

4-H Clover News

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Ford County Monthly Newsletter

October 2025

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

Office Professional:

Cierra Blackwell

Emails:

aburns@ksu.edu
eschnewe@ksu.edu

Cell Phones:

Andrea—620-682-5530
Ethel—620-338-3676
cmjblack@ksu.edu

Check us out on the web!

www.ford.ksu.edu
www.kansas4-h.org



facebook.com/fordcounty4h

National 4-H Week

Help celebrate this year's National 4-H Week, Oct 5-11, by helping to promote 4-H. "Beyond Ready" is the theme for this year's National 4-H Week, and is held the first full week of October. 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 \$20 gift card during National 4-H Week! You earn 1 entry every day by following these easy steps— That's 7 chances to win! Let's flood Facebook with Ford County 4-H during National 4-H week!



- ★ Post a picture of yourself wearing a 4-H t-shirt on Facebook and tag Ford County 4-H in it. You can also send your picture to Andrea or Ethel to post on our Facebook page.
- ★ 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.

Specials National 4-H Week:

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

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

Thursday, October 9 — 4-H for Good Day

This is a day to recognize all the good our 4-H members and volunteers do throughout the year!

INVITE A FRIEND TO 4-H!



In the spirit of National 4-H Week, 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!

ONLINE 4-H MEMBER ENROLLMENT



4-H Member Enrollment started October 1. This year you will need to select your club and then your projects when you enroll. The Club with the most re-enrollments of current members by November 15 will receive a pizza party.

All new and re-enrolling members and volunteers will need to go to the following website to enroll for the new year — <http://v2.4honline.com>.

The State 4-H Office has had some issues with the online system when it first opened. If you tried to enroll on October 1, you may have had your enrollment sent back with a message to re-enroll. Please let us know if you have any issues.

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FEE AND PAYMENT PROCEDURES

Remember the State 4-H Office has a \$15 per member fee. At the end of each 4-H'er enrollment there will be a screen concerning the fee and payment options. Options on the screen will include: Debit/credit card, check and waiver. If you have more than one child and do not want several debit/credit card transactions you will need to indicate check otherwise each will be it's own transaction. A second transaction does not always go through as it might be considered as a fraudulent transaction. The enrollment fee can be paid through the Extension Office, but you will need to indicate payment by check. So you can pay with credit card or check, which ever you prefer. If your club is paying for member's enrollment please indicate check and the office will put in the code prior to approval. Clubs will then pay 4-H Council.

If your family is paying the fee, you can also indicate payment by check and you can pay the Extension office. We will then insert the coupon code prior to approval. Please do not mail your check to the State 4-H Office as the process will take longer.

Enrollment will not become active until approved by our county and state 4-H offices. If you have any questions, please contact our office. There are instructions on our website for re-enrolling.

It is very important to keep things like mailing addresses, phone numbers current and list your service provider in the online system. This is our means of communicating with you if you want to receive text messages and phone calls. You may need to let the office know if something needs to be changed and we will make that correction. Also if you would like your kids to receive the newsletter by email, list their email address in the individual profile information. This will allow 4-H'ers as well as families to receive newsletters.

If you can't recall which email address you used to set up your account, give us a call or send us an email and we will help you out. Do NOT create a new family account. If your password doesn't work, you will need to reset it.

All State 4-H Projects will be listed this year in the online enrollment. You can only enroll in projects available due to instructor restrictions for some projects — example some shooting sports disciplines. If you are not sure, check with us.

4-H CLOVERBUDS

Ford County 4-H offers the Cloverbud (5-6 year olds who are too young to join 4-H) program.

Cloverbuds should only enroll in the Cloverbud project. Below are 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 4-H Cloverbud member may showcase a pet from the approved pet list: Amphibians, Ant farms, Cat, Dog, Fish, Gerbils, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, Mice, Parakeets, Rabbits, Rats
- The 4-H Cloverbud members do not manage money.

Important NOTE When Enrolling:

As we begin the 2025–2026 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. This release gives 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

Additional Consent Questions

To provide more clarity, families are asked to give specific permission for:

- First and last name
- Extension unit
- 4-H club or town name
- Media (photos, video, audio, etc.)
- Print-only media
- Social media
- County fair-related publicity

These responses override the general publicity release and help guide what can or cannot be shared publicly.

Best Practices for Sharing Youth Information for Extension Professionals

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

4-H AMBASSADOR/EXCHANGE MTG

The next Ambassador/Exchange meeting will be Monday, October 27th @7:00 pm. 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 and older to be an Ambassador and 14 and older to be involved with the State to State Exchange.

The group will be traveling or hosting in 2026. We are in the process of confirming an exchange commitment with another State Exchange program. Call Ethel if you would like more information.



FALL FLEA MARKET—October 18

The Exchange group will be hosting a Fall Flea Market/Garage Sale on October 18, 9 am to 1:00 pm at the Ford County Fair Building. Booth spaces are still available, but you can also support the group by coming and checking out the individual booths and support the concession stand! This is one of the group's major fund raising activities.

EXTENSION ANNUAL ELECTION AND DODGE CITY MAIN STREET UPDATE PRESENTATION



The Ford County Extension Program Development Committee Election meeting will be held Wednesday, October 29, 7:00 pm with the Election and then a presentation on Dodge City Main Street presentation by Hugo Hernandez, at the meeting. 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 7:00 pm at the Ford County Fair Building. Results of the election will be announced after the Streetscape 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.

State Fair Entries

State Fair entries are in the Extension Office. If you are not able to pick up your projects, please let the office know who you have asked to collect them.

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.



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!

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum

Build your leadership skills and potential through workshops, consulting groups, inspirational speakers and more. In addition, the 2026 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 22-23, 2025 at Rock Springs 4-H Center

Youth 14-18 years of age before January 1, 2026

2025 Fees: \$215 and additional optional \$55 for Friday overnight and breakfast.

Registration Deadline: Deadline - Wednesday, October 15, 2025 by 11:59 p.m.

<https://web.cvent.com/event/6e797cb7-6c3d-4110-abb7-6c33742a0411/regProcessStep1>

The Kansas Volunteer Leaders Forum

An opportunity for volunteers from around the state to learn together while building a network of likeminded 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. This is held on November 22-23, 2025 at [Rock Springs 4-H Center](#) For 4-H Volunteers and Staff. *Contact our office for a tentative agenda and questions*

[Registration Link](#) - Due Wednesday, October 15, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. Central Time

2025 Fees:

- \$150 KVF Adult Registration Regular
- \$125 KVF Adult Registration for Life Members
- \$95 KVF Friday Night and Saturday Breakfast
- \$22 for KYLF T-Shirt.



Saturday, Nov. 1st

6:00 pm Fair Building

The Night will begin with a catered meal and then presentation of awards.

RSVP is requested by October 24 to the Extension Office



ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT COMMITTEES

Decorations: WWW (chair) and DCC
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.

Tea and Coffee: HH

Serving Food: VB — long hair tied back and wash your hands prior to putting on serving gloves or serving.

Clean up: DIY Jrs, LC, RB

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

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-H'ers, we encourage everyone to dress appropriately for the occasion, i.e., slacks, button downs, dresses, skirts, etc. Jeans & t-shirts are NOT appropriate.

WE ARE NOT REQUIRING 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 noon on October 24, to let us know number attending.

Congratulations!

WINDOW DISPLAYS

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

DIY Jrs — Long's
DCC — Landmark Bank
HH — Spearville Senior Center
LC — Beauty Villa
RB — Ace Hardware
VB — Charles Hardware
WWW—J & A Service, Spearville

4-H Shout Outs

- ★ All 2024-25 Club, Council and Ambassador/Exchange Officers for serving this past program year.
- ★ All 2024-25 Community Leaders. To all leaders who will continue being a leader in 2025-2026.
- ★ To all who exhibited at the State Fair and KJLS.
- ★ To our members who presented their demonstration, project talk or prose during the State Fair.
- ★ 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!

4-H Council News

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 the Friday (November 21 before the next Council Meeting, November 24. 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 28-December 14. We encourage you to participate and donate at our local Tractor Supply Co. store.



48 Hour Challenge

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 doing their own individual service projects. Let us know your project and we can report it to the state.

Future Dates to Remember

October

5-11	National 4-H Week
13	Office closed for Indigenous People's Day (Columbus Day)
10-11	48 Hours of 4-H
18	4-H Exchange Flea Market/Garage Sale
27	4-H Ambassador/Exchange Meeting
29	Extension Elections, and Main Street Dodge Presentation, 6:30 p.m., Fair Building

November

1	Achievement Night
22-23	KYLF and KVLF, Rock Springs Ranch
27-28	Office Closed for Thanksgiving
24	4-H Community Leader/4-H Council Meetings

December

1	Parade of Lights
25-Jan 2	Office closed for Christmas/New Years

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

Dear 4-H Families,



Happy 4-H New Year!

We can't believe Fall and the new 4-H Year is 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. The only stupid question is the one that is not ever asked. Please call or email Andrea or Ethel with any questions you have concerning a project, enrollment, or an activity/event.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ethel".

Ethel Schneweis
County Extension Agent

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea".

Andrea Burns
County Extension Agent



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100 Gunsmoke St.
Dodge City, KS 67801
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