

4-H Clover News



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension
Ford County

Ford County Monthly Newsletter

November 2026

How to reach us:

Ford Co. Extension

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1:00 pm—5:00 pm

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Check us out on the web!

www.ford.ksu.edu
www.kansas4-h.org
facebook.com/fordcounty4h
facebook.com/FordCoExtension



Dear 4-H Families,

Please complete your online enrollment as soon as possible. Be sure that when you select your projects to click on your community club name before continuing.

Remember adult volunteers need to also sign up online to either become a new leader or renew.

The best of luck to our 4-H Club officers and community leaders as they begin the new 4-H year.

The holiday season is upon us, so please take care when traveling this season. We hope all of our 4-H families will have a wonderful, safe and Happy Thanksgiving!!

Remember we are here for you if you have any questions. Please call/text/email Andrea, Ethel or Tamara with any questions you have concerning a project, enrollment, or an activity/event.

Yours in 4-H,

Andrea Burns

Ethel Schneweis

Tamara Robertson



**Beyond
Ready**

This institution is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the **Ford County Extension Office** four weeks prior to the start of the event at **620-227-4542** or **tarobertson@ksu.edu**. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

Kansas State University is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



ONLINE 4-H MEMBER ENROLLMENT 2026-27

Enrollment and re-enrollment for the 2026-2027 4-H year began October 1. All enrollment must be completed online at <https://ks.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

Club Challenge: The club with the most current members re-enrolled by November 15 will receive a pizza party!

Already have a 4HOnline account?

Log in using your email address and password, then click Sign In. [For instructions to enroll youth members](#), go to Youth Member Enrollment (Page 6, Section 4). To add a new member to your family, go to Add a New Member to the Family (Page 4, Section 3).

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-online/docs/Family%20Enrollment%20Guide.pdf>

TIP: If you have forgotten your password, click “Reset Password?” to receive an email with a link to set a new password.

The State 4-H enrollment fee is \$15 per member. Payment options include paying online, mailing a check, requesting a waiver, or using a club coupon code. If your club or another sponsor is covering your fee, please select “Pay by Check”. If the family is paying by check, make it payable to **Ford County 4-H Council** and send it to our office. Enrollment will not be active until payment is received.

Publicity Permissions: Please carefully consider your answers to the publicity permission questions. Your selections determine whether your 4-H'er's name can be used in news releases, newsletters, social media, and event results.

Please keep all email addresses and phone numbers current in 4HOnline. If you would like your 4-H'er to receive the newsletter directly, add their email address to their individual profile.

If you have any questions or need assistance at any point, contact the Extension Office.

Starting the 2026-2027 4-H program year (beginning in October), majority of the communication from our office will be sent through the 4-HOnline system.

Please check your email regularly so you don't miss important 4-H information, reminders, and deadlines.

Emails will come from no-reply@4honline.com.

Please do not unsubscribe from these emails, as they are an important way for our office to communicate with you throughout the year.

4-H CLOVERBUDS

Ford County 4-H offers the Cloverbud Program (5-6) years old who are too young to join 4-H program. Cloverbuds can **only enroll in the Cloverbud project**. Below are some of the policies and guidelines that the Kansas Cloverbud program follows:

- 4-H Cloverbuds is activity-focused, rather than project-focused.
- The 4-H Cloverbuds programming is cooperative, rather than competitive.
- 4-H Cloverbud exhibits can be showcased at fairs or public events, but a 4-H Cloverbuds member may not participate as a competitive exhibitor in traditional 4-H events.
- A Cloverbud member may showcase a pet from the approved pet list: Amphibians, Ant farms, Cat, Dog, Fish, Gerbils, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, Mice, Parakeets, Rabbits, and Rats.
- The 4-H Cloverbud members do not manage money.

Full Cloverbud Policy can be found starting on page 59 of the [Kansas 4-H Policy](#).

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/policy-guide/docs/Kansas%204-H%20Policy%20Handbook%202025%20FINAL.pdf>



Important NOTE When Enrolling:

As we begin the 2026- 2027 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. These releases give 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



Consent Questions

To provide more clarity, families are asked to give specific permission for:

- Media (photos, video, audio, etc.)
 - This includes both Print & Social Media
- Name & Location

These responses override the general publicity release and help guide what can or cannot be shared publicly.



Best Practices for Sharing Youth Information

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 see the [Best Management Practices for 4-H Publicity](https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/policy-guide/docs/BMP%20for%204-H%20Publicity%2009.2026.pdf). If you have questions about publicity permissions or how to apply these best practices, please contact the Extension Office.

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/policy-guide/docs/BMP%20for%204-H%20Publicity%2009.2026.pdf>





PROJECT SELECTION

It is very important to sit down as a family to select 4-H projects for the upcoming year. **4-H IS A FAMILY AFFAIR**, so time required, costs involved, parental help, etc. should all be carefully considered when selecting projects.

It is usually recommended to take only a few projects. A 4-H project is designed to encompass the entire 4-H year, including project meetings, special events/contests, individual time, fair exhibits, record books, etc.

4-H Project Selection Guides are on our website or available at the Extension Office.



**4-H IS MORE THAN
JUST A CLUB.**

WE'RE A FAMILY.

save
the
date

Extension Annual Election and Miss Kitty Statue Presentation

The Ford County Extension Program Development Committee Election meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 5th, at 6:00 pm with election and then a presentation by Robin Bailey from the Dodge City Woman's Chamber on the Miss Kitty Statue. This will be at the Ford County Fair Building, Dodge City.

To be eligible to vote you must be 18 or older and a resident of Ford County. Election voting will take place from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Extension Office and also from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Fair Building. Results of the election will be announced after the presentation.

Elections will be for the four programming areas (Agriculture and Natural Resources; Family and Consumer Sciences; 4-H Youth Development; and Community Vitality) and candidates elected will serve a two-year term. Short candidate bio's will be posted on our website prior to the election and will be available during the election voting times.



4-H Club Officer Training— TBD

All newly elected officers are invited to attend an Officers Training workshop. We are working on this training and will send out more information as soon as everything is finalized.

Be watching for an email announcing the date, time and location soon.





Saturday, Nov. 7th



6:00 pm Fair Building

The Night will begin with a catered meal and then presentation of awards.



celebrate!



Who should attend the achievement night?

ALL 4-H Members and Family Members!

Even 4-H Supporters are invited and encouraged to attend! Even if you are not receiving an award, you should still join us for a fun evening and support your fellow club members! You have worked hard this past year and deserve an evening celebrating you!



What should I wear?

Since this is a special event for many of our 4-Hers, we encourage everyone to dress appropriately for the occasion, i.e., slacks, button down, dresses, skirts, etc. Jeans & t-shirts are NOT appropriate.



Awards

Family of the Year, Meritorious, and Alumni Awards will be presented during the program along with tenure membership, achievement pin and project awards for 4-H members who turned in record books for judging.

Several Special Awards will also be presented during the evening.



50-50 Raffle Tickets

The Ford County 4-H Exchange group will also have a 50-50 raffle ticket activity at the Achievement Awards Night. Their plans are to have the fund-raising activity they had last year — Pay to Play, numbers 1-30 and whichever number you draw, you pay that amount as a donation. A winning number will be drawn and who ever pulled that number and paid, will receive a percentage of the total amount raised. Bring your cash or check books so you can join the fun.



Fair Association Election and Annual Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 pm, Fair Building

Join the Fair Board for soup at 6:00 pm and then attend their Annual Meeting beginning at 6:30 pm. Elections for three Fair Board members, for three year terms, will be taking place.

Currently Fair Board Members are responsible for maintaining the facilities/building and for opening/closing the building for rentals. If you are interested in becoming a member of the board, please email fordcountyfairassn@gmail.com, contact any current board member or the Extension Office. Any Ford County resident, 18 and older can run & vote.

Fair Board meetings during the year are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Fair Building.

The board is continuing to work on fund raising for future improvements to the building and grounds. They have received several area grants, but if you would be interested in providing a donation they are a 501 3c organization. Contact the Extension Office for more information and how to donate.



4-H COUNCIL NEWS

2026/27

4-H Council Responsibilities

4-H Council club representatives and community leaders serve as the voice of their clubs. They are responsible for sharing information from Council meetings, discussing upcoming decisions with their club members, gathering feedback and opinions, and reporting those thoughts back to the Council at the next meeting.

4-H Council Officer Elections

To assist with trying to keep this 4-H Council meeting moving along and not too long, we asked those members wanting to run for an office to complete an [Officer Application](#). This application can be found online on our Ford County's website under the 4-H Council tab. This needs to be submitted by Friday, November 20 or before the next Council Meeting, November 23rd at 7 pm at the Fair Building.

Only those submitting a nomination form may be considered for the officer position.



Parade of Lights

The Dodge City Parade of Lights is scheduled for Monday, November 30. At the last Council Meeting, it was decided to provide Cookies and Hot Cocoa for parade participants prior to the parade starting. Club's are asked to help and provide supplies for the event. (This will be discussed at the Council meeting on Nov. 23rd!)

We will start serving at approximately 5:00 pm. This is a 4-H Council's community service project.



Barn Quilt Painting Class

The Extension Office is offering a Barn Quilt Painting Class on November 21, starting at 9 a.m. This is open to anyone (youth or adult). The class will be instructed by Mary George Harden. You pick the pattern you would like and it will be pre-drawn. Participatents are required to bring their own lunch. If you are interested in more information and pricing, call the Extension Office.

Registrations are required by November 13 along with payment and pattern selection.



Beyond Ready



Record Book Suggestions from the evaluators

Congratulations on working towards your goals and completing your record books this year!

Some helpful hints from the evaluators:

- Visiting with the judge at the fair and talking about your projects at the club tour are not considered formal presentations, that is considered project work. Fulfill this requirement by giving a project talk or demonstration at a club meeting or County Club Days.
- Project experiences: What did you LEARN? Consider utilizing some of the things you learned while meeting your project goals for this section.
- Remember the difference between citizenship and leadership. Citizenship is something done for the betterment of the community. Leadership is organizing, delegating and allowing others to have a part. (i.e. serving as a mentor for younger and/or new members or teaching others how to do something.) Also, be sure it is related to your project area.

When in doubt, ASK QUESTIONS, of your club leaders or the Extension Agents! **Keep up the good work!**



Ford County 4-H Foundation

The Ford County 4-H Foundation will be conducting their annual membership drive. You will be receiving a letter asking you to become a member and attend their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2027, 6 pm at the Ford County Fair Building.

The 4-H Foundation provides financial support to our program by:

- providing college and camp scholarships
- leadership trainings and officer's training
- record book incentives
- sponsoring trips

If you have questions about the Foundation, contact any current board member or the Extension Office.

Support of this organization is through contributions. You may make a contribution by sending a check to: Ford County 4-H Foundation, 100 Gunsmoke St, Dodge City, KS 67801

Parents/Guardians - Ways you can support the 4-H'ers



- Attend Meetings! Attend Club/County-Wide Events.
- Provide food when asked.
- Provide transportation when asked.
- Share ideas for programs.
- Help with recreation or events.
- Make 4-H one of their priorities this year.
- Promote 4-H among their friends & acquaintances.
- Read the 4-H newsletter and other correspondence.
- Offer support, with project work.
- Care about other 4-H members.
- Be a friend to another 4-H parent.
- Be a good example for the members.
- Offer encouragement to the leaders.
- Be a good listener.
- Help the members make decisions.
- Volunteer to be a project leader.
- Offer to assist the leaders
- Help and Cooperate.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH



Ford County 4-H Deadlines

Deadlines, registrations and RSVP's are important. Responding to these requests in a timely fashion is important as we work to prepare for programs or meetings and out of respect for the people involved. Many times these deadlines are set by the state (i.e. KSF and KJLS entry deadlines) other times it is for handouts, food or interest in the program.

We understand that sometimes things come up and we will try our best to accommodate if we can. While we hate to turn anyone away, we are not always able to accept or accommodate late additions or late responses. Responsibility is one of the life skills that 4-H strives to teach young people. Please be courteous of everyone's time and help us to instill these virtues in our young people. This will help us to run a more efficient and effective 4-H program.



Fair Checks and Thank You Notes

A reminder we still have exhibitors who have not turned in thank you notes for County Fair premiums, animal carcass payment, awards, etc. Please do so as soon as possible.

If checks are not picked up and cashed by February 1, premiums will be forfeited and returned to the Fair Association. With the coming holiday season, we are sure you would appreciate a little extra cash.

2027 K-State Junior Producer Days

Mark your calendar!! The 2027 K-State Junior Producer Day dates have been set for next spring. Since it is an odd year, they will be Swine and Meat Goat this year. These are one-day educational events during which families learn about the selection and management of youth livestock projects. The junior day programs will be at the Bilbrey Family Events Center in Manhattan.

Junior Swine Producer Day will be March 6

Junior Meat Goat Producer Day scheduled for March 20.

Stay tuned for more information, including the tentative schedule and registration details to come. Additional details will be released to extension agents via email, posted on the [Kansas State Youth Livestock Program Facebook page](#) and [website](#).

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/>



Scholarships Available for Camps and Events

Remember there are scholarships you can apply for if you are interested in attending. The Ford County 4-H Foundation and 4-H Council provides scholarships for camps/activities.

There is also the Scroggins Camp/Event Scholarship, available to all 4-H'ers of Ford and Gray Counties. Campers wishing to attend a State 4-H Camp (i.e. Discovery Days, KYLF, Space Tech Camp, etc.) are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Those interested in applying for a Scroggins Camp Scholarship, must fill out the 'Scroggins State Camp/Event Scholarship Application' by the Camp Registration Deadline. The number and amount of awards will be determined by the individual county, with consideration to existing support, participation, and county need. Selection will be based on expressed need. For project specific camps/events, preference will be given to 4-H'ers enrolled in the project. No more than one scholarship may be received per 4-H'er/per 4-H year (October 1—September 30). Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applications are available on ford.ksu.edu under the [4-H Camps tab](#) or at the Extension Office.

<https://www.ford.k-state.edu/4-h/camps/>



4-H Shout Outs

- To everyone who participated in National 4-H Week Activities!
- To all members who submitted their Record Books!
- Club members who donated their time to decorate 4-H Promotional Displays! They looked GREAT!
- To all Clubs who conducted a 48 Hours of 4-H activity/event.

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#4Hgrows through volunteers

County Wide Project Leaders & Volunteers Needed!

The Ford County 4-H Program is always looking for County-wide project Leaders who will share their expertise, time and effort with our 4-Hers. If you know of anyone who wants to get involved with the 4-H Program, please have them contact the Extension Office! Project Leaders give our members an extra 'edge' in their 4-H Experience!

Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign

Each Spring and Fall, Tractor Supply will help raise money for 4-H programs with the Paper Clover Campaign, a national in-store fundraiser that benefits 4-H programming. The Fall campaign dates are November 27–December 13, 2026. We encourage you to participate and donate at our local Tractor Supply store.



FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

November

1	Club Financial Reviews Due
5	Extension Elections, and Miss Kitty Statue Presentation
7	Achievement Night
10	Fair Association Election Meeting
23	4-H Council Meeting
26-27	Office Closed for Thanksgiving
30	Parade of Lights

December

14	4-H Ambassador/Exchange Meeting
25-Jan 1	Office Closed for Christmas/New Year's (Tentative)