The holiday season always makes me a bit nostalgic and reminds my heart to be grateful.

Grateful to live where I can worship as I choose.

Grateful to have good health for family and friends and good healthcare when there are issues.

Grateful for a husband who supports my crazy schedule.

Grateful to work with co-workers who support and encourage each other.

Grateful to work in communities that I want to see thrive, not just survive.

Grateful to work with a youth program that teaches and encourages the next generations of community leaders.

Grateful for 4-H families who make time to provide opportunities for their children to grow, learn, and thrive!

Life is a Grand Adventure – Make every day count!
4-H IN THE NEWS

Achievement Banquet Highlights
The 85th 4-H Achievement Celebration was a great evening of celebration and recognition!

Dalton Dicks and Paige Koehn did a great job as Masters of Ceremonies and we appreciated Pastor Adam Wutka offering the invocation.

Special guests included Kansas legislators Alicia Straub and Troy Waymaster, and Cottonwood Extension Board member Deanna Essmiller.

Achievement pins were awarded and the Key Award was presented to Dalton Dicks. Heart of Kansas Camp counselors were recognized as well as Kansas State Fair judging teams.

Many thanks to the 4-H Council committee for their work decorating and providing snack cups.

In addition to door prizes for those in attendance, a drawing was held for members who had completed enrollment. Kylee Miessler and Landon Woydziak were winners of $15 gift certificates from 4-H Mall.

Friend of 4-H Award Winners

John and Kathy Reh

John and Kathy were nominated by the Ellinwood Energizers for their continued involvement with Shooting Sports. John became an instructor nearly 10 years ago after his daughter, Katelyn, enrolled in the program. He saw that Barton County needed more help and decided to get involved.

John loves helping kids learn about shooting and watching them improve. When John stepped up as lead instructor 6-7 years ago, Kathy also became involved to keep accounts and records up to date and organized which helps the instructors put their time and energy into teaching.

John and Kathy have continued to help with Shooting Sports after Katelyn was no longer involved in the program. They were an integral part of starting the small bore rifle and air pistol disciplines which provide an excellent opportunity for Barton County 4-H kids to expand their knowledge and skills.

Brenda Walton

In the Hoisington Jet’s nomination for Brenda, they noted that Brenda started with the Extension Office in 2013 with no knowledge of 4-H. She has worked hard learning the new 4-H enrollment systems and there have been three different ones in her time here. Brenda is always positive and helpful. She will always find the answer to your question. She works long hours during the fair to make sure everything is entered correctly and changes are made when needed. She makes sure all members get the information they need for upcoming events. She is so proud of the 4-H members’ accomplishments. Most of all, Brenda is always there to calm our parents when they are about to go crazy with all of the 4-H deadlines. She is an asset to Barton County 4-H and we don’t know where we would be without her.

Purple Seals

Clubs can apply for a purple seal each year based on their club’s activities and involvement.

Clubs receiving their Purple Seal during the Achievement Celebration are:

Barton County Horse Club
Ellinwood Energizers
Hoisington Jets
TLC Twisters

Well Done to these clubs!
Q1. Preparing for 4-H Club Day—what, when, how does my 4-H know what to do?

A1. 4-H Club Day is an opportunity for 4-H members to showcase their public speaking and presentation skills. It will be held Feb. 22 in Ellinwood. Be watching for the entry information in January. There are many resources available for selecting a topic, putting together a presentation, and speaking effectively. Call Michelle if you have questions. Entries will be due Feb. 5.

Q2. What is Junior Leaders?

A2. Junior Leaders is for youth 13-18 and enrolled in the Leadership Project. Junior Leaders meet every other month and learn about leadership in addition to having a short business meeting. Leader for Junior Leader is Melissa Woydziak so be sure and check in with her or Michelle if you have questions.

Q3. What is YQCA and do we need to attend?

A3. Youth Quality Care of Animals is an educational program covering Food Safety, Animal Wellbeing, and Life Skills. YQCA is required for all youth who plan to have an animal in the Barton County Fair Champion Auction (NEW for 2020—this includes rabbits and poultry!) as well as any who will exhibit livestock at the Kansas State Fair or Kansas Junior Livestock Show. This 60 minute course includes valuable information for any youth participating in animal projects. Two classes will be offered in Barton County (March 19 and May 26) as well as options for surrounding counties or online. There is a $3.00 fee for an on-site class or $12.00 for the online class. Watch for more information to come!
LEADERS’ CORNER

Leaders—a couple of your priorities in the next month include:

*Financial Reviews*—every organization that holds a financial account (club, 4-H council, Junior Leaders etc.) MUST provide a completed financial review form. The deadline for a completed form is Oct. 25. These will be presented to the Cottonwood Extension Board for review at the November or December meeting. Be sure these are completed timely as this can affect the status of your charter. [https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/employee_resources/forms/admin_forms/KSU4-3.pdf](https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/employee_resources/forms/admin_forms/KSU4-3.pdf) Thank you to each group who has made this a priority and completed their reviews. For those that were approved at the November Cottonwood Extension Board meeting, Michelle will leave an approved copy in your mail box.

*Recruiting and including new 4-H members*—does your club have a plan for recruiting new members? How do you include a potential or new member in meetings and activities?

*Teaching/Activity*—Including a project activity or training is a great way to introduce new project areas and give members an opportunity to learn and share! The Extension Office has curriculum on nearly every project area to check out for project learning.

Do you have a member with an interest in robotics or other areas of technology? Have them check out the Junk Drawer Robotics or Game Changers materials for a short hands-on activity. Teaching someone else is one of the best ways to learn something for yourself!

REGISTERED VOLUNTEER UPDATE!!!!

As Club/Project Leaders, including Ambassadors and Junior Leaders, making sure that we have adults provide a safe environment is crucial and Volunteer Screening is an important part! This year, you will update YOUR volunteer profile in 4-H Online as well as enrolling your 4-H member for the 2019-2020 year. For those who are due for their 3-year renewal, please address this immediately. Michelle will be reaching out to those who are due for 3-year rescreening with the link for the background check.

If you are a new leader who has not completed the background check, you will need to start the process with the 4-H Online enrollment and Michelle will follow up from there.

Please keep in mind the seriousness of having our volunteers screened as it can affect your status as a club/project leader.

Links to the process can be found on the New Family Resource Page or at [https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/volunteers/volunteer-screening-resources/Volunteer%20Screening%20Policy%20and%20Procedures%202019%20Final.pdf](https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/volunteers/volunteer-screening-resources/Volunteer%20Screening%20Policy%20and%20Procedures%202019%20Final.pdf)
Officer Training—How SWEET It Is!

As part of a combined effort with Cottonwood—Ellis County and Midway District, we had a great turnout for Officer Training on November 15! Members of FHSU Collegiate 4-H and several community members taught sessions on each officer position.

In addition, we had a short session on goal-setting and parents had an opportunity to work together to identify ideas and solutions.

2019-20 Ambassadors!

Luke Wondra  
Grace Hoskins  
Dinah Newman  
Alexa Straub  
Natalie Williams  
Hailey Hicks  
Dalton Dicks  
Kirsten Miessler  
Paige Koehn

Thank you for your time, energy, and enthusiasm for 4-H!
KYLF Update!

The Kansas Youth Leadership Forum was held Nov. 23-24 at Rock Springs Ranch. Leadership – A Jungle of Fun! to build leadership skills and potential through workshops, delegate groups, inspirational speakers and more.

Attending for Cottonwood-Barton were Alexa Straub (Kansas Youth Council member), Hailey Hicks, Paige Koehn, and Kirsten Miessler.

Livestock Committee update

The 4-H Livestock Committee met November 20 to elect officer and organize for the 2019-20 year.

Officers are:
President—Luke Wondra
Vice President—Dylan Ferguson
Secretary—Paige Koehn
Treasurer—Liam Profitt
Adult Advisers—Shane Dicks, Jennifer Ferguson

In addition to setting weigh-in and YQCA dates, they established committees and completed the 2018-19 financial review.
It was determined to add Rabbits and Poultry to those required to complete YQCA for participation in the County Fair Sale of Champions.

Important Cottonwood 4-H Policy Changes!!!

Based on recommendations from the 4-H Youth Development PDC, the Cottonwood Extension Board approved several changes to the 4-H policy for the district. This will be posted on the Cottonwood-Barton 4-H website in the near future.

1) Deadlines are deadlines; no 24-hour grace period. If a deadline falls on a weekend or legal holiday, the deadline is the end of the first business day following.

2) Re-enrollment must be completed by December 1 to participate in the county fair. New enrollments will be accepted until May 1 to participate in county fair. May 1 remains the deadline to add/change projects (unless a livestock project and 4-H member must be enrolled in that project prior to weigh in date.)

3) Out of County Participation will include requirements in addition to state requirements (state policy requires that both Extension Boards provide approval). These will include parents who are screened volunteers including the Code of Conduct; also a letter of good standing must be provided from the home county.

4) Financial Reviews must be completed and turned in to the Extension Office by Nov. 1

5) Transportation to events shall be the responsibility of each individual parent/club. Agents will assist and coordinate when possible.
UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Nov
23/24—KYLFF (Kansas Youth Leadership Forum/Kansas 4-H Volunteer Forum), Rock Springs Ranch
28/29—Cottonwood Extension Office closed - Happy Thanksgiving

Dec
1—DEADLINE for re-enrollment (to participate in the Barton Co Fair)
24/25—Cottonwood Extension Office closed—Merry Christmas

Jan
20—Junior Leaders Meeting, 6 pm
20—4-H Council 7:30 pm

Feb
22—4-H Club Day, Ellinwood
24—Livestock Committee Meeting
29—Beef weigh-in
29—Beef Junior Producer Day, KSU

Mar
14—Sheep Junior Producer Day, KSU
19—YQCA at 3:30

April

May
1—DEADLINE for enrollment/changes
1—Beef nomination/DNA due for KSF and KJLS
26—YQCA at 5:30

June
15—Goat, Sheep, Swine deadline/DNA due for KSF and KJLS

July
8-12—Barton County Fair