



**COTTONWOOD DISTRICT – BARTON
4-H NEWSLETTER
April—May 2025**

The last couple of months have been very busy!

We had a great day at the livestock clinic.

We had a great turnout for county and regional club day!

I had the opportunity to work with well over 100 youth across Kansas for the NW 4-H Super Saturday!

We had a very interactive Organizational Leaders meeting.

I presented at all 5 USD 428 grade schools for GBReads and for several classes at Hoisington Middle School.

I've had more meetings—livestock, junior leaders, 4-H Council, 4-H Holding Board, and Barton County Fair Association.

In each of these interactions, I always look for ways to connect with youth and families. Do I get it right 100% of the time? No, but my head, heart, and hands are always focused on providing the best opportunity that I can for youth.

I saw a quote recently on a social media page that I follow and it really hit home for me.

“A careless word may kindle strife. A cruel word may wreck a life. A timely word may level stress. But a loving word may heal and bless.” Anonymous

May my words (and actions) be timely and loving. As we move into spring/summer activities, farm/ranch work, and fair preparation, may we all stop and take a deep breath to consider how our words may impact others.

Life is a Grand Adventure – Make every day count!

Michelle Beran





Family Resource Page



- May 2 Fair t-shirt order deadline (by club; independent members please email with your order by 5.2 also)
- May 21 YQCA, 5:30-6:30
- May 23 Foods Workshop 10-12
- June 6 Fair entries, fashion review scripts (and related paperwork) by 5 pm
- June 6 YQCA completion by midnight to participate in premium auction

*JUNE 25-29 2025 Barton County Fair **Barnyard Mardi Gras!***

4-H ONLY **Tentative** Fair Schedule:

- Sat, 6.21 Sewing/Textiles, Shopping In Style, Fashion Revue, Fiber Arts, Banner judging
8:30 am—Expo I
- Sun, 6.22 Dog Show
2 pm—Expo III
- Mon, 6.23 Set Up?
- Tues, 6.24 ???
- Wed, 6.25 8-12 Check in all exhibits, Judging begins for Foods, Arts/Crafts, Cloverbuds, Rabbits/Poultry
American Ag Credit BBQ for 4-H families followed by Livestock Meeting & Youth Rally (Youth Rally is open to ALL youth so bring a friend!)
- Thurs, 6.26 Business Appreciation Breakfast—4-H families are invited to visit with members of the public who attend (much like a Chamber Coffee)
Swine Show, Horse halter classes, Bucket Calf show, judging of Horticulture, Crops, Photography, Engineering/Tech and LOTS of other categories!
- Fri, 6.27 Dairy goats, Meat goats, Sheep shows, Beef show
- Sat, 6.28 Horse show, Hand pets, Fashion Revue, 4-H Takes the Stage (present your demonstration, reading, music selection, and more to showcase 4-H!)
- Sun, 6.29 Sunrise Service, 4-H Holding Board Breakfast for 4-H families??, Small Animal Round Robin, Large Animal Round Robin, 4-H Awards, Sale of Champions

**We will send out Sign-Up Genius links after entries are complete for judging times for most categories. Additionally, we'll add several events, such as the American Ag BBQ, Youth Rally, etc. to the Facebook page—be sure to watch for these and sign up to receive reminders.

4-H Club Regional Results

Show & Share – Hunter Johnson, Green
Show & Share – Catarina Debes, Green
Show & Share – Coy Prosser, Green
Project Talk – George Debes, Purple & Regional Qualified
Project Talk – Maggie Kern, Purple & Regional Qualified
Project Talk – Everett Negaard, Blue
JR Demo/Illustrated – Emaline Debes, Purple & Regional Qualified
JR Demo/Illustrated – Ensley Vaupel, Purple & Regional Qualified
JR Demo/Illustrated – Brantley Edgerton, Blue (Regional 1st Alternate)
JR Demo/Illustrated – Breckynn Edgerton, Blue (Regional 2nd Alternate)
JR Demo/Illustrated – Austyn Prosser, Blue
JR Demo/Illustrated – Clementyne Norris, Blue
JR Demo/Illustrated – Brady Fanshier, Blue
Piano – Chloe Vaupel, Purple & Regional Qualified
Piano – Cora Calcara, Blue (Regional 1st Alternate)
Piano – Ensley Vaupel, Blue (Regional 2nd Alternate)
Piano – Amber Ochs, Red
Instrumental solo – Ailey Williams, Purple & Regional Qualified
Instrumental solo – DJ Wyant, Blue (Regional 1st Alternate)
Instrumental ensemble – Kylie McCormick/Ailey Williams, Purple & Regional Qualified
SR Demo/Illustrated – Adessa Prosser, Purple & Regional Qualified
SR Demo/Illustrated – Samantha Negaard, Purple & Regional Qualified
SR Demo/Illustrated – Brogan Edgerton, Blue (Regional 1st Alternate)
SR Demo/Illustrated – Ailey Williams, Blue (Regional 2nd Alternate)
Public Speaking – Russell Kern, Purple & Regional Qualified
Extemporaneous – Ailey Williams, Purple & Regional Qualified
Extemporaneous – Melody Braddy, Blue (Regional 1st Alternate)
Extemporaneous – Kiera Wyant, Blue (Regional 2nd Alternate)
ARI – Jonas Kern, Purple & Regional Qualified
ARI – Ailey Williams, Blue (Regional 1st Alternate)
Club Skit – Cow Creek, Purple & Regional Qualified
Club Skit – Ellinwood Energizers, Blue (Regional 1st Alternate)
Club Skit – Hoisington Jets, Blue (Regional 2nd Alternate)
Club Skit – Busy Buzzers, Blue
JR Reading – Clementyne Norris, Red
SR Reading – Ailey Williams, Purple & Regional Qualified
SR Reading – Willow Braddy, Blue (Regional 1st Alternate)
SR Reading – Kaelynn Axman, Blue
SR Reading – Jillian Axman, Blue
SR Reading – Kaisha Woydziak, Red
Dance – Elizabeth Martin, Purple & Regional Qualified

Any participants receiving a PURPLE ribbon at Barton 4-H Club Day in Project Talks, Demonstrations/ Illustrated Talks, Public Speaking, and Reading are eligible to exhibit at the Kansas State Fair in the Public Presentations!

Safe Tractor & Machinery Operation Training

This program is a collaboration with K-State Research and Extension Districts: Post Rock, Midway, Cottonwood, CKD, and River Valley.

The National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP) is designed for 14- and 15-year-olds seeking employment in production agriculture.

Core content areas include:

- Safety basics, Agricultural hazards, Tractors, Connecting and using implements, Materials handling, and more.

Students are certified after successfully passing a 50-question test at the training and doing both an operating skills test and a driving test administered by the employer.

2025 Course Dates, Locations, & Contact Info

April 5th – Ellsworth, KS

Carrico Implement

Craig Dinkel: cadinkel@ksu.edu or 785-472-4442

April 26th – Beloit, KS

Carrico Implement

Blaire Todd: blairet@ksu.edu or 785-738-3597

May 10th – Washington, KS

Bruna Implement Company

Luke Byers: lsbyers@ksu.edu or 785-632-5335

May 22rd – Solomon, KS

KanEquip, Inc.

Justine Johns: jwh04@ksu.edu or 785-392-2147

Scan to register!



SIGN UP: Visit

<https://bit.ly/tractorsafety2025>, scan QR code,
or call an agent listed below!

MANUAL COST: \$15 – Pick up at your local
Extension Office

BRING: Your course manual and enrollment
form. Pay and pick up your course manual at
your local Extension Office. Please pick up
your manual at least 4 days PRIOR to the
course.



K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact Justine Johns two weeks prior to the start of the event at (785-392-2147). Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

Regional Club Day Results

Project Talk:

Maggie Kern—B; George Debes— B

Jr Demo/Illustrated Talk:

Ema Debes— P; Ensley Vaupel-P

Sr Demo/Illustrated Talk:

Adessa Prosser-B; Samantha Negaard-P

Extemporaneous/Public Speaking/ARI:

Jonas Kern (ARI)-P; Ailey Williams (EXT)-P

Talent:

Cow Creek skit-B; Elizabeth Martin (dance)-B

Music:

Chloe Vaupel (piano)-B; Ailey Williams (instrumental)-P;

Kylie McCormick/Ailey Williams (instrumental duet)-B



Remember—if you had a purple in most categories at 4-H Club Day (local), you are eligible to present at the Kansas State Fair! We'll include more information around KSF entry time.

These include:

Project Talk—George Debes, Maggie Kern

Jr Demo/Illustrated—Ema Debes, Ensley Vaupel

Sr Demo/Illustrated—Adessa Prosser, Samantha Negaard



National Volunteer Week—April 20-26

First, **THANK YOU** to each and every club leader, project leader, parent who steps in to help, fair superintendent! We couldn't reach the youth across our county without your energy, enthusiasm, and knowledge!

4-H Members—I challenge you to send me a short note (1-2 paragraphs) about a volunteer who has been influential or helpful in your 4-H world. Please send to me by **April 16** so that we can highlight on our Cottonwood Extension District Facebook page. Also let me know if you would like your name listed by first name/last initial, initials only, full name, or anonymous.



Livestock Clinic

The 4-H Livestock Clinic was held on March 9 with a great turnout!

Presenter Avery Leach covered show ring etiquette, feeding and handling, and some basics of fitting for beef, meat goats, sheep, and swine.

Presenter Brandon Ochs shared basics of livestock judging. Callie Ochs followed up on this presentation by competing in livestock judging at the 4-H Super Saturday event in Colby on March 22!

Ryli Ryff was the winner of the \$25 Tractor Supply gift card (donated by Craig/Michelle Beran).

Many thanks to families who brought livestock for this learning opportunity and each youth who participated! Be sure to add this to your Project Record under "Learning Opportunities".

Junior Leader Trip!

A group of Junior Leaders took a trip to Colorado Springs over spring break. We rented a house and each took turns planning and making breakfast for the group. We did many activities including rock climbing, a lantern tour at Cave of the Winds, a hike at Garden of the Gods, and we explored downtown Manitou Springs. We ended our trip with a murder mystery dinner theater, where our very own Jonas Kern got to reenact the murder while Willow Braddy and Kiera Wyant provided the sounds of the crime scene. We had a great time!



National 4-H Conference

Be on the lookout for Facebook posts from Melody Braddy and Michelle as they journey to Arlington VA and Washington DC in mid-April for the National 4-H Conference!

Youth delegates are assigned to one of 22 Challenge Questions. The delegates have pre-work and will work for two days in roundtable discussions to prepare a presentation for the assigned federal agency partner. The roundtable experience provides young people an opportunity to think critically about current issues, investigate and discuss the agency's current efforts, provide a youth perspective, and recommend new ideas to bring about positive change.

Melody is assigned to the Youth Mental Health team and will assist in preparing a Youth Perspective Briefing for the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control. Michelle and another Kansas delegate are assigned to the Supporting Teens and Reducing Barriers. The delegates will be prepare a briefing for the US Department of Defense.



Foods and Nutrition Workshops

Nov 27 - Butterhorn Rolls
Dec 30 - New Years Cookies/Fried Dough
March 17 - St.Patricks Theme
May 23 - Pie Bites

Plus food science experiments at each meeting

Registration Link:
https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4VOs6kkAsnVzLJY

Meet at Barton County Extension Office
10am-12pm

K-STATE Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

There is still time to sign up for the LAST cooking sessions hosted by Russell Kern!

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4VOs6kkAsnVzLJY

Remaining session:

May 23



LEADERS' CORNER



CLUB LEADERS—It is very important that you set up a Volunteer Profile in 4-H Online and verify that you have completed the volunteer training in 4-H Online! This helps us manage volunteer resources, training, and certification. Please remember that in order for a 4-H Club to be in good standing you must have TWO leaders who have current 4-H volunteer certification. As we began the new 4-H year on Oct. 1, please complete your paperwork as well as working with 4-H families!



Please visit with your club's 4-H Council Representatives so that they are aware of their role and responsibility to attend 4-H Council and fulfill their elected duties. They serve as the conduit of information between the club and the county-wide 4-H Council. Council members are also expected to serve on at least one committee.



4-H Council committee roles can be fulfilled by members outside of Council representatives. If you have a club member with an interest in serving on the Achievement Celebration, Fundraising, or 4-H Day committees, please let Michelle know as this can be a great leadership role for older 4-H members.

How can you help your club members follow up from 4-H Club Day?



- 1) CELEBRATE all participants!
- 2) Add a role call question about something they learned about Club Day or presentations.



Project Records—Have everyone bring their Goal Setting Sheets and Project Records to your next meeting! Check on updates, upcoming opportunities—this can be fun and interactive; maybe toss out a piece of candy for updates? This is a great time to update from community service over the holidays to project learning to participation at 4-H Club Day!

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/index.html>

Project Record—Next Steps

Review Project Goals

Using the goal setting sheet (https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/download/setting-4-h-project-goals_4H1100) is a great way to stay on track during your project year!

Keep in mind that winning Grand Champion or a purple ribbon is not a goal. Goals should be SMART: **Specific** (bake a cake), **Measurable** (understand and improve the texture of my cake), **Achievable** (I can do this myself or with help from a family member); **Relevant** (I am enrolled in the Foods & Nutrition project); **Timely** (one/week in Feb-May)

What to update now?

This is a great time to review your project records and update based on club meetings/activities such as Community Service; project learning such as a workshop, day in the kitchen or at a livestock sale; or participation such as presenting or volunteering at 4-H Club Day!

Project Record Planning

To have a successful Project Record, what do you need to add?

A learning opportunity? Think about upcoming events such as Shutterbugs, Insect Spectacular, or a state 4-H Geology trip. It could also mean a trip to shop for wardrobe essentials or check out different fabrics and fibers.

Community Service? Do you love the Foods project AND the Dog project? You might be able to combine those things by baking dog treats and donating any profits to a local rescue. Or you might contribute to a bake sale that benefits a local shelter.

Remember, 4-H Projects are about MUCH more than a fair entry!

https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/download/4-h-project-more-than-a-fair-entry_4H1132

Junior Leaders

April 21

6 pm

4-H Council

April 21

7:30 pm

Council committees meet before the meeting or at 7 pm on meeting nights or may schedule meetings at other times.

Meetings are held at the 4-H Education Building (Hwy 281) OR Zoom Conference Call

New schedule—4-H Council determined at 8.16.24 meeting to meet on the following dates: Oct 21, Dec 16, Feb 17, Apr 21, and Aug 18. This is a **CHANGE** but minimizes meetings on holidays and for more efficient business at the beginning of the 4-H year.



**COMPASSION
GROWS HERE.**

Kansas 4-H programs help kids grow into confident, capable and caring adults. Give your child the skills to lead for a lifetime.

Visit www.Kansas4-H.org

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Stay in touch with Cottonwood Extension District—Barton 4-H

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620-793-1910



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Barton County 4-H Members