

4-H Clover News



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension
Ford County

Ford County Monthly Newsletter

October 2026

How to reach us:

Ford Co. Extension

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Hours:

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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

Happy 4-H New Year!

Dear 4-H Families,
We can't believe Fall and the new 4-H Year are here!

Let's start this new year off right! National 4-H Week is this week.

Show your 4-H pride! We encourage you to try to get more youth to join 4-H in Ford County so they can experience everything 4-H has to offer! Remind them 4-H is more than just livestock and is for any youth, whether they live in town or the country. Invite your friends to your next club meeting. Promote 4-H online. Share why you like 4-H. The opportunities are endless!

We appreciate all members who turned in a record book this year! Please give us your feedback on any issues you had with the record forms.

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).

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 (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](#).



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](#). If you have questions about publicity permissions or how to apply these best practices, please contact the Extension Office.





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 from the Extension Office.

National 4-H Week

Help celebrate this year's National 4-H Week, October 4-10, by helping to promote 4-H. This year's theme is "Beyond Ready". National 4-H Week is a chance to raise awareness of 4-H, enroll more young people, and recruit more volunteers.

National 4-H Week Gift Card Giveaway!

Earn a chance to win a Sonic gift card during National 4-H Week! You earn 1 entry every day by following these easy steps—

- Wear a 4-H shirt, snap a picture, share the picture to Facebook and tag the "Ford County 4-H" page OR send the picture to Tamara.
- Make any post promoting Ford County 4-H on your page so that your friends can see it and tag Ford County 4-H in it.

Let's flood Facebook with Ford County 4-H during National 4-H week!

Spirit Week Days:

Monday, October 6 — Beyond Ready: Go Green Day!

Anything green goes! Beyond Ready shirts, green/4-H shirts, hats, socks, and clover face tattoos — get creative!!!

Thursday, October 9 — Thankful Thursday!

A day to recognize all 4-H'ers who are doing good and making positive impact by helping their communities and beyond.

48 Hours of 4-H

48-Hours of 4-H challenges club members to explore their service capabilities and take part in a service project. It does not have to be the last weekend of National 4-H Week, but it is encouraged.

Ford County 4-H Clubs are encouraged to participate by gathering Food Drive donations for the Manna House of Dodge City. Clubs are also welcome to do other activities!

Let us know your project and we can report it to the state.



INVITE A FRIEND TO 4-H!



We challenge each of you to invite a friend to your October and November 4-H meetings! The best way to grow your club and the Ford County 4-H Program is to share your passion for 4-H with your friends!

Help us increase Ford County and your 4-H Club's enrollment!



Window Displays

Be on the look out for Ford County 4-H Club's Windows at the following businesses:

DIY Jrs — Long's

HH — Spearville Senior Center

LC — Brian Millers Farm Bureau Office, in Military Plaza

RB — Ace Hardware

WWW — J & A Service, Spearville



4-H Ambassador/Exchange Meeting

The next Ambassador/Exchange meeting will be Monday, October 26th @7:00 pm at the Fair Building.

NEW members are welcome! Officer elections will take place for the new year.

This dynamic group works with the promotion of 4-H to the public and within our own organization here in Ford County. The Exchange program is designed to help youth gain more independence, a greater appreciation for other parts of the state and country, meet new friends and have new experiences. It is a two year commitment. and we suggest you enroll in the Self Determined project.

Youth must be 12 or older to be an Ambassador and 14+ to be involved with the State to State Exchange. The group will be traveling to Rice County, Minnesota during the summer of 2027.

Contact Tamara or Ethel if you would like more information.



**Beyond
Ready**



Extension Annual Election and Miss Kitty Statue Presentation

The Ford County Extension Program Development Committee Election meeting will be held Thursday, November 5, 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 the week prior to the election and will be available during the election voting times.



4-H Club Officer Training—date to be determined.

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.*

ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT COMMITTEES

Decorations: DC Cuauhtli's (chair), DIY Jrs.

- Will need to decorate the stage, photo back-drop and tables. We do have some items you can use. Let us know what you might need.

Serve Tea and Coffee: WWW

Serving Food: HH

- Long hair tied back and wash your hands prior to putting on serving gloves or serving.

Clean up: LC, RB

- Help clean up trash, take down decorations and take out trash.

**RSVP is requested by October 30
to the Extension Office**



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.



RSVP's?

WE ARE NOT REQUESTING A TICKET, BUT we would appreciate a tentative number of who will be attending to set up for the night.

Please call the office by October 30, to let us know number attending.

- celebrate -



4-H Shout Outs

- All 2025-26 Club, Council and Ambassador/Exchange Officers for serving this past program year.
- All 2025-26 Community Club Leaders. To all leaders who agreed to being a leader in 2026-2027.
- To all who exhibited at the State Fair and KJLS.
- To our county wide and club project leaders for your leadership and help for our members.
- To our Ford County Fair Board Members for all you do for 4-H!

#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!



Kansas Youth Leadership Forum

Build your leadership skills and potential through workshops, consulting groups, inspirational speakers and more. In addition, the 2027 State 4-H Youth Leadership Council will be elected and up to six National 4-H Conference delegates will be selected through an interview process at KYLF.

Objectives:

- Broaden your understanding of the meaning of leadership and the qualities of a leader.
- Practice leadership skills you can use in other situations, like your local club, school and community.
- Improve interpersonal communication skills.
- Gain confidence.



November 21-22, 2026 at Rock Springs 4-H Center



Youth 14-18 years of age before January 1, 2027



2026 Fees: \$215 and additional optional \$55 for Friday overnight and breakfast. **Scholarships are available!!**



Registration Deadline: Deadline - Thursday, October 15, 2026 by 11:59 p.m.



<https://web.cvent.com/event/6e797c7b-6c3d-4110-ab77-6c33742a0411/reqProcessStep1>



Kansas Volunteer Leaders Forum

An opportunity for volunteers from around the state to learn together while building a network of like-minded passionate adults. Participants will have the opportunity to dive into interactive content they can use to engage their youth members, connect with state and local extension staff to learn about new and exciting 4-H happenings, and engage with the Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers as a support system for volunteering efforts throughout the year.

For 4-H Volunteers and Staff. **Contact our office for a tentative agenda and questions**

November 21-22, 2026 at Rock Springs 4-H Center

Scholarships are available!! 2026 Fees are as followed:

- \$155 KVF Adult Registration Regular
- \$130 KVF Adult Registration for Life Members
- \$100 KVF Friday Night and Saturday Breakfast
- \$25 for KYLF T-Shirt.

Registration Deadline: Deadline - Thursday, October 15, 2026 by 11:59 p.m.

<https://web.cvent.com/event/05a631ff-e2ef-4a66-9493-a1b9ba8d9e36/register>





4-H Council Responsibilities

Club representatives to 4-H Council and community leaders represent your club and often will have several items to discuss with their clubs concerning upcoming council decisions. They then report back to the council, get your club's opinion to present during the next Council Meeting.

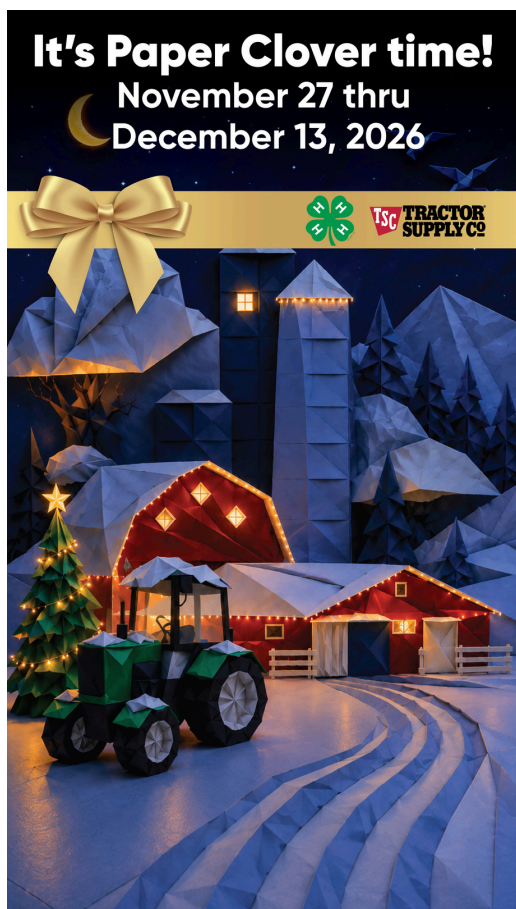
4-H Council Officer Elections

To assist with trying to keep 4-H Council meetings 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 main page. 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 forms will be considered for the officer position.

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

October

4-10	National 4-H Week
10-11	48 Hours of 4-H
12	Office closed for Indigenous People's Day
26	4-H Ambassador/Exchange Meeting
30	RSVP's for Achievement Night Due

November

1	Club Financial Reviews Due
5	Extension Elections, and Miss Kitty Statue Presentation
7	Achievement Night
21-22	KYLF and KVLF, Rock Springs Ranch
23	4-H Council Meeting
26-27	Office Closed for Thanksgiving
30	Parade of Lights