

4-H Clover News

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Ford County Monthly Newsletter

December 2025

How to Reach Us:

Ford Co. Extension
100 GunsSmoke St.
Dodge City, KS 67801
620.227.4542

Hours:

8:30am—12 noon
1:00pm—5:00pm

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Check us out on the web!

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



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT WINNERS BUT ESPECIALLY TO OUR SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS PICTURED BELOW.



Brandi Stein
Alumni Winner



4-H Family of the Year Award -
Brad and Cari Wasson family



Trojan –Tracy Beck
Meritorious Award

Member and Leader Enrollment

Make sure to get your enrollment done for the 2025/2026 4-H year! The enrollment link for the website is: <https://v2.4honline.com/>

This could be your last newsletter if you do not re-enroll by the end of the year! We need you to register before you attend any 4-H events, and to keep you up to date on what's happening with 4-H in Ford County! We believe there is less payment issues if you indicate paying with coupon and pay locally to our office unless you are paying by credit card.

We will approve enrollments after we confirm enrollment payment options.

Remember, if you choose to have newsletters mailed, you will need to pay \$18 to the Extension Office, otherwise you will receive monthly newsletters by email. You can add several emails if you wish (member, parent, grandparent, etc.) just provide us with the email!

The Happy Hustlers 4-H Club had the highest percentage of re-enrollments by November 15!! The club will receive a club pizza party for their members timely re-enrollment!! Congratulations!

4-H Ambassador/Exchange Mtg.

The next 4-H Ambassador/Exchange meeting will be Monday, December 22. Time to be determined, at the fair building. If interested in joining this group, contact Ethel to see about signing up.

Exchange members are selling flavored pecans and pecan pieces as a fundraiser. Contact the office or an exchange member if you are interested in buying.



4-H Volunteer Screening

A registered 4-H Volunteer is a volunteer, adult or teen, who has completed the full screening process including: application, screening, orientation and has received approval. For the safety of both 4-H members and adults, this system is in place. Each volunteer will also have to have a background check done in order to be approved. ***Each year, NEW 4-H volunteers must apply for certification, or in the case of a returning volunteer, renew their status via a renewal form. Both are available through the KS 4-H Online website. Contact the office for questions.***

Who needs to be certified?

- Community Leaders
- Cloverbud Leaders
- Project Leaders (Teen, Club, County, etc)
- Camp Counselors
- Any person who will be in contact with 4-H youth for more than 6 hours.
- Hosting Exchange Parents

We will not approve your online enrollment until we have checked to be sure you have completed all the requirements!

Volunteers must complete the volunteer process to be recognized as a leader at the Achievement program next year.

2026 Extension Council Executive Board

Chairman— Ashley Fischer	Todd Durler
Vice-chair— Casey Pemberton	Jon Gleason
Secretary — Beth Vogel	Chelsey Livingston
Treasurer— Jan Stevens	Calder McCollum
	Janell Robertson

SOUTHWEST AREA PROJECT

RECORD JUDGING

Southwest Area Record Book judging will be January 13. If any volunteer is interested in judging at the area level, please call the office by January 8. This is a great way to see lots of different books and learn additional tips to help our 4-H'ers complete their records. Please contact the Extension Office if you'd like to volunteer to help judge on this date. Congratulations to those eligible to compete:

Lyndon Custer—Aerospace, Foods, Photography
Ethan Holman—Ag Mechanics Welding
Adeline Robinson—Rabbits
Josie Robinson—Horse
Jayden Torres — Beef, Sheep and Swine



2026 Fair Association Board

Curtis Williams	Kent Muncy
Brooklyn Droste	Todd Durler
Regina Lix	Brandi Stein
Ruth Morton	Ashleigh Martinez
Schoen Elledge	Andy Hessman
John Castelli	

Monthly board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Fair Building at 7 pm.

2026 Ford County Fair Dates:

Thursday, July 16—Monday, July 20.

Photography Judging will be in the morning and Fashion Review judging will be the evening of Monday, July 13.

The December 9th Fair Assoc. meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be January 13 at 7 pm at the Fair Building.

COUNTY CLUB DAYS

Ford County 4-H Club Day is just around the corner. The tentative date is set for **Saturday, February 7, 2026 at the Dodge City Senior Center**. We plan to use Sign Up Genius to register and enter. *(The holidays may be a perfect opportunity to start work on your entries!)*

The following divisions are divided into junior (ages 11 and younger) & senior (ages 12 & older) members must be enrolled to participate. (Remember, Cloverbuds cannot participate).

Public Presentations:

- ◆ Show & Tell - *for 1st or 2nd year junior members*
- ◆ Project Talk - *for junior members*
- ◆ Public Speaking - *for senior members*
- ◆ Extemporaneous Speaking - *for senior members*
- ◆ Digital Presentation
- ◆ Demonstration or Illustrated Talk
- ◆ Readings
- ◆ CRI (Cover letter, Resume and Interview) *for Seniors members*

Model Meeting

- ◆ Model Meeting - *club and 1 or 2 adults*
- ◆ Gavel Games - *4-6 members; 3 age divisions*

Dance:

- ◆ Folk Step Dance (including line dances) - *group*
- ◆ Square Dance - *group*
- ◆ Other Dance - *individual or group*

Dramatics:

- ◆ One Act Play - *group*
- ◆ Skit - *group*
- ◆ Novelty - *individual or group*
- ◆ Vocal Performance - *a solo or group (2 or more) perform a musical piece; sheet music not required for the judges*

Music: (sheet music required, ensemble is 2-5 4-H'ers participating)

- ◆ Vocal Solo or Ensemble
- ◆ Chorus - *6 or more in group*
- ◆ Instrumental Solo or Ensemble
- ◆ Band or Orchestra - *6 or more in group*

Sign Up Genius will be available first part of January for registration. If you have questions about what to enter, how to prepare a talk, or about other guidelines, ask your Club Leaders or call the Extension Office. You may also want to visit our website for the official 4-H Club Day manual which includes division rules, guidelines, judges sheets (so you'll know what you are being judged on), etc. The top blue winners at County Club Day have the opportunity to compete at the Regional 4-H Club Day.



County Project Leaders & Volunteers!

The Ford County 4-H Program is always **looking for County Project Leaders who will share their expertise, time and effort with our 4-H'ers**. 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!

County Project leader will be listed in future

KS 4-H Scholarships

2026—2027 Kansas 4-H Scholarships are due January 5th, 2026 by 11:59PM CST.

The scholarship process for State 4-H Scholarships and the Vanier Family Scholarship Program has been streamlined. This process has been designed to encourage more 4-H'ers to apply for these scholarships by simplifying and combining the process. Go to this link for more information:

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html>

Contact the Extension Office if you have questions.

Traveling 4-H Photography Photos

If you had a photo selected at the County Fair for the Ford County 4-H Traveling Photo display, please bring it to the Extension Office by the middle of January if we don't already have it. We would like to schedule some possible locations for the Photo Displays starting in February.



4-H Presentation Overview

Kansas 4-H members have been learning to speak skillfully before an audience for more than 100 years. It is often one of the things people say they most remember about their 4-H experiences — before participating in 4-H, they could not speak comfortably in front of an audience. Through 4-H, thousands of youth have learned the skills necessary to clearly organize and present ideas and instructions through project talks, demonstrations, illustrated talks, and public speaking.

Every 4-H member benefits in some way from planning and presenting a project talk, demonstration, illustrated talk, or public speech. Members will develop the ability to express themselves, become part of the group, and develop more interest in 4-H.

Even confident members will learn to organize, to complete a job, and to establish a standard of excellence for themselves and others. Good presenters are made, not born. Presenting is a skill that must be learned, just as other skills are.

Giving presentations in 4-H will teach members many skills that have value later in life, including these marketable skills:

- ◆ How to organize thoughts in a logical manner.
- ◆ How to find information and research a subject.
- ◆ How to express ideas clearly and convincingly.
- ◆ How to prepare visuals and use them to support the presentation.
- ◆ How to listen to the opinions of others and accept feedback.
- ◆ How to teach others.
- ◆ How to manage time.
- ◆ How to manage stress

If you are unsure what the difference is between a Project Talk, illustrated Talk, Demonstration and Public Speaking, check out the table below. More information can be found at this link:

<https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/topic/4-h-youth-development/communications>

Table I. Different types of presentations.

Criteria	Project Talk	Illustrated Talk	Demonstration	Public Speaking
Format	Tells about	Tells	Shows how. Makes or does something. Often ends with a finished product.	Promotes or presents an issue
Purpose	To inform	To teach	To teach	To persuade, inform, entertain
Age	7 to 11 years old	Any age	Any age	14 years and older
Visuals	Optional but not required. Any visuals used should enhance the talk.	Pictures, charts, models, etc. Electronic visuals OK.	Pictures, charts, lists of parts/procedures. Any visuals used should enhance talk. Electronic visuals OK.	Use as appropriate. Do not use in competition.
Questions	Not to be asked.	Asked for by presenter.	Asked for by presenter.	Optional; asked for by presenter.

RECORD BOOKS FORMS INFO

ZBooks is an online format but you can also still download the forms and complete on your home computer. The forms can be found on our website at: <https://www.ford.k-state.edu/4-h/4hrecordbooks/recordbookforms.html>

We will continue to use the Personal Page and Permanent Record forms previously used in the past. ZBooks does offer both through the online format too, but you do not need to use unless you want to start using the online format.

Record Keeping & Project Report Forms

Record keeping and Project Reporting are valuable skills taught to members of the Kansas 4-H program. Members are encouraged to keep a permanent record of all 4-H and Non-4-H Experience and are encouraged to summarize their experiences on the Kansas 4-H Project Report Form for project recognition.

To help you through this process, please refer to the **Guide to Kansas 4-H Project Recognition**, at <https://www.ford.k-state.edu/4-h/4hrecordbooks/recordbookforms.html> found on our website on the top right hand side.

Ford County 4-H Project News:

There are several projects listed under the online enrollment projects tab which Ford County does not have current leadership for. Some of these must have a certified leader, example Shooting Sports—BB for youth to participate in actual project meetings. Youth can still learn about these projects on their own but would be restricted to no actual shooting.

If you are participating in Livestock Judging be sure to enroll in Self-Determined—Livestock Judging under projects.

Community Foundation's Scholarship

Consider applying for the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas Scholarship. These scholarships are for graduating seniors and youth already in college. February 1 is the deadline to submit. Copies can also be found at www.communityfoundationswks.com.

::4-H Shout Outs::



- ★ To all the new club officers and leaders for the coming year.
- ★ To Braeden Simon for doing a great job as MC during the Achievement Program.
- ★ 4-H Council new Officers — Quinlan Simon— President; Adeline Robinson — Vice-President; Jayden Torres — Treasurer; and Jade Henry— Secretary.
- ★ To our out going 4-H Council officers and club representatives.
- ★ To Lyndon Custer for attending Kansas Youth Leadership Forum at Rock Springs Ranch.
- ★ To the SW Community Foundation for a grant to help pay fees for volunteer background checks.
- ★ To all of our community leaders from 2024-25;
Becky Swan, Lois Swonger, Adriana Figueroa, Sarah Stegman, Chelsea Gleason, Tammie Mink, Missi Haskell, Debi Schartz-Robinson, Annie Martinez, Elizabeth Stimpert, Shana Tilley, Kaylee Simon, Brandi Stein and Lindsey Durler.
- ★ To our new leaders for 2025-2026;
Becky Swan, Lois Swonger, Adriana Figueroa, Esperanza Montford, Carmon Younker, Sarah Stegman, Tammie Mink, Cari Wasson, Missi Haskell, Debi Schartz-Robinson, Lindsey Durler, Kaylee Simon and Brandi Stein.

2026 Beef Weigh-in/Tagging Date

February 19, 4:00 – 6:00 pm
February 26 as the alternate bad weather date. Location to be determined later.

4-H Day with the K-State Women's Basketball Team

4-H Day with the K-State Women's Basketball Team has been set for Sunday, March 1st at 1:00 pm against Iowa State. Due to the game being later than usual, they are still finalizing details for registration.

Future Dates to Remember

December

25—Jan 2 Office closed for Christmas and New Years

January 2026

13 Ford County Fair Board Meeting
13 Area Project Record Judging
14 Ford County 4-H Foundation Annual Meeting, 6:00 pm, Fair Building
19 Office closed Martin Luther King Day
26 4-H Council Meeting



Poultry Project Information

Are you interested in learning more about poultry or thinking about participating in poultry judging this year? We're excited to invite you to a 4-H Poultry Judging Basics Webinar, designed especially for youth who want to build their skills and confidence!

 Date: Tuesday, December 11

 Time: 7:00 pm

 Location: Online (Zoom link will be provided after registration)

During this interactive session, you'll learn:

- * The fundamentals of poultry judging
- * How to assess live birds and carcasses
- * What judges look for in different classes
- * How to prepare for contests with confidence

Whether you're brand-new to poultry judging or want a quick refresher, this webinar is a great way to get started and ask questions in a relaxed, supportive environment.

Register here: <https://ksu.zoom.us/j/7811111111>

Come learn, ask questions, and have fun with fellow 4-H members!

FORD CO. 4-H FOUNDATION

The Ford County 4-H Foundation is 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 14th, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Ford County Fair Building, 901 W. Park St., Dodge City. 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

The 4-H Foundation provides financial support to our program in many different ways. If you have questions about the Foundation, contact Ethel.

4-H Rabbit Basics and Cold Weather Care Webinar

If you were unable to participate in the zoon on Rabbit Basics, the recording of the 4-H Rabbit Basics and Cold Weather Webinar can be viewed on the [4-H Animal Science Webinar page](#). Or www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animal-science/animal-science-webinar-series/

Kansas 4-H Animal Science Webinar Series and then scroll down to the most recent broadcast at the bottom.

County Fair Premium Checks

Don't forget to bring in your thank you cards and pick up your county fair premium checks. They need to be cashed by Feb. 1. If your club did cards and you don't have any other special sponsors you need to thank, please let us know and we can get you your check.

K-State 4-H Club Corner

- Don't forget there are wonderful educational resources available on the Kansas 4-H website. Last year we mentioned handouts, — 4-H Club Meeting Reflections, Welcoming New 4-H Members; 4-H Greet Sheet; etc. These forms and more can be found at the following link on the KSRE website. <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/ClubCorner.html>.

Winter Weather We know Kansas weather can be very unpredictable. Be sure to check our Facebook page, listen to the radio or call the Extension Office if you question if a meeting may be cancelled.

K-State Junior Producer Day Dates

Registration is now open for the 2026 K-State Junior Producer Days! Junior Beef Producer Day will be Saturday, March 7, with Junior Sheep Producer Day scheduled for Saturday, April 11. Both events will be hosted at the Bilbrey Family Center, in Manhattan.

These events are one-day educational events for families to learn more about the selection and management of a specific specie. Youth, adults, extension agents, project leaders, and volunteers of all ages and skill levels are invited to attend! Presentations will be provided by K-State faculty, staff, students, extension agents, former exhibitors, and guest speakers. Topics range from selection, to nutrition, reproduction, health, clipping and grooming, and showmanship. This is a family learning event! Everyone who plans to attend must register, including both youth and adults. The cost is \$20/person by the deadline, or \$30 after the deadline for both events. Only those who register by the appropriate deadline will receive a t-shirt.

Junior Beef Producer Day registrations are due February 13, with Junior Sheep being due March 20. Registration is open now and can be completed online using these links: <https://bit.ly/BeefJrProducer> and <https://bit.ly/SheepJrProducer>.

Junior Producer Day event registrations are non-refundable.

An optional YQCA instructor-led training and state livestock nomination session will be offered at the end of each program. Specific details about the YQCA certification will be shared with those who indicate on their registration that they plan to stay for the additional class. The K-State Sheep & Meat Goat Center is also offering an opportunity to tour their facility the night before the Junior Sheep Producer Day program, or following the event.

More information about the junior day events, including each of the flyers, is available <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/ks-jr-producer/> or for more information, contact Lexie Hayes at adhayes@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264

FORD COUNTY FEE POLICIES

—EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014

Updated 2/2023, effective 10/1/2023

REMINDER OF OUR FEE'S POLICY

- **For any activity registration:** Payment arrangements can be made in writing with the Extension Office to set up a payment schedule. **Full payment is due by the registration deadline.**
- **For online registrations:** **Full payment is due to the Extension Office by the online event deadline unless a written payment agreement is made between the Extension Office and the participant.** Failing to meet those requirements will result in cancellation of registration (participant will still be responsible for the \$25 cancellation fee and possible registration cost based upon event guidelines).
- **Transportation:** **A transportation fee of \$15 per person** will be added to fees for trips that require travel in a county vehicle outside of Ford County (ex. Advanced Master Gardener Training, State FCE Conference, KS Youth Leadership Forum, Discovery Days, Camp at Rock Springs, judging events, etc.).
- **Tagging Livestock:** A service fee of \$25 per trip will be charged for trips made to tag livestock for state shows or to re-tag livestock that have lost their original tags.
- **Transportation for Other Counties:** Ford County will require a \$25 per person to transport participants from other counties to events.

Check out this wonder leadership opportunity for youth 6th grade and up, being held in Cimarron. Our local Ford County 4-H Foundation is one of the sponsors for this workshop. More information will be available soon. Let us know if you are interested and we will send registration information.

SAVE THE DATE

4-H LEADERSHIP DAY:

WITH DUSTIN GALYON

+ BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

- 1) VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS
- 2) CLASSES FOR TEENS (CAMP COUNSELOR, AMBASSADORS, RESUMES/COVER LETTERS AND ???????)

JANUARY 10, 2026

10AM-3:30PM

EVENT LOCATION:

GRAY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, CIMARRON, KS

HOSTED BY GRAY COUNTY 4-H AND
WALNUT CREEK DISTRICT 4-H



NW 4-H ADVISORY



FORD COUNTY 4-H
FOUNDATION

K-STATE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDED EQUAL OPPORUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN ALL PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND ACTIVITIES. REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES MAY BE REQUESTED.

Victory Electric's Leadership opportunities!

Victory Electric ask us to share information on their upcoming leadership trips with 4-H members who are high school juniors and may have an interest in their leadership development trips to Washington, D.C., or Steamboat Springs, Colorado. They are accepting applications through Dec. 15, and the requirements are listed below.

To be eligible, students must:

- Be an active Victory Electric member or dependent of a member OR attend a school that is an active Victory Electric member
- Be a junior in high school for the 2025-2026 school year
- Maintain a 3.0 GPA
- Complete the online application form and upload a resume

Submit a creative and entertaining 60-90 second video that highlights the importance of electric safety

Learn more and apply at <https://victoryelectric.net/youth-tour-leadership-camp>.

2026 APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Attention all high school juniors! you could score an all-expenses-paid trip of a lifetime plus receive a \$500 scholarship upon graduation!

YOUTH TOUR

CO-OP CAMP

MAKE YOUR MARK!
JUNE 13-19, 2026

MAKE YOUR OWN PATH!
JULY 10-16, 2026

SCAN TO APPLY

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR | JUNE 13-19
STEP INTO HISTORY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. TOUR INSPIRING MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS. CRUISE THE POTOMAC RIVER, AND EVEN MEET ELECTED LEADERS. ALONG THE WAY, YOU'LL GAIN A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE AND BUILD FRIENDSHIPS WITH STUDENTS FROM ACROSS KANSAS AND 43 OTHER STATES.

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP | JULY 10-16
ADVENTURE AWAITS IN THE COLORADO ROCKIES! GO WHITEWATER RAFTING, TOUR AN ENERGY FACILITY, AND SOAK IN THE STUNNING MOUNTAIN VIEWS. YOU'LL SHARPEN YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS WHILE CONNECTING WITH NEARLY 100 OTHER STUDENTS FROM KANSAS, COLORADO, WYOMING, AND OKLAHOMA.

APPLICATIONS OPEN
11.01-12.15

APPLY TO GO ON THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

Holiday Office Hours:

Extension Office will be closed December 25 through January 2. We will reopen on Monday, January 5, 8:30 a.m.



Ford County Extension Office
100 Gunsmoke St.
Dodge City, KS 67801



Dear 4-H Families,

This is an excellent time to start thinking about getting a start on your 4-H projects with setting goals, deciding what you want to do, etc. We hope to have some project leader news after the first of the year. Be sure to re-enroll into the Ford County 4-H program by going to website: <https://v2.4honline.com/> and signing up for your projects.

Don't forget to invite a friend, classmate or neighbor to join 4-H and your club!!

All of us in the Extension Office wish you and your family the happiest of Holidays! As we enjoy the Holiday Season, don't forget to "pledge your hands to larger service" by sharing with others.

Sincerely,

Ethel Schneweis
County Extension Agent

Andrea Burns
County Extension Agent



K-STATE
Research and Extension

K-State Research and Extension
Ford County
100 Gunsmoke St.
Dodge City, KS 67801
K-State, County Extension Councils,
Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating.

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