

4-H Clover News

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Ford County Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026

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**Check us out
on the web!**
www.ford.ksu.edu
www.kansas4-h.org
facebook.com/fordcounty4h



Important
Message

Re-Enrollment & Volunteer Screening

Keep reminding everyone in your club and your friends to re-enroll on 4-H Online! We need to get everyone re-enrolled as soon as possible. **If they plan on participating in club day, any camps, conferences, or exhibiting at the county fair** they'll need to enroll before they can participate. The last day to change, drop or add a project is May 1. **Also note that in order to weigh-in or tag any livestock, the exhibitor must be enrolled before the weigh-in and tagging event.** Approval of enrollment can be streamlined if you indicate payment is by coupon and pay enrollment fee at our Extension Office.

If you are a current screened volunteer in your 4-H club and plan to continue to do so, please complete your online Renewal. Almost everything can be completed at 4-H Online, just click on your name and edit, go to volunteer resources section and click on screening or renewal. If you have questions please contact Andrea and she can walk you through it. Andrea will be sending out links to those that still need background checks.

If you have any questions on what you still need to complete on your 2026 volunteer paperwork, please contact the office!

County Club Day

County Club Results will be posted on our Ford County 4-H Facebook page once the event is concluded. Those receiving Top Blue are eligible to go on to Regional and will receive an email from our office after club day. Alternate Top Blue placings will be contacted if a Top Blue participant is not able to participate.

Regional Club Day — March 7

Saturday, March 7, 8:00 am, Dodge City Nazarene Church

1700 W. Ross Blvd, Dodge City

Schedules will be available online by the Thursday before.

Bad Weather Cancellations

Remember if there is bad weather and schools are cancelled, then 4-H events are also cancelled. Please also check our 4-H Facebook page for cancellations if you are in doubt about the status of an event.

County Fair Dates and Theme

Fair Dates are July 16-20, with Photo and Fashion Review on July 13. Theme is "Follow the Red Brick Road to the Ford County Fair".

COUNTY FAIR & OTHER SHOWS LIVESTOCK WEIGH-IN & TAGGING DATES—

If you are planning on showing livestock this year at the County Fair, you MUST weigh and tag your livestock at the respective weigh-in and tagging event dates. **Beef weigh-in/tagging has been set for Thursday, February 19 from 4:00-6:00 pm. at Winter Livestock.** In case of bad weather, it will be moved to Thursday, Feb. 26. You will be notified if it changes. Small livestock weigh-in and tagging will be Tuesday, April 14, 4:00-6:00 pm at the Fairgrounds. Alternate bad weather date is April 21.

State Fair and Other Shows (not County Fair livestock)

A service charge of \$25 will be applied per trip to tag animals for other shows not brought to respective weigh-in/tagging dates.

What if the 4-H'er is unable to be at the weigh-in and tagging?

No worries, the ANIMAL can be brought to the event by anyone. If you have questions, just let us know!

EAR TAG POLICY 4-H Council policy allows a 4-H'er up to six (6) ear tags per species (i.e. up to 6 for beef, 6 for sheep, 6 for goats, 6 for swine). Any tags over the provided six will be at the expense of the 4-H'er and their family and will need to be reimbursed to 4-H Council.

If your livestock for county fair already has an eID tag, DO NOT REMOVE IT! Let Andrea know and she will request a visual tag from the State Office. There will be a \$1.00 charge for this tag.

The Grand Drive Information



WANTED!

LOOKING FOR

4-H County Wide Project Leaders & Volunteers!

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-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!

Current Project Leaders:

Beef — Matt and Lindsay Durler
Foods — Melvin and Brandi Stein
Horse — Shayla Tieben
Meat Goat and Rabbits — Jenny Burnett and Jr. Leader—Adeline Robinson
Shooting Sports Archery— Brandi Stein and Jr. Leader — Quinlan Simon
Shooting Sports Shot Gun — Scott and Ashley Fischer

FORD COUNTY FEE POLICIES

—EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014, UPDATED 1/1/24

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** (changed 1/1/2024) 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 (county fair animals must attend county wide weigh-in)** 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.

Camps! Camps! Camps!

Discovery Days - June 3-5, 2026

Kansas 4-H Discovery Days will take place on the campus of Kansas State University.

4 Clover 4-H Camp with Clark, Gray, Ford, Hodgeman Counties and Walnut Creek District:

June dates to be determined

More details, registration forms and fees will be in future newsletters. Consider camping with us or if you are old enough, sign up to be a counselor for one of the groups.

Day Camp — date to be determined

Rock Springs Ranch Camp:

Don't forget if you are interested in attending camp at Rock Springs this year, you can enroll at www.rockspringsranch4Hcamp.org at anytime. You have choices of 4 days/3 nights or 6 days/5 nights camping opportunities. You can select dates that fit your schedule as our county does not have a specific time frame for camping. There are camps for 3rd through 12th grades with different price tiers. Transportation is scheduled to pick up from Dodge City or this area for 3 night Camp are sometimes available.

Call the office for more details.

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

YQCA certification is designed to be useful and help prepare you for your show but also prepare young producers in animal agriculture industry. The program includes information on multiple species even though you may only be raising one or two. This is available online and Andrea usually schedules at least one in person meeting during March or April.

FORD COUNTY FAIR BOARD — Do You Know....

...the Ford County Fair Board members maintain the Fairgrounds themselves? Board members mow the grass when needed, remove snow, fix and maintain the pens, gates, etc. They are the ones who clean the building (mop and sweep floors, clean the bathrooms, take out trash that has not been removed, etc). They open and close when it is rented out. There is no hired janitor/maintenance person since the county returned the ownership back to the Fair Association as of January 1, 2022. The county still supports the Fair Association with an annual appropriation amount.

The Fair Association continues to raise funds to support their future plans to improve the Fairgrounds. This includes air conditioning the Fair Building. They have had several fund raisers and will continue to have more in the future. They are planning on having a Golf Tournament in the spring.

County Club Day Consumer Science Judging Contest:

Ethel is working on having a contest set up during the County Club Day. Consider participating if you can that day.

YQCA Scholarship Program

The national youth livestock quality assurance program, Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA), is continuing the scholarship program they initiated in 2025. Applications are now open and will close on February 15. High school seniors through college students who are 21 years of age are encouraged to apply. Last year, Kansas had two of the scholarship recipients! For more information, visit the YQCA program website: <https://yqcaprogram.org/local/2026-scholarship-program.php>.

Ford County 4-H Foundation Scholarships

Current High School Seniors and past 4-H members in post high school, should have received information concerning the Ford County 4-H Foundation Scholarships. These were emailed or mailed to the individual. Remember they need to be turned in by the deadline of Monday, March 16 (two weeks earlier than in the past). Only complete applications will be considered and each application requires a copy of your last permanent record. The application can also be found on our website on the main page or at the Extension Office. Remember to plan ahead as you will need a transcript and a letter of recommendation from a 4-H leader, (not your parent or an Extension Agent).

Seniors and college students can also consider applying for the Dodge City Women's Chamber of Commerce Scholarship. This can be found on their website—<https://www.dcwomenschamber.com/scholarship-program>. These are due April 15. Call Ethel for more information or if you have questions.

::4-H Shout Outs::

- ◆ To Jayden Torres for having three record Books that competed at area judging.
- ◆ Congratulations to the Ambassador/Exchange officers: Matilyn Durler, President; Jade Henry, Vice President and Kendall Burns, Secretary and Jayden Torres, Treasurer.
- ◆ To all members who brought in their Traveling Photos to be displayed. Starting February 5, photos will be on display at the Bucklin Library for the month of February.

Pen Pal Program is Back this Spring

States' 4-H International Exchange Programs has announced that their Pen Pal Program will be back April 1 to June 1. 4-H'ers and others 9-18 as of April 1 are eligible to participate. More information on partner countries for the program will be announced as available, but the communications will be in English and pen pals are likely in countries with which States' 4-H conducts exchange programs. Youth who are pen pals are to commit to writing a weekly message by email or letter during April and May. There will be a \$10 registration fee to participate which will be payable online. We expect registrations will open in the next few weeks to meet their March 20 deadline. Interested persons can find more information when it becomes available on the States' 4-H website States' 4-H International Exchange Programs. In Kansas Mary Kay Munson, Kansas 4-H Exchange Coordinator, at mkm2@ksu.edu will have updates as they are announced. These programs have filled quickly in previous years.

IPM Insect Art Contest – Join the Fun!

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! This year's 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 or 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 at: <https://bit.ly/3NHuIEU>

4-H Record Books

Now is the perfect time to start thinking about your project goals, if you have not already started. There is a 4-H publication called "Setting 4-H Project Goals", <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/4H1100.pdf> which can help you with this process. What is a Project Goal? A goal is deciding what you want to do and learn in a 4-H Project. It helps you set what you want to do for the year. Goals should have three parts — Action (How are you going to do something); Result (What are you going to do and you want to be specific); and Timetable (When are you going to do it). When we judge record books we look for specific goals and goals you have control over. Saying you want to receive a purple ribbon is not a specific goal. Saying you want to learn a specific technique, making pies or cakes, or attend meetings or be a junior leader are specific goals. Do you have control over all parts of what happens? Saying you want to receive a purple ribbon is something you as a member do not have control because the judge decides ribbon placing.

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

Dear 4-H Families,

This newsletter contains lots of important information and deadlines. Please read it carefully.

We want everyone to have the opportunity to receive the monthly 4-H newsletter. Newsletters can be emailed to each 4-H member's email if you provide Ethel with the 4-H'er email.

Remember if you have a friend or a member who did not re-enrolled by January 31st, they will not receive this newsletter or information.

Questions? Give us a call.

Ethel

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County Extension Agent

Andrea

Andrea Burns
County Extension Agent



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