

# 4-H Clover News

KANSAS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Extension  
Ford County



Ford County Monthly Newsletter

May 2026

## How to Reach Us:

### Ford Co. Extension

100 Gunsmoke St.  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
620.227.4542

### Hours:

8:30am—12 noon  
1:00pm—5:00pm

### Agents:

Andrea Burns, CEA  
Ethel Schneweis, CEA  
Tamara Robertson, CEA

### Office Professional:

Cierra Blackwell

### Emails:

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### Agent's Cell phone #

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### Check us out on the web!

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



## WELCOME TAMARA!!

We are happy to announce Tamara Robertson will be starting as our new 4-H Youth Development Agent on May 11!!

Tamara has been the Cottonwood Extension District 4-H Agent in Hays since November of 2022. She is well versed on State 4-H policy and guidelines and has provided local educational programming within Ellis County and their two county district.


As a past 12 year Ford County 4-H member, she is familiar with our 4-H program and is looking forward to sharing her passion for 4-H with the youth in her home county.

All of us here in the Extension Office are looking forward to having Tamara in the office and excited to work with her to increase the 4-H program in our county.

We will be having a welcome reception for Tamara before our next 4-H Council meeting on May 26, starting at 6:00 pm at the Ford County Fair Building. Come out and meet her or welcome her back to Ford County!



## QUACK ATTACK FUNDRAISER

We hope your club members have been selling Duck Leases as this is a major fund raiser for 4-H Council and can be for your club also! The Ford County 4-H Council would appreciate if each family could sell duck leases. Clubs received tickets if requested. These duck leases are for the Q97/ Z98 Quack Attack Duck Race which will be **held on June 6th at the Dodge City Main Street Festival**. The funds from each duck lease purchased from a 4-H'er will come back to the Ford County 4-H Council and your 4-H Club. Complete rules about the Duck Race and how to sell duck leases can be obtained by asking your community leaders for the information. The Alley is also selling leases this year. **ALL Duck Leases and money must be returned to the Extension Office by May 26 or brought to the 4-H Council meeting.** Community Leaders/families will need to keep track of who sells and if you need more duck leases or have further questions, please call us! Please try and sell the tickets your leaders checked out before requesting additional books.

We will also be needing members to help the day of the Race on June 6. We continue to sell tickets up until approximately 12:00 noon. We have a booth during the Main Street Festival and people purchase tickets from our booth. If you are able, we usually need a few members to assist during the actual races too. Let Ethel know if you can come and help sell and during the races.

## 4-H COUNCIL MEETING

The next 4-H Council meetings will be Tuesday, May 26 (Tuesday due to Memorial Day) at 7:00 p.m. at the Ford County Fair Building.



## County Fair, July 16-20....

The Fair Book will soon be posted on our website. Actual books will be available in May.

- ⇒ Schedule has just a few changes for 2026! **CHECK THE SCHEDULE.**
  - Photography exhibits will be entered and judged on Monday, July 13, 8:30—10 am and judging starting at 9:30 am (started in 2024)
  - Booth Setup will again be on Tuesday, July 14, approx. 7:30 pm to 10 pm (after set up) and on Wednesday, July 15 in the morning.
  - Round Robin showmanship, Monday, July 20, 9:00 am
- ⇒ Clothing Fashion Revue judging will be on Monday evening, July 13, 6:00—9:00 pm. Members may enter up to two entries for Shopping in Style Revue. Additional forms must be in the office by 5 pm or entry will be lowered one ribbon rating.
- ⇒ Fair Pre-entry will be through the Online FairEntry program with a July 1, 5 pm deadline.
- ⇒ 4-H Exhibit entry on July 16 by 11 am. Members entering by assigned times to drop off exhibits based on your last name will still be used.
- ⇒ Consultative Judging will be available by signing up after Fair set-up on Tuesday evening and/or on Thursday when you bring you entries.
- ⇒ Open Class entries are scheduled between 11:30 and 1:00 pm, with entries by 4-H parents accepted earlier if requested.
- ⇒ Pillars of the Community event on August 8 (replaced previous years livestock sale)
- ⇒ Public 4-H Fashion Revue will start at 1:30 pm on Sunday, July 19
- ⇒ Ford County 4-H Foundation Scholarships will be announced at 2:00 pm on Sunday, July 19
- ⇒ King and Queen Crowning will be held on Sunday evening, prior to the Beef Show at approximately 5:00 pm. Money collected until 3 pm that day.
- ⇒ A Skillathon will take place Saturday, July 18 between 2:00-4:00 pm

## FAIR SUPERINTENDENTS NEEDED

What is a SUPERINTENDENT? A Superintendent is someone who assists judges during entry day on July 16th. They help 4-H members entering their project, assisting judges by writing comments or taking items to the judges for them to evaluate, by recording ribbon placings, attaching ribbons/stickers to entries, organizing exhibits for judges to select champions and Grand champions. They also assist in creating the display for the project area. These are great leadership activities for your record book!

If you did not sign-up and would still like to help out, please give us a call at the office.

## SPRING SHOWS

If you're interested in attending spring shows with any of your livestock, stop by the Extension Office. We have flyers for many spring shows throughout Kansas and the surrounding areas. Be sure to check out the Facebook pages, SWKS Livestock 4-H/FFA Events and/or SW KS Horse 4H/Horse Show/Rodeo Community.

## STATE LIVESTOCK NOMINATIONS

The nomination deadline for commercial heifers, swine, sheep, and meat goats is June 15th. All nominations will be done online through Showworks. DNA envelopes ordering deadline is 1 week prior. Call the office to get your barcode stickers.

## Horse Project Information

Remember all Horse ID papers need to be turned into our office by June 1 for our signature. It is available on our website under 4-H.

To be eligible to show at the State Fair you can qualify at other shows—including our County Fair Show by completing an affidavit.

4-H Horse Project members wishing to compete at the Kansas State Fair 4-H Horse Show must complete the Horse Safety Webinar and pass the quiz in addition to other requirements. The webinar and quiz are available on the Kansas 4-H Equine Webinar page <http://bit.ly/3zbn5XC>. They must be completed prior to the entry deadline (August 1). Additional requirements can be found on the Horse Project Page at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animal-science/horse/>.

Coggins Testing: All exhibits in the County Fair and State Fair 4-H Horse Show must present proof of negative Coggins test within the last 12 months at check-in.

Please check out the Kansas 4-H Horse Shows and Clinics page for horse project shows and clinics to assist you throughout the coming 4-H program year.

## Dog Project Information

If you are looking for an opportunity or improve your skills, please check out the Kansas 4-H Dog Qualifiers Page <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/dog/local-dog-events/>. This page lists the local invitational shows that 4-H members can participate in. These qualifiers use judges from the approved Kansas 4-H Dog Show Judge list, so members can use these shows to qualify for the Kansas State Fair 4-H Dog Show.

## SHOOTING SPORTS PRACTICES

Practices are continuing. They are held every Sunday afternoon at 1:30 pm at the Dodge City Gun Club, except for Mother's Day (May 10). If you are not receiving notifications, please contact Andrea at the Extension Office. Contact Ashley Fischer at 620-789-0231. if you have questions concerning the practices.

## ARCHERY PRACTICES

Archery practices will continue on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 pm at the Fairgrounds south of the horse arena, except for the 2nd Sunday of the month due to a club meeting conflict. Questions about Archery? Reach out to Brandi Stein at 620-255-4548.

## 4-H FOODS RULE FOR FROSTINGS & FILLINGS AT THE COUNTY & STATE FAIR

Remember for food safety purposes, any entries with frostings and fillings must calculate the amount of sugar in the frosting/filling recipe only. Calculation must be attached to entry, or the placing will be lowered one ribbon when judged. Frosting and fillings need to contain more than 65% sugar for safety. Examples on how to calculate this percentage are included in the publication located at: <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3544.pdf>. And it will be posted on our website.

## TRACTOR SAFETY OPERATOR'S COURSE

There will an Multi County Tractor Safety Operator's Course on Wednesday, May 27, at the Gray County Fairgrounds, 17002 W. Highway 50, Cimarron, KS. Cost is \$20 for the class, meal and handouts. Must pre-register by May 20 to the Ford County Extension Office. See the attached flier for more details.

## Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

You will need to complete this online by registering at <https://yqcaprogram.org/> to take the online training and certification. This must be completed if you are planning on selling an animal at county fair. It needs to be completed by July 1. Questions, call Andrea at the Extension Office.

## Message from County Wide Beef Project Leaders, Matt and Lindsay Durler

We are excited to host a project meeting this weekend to help everyone prepare for the upcoming season.

### Ford County 4-H Beef Project Meeting

- **When:** This Saturday, May 2nd      **Time:** 4:00 PM      **Where:** 11773 Jewell Rd, Wright, KS

### Agenda & Activities:

- **Showmanship Demonstration & Coaching:** We are thrilled to have Madison Loschke-Kerbs joining us to provide expert showmanship demonstrations and individual coaching.
- **Daily Hair Care:** General tips and information into the routines and products needed for daily maintenance. Demonstrations available for those interested.
- **Clipping & Fitting:** Comprehensive demonstrations on how to clip and fit your animal for show day.

**What to Bring:** Project members are highly encouraged to bring their animals! This will be a hands-on session where you can receive direct support with showmanship, clipping, and fitting.

**Food & Refreshments:** We will be providing hamburgers, chips, and drinks for all attendees.

If you have any questions regarding the meeting, please feel free to reach out to us. We look forward to seeing everyone and their projects there!

## 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. Expand your showmanship knowledge and have hands on practice experience. Check out the flier in last months newsletter or find it on the Ford County 4-H Facebook page or our Ford County Extension website.

## Project Resources and Ideas

Are you trying to figure out what you can do in your 4-H project (s)? Check out the K-State Extension's 4-H Youth Development website—<https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/> for help. On the left will be listed the major project area, but click on any and you will see all the subject areas covered. Each individual project then will have additional categories in the center of the page —

Things to Learn and Do

Project Materials

Awards and Recognition

Events and Activities

Next Steps—Career Exploration

Below these categories are boxes that you can also click on for additional resources — 4-H Clover Classroom and Calendar of Events. The Kansas Clover Classroom has publications for some individual projects which have additional information and activities which will enhance the learning, leadership and community service within each project area. There are project challenges for many projects but not all. These are still being developed.

***DROP/ADD PROJECT DEADLINE IS MAY 1st. Make changes at 4-HOnline —  
<https://v2.4honline.com>.***

### DISCOVERY DAYS — JUNE 3-5, KSU CAMPUS

Youth ages 13-18 before January 1, 2026 are invited to register

**Cost:** \$245 (minus scholarships of \$75 -4-H Foundation and \$50—4-H Council)

**Registration:** registration deadline is May 8. online at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/discovery-days/>

**2026 Class Session Catalog & tentative agenda are posted at the link. Classes may have additional fees.**

**A Talent Show is also included this year. Classes fill up fast, register soon!**

## Camp Headquarters

(Copies of Registration Forms can be found online at [ford.ksu.edu](http://ford.ksu.edu) )

### 4-H DAY CAMP, June 16, 2026 Ford County Fairgrounds



#### “Go Exploring at 4-H Day Camp”

Join us at Day Camp on Tuesday, June 17. All children who have completed Kindergarten through 3rd grade are invited to experience the annual Gunsmoke 4-H Day Camp. Mark your calendars and register early! A \$10.00 camp fee includes snacks, lunch and activity materials. You do not need to be a 4-H member to attend day camp—invite your friends! Registration forms will be posted soon on our website and are due June 9. There will be a minimum number to hold the camp.

### ROCK SPRINGS 4-H CENTER CAMPS

**4-H Open Attendance:** Attend any session that fits your schedule. They also encourage all of our county clubs to find a session that they can attend together.

**Open Enrollment:** They are inviting ANYONE who wants to experience Kansas 4-H Camp at Rock Springs, regardless of 4-H membership. Every young camper deserves to experience the positive youth development that makes 4-H special.

**Extended Sessions:** Now offering a choice of 4 days/3 nights OR 7 days/6 nights.

There is transportation from Dodge City provided for some of the camps. Camp sessions are filling up, so you might need to register soon!

### 4-Clover Camp — 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 \$45 due to scholarships from 4-H Council and Ford County 4-H Foundation. Theme is “4-H Mystery Quest at 4-H Camp”. This camp is for Clark, Ford, Gray, Hodgeman and Walnut Creek District (Lane, Ness & Rush) 4-H’ers. Registration is due May 22, but our numbers maybe limited so registration is on a first come, first service basis.

## SCROGGINS STATE 4-H CAMP/ EVENT SCHOLARSHIP

All 4-H’ers of Ford and Gray Counties have the opportunity to apply for the Scroggins State 4-H Camp/Event Scholarship. Campers wishing to attend a State 4-H Camp (i.e. Discovery Days, KYLF, 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. No more than one scholarship may be received per 4-H’er/per 4-H year (October 1—Sept. 30).** Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications are available on [ford.ksu.edu](http://ford.ksu.edu) under the 4-H tab or at the Extension Office.

### BLAKE STANLEY SCHOLARSHIP

If you are planning to attend 4-Clover Camp, we encourage you to apply for **one of five \$35 scholarships provided by the Blake Stanley Memorial 4-H Scholarship fund.**

If you are interested in applying, you must write an essay with a maximum word count of 200. In the essay, please answer the following questions:

- Why do you want to go to 4-H Camp?
- Why is 4-H important to you?
- Why do you need a scholarship for camp?

Essays are due on June 1 to the Extension Office. More info can be found on our Ford County Extension website under 4-H Camps.

Remember 4-H Council provides camp scholarships for 4-Clover Camp of \$20, \$50 for RSR Camp and \$50 for Discovery Days. The Ford County 4-H Foundation provides \$50 for 4-Clover Camp, \$100 for RSR Camp and \$75 for Discovery Days.

# Congratulations



## To Our Graduating Seniors!!

Emma Ackerman  
Ethan Holman  
Heaven Montford  
Rhianne Swonger

Rebecca Durler  
Julian Miramontes  
Kaycee Swan  
Adrienne Wasson



## Ford County 4-H Foundation Scholarships

Ford County 4-H Foundation Scholarship Winners will be announce in the June newsletter. We had several applications this year and the Foundation Board had tough decisions to make when selecting their winners. Thanks to our High School Seniors and former 4-H members already in college for applying this year! All of you are very deserving.

## Traveling Photo Display

Our Traveling Photo Display has been on display at the Dodge City Public Library. We hope you had a chance to look at the pictures.



## Livestock Tips

Thank you to everyone who has asked questions and been patient with getting stickers for nominations, ect. Ford County will be well represented at the Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Shows.

Just a reminder to those who purchased livestock from out of state or who are planning to travel out of state to various shows that the 840 ID tags and/or scrapies tags that were placed in the animal's ear cannot be removed. It is a violation of federal law to do so. As the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) continues to evolve, this will continue to occur. Kansas 4-H EID tags use a 982 EID tag to legally incorporate and utilize electronic ID universally across all species.

Also make sure to get with your veterinarian and get the required CVI before taking animals over state lines. This is more important now than ever as the nation is currently dealing with lots of rules/regulations to prevent outbreaks of diseases across the United States. If you have questions, please ask Andrea and she will help walk you through the ever- changing regulations.

Don't forget that a nomination is not an entry into a state show. Those entries will be due July 15<sup>th</sup> for the State Fair and August 15<sup>th</sup> for KJLS. Small animal nominations and DNA must be postmarked by June 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are new to the system or new to the new online nomination system, please don't hesitate to ask!

## County Fair T-shirts from Victory Electric

We are fortunate to have Victory Electric donate t-shirts for our county fair 4-H participants! Our time line is a little sooner this year and we will need to turn in shirt sizes by the middle of May. Please check your child's shirt size that you listed during their enrollment. You are not able to change the size, but please email Ethel with a size changes. We had one 7 year old during enrollment click on AL and it actually was a Youth Medium. PLEASE check the size listed and let us know if it needs changed by May 13. Email Ethel at [eschnewe@ksu.edu](mailto:eschnewe@ksu.edu) any changes. Adults can also order by contacting Missi Haskell, ([haskell.shcs@gmail.com](mailto:haskell.shcs@gmail.com) or 620-255-4584) there will be fee for these extra shirts.



# Tractor Safety Operator's Course

Students must  
attend all day  
on May 27th for  
the training and  
final test.

Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Gray County Fairgrounds  
17002 W. Highway 50, Cimarron



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

## **PURPOSE OF COURSE & TEST:**

To provide teenagers with a fuller appreciation and awareness of needed safety practices around tractors and farm machinery. As well as provide 14 & 15 year old youth an opportunity to receive a tractor operator's permit, required by the Child Labor Regulations in regard to agricultural hazardous occupations before they can be employed to operate a tractor.

## **WHO MAY PARTICIPATE:**

Any teenage youth, regardless of age. Those completing the course and test will receive an operator's certificate upon completion of when he/she turns 14. Those who are 16 or older do not need an operator's certificate, but are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

## **SCHEDULE:**

Tractor and other important farm safety skills will be given from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27th Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. at the Gray County Fairgrounds.

## **COST:**

\$20.00 (made payable to the Ford County Ag Activity Fund) for noon meal and handouts.

## **MEAL:**

The noon meal, included in the registration fee, is hamburgers hot off the grill. Students are encouraged to eat the meal provided. Please contact the Gray County Extension Office, 620-855-3821 with any participant's dietary restrictions.

## **ENROLLMENT:**

All participants will need to complete a registration form and a 4-H Participation form in order to participate.

**PRE-REGISTRATION FOR TRACTOR COURSE IS REQUIRED BY  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20<sup>th</sup>, TO YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE.**

Sponsored By:  
Clark, Comanche, Ford, Gray,  
Hodgeman, Meade, Pawnee  
County Extension Councils,  
Walnut Creek Extension District,  
& 21<sup>st</sup> Central Extension  
District— Edwards County

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

Dear 4-H Families,

Remember the welcome reception for our new 4-H Agent, Tamara Robertson on Tuesday, May 26, 6 pm, prior to 4-H Council meeting at the Fair Building. Come and introduce your selves and your families to her or tell her welcome back home if you already know her. We are all excited to have her join our office and to be back to full staff again.

We want to Congratulations all of our graduating seniors. Best of luck on your future educational plans. We know you will all do well in your chosen career paths.

Don't forget to sign up for camps for the summer. Deadlines are fast approaching!! Day Camp participants do not need to be a 4-H member!

Have a great summer!

Ethel Schneweis  
County Extension Agent

Andrea Burns  
County Extension Agent

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