1315 N State Street, Iola, KS 66749. \$59 plus tax for 1 queen bed - \$71.00 plus tax for 1 king bed - \$9.00 plus tax for 1 double bed, (620)365-5161. Breakfast included and served from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Decent size breakfast area.

Regency Inn: 14 N State Street Iola, KS Located at a main intersection in Iola. All rooms on ground floor \$62.00 plus tax for 1 queen bed. (620)365-2183. Breakfast is included from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. but a very tiny breakfast area.

FAIR JUDGE TRAINING

Are you interested in judging county fair exhibits or just learning more about the judging process as a project leader, parent, or Extension staff member? Join us for a Fair Judges Training on Tuesday, April 14, in Concordia, Kansas. Judging 4-H Projects isn't just about ribbons— it's a youth development strategy. When done well, the evaluation process strengthens the very skills young people need to thrive in school, careers, and life. Learn how to conduct effective conference evaluations using recognized standards, with project-specific guidance in:

- Visual Arts
- Posters, Notebooks, and Displays
- Woodworking
- Building Block Engineering
- Welding
- Fashion Revue
- Photography
- Sewing and Textiles
- Robotics
- Aerospace/Rocketry

\$20/person - please remit to the River Valley Extension Office in Concordia.

[See the full schedule and flier.](#) Any of the sessions are optional; attend what fits in your schedule. Register [here](#) by April 1st.



UNCREWED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS WORKSHOP

Central Kansas District 4-H is hosting a UAS workshop on March 14th, 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., at K-State Salina Campus. Any 4-H youth across the State aged 7-18 who is interested in UAS is eligible to register. Estimated total flight hours required at the time of registration. Youth will be grouped as beginners or experienced based on flight hours. For more information visit [here](#).
Deadline: March 9th, 2026

COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITIES AT THE KANSAS STATE FAIR

4-H Members ages 9 and older who participated in 4-H Day and received a Purple or top blue 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.

ALLEN COUNTY NEWS

ALLEN COUNTY FAIR

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

MARKET BEEF WEIGH-IN

Beef weigh-in will be March 1st from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Allen County Fairgrounds. Tags will be \$4.00 a piece, cash or check only.

OTHER 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 \$4.00 a piece, cash or check only.

ALLEN COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL MEETING

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

GWEN E. WILSON 4-H SCHOLARSHIP

Gwen E. Wilson 4-H Scholarship is to be awarded to an Allen County 4-H member, annually. This scholarship must be used at Kansas State University for work leading to a degree of the student's own choice. The scholarship is worth \$500.00. No winner may receive it more than once and it is not renewable. Specific details and the application can be found [here](#).

MILES KESSINGER SCHOLARSHIP

Miles Kessinger Scholarship awarded for the purpose of attending Allen Community College. This scholarship is to be awarded annually to an Allen County 4-H member and/or a Woodson County 4-H member who is a graduating senior. Those eligible to apply for this scholarship must have been a 4-H member at least three years, be of good moral character and have financial need. This scholarship is \$500.00 and is payable to the recipient. The scholarship winner must use this award in the school year selected, otherwise he/she will be required to re-apply. Completed applications are to be mailed or brought to Allen Community College, Financial Aid Office, 1801 N. Cottonwood, Iola, KS 66749 before April 1st. Specific details and application can be found [here](#).

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.

BOURBON COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL MEETING

Bourbon County 4-H Council will meet March 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Papa Dons Pizza.

BEEF TAGGING

- ❖ Sunday, March 8, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - ❖ Thursday, March 12, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Location:** Trent Johnson Facility,
1282 135th Street, Fort Scott, Kansas.

LIVESTOCK INFORMATION

Members may tag as many animals as they wish but after the 2 allowed tags per specie members will be charged \$4.00 per tag. Cash or check only.

NEOSHO COUNTY NEWS

NEOSHO COUNTY FAIR

Neosho County Fair is scheduled for July 23-27, 2026. The theme of the Neosho County Fair is "Surf in the USA".

NEOSHO COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL MEETING

Neosho 4-H Council will meet on March 1, at 5:30 p.m. at the Neosho Valley Event Center

BEEF TAGGING

Beef Tagging/Weigh-in at the Neosho County Fairgrounds Sunday, March 8, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. 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 are market beef and feeder beef. Questions contact Kendal at 620-625-8620.

COUNTYWIDE DOG & RABBIT MEETINGS

- Countrywide Dog project meeting will be held Sunday, March 1 at 2:00 p.m. At the Neosho fairgrounds no animals, just kids.
- Countywide Rabbit project meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8 at 1:00 p.m.

WOODSON COUNTY NEWS

WOODSON COUNTY FAIR

Woodson County Fair is scheduled for July 17 - 20, 2026. The theme for the Woodson County Fair is "No time like Fair Time".

WOODSON COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL MEETING

Woodson 4-H Council's next meeting is on March 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Woodson County Extension Office.

SMALL ANIMAL WEIGH-IN

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

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