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**January 2018**

# Ellis County 4-H Happenings

Hey 4-H Families!

Hope you are taking time to spend time with your family over the holidays! We have many exciting learning opportunities for your family to be involved in in the year ahead. This 4-H newsletter is one of the best ways to keep in touch with what's coming up. Take a few minutes to review the possibilities and come join us for those that best fit the needs of your family.

As we move further into being a part of an Extension District, you will see several changes. The first is that of a new web address. The old one will work for a little while longer, but all new content is being added to the [www.cottonwood.ksu.edu](http://www.cottonwood.ksu.edu) website. You will find a 4-H tab on the left hand side of the page for the Ellis Co. 4-H program. Check out some of the cool new opportunities coming your way!

One of the outstanding Countywide learning opportunities is **4-H Day. It is Sunday, March 4.** Public **Presentation skills** are some of the most **valuable skills** 4-H'ers gain through their 4-H experience. Consider getting your child involved in this great learning activity. Several of our older 4-H'ers [created on-line videos](#) last year to help you navigate through the planning steps for each type of presentation. The [event registration and rules](#) will soon be posted on our website.

We look forward to working with you in 2018!

Yours in 4-H,

***Susan Schlichting***

Susan Schlichting

County Extension Agent – 4-H Youth Development



## Meetings Coming Your Way

**4-H Achievement Banquet, 4-H Day, Promotion** – January 25, 5:15 p.m. – Back Meeting Room

**Home Ec, BBQ, Foodstand** – January 25, 6:30 p.m. – Back Meeting Room

**4-H Ag Livestock** – February 8, 6:30 p.m.

**4-H Program Development Committee** – February 27, time and location TBA



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## Ways to Contact Us

- We make a drop box available in the front of the Extension Office for your convenience.
- You can reach the 4-H Office Voice Mail at (785) 628-9430 ext. 14
- Extension Office fax # is (785) 621-2002
- [sschlich@ksu.edu](mailto:sschlich@ksu.edu)

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO NOTE

**January 5** – Apply for Monarchs on the Move Teen Training Team

**January 15** – Sign up for KS 4-H Dog Judges Training

**January 15** – Sign up for 4-H Horse Panorama

**January 15** – Sign up for 4-H Citizenship in Action (CIA) in Topeka

**January 18** – Apply for Monarchs on the Move Teen Leader Team

**January 25** – Sign up for 4-H Judge's Training

**January 26** – KS 4-H Scholarship Aps Due in Ext. Office

**February 1** – Sign up for 4-H Dog Obedience & Agility Classes

## WINTER WEATHER & 4-H ACTIVITIES

Our policy is that if school cancels for weather related events, 4-H events are canceled, too. Please check our website or contact the person in charge before traveling in, if you are in doubt about the status of an event.

### Congrats to . . .

. . . Jacob Schmeidler who was elected to the KS 4-H Youth Leadership Council!

### 4-H Enrollments

This is your last call to get your 4-H on-line updated for 2017 -18. Even if you are enrolling in the same projects, you will still need to log-on and update. **Parents need to update their profiles, too!** *This will be the last month that we will send out the newsletter notification email to both last year and this year's email list.*

You will be able to add projects or delete them from your list of enrollments until May 1 for all areas, **except Livestock projects.** Those need to be enrolled prior to the weigh-in and identification date set for each specie. I.e. Market Beef is usually weighed in early February and Small Livestock weighed in in late April.

### VIP (Volunteer Information Profile)

Each 4-H volunteer working directly with youth in the club, is required to go through this screening and training process. The application is available from your club leader or at the link below. Aps can be submitted at any time during the next few months, but the screening and training process **must be completed by March 1.**

**National Background Checks**—Kansas 4-H has moved to requiring national background checks for all volunteers. 1/3 of our 110 current VIP volunteers will go through this process this year. Your club leader has this list and will be contacting you to complete this process now. **All volunteers will be required to go through this process every 3 years.**

**Current Volunteers** - If you are a current screened volunteer in your 4-H club and plan to continue to do so, please complete and return your **VIP Renewal Form** to the Extension Office. These are available from your club leader or can be found on-line at [www.kansas4-h.org](http://www.kansas4-h.org) and click on the Volunteer link for a form-fillable version.

**New & Returning Volunteers** – will need to add your information to the 4-H On-line enrollment system by creating a member profile within your family's profile. Visit with your club's leader or our office if you need assistance with this!

### 4-H Day is Coming—Sunday, March 4 – St. Mary's Elementary - Ellis

4-H Day is a chance for 4-H members to showcase their project learning through public presentations. If you ask a 4-H alumni what one of the most important things they gained through their 4-H experience, they'll most likely tell you it is their public speaking ability. Consider building that powerful skill in your children through their involvement in 4-H Day activities. Mark Sunday, March 4 on your calendar and make plans now to participate in 4-H Day. It will begin early afternoon. Some clubs have already started working on skits, project talks, talent, etc. [Check out the website](#) for the latest information, rules, etc.

### 4-H Day 101

New to 4-H Day?? We've posted a series of informational handouts and videos on the website to help you get started planning talks. [www.cottonwood.ksu.edu](http://www.cottonwood.ksu.edu) – [Ellis 4-H - Events](#) Check out the series of "how to" video presentations by our Ellis Co. 4-H'ers.

### 4-H Public Service Announcements

Promote 4-H through this fun and creative speaking event. It's easy to get involved. Create a 30 second "info-mercial" about why your friends should join 4-H. **Contact the Extension Office to set up a taping time prior to March 4.** Tape your presentation. These will be judged and you will receive a ribbon for your presentation. Entries will be posted on the Ellis Co. 4-H page to help promote 4-H!

### Model Meetings

Model Meetings are a great way to test your club's parliamentary procedure skills. It's not too late to sign up if you'd like to give it a try. Just call the Ext. Office a call to schedule your club's meeting. The club receiving the top ribbon placing will represent Ellis Co. at Regional 4-H Day in **Stockton on March 23.**



### 4-H Judge's Workshop – February 3 - Hays

Would you like to learn how to judge 4-H projects at the County Fair, or just learn what the judges are looking for when they evaluate your 4-H project? Then you may wish to attend a morning or afternoon session

OR join us for the whole day and learn about two project areas. 4-H Judge's Training will be held at the Ag Research Auditorium in Hays on Saturday, February 3 from 10 – 3 p.m. We are working to



finalize sessions and will have the registration form available soon after January 1. **Register with the Cottonwood Extension District-Hays office by Friday, January 26.**



### 4-H Dog Training Workshops Coming in February

Do you have a new dog that needs some training? Or an old dog who could stand to learn a few new tricks? If so, we have some exciting opportunities for you and your canine companion. 4-H Project Leader, Dara Jochum will lead the trainings at the Fairgrounds. If you would like to get involved in this new learning opportunity, **give the Extension Office a call to sign up by February 1.** Upcoming practice dates include: February 11, 25, March 18, April 15. Bring your dog with current vaccinations, on a leash. Bring a few of their favorite treats along to encourage them!

### 4-H Beef Weigh-in Set

If you're planning to show Market Steers & Heifers at this year's Ellis County Fair, make plans now to attend the Beef Weigh-in on **Saturday, February 3 from 9 – 11 a.m.** at the 4-H Fairgrounds. **You need to be enrolled in the Market Beef project by February 3.** (Check your on-line enrollments) **Be sure to purchase tags & tag your animals prior to the weigh-in.**

### Livestock ID Procedures

Large and Small animal ID procedures for 2018 are unchanged from last year. Please take time to review them.

### K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy

The ninth annual K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy will be held in June 2018 at Kansas State University's campus. This four-day event focuses on increasing knowledge of Kansas's diverse livestock industry, as well as building participant's leadership skills. Twenty high school students will be selected to participate based upon educational, community, and agricultural involvement. The event is sponsored by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council. Jacob Schmeidler participated last year and can tell you all about this awesome opportunity, or visit [www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu](http://www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu). **Aps due April 1, 2018.**

### 4-H Horse Panorama

. . . will be held January 26-28, 2018 at Rock Springs 4-H Camp. There will be a variety of contests held as well as some educational activities. **Entries are due January 15, 2018.** Ellis Co. 4-H'ers are practicing for this opportunity. Good luck Ellis Co. 4-H'ers!



### 4-H Council Update

Pictured here are the 2017-18 4-H Council reps. You are well represented!!

Thanks to everyone who shared food items for the 4-H Council canned food drive. The items will be taken to the St. Joe's Food Pantry.

Other 4-H Council items:

- ⇒ Approved the livestock & small animal classes for fairbook
- ⇒ Set Market Beef Weigh in—Feb. 3, 9—11

⇒ Adopted budget for 2018

⇒ Signed up for committees—*Old Timer's Fitting & Showing, 4-H Ballgames @ Achievement Banquet, Increase Awareness of 4-H Opportunities*

### Monarchs on the Move – Teen Leadership Opportunity

Ellis Co. 4-H Teens – get excited!! Are you ready for an awesome leadership opportunity?? Cottonwood Extension District was asked to carry out the National "Monarchs on the Move" event for Kansas this year! That's quite an honor!! 3 Cottonwood (Ellis and Barton Co.) teens will have the chance to join teens from 5 other states in Ames, IA, February 2 – 4 to learn all about this special project. This team will come to Hays on March 17 and train up to 20 more teens on how to carry out "Monarchs on the Move" activities. Each trained teen will be asked to reach out and lead the activities with 50 more youth in the months ahead.



To be considered for the [Training Team](#) (13 & older), complete the application and **return it to the Extension Office by January 5.** Interviews will follow soon after that. To be considered for the local [Teen Leadership Team](#) (12 & older), complete the application and **return it to the Extension Office by January 18.**

### SUPER 4-H SATURDAY Coming to Hays – March 10

March 10 is a day filled with great 4-H activities for the whole family! There will be 6 judging contests—Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Livestock & Photography for youth 7 - 18. You can judge at 1 or all of these great contests. There will be several workshops in the afternoon to help 4-H'ers explore project learning. There will be an awesome day-long NW leadership opportunity for adult volunteers at the same time. Watch for more info. as these activities are finalized.



### Citizenship in Action

**What:** Would you like to have more influence in laws and rules that affect your life? Then you'll want to go to Kansas 4-H Citizenship in Action! This two day event is sponsored by the State 4-H Youth Leadership Council. The purpose of the event is for Kansas youth to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in their local communities. The legislative visit will not only familiarize youth with the capitol building, but will also show them how they can affect the legislative process.

**When:** February 18 – 19, 2018

**Where:** Topeka, KS

**Who:** Youth 13-18 years old by January 1 of the current year

**Registration Deadline:** January 15, 2018

### 4-H Scholarships Due in Early 2018

Now's the time to start planning. You can apply for KS 4-H Scholarships and Ellis Co. 4-H Scholarships. **State scholarship apps are due January 26, 2018.**

Get an early start on your application for the [2018 Kansas 4-H Scholarship](#). A list of scholarships available to apply for will come out soon. The KS 4-H Scholarship requires a copy of your grade transcript, several letters of recommendation and an essay, so plan ahead! Any past 4-H member who is currently in college is eligible to apply for the KS 4-H scholarships. You are considered for all scholarships that you qualify for with one application.

Ellis Co. 4-H scholarship ap will be available soon. This year's process will also include an interview.



**ELLIS COUNTY FAIR 2018 is set for July 14 - 21, 2018.**

**The Theme is "Summer Days and Country Ways"**

### Ellis County Fair Volunteers Needed

We'll soon be sending out cards to ask for help with the County Fair. We have posted an on-line form that you can complete to let us know how you'd like to help. Older 4-H'ers and interested adults are encouraged to join our "team" in getting things ready for this year's Fair. [Here's the link to the on-line form.](#)

Once again, all clubs will be asked to recruit volunteers to help with a variety of jobs at the Fair, as well. Watch for that listing coming your way soon.

### Fair Award Sponsors Needed

The Ellis Co. Fairboard is seeking award sponsors. In order for a special award to be awarded in any given area, there must be a sponsor. **Contact Norleen Knoll by March 1** if you'd like to sponsor a special award. Sponsorships are listed in the Ellis Co. Fairbook and in several news releases/ads. The sponsorship form will soon be posted on our website. Check out the areas that are listed and think about helping sponsor a special award for the Fair.

### IFYE Host Family Applications Due February 1

It's not too early for families to apply to host 4-H International Exchange students next summer or fall. 4-H age kids from Japan, Norway, and Argentina will be hosted through States' 4-H International Exchange Programs. Young adults from Australia, Taiwan and several European countries will also need hosts for 2-4 weeks each. To be considered for all options, [applications are due February 1.](#)



Remember, **DEADLINES are DEADLINES** in **Ellis Co. 4-H**. Please pay attention to and respect those deadlines so that your child doesn't miss out on an opportunity!



K-State, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

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Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Ellis Co. Extension, 785-628-9430 or Michelle White-Godinet, Assistant Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, (TDD) 785-532-4807.