

4-H Clover News

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Ford County Monthly Newsletter

March 2026

How to Reach Us:

Ford Co. Extension

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Dodge City, KS 67801
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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



Regional Club Day—Saturday morning, March 7

at the Dodge City Nazarene Church, 1700 W. Ross Blvd, Dodge City.

Regional Club Day involves these counties: Clark, Ford, Gray, Hodgeman, Meade & Walnut Creek Counties (Lane, Rush and Ness Counties)

All Top Blue eligible participants have been notified of times. Ford County Regional Club participants are: Happy Hustlers 4-H Club—Model Meeting (8:00 am); Richland Boosters 4-H Club—Talent (Skit 8:10 am); Rachael Swonger — Demo (8:00 am); Eli Holman — Reading (8:20 am); Rhianne Swonger — Reading (8:30 am); Ethan Holman — CRI (8:30 am); Leyah Younger — Dance (8:50 am); Leyah Younger — Project Talk (9:30 am).

Schedules are available online on our website. Participants should come a little before their scheduled time.

If you are a participant and can not come, please let Ethel know by text or calling (620-338-3676).

4-H COUNCIL MEETING

The next 4-H Council meeting will be Monday, March 23 (4th Monday of the month) at 7:00 p.m. at the Ford County Fair Building.

LIVESTOCK SALES

Now is the time that several fliers concerning upcoming sales and livestock shows are being sent to the Extension Office. All these fliers, along with show bills will be compiled into a binder. Feel free to come in and check it out or ask for them to be emailed out to you by contacting Andrea!!

COUNTY FAIR POULTRY TESTING INFO

All poultry (except waterfowl) are required to show proof of being P-T clean by one of the following:

- ◆ Originate from a certified U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid clean flock
- ◆ Test negative at check-in of the county fair when the county has been designated by KDA-DAH for surveillance. Routine surveillance testing will be performed for each county fair a minimum of once every 5 years.

We are only required to do Pullorum-Typhoid testing every 5 years, prior to the fair. You must make sure that your birds originate from a certified clean flock. Our county tested in 2024 and will again in 2029. If you have questions, please ask Andrea.

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!

COUNTY FAIR SUPERINTENDENTS

Please consider being a Fair Superintendent for the County Fair this year. It takes many volunteers to make sure the Ford County Fair is a success. We need superintendents for the fair divisions to function correctly and to get everything recorded correctly, ribbons attached, etc. Please consider signing up to help. All adult leaders/parents and junior leaders (ages 12 and older) are encouraged to volunteer and sign up during your next club meeting. If you know anyone else who might be interested in helping as a superintendent, please ask them and let us know what area they are

Current Project Leaders:

Beef — Matt and Lindsay Durler

Foods — Melvin and Brandi Stein

Horse — Shayla Tieben

Meat Goat & Rabbits — Jenny Burnett

Jr. leader—Adeline Robinson

Sheep—Anne Martinez

Jr. Leader — Emma Ackerman

Shooting Sports Shotgun — Scott & Ashley Fischer

Shooting Sports Archery — Brandi Stein

Jr. Leader — Quinlan Simon

Leaders if you want something in the next newsletter, please send to Ethel by the beginning of the last week of the month

Ford Co. 4-H Foundation Scholarships — Call Ethel for more information or if you have questions.

High School Seniors and past 4-H members should receive 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 March 16.** 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).

Dodge City Women's Chamber of Commerce Scholarship

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—DCwomenschamber.com and are available for 2026. They must be postmarked by April 15. Apply as early as possible. Applications postmarked after the deadline will not be considered.

Shooting Sporting Practices

Practices will begin this spring at the Ford County Gun Club with a required safety meeting as their first meeting. More details and times will be in the next newsletter.

HORSE ID CERTIFICATES

A reminder that Horse ID Certificate papers are due **June 1** to the local office. ID Forms can be found on our website or you can update from last year if you still have room on the signature lines. For more information, please contact our office.



Horse ownership:

Each horse should be properly identified with the local Extension Office by June 1 of the current 4-H program year. Horses may be identified by a) completed Horse ID Certificate with all required signatures, or b) breed registration papers with horse ownership listed in the 4-H member's or a family member's name. "Family member" includes: immediate family—parent, stepparent, sibling, stepsibling, grandparent, or legal guardian.

A copy of the 4-H Horse ID Certificate or the horse's registration papers must be kept on file with the local Extension Office and taken with you to any shows you participate in. 4-H'ers exhibiting registered horses must present a copy of the registration papers or the 4-H Horse ID Certificate at check-in to the State Fair.

A District Livestock Judging Contest in Dodge City

A District Livestock Judging Contest will be March 25 at 9 am at the Western Bank Expo Center in South Dodge City. We may have one senior and one junior team and as many individual contestants as needed. Questions, contact Harman Bliss at bliss.harmon@usd443.net or contact Andrea Burns at the Extension Office. There is a registration fee, contact Andrea for details.

Small Animal Livestock Weigh-In and Tagging Date

Countywide weigh-in/tagging for small animals will be held on **Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at the Ford County Fairgrounds between 4:00—6:00 pm. If you are planning on showing Swine, Sheep, Goats and/or Bucket Calves at the County Fair, you MUST weigh and tag your livestock at the respective weigh-in dates. If the 4-H member can not be at the weigh-in/tagging that is ok, we need the ANIMAL brought to the event & it can be brought by anyone.**

Alternate date is Tuesday, April 21 in case of bad weather.

Animals for state shows that are not brought to respective weigh-in dates, will have a service charge of \$25 applied to tag animals.

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. If you purchased an animal and it already has an EID tag, do not remove it, a visual tag will need to be used to tag the animal. A visual tag costs \$1.00. Please let Andrea know if your animal needs a visual tag.

Swine Showmanship Clinic

Ford County will be hosting a Swine Showmanship Clinic on June 6. Two sessions—9 am-noon or 5–8 pm, at the Ford County Fairgrounds. Cost is \$50 per participant. More information will be coming soon.

UAS Workshop, March 14, 2026, by Central Kansas District

Central Kansas District 4-H is hosting a UAS workshop on March 14th, 9:30 am-6:00 pm, 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.

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3I37gpLIFA7kJ3o

Deadline: March 9, 2026. If you have any questions, please call 785-309-5850

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,. Full contest rules and details are available at: <https://bit.ly/3NHuIEU>

YOUTH QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS PROGRAM (YQCA)

YQCA certification is designed to be useful and help prepare you for your show but also prepare young producers in animal agriculture industry. This is available online and Andrea has scheduled in person meetings for March 21, 10 am and 2 pm and March 23 (after 4-H Council) at the Fair Building. There must be at least 5 sign up by March 20 to hold these in person sessions

National 4-H Annual Index Study

Kansas 4-H will be participating in the National 4-H Annual Index Study, a nationwide effort led by National 4-H Council to measure the impact of 4-H programs on youth and better understand how participation influences youth development outcomes. This study provides critical data that helps demonstrate program impact, strengthen program quality, and guide future decision-making at the state and national levels. Beginning the week of March 2, eligible Kansas 4-H families with youth ages 13–18 will receive an email invitation to participate in the study. The survey takes approximately 15–25 minutes to complete and is voluntary. Youth responses are confidential, and findings are reported only in aggregate form to protect participants' privacy. Contact us for more information.

Discovery Days 2026

Are You Ready for Discovery Days? Put June 3-5 2026 on your calendar to be in Manhattan on the K-State campus. Class sessions are being finalized and cover a variety of topics. Discovery Days is open to all youth who are 13 to 18 years old by January 1, 2026. More information and registration will be available soon. There is a \$15 transportation fee added to the registration fee when you pay at the Extension Office. Both Ford County 4-H Foundation and 4-H Council offer scholarships to help with the registration fee.



4-H TRAVELING PHOTO DISPLAY

The 4-H Traveling Photos have been on display at the Bucklin Public Library and will be there till the middle of March. We will be moving them soon to be displayed at another location during the middle of March thru the month of April.





CAMP CENTRAL

4-CLOVER CAMP—"4-H MYSTERY QUEST"- JUNE 10-12

Looking for a summer camp closer to home? **4-Clover Camp** is the camp for you! 4-H youth ages 7 to 10 years old, are invited to attend this 3 day 2 night camp for only \$115 **but** the Ford County 4-H Foundation will provide a \$50 scholarship and 4-H Council a \$20 scholarship to lower your cost to only \$45! This camp is jammed packed with activities such as: swimming, crafts, and new friends! Theme is "4-H Mystery Quest". Camp is for Ford, Clark, Gray, Hodgeman and Walnut Creek District (Lane, Ness & Rush) 4-H'ers. Apply for the Blake Stanley Camp Scholarship to help reduce your camp cost even more.

CAMP AT ROCK SPRINGS RANCH

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 7 days/6 nights camping opportunities. You can select dates that fit your schedule, as our county does not have specific time frame for camping. There are camps for 3rd through 12th grades with different price tiers. For our older kids there is Counselors in Training and Leaders in Training. Call the office for more details.

Both our 4-H Council (\$50) and the Ford County 4-H Foundation (\$100) provides scholarships towards your registration.

Kansas Youth Range Camp June 9-12

Interested in plants, livestock or wildlife? This camp is for upcoming sophomores, juniors and seniors. Learn about plant id, growth, stocking rates, livestock nutrition and rangeland wildlife management. Cost is \$300. Contact our office or the Conservation district for more information and for scholarships or Ethan Walker, 620-451-1011, ethan.walker@usda.gov, KS Youth Range Camp Chair.

PLEASE NOTE

Several of the Camps listed are made affordable by financial assistance from the **Ford County 4-H Foundation** and **Ford County 4-H Council**. Take a few minutes out of your day to thank them.

Also consider applying for the **Ford/Gray County Scroggins Scholarship**. This is a one time, per year, scholarship available for members to attend a State level camp or certain state events. Check with the office for more details on this scholarship.

Day Camp — June 16

Calling all kids of Ford County

Ford County Fair Building

More information will shared soon

PAYMENT 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.



NW 4-H

Judging Event

Super Saturday

Saturday, March 21, 2026, 9:00am - Finish

Host Site: Fort Hays State University

Judging Contests include: 9:00am to 12:30pm -- \$7.00

Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Photography, Livestock Skill-a-thon
NEW this year Wildlife Skills Judging and Geology

Volunteer Sessions for Parents and Volunteers - Free, 10:30am

Livestock Judging : 12:30pm FHSU enclosed Rodeo Areana, North of I-70

Project Opportunities: (NON-LIVESTOCK Judging youth): 1:00 -3:00pm \$5.00

The afternoon will be filled with STEM and Visual Art Rotation stations, including, robots, circuits, Building Block Engineering, painting and paper crafts.

Sack Lunches provided with mandatory RSVP - \$8.00

Registration Link:

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_78Jwy8nnfMNIBW6

If you have any questions concerning this event, you may contact Robyn Trussel at 785-798-5020 or rdeines@ksu.edu or Chandra Plate at 620-388-7157 or cplate@ksu.edu

Time Line:

March 16th- Registrations for lunch and STEM Rotations due

March 21st:

- 9:00am to 12:30pm - Indoor Judging (Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Photography, Life Skills, and Livestock Skill-a-thon, NEW this year Wildlife Skills and Geology Judging)
- 10:30am to 11:30 - Volunteer/ Parent Session
- 11:30am to 12:30pm Pick up Sack Lunch
- 12:30pm Check in for Livestock Judging at FHSU Rodeo Arena North of I-70
- 1:00pm Livestock Judging Orientation
- 1:00pm to 3:00pm Project Opportunities
- 1:30pm Livestock Judging Contest Begins

Results:

Livestock Judging Classes will be talked at the conclusion of reasons being given, all other contest results will be sent out 5-7 business days after the event.

Who: Any 4-H or FFA Youth 7-18 years of age, plus volunteers and parents

Where: 2nd Floor Albertson Hall, FHSU Campus for Indoor and
FHSU Enclosed Areana North of I-70 for Livestock Judging

Cost: \$7 per individual (1 contest or multiple)

\$8 Sack Lunch- Sandwich, chips, fruit, cookie and drink

STEM/Visual Arts Rotations : **\$5.00**

Registration will be paid at the Event with Cash or Check made
payable to Ness County 4-H Council



Contest Divisions:

Juniors - age 7-8 participation prizes only

Intermediates - age 9-13

Seniors - age 14 and over



Team Notice -- A younger member may move up an age group to complete a team but will be required to complete the requirements of the age division through the entire contest.

Awards:

Certificates and medals will be awarded in the intermediate and senior divisions. The top three individual and the top team will receive medals. The top 10 individuals will receive certificates. Medals and Certificates will be delivered to the home county at the earliest time possible. Junior division will participate as a "learning experience" and receive a 4-H incentive at each judging area. Results will be posted to <https://www.walnutcreek.k-state.edu/>

NW 4-H Super Saturday Judging Event Eligibility Requirements: Any current member of a 4-H Club and/or FFA chapter is eligible to participate.

Judging Teams: a county, district or chapter may enter one or more three/four member teams in all judging contest areas. Present team member names at registration. If teams are not identified at registration they will not be scored as a team. Top 3 scores will be used to determine team score. Team members must be from the same local unit.

Livestock Judging:

This judging contest is designed to teach youth how to analyze market and breeding beef, goats, sheep and swine, measuring them against a standard that is commonly accepted as ideal. There will be six classes. Juniors and intermediates will have 2 classes of questions, with no reasons. Seniors will give two sets of reasons. Officials will give placings and talk the classes at the end of the contest and awards will be announced.

Crops: Stacy Campbell (Cottonwood District)

The contest will consist of identification of plants and samples, classification of samples (crop, noxious weed or common weed). All youth will identify 100 samples (50 seeds and 50 plants) and a tie breaker of 6 samples will be used.

Entomology: Kim Naber (Post Rock District)

The contest is designed to help youth learn how to properly identify Kansas insects. Each division will identify insect specimens: Juniors will identify 15, Intermediates 20 and Seniors 25.

NEW – Geology: Chandra Plate (NW Regional 4-H Specialist)

The contest is designed to help youth identify geology specimens. Each age group will have a set number of specimens to identify.

Horticulture: Ryan Engel, Jay Harris and Master Gardener Volunteers (Golden Plains & Cottonwood Districts)

The contest will consist of 3 or 4 judging classes of any horticulture section (vegetables, flowers, nuts, etc.)

The identification contest will include 15 samples for juniors, 50 samples for intermediates and seniors.

<https://www.k-state.edu/hort-judging/> for identification resources.

Life Skills: Cindy Walker (Phillips Rooks District)

Judging topics will be chosen from any 4-H project life skill. These could include family consumer science, foods & nutrition, health & safety, human development, housing, interior design and environmental issues. Junior division will judge 3 classes, intermediates 4 classes and seniors 6 classes.

Photography: Photo Action Team Volunteers

The contest will consist of six classes of photos, a written test, and a problem class. Juniors will only judge the photos. Test questions will come from the 4-H CCS curriculum, the 4-H Guide to digital photography, the National Geographic Ultimate Field Guide to Photography (2009) and other photography reference material.

Livestock Skill-a-thon: Tamara Robertson, Jenilee Godsey (Cottonwood & Twin Creeks Districts)

The contest is designed to provide a framework for youth to learn a variety of topics related to the production and management of beef cattle, meat goats, sheep, and swine. The contest will consist of 6 areas, including: livestock breed identification, equipment identification, wholesale and/or retail meat cut identification, anatomical identification, livestock feedstuff identification, and a written test. Juniors, Intermediates, and Seniors will complete all 6 areas with increasing difficulty for each age division.

NEW – Wildlife Skills: Aaron Hyland (Rawlins County)

Contestants will use their knowledge to identify wildlife species from their skulls, hides, feathers and/or tracks. Contestants might also identify wildlife management related items and habitat components as part of this contest.

Volunteer and Parent Session will share the updated Project Leader Ideas, Clover Classroom, Club Corner information and a Q& A time for Parents and Volunteers to walk away with resources to Make the Best Better.

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Ford County Extension Office
100 Gunsmoke
Dodge City, KS 67801

Dear 4-H Families,

Congratulations to all club members who competed at County Club Day and advanced to Regionals. Good Luck to those competing at Regional Club Day on March 7 at the First Nazarene Church here in Dodge City.

During Spring Break is a good time to start on some of your projects for the county fair. Remember to set your goals first for what you want to accomplish and learn within the project. If you have questions concerning what you can take to the county fair, call the office. We are currently working on the 2026 Fair Book with revisions from the Kansas State 4-H Office and State Fair.

Have a great Spring Break and St Patty's Day!



Ethel Schneweis
County Extension Agent



Andrea Burns
County Extension Agent



K-STATE
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