



**COTTONWOOD DISTRICT – BARTON
4-H NEWSLETTER
Aug-Sept 2025**

EXCITING NEWS!! The Cottonwood Extension District is pleased to announce the hiring of Ben Sims as the new K-State Extension 4-H Youth Development Agent for Barton County, effective September 15, 2025.

Ben brings a strong background in agriculture, youth development, and Extension work. Originally from Missouri, Ben credits 4-H with shaping him into the confident, service-oriented professional he is today. “As a shy youth, the 4-H program played an integral role in my personal development,” Sims said. “I found purpose helping younger members grow through local, regional, and state 4-H events.”

Ben earned his B.S. in Animal Science from College of the Ozarks and is currently pursuing a M.S. in Agribusiness and Professional Business Administration at Kansas State University, along with a graduate certificate in Leadership Dynamics for Adult Learners.

Ben’s professional journey includes experience with Trans Ova Genetics, Merck Animal Health, and the K-State Dairy Teaching & Research Unit, all of which deepened his commitment to teamwork, clear communication, and agricultural education. Most recently, he served as the 4-H Youth Development and Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent for Greenwood County, where he excelled in program planning, volunteer coordination, and youth outreach.

“Working in Extension has meant a lot to me,” Sims shared. “I’m passionate about helping youth develop into confident, contributing members of society and supporting the volunteers who guide them.”

Ben’s involvement in professional development and Extension committees at the state level reflects his commitment to continuous learning and service to others. His leadership and Extension experience make him a valuable asset to the Cottonwood Extension District.

Please join us in welcoming Ben Sims to Barton County and the Cottonwood District team! Beginning September 15, Ben can be reached at benjam63@ksu.edu or 620-793-1910.

Life is a Grand Adventure – Make every day count!





Family Resource Page



- Aug 8 KSF entries due to Extension Office by 5 pm (see Pg 6 for more info)
- Sept 3 All KSF entries to Extension office by 5 pm (expect foods & horticulture which may be dropped off by 7:30 AM on Sept 4)
- Sept 5-14 Kansas State Fair
- Oct 3 Project Record Books due
- Oct 3 Achievement Pin applications due
- Oct 10 Updated officer/leader sheets due
- Oct 10 Club Summary due (Club Seal application)
- Financial Records due



Home Baking Association

Providing Tools and Knowledge to Perpetuate Generations of Home Bakers

Every year, the Home Baking Association proudly recognizes individuals who are making a meaningful impact through baking education and community service. Our annual awards shine a spotlight on both seasoned educators and youth leaders who are using baking to teach valuable life skills, inspire creativity, and build stronger communities. Whether it's in a classroom, community kitchen, or 4-H meeting hall, these award winners exemplify the power of baking to nurture minds and connect people of all ages.

To learn more about this prestigious award and Russell's project, check out the [LINK](#).



CONGRATULATIONS RUSSELL!



State Fair Qualifying Entries

Elizabeth Martin

Pick **ONE** Photography Entry

PH 2403 - Color Enlargement

Austyn Prosser

Pick **ONE** Photography Entry

PH 2403 - Color Enlargement

PH 2404 - Black & White Enlargement

Ensley Vaupel

CL 1105 - Constructed Garment

FR 1260 - Constructed Garment

PH 2403 - Color Enlargement

Payten Brabb

DO 1237 - Agility

Brantley Edgerton

FR 1285 - Shop In Style (Casual)

FD 3603 - Non-Perishable

PH 2408 - Color Enlargement

Hudson Gatton

FD 3603 - Non-Perishable

RO 5555 - Welding Artistic Fab

Cole Nokes

FD 3603 - Non-Perishable

Owen Norris

HT 1611 - Beets, plate of 5

Jackson Devorss

GE 1361 - 30 Rock Display

Eleanor Perron

HT 1637 - Perennial Flowers, single stem

Raquel Guerra

FD 3606 - Non-Perishable

FO 1362 - Intermediate Leaf Exhibit

GE 1362 - 45 Rock Display

WW 3101 - Lawn or Household Furniture

Ellie McKenna

FA 3203 - Needle Arts

FA 3207 - Weaving

Emaline Debes

ID 4402 - 2 Diorama Model

PH 2408 - Color Enlargement

RB 1707 - Pre-Junior Doe

WL 5402 - Educational Display

Brady Karlin

FD 3603 - Non-Perishable

FO 1350 - Beginning: Exhibit Leaves

PH 2408 - Color Enlargement

Everett Negaard

FD 3603 - Non-Perishable

PH 2408 - Color Enlargement

RO 5722 - STEM Ed Poster

Emmett Salem

PT 1600 - Standard

PT 1607 - Ducks

RO 5555 - Welding Artistic Fab

Maggie Kern

CL 1105 - Constructed Garment

FD 3603 - Non-Perishable

FD 4350 - Sweet Spreads

FO 1362 - Intermediate Leaf Exhibit

GE 1362 - 45 Rock Display

WW 3101 - Lawn or Household Furniture

Lilly Ann Linsner

HT 1609 - Green Snap Beans

Kaleigh Reinert

PT 1600 - Standard

RB 1701 - Senior Doe

Eden Ringwald

CL 1110 - Constructed Garment
FD 3606 - Non-Perishable
FR 1261 - Constructed Garment
FR 1270 - Shop in Style (Casual)
FR 1271 - Shop in Style (Formal)

Willow Braddy

*Pick **ONE** Photography Entry*

FD 3606 - Non-Perishable
FR 1271 - Shop in Style (Formal)
PH 2408 - Color Enlargement
PH 2409 - Black & White Enlargement

Addie Broeder

PH 2408 - Color Enlargement

Brogan Edgerton

FR 1285 - Shop in Style (Casual)
WW 3102 - Other Woodwork

Amber Ochs

FD 3606 - Non-Perishable

Callie Ochs

FD 3606 - Non-Perishable

Emmalynn Perron

*Pick **ONE** Photography Entry*

PH 2408 - Color Enlargement
PH 2409 - Black & White Enlargement

Leah Steffan

FR 1271 - Shop in Style (Formal)

Kylee Miessler

PH 2411 - Color Enlargement

Hunter Trower

PH 2408 - Color Enlargement

Kolten Brabb

PH 2408 - Color Enlargement
WW 3101 - Lawn or Household Furniture

Aliza Straub

*Pick **ONE** Photography Entry*

PH 2408 - Color Enlargement
PH 2409 - Black & White Enlargement
FA 3202 - Knitting
FR 1261 - Constructed Garment
FR 1270 - Shop in Style (Casual)
FR 1271 - Shop in Style (Formal)
HT 1630 - Fresh Culinary Herbs

Chloe Vaupel

*Pick **ONE** Photography Entry*

CL 1110 - Constructed Garment
FD 3606 - Non-Perishable
FR 1261 - Constructed Garment
PH 2408 - Color Enlargement
PH 2409 - Black & White Enlargement

Kaisha Woydziak

FR 1270 - Shop in Style (Casual)

Callie Loesch

*Pick **ONE** Photography Entry*

PH 2411 - Color Enlargement
PH 2412 - Black & White Enlargement

Samantha Negaard

FA 3203 - Needle Arts
FR 1276 - Shop in Style (Formal)
PH 2411 - Color Enlargement

Avery Panning

RB 1700 - Senior Buck

Kiera Wyant

PT 1600 - Standard
RB 1701 - Senior Doe
RB 1701 - Senior Doe
RB 1701 - Senior Doe

Teegan Guerra

FD 3609 - Non-Perishable

Russell Kern

EM 1300 - AC Electric Projects

FD 3610 - Educational Exhibit

FD 4353 - Pickles and Relishes

FD 4355 - Meats

GE 1363 - 60 Rock Display

WW 3102 - Other Woodwork

Adessa Prosser

PH 2412 - Black & White Enlargement

DJ Wyant

RB 1700 - Senior Buck

RB 1700 - Senior Buck

RB 1700 - Senior Buck

RO 5525 - Rockets from Kit

RO 5525 - Rockets from Kit

Melody Braddy

FD 3609 - Non-Perishable

FR 1275 - Shop in Style (Casual)

PH 2411 - Color Enlargement

PH 2412 - Black & White Enlargement

Kassie Linsner

FA 3202 - Knitting

Jordan Ochs

FD 3609 - Non-Perishable

Grey Ringwald

FD 3609 - Non-Perishable

Jillian Axman

PH 2411 - Color Enlargement

Sadie Fry

PT 1600 - Standard

PT 1619 - Trio (male/two female same bird)

Jonas Kern

*Pick **ONE** Photography Entry*

FA 3201 - Crochet

PH 2411 - Color Enlargement

PH 2412 - Black & White Enlargement

Analeah Ochs

FD 3609 - Non-Perishable

Mikayla Watts

*Pick **ONE** Photography Entry*

PH 2411 - Color Enlargement

PH 2412 - Black & White Enlargement

Kylie McCormick

DO 1240 - Agility

FD 3609 - Non-Perishable

Ailey Williams

FA 3201 - Crochet

FA 3203 - Needle Arts

FD 3609 - Non-Perishable

FR 1276 - Shop in Style (Formal)

VISUAL ARTS ENTRIES

Fine Arts—Kaelynn Axman (watercolor tulips)

Alternate—Ellie McKenna (Oil Pastel Duck)

Clay/Ceramics—Ella Nokes (eye bowl)

Alternate—Emmalynn Perron (clay mermaid)

Leather/Jewelry—Kaisha Woydziak (silver/blue necklace)

Alternate—Brogan Edgerton (leather collar)

Three-Dimensional—Emmalynn Perron (bike wreath)

Alternate—Aliza Straub (antler stand)

General Crafts—Jackson DeVorss (Candle)

Alternate – Aliza Straub (seashell wall hanging)



State Fair Information: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/fair-resources/kansas-state-fair/docs/2025/2025%20Clean%20Fairbook%203.25.25.pdf>

We have KSF entry forms in the office OR you can access one at:

<https://cottonwood.k-state.edu/barton-county4h/2021%20KSFAIREntryCollectionSheetwithDataEntry%20Fields-%20Final%20a.pdf>

Additional Forms you may need are:

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/fair-resources/kansas-state-fair/docs/fashion-revue/Scorecard%20CostPerWear%20Form.pdf> (Your script must be turned in with the entry as this must be uploaded with the entry information)

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/fair-resources/kansas-state-fair/docs/communications/Communication%20Entry%20Collection%20Form.pdf>

State Fair Deadlines:

Horses— August 1

Dairy Goats—entered via KSF system in Open Class (see fair book for more information)

Static Entries (everything else!), Poultry, Rabbits, Dog - **August 8 by 5 pm**

****BY August 8, notify Michelle if you are interested in participating in a judging contest. Top scores from those available will be selected for teams for FCS Judging, Photography Judging, Rabbit Judging, or Poultry Judging. More information about these contests, including preparation, is in the KSF Handbook linked above.**

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

Reading—Ailey Williams

Public Speaking—Russell Kern

LEADERS' CORNER



CLUB LEADERS—

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.



Club Leaders—now is the time to consider additional leadership for your club. Club Leaders must be approved volunteers and this process can take 3-4 months. Please let Michelle if you have questions or need additional information .



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 think about summer activities that need to be included in a Project Record. Are they missing a photo for the record? Now is a great time to work on those!

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



Are you interested in serving as a Project Leader or know a community member who would be great to share their knowledge and skills with 4-H members? Project Leaders must be approved volunteers and we'd love to add quite a few to our list. Please let Michelle know so that we can get this process started to have a great list by early October.

Junior Leaders

August 18

6 pm

4-H Council

August 18

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.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

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

www.cottonwood.ksu.edu

620-793-1910



K-State Research and Extension—Cottonwood Extension District

Barton County 4-H Members