Hey 4-H Families!

Summer is almost upon us. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at events this summer. We are moving forward with plans for the County Fair. There will some things that are not 100% back to normal, but many things will be similar to what you’ve experienced pre-2020.

**May 1 is an important date in the 4-H year.** It’s the date that you need to be enrolled in any and all projects you plan to take to the Ellis Co. Fair. Be sure to take time now to review the projects you are enrolled in and make sure it reflects those areas you are working on project learning in at this time. **Your projects don’t just “roll over” from year to year,** you have to make selections. This is especially important if you are moving from being a Cloverbud where you don’t declare projects to becoming a regular member. **You must have those projects selected by May 1.**

The Ellis Co. Fairbook is now posted on-line at [www.cottonwood.ksu.edu](http://www.cottonwood.ksu.edu). Check it out! It’s your guide to exhibit categories for each of the project areas. You will receive a printed copy of the fairbook in the near future. Thank the Fairboard for providing these handy references to us!

As always, if you have questions, don’t hesitate to give us a call! Come join the fun and learning!

Yours in 4-H,

*Susan Schlichting*
Susan Schlichting
District Extension Agent – 4-H Youth Development

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**Meetings Coming Your Way**

- **4-H Scholarship & Development** – May 4, 6:00 p.m. Zoom
- **Home Ec, BBQ, Foodstand & Subcommittees** – Watch for a Doodle Poll Coming Soon

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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

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**IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO NOTE**

- **April 28** – Livestock tags purchased and animals tagged before weigh-in
- **April 28** – Bucket Calf, Feeder Calf & Commercial Breeding Heifer forms due in Ext. Office
- **April 30** – Heart of KS 4-H Camp Registrations Due
- **May 1** – Last Day to Make Changes to Your 4-H Enrollment for 2021
- **May 1** – 4-H Horse ID Papers Due in Ext. Office
- **May 1** – Registered Breeding Livestock in name of 4-H’er
- **May 5** – Enroll in 3-2-1 Blast Off Classes through the local REC
- **May 15** – Campference & Discovery Days Registrations Due
- **June 15** – Small Livestock & Commercial Breeding Heifer Nominations due in State Office

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**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! We do offer many ways for you to contact our office. See below.

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**4-H On-line Enrollment**

Hopefully by now, you have gone on and completed your family profile and enrolled your members on-line. Remember, you can make changes to your enrollments until May 1. **Your enrollment is not final until you have successfully paid the $15 fee.**
Congrats to Graduating Seniors.


A Special Congratulations to those 4-H Seniors receiving 4-H scholarships in 2021!

Ean Dexter, Anna Kuhn, Kaleb Neher, Nic Park, Konnor Pfeifer and Monique William.

It is our plan to honor these scholarship recipients at their school academic award programs and at the 4-H Fashion Revue this summer.

Congrats to Ellis Co. 4-H’ers representing us at the Regional 4-H Day virtual event. There were several TOP Blues! Check out the results.

4-H Fundraising Opportunity – Wheat Plot Tour Meal

Each year we hold and conduct a county wheat plot tour/field day. This year it will held on Tuesday, May 25th, beginning at 6 p.m. a few miles N. of Victoria. After the field day we come into Victoria at the city park and have supper. Any 4-H club in the county can throw their clubs name in the hat to prepare and serve the meal. I go out and get the donations and the 4-H club will receive the donated money after the event. The meal has generally consisted of grilled hamburgers, brats with the condiments, pickles, onions, chips, beans or potato salad, a dessert, water, tea, and lemonade (optional). There is no RSVP to attend, so I will give the club an estimated head count. So far, we have never run out of food.

If your club is interested in doing this for a fund-raiser, please let Theresa know by May 17th. If you have any questions feel free to ask me or Theresa for any further details.

Covid 19 & 4-H ACTIVITIES

At this time all face-to-face events are starting to get back to more of a “normal” approach. There are K-State guidelines that 4-H clubs and all Extension program are required to follow. You can find those here. Check our website cottonwood.ksu.edu and our facebook pages for the latest in changes.

4-H Meat Poultry Project

Thanks to Orscheln’s for once again donating chicks for the 4-H meat poultry project. If you’d like to participate in this fun project, you need to do 2 things. Make sure you are enrolled in the Poultry project on-line by May 1 AND call and talk to Theresa (785-628-9430) to register your participation in this project by NOON on Friday, May 7. No emails, text messages, voicemails. You need to talk directly to Theresa to ensure you will receive chicks!

Small Livestock Weigh-in is Wednesday, April 28, 6 – 8 p.m.

If you’re planning to show Feeder Calves, Meat Goats, Sheep or Swine at this year’s Ellis County Fair, make plans now to get your official 4-H tags and tag your project animals before the weigh-in at the Fairgrounds. Swine will continue to have to option to weigh or have their tags visually inspected. The Ellis Co. Spring Livestock Show has been set as an alternate weigh-in date on Sunday, May 2, 7 – 9 a.m. Please call our office to let us know if you plan to use the alternate date. Remember, you need to be enrolled in the Market livestock project by Wednesday, April 28. (Check your on-line enrollments)

Livestock Deadlines for Kansas State Fair and Kansas Jr. Livestock Show Participation

May 1 — All Market Steer/Heifer nominations for the KSF and KJLS are due in Manhattan.

June 15 — All Commercial Heifer, Sheep, Swine & Meat Goat nominations for KSF and KJLS are due in Manhattan.

For State Shows, you will need to make an appointment with Stacy or Susan to come and visually check the tags in the animal’s ear prior to nomination. Please plan ahead!

Bucket Calf and Commercial Breeding Heifer Photo ID

Don’t forget to purchase your official 4-H EID tag and snap several photos of the project animal – 1 - with the tag visible in its ear, 2 – with the 4-H member, 3 – full view of animal with any special identifying marks. These are submitted to the Extension Office by April 28.

Bucket Calf Photo ID Form

Commercial Breeding Heifer Photo ID Form
Ellis County Spring Livestock Show – Sunday, May 2

Here’s a new series for those of you wanting to learn more about raising pigs. “Quality Matters” is coming up May 10 @ 6:30 p.m. Learn basic swine health, disease prevention, skin and hair management and daily care practices from leading experts in the Swine Industry. This session is FREE and open to ANYONE! Register by Thursday, May 6. [https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3KTQdZK1nrHo9B](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3KTQdZK1nrHo9B)

4-H HORSE ID PAPERS ARE DUE MAY 1
Horse ID papers are available at the Extension Office or on line at [kansas4-h.org](http://kansas4-h.org). You have to have these papers completed and on file with our office by May 1 in order to show at 4-H sanctioned horse shows. Now’s the time to get the photos taken and the forms filed with the Extension Office.

District Horse Shows in 2021
The Northwest District Horse Show is set for July 8. More information as it becomes available.

4-H Horse Level Testing
The Level 1 Achievement test is required for all youth to participate in District and State Horse Shows. Online/video levels testing will be accepted again this year. Learn more and prepare for the Level 1 tests, visit the 4-H Horse Project page.

4-H Horse Rule Book Updated
If you are planning to participate in a 4-H Horse Show this year, you’ll want to check out the updated 4-H Horse Show Rule book.

Cat Proof of Vaccination for County Fair
Cats & kittens (over 2 months of age) shown at the Ellis Co. Fair must be current on rabies and distemper vaccinations. Be prepared to provide proof of vaccination at show check in.

ELLIS COUNTY FAIR is set for July 10 - 17, 2021
The Theme is “Ellis County Fair Safari – It’s a Jungle Out There!”

Ellis County Fair Volunteers Needed
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. Click the link above to let us know how you’d like to be involved in this year’s Ellis County Fair.

Fair Pride Projects
What can your club do to help make our Fairgrounds a place to be proud of?? If you have an idea let us know and we’ll share it with the fairboard. Every club will be asked to do some kind of project during 2021. There’s lots of painting to be done. Check with the Fairboard to schedule your project and get the needed supplies to complete your project.

Are you ready for VIRTUAL Discovery Days? Put June 1 – 4, 2021 on your calendar to join Kansas 4-H teens for this unique event. Registration is open now through May 15. Cost is $35.
Campference
Too old to go to 4-H Camp, but you love camp? Campference is for YOU! It’s held at Rock Springs, June 27 – 30. Campference is a cross between Camp and a Leadership Conference for 12 – 14-year-old 4-H members. Registration is open now on the State 4-H website and closes May 15. Register quickly, as spaces fill quickly. There’s been a long waiting list the last 3 years! Don’t miss out!

4-H Geology Fieldtrips in 2021
If you’re interested in learning more about the geology project, then joining a geology field trip is a great place to start. The state 4-H Action team has 3-day trips planned in 2021. June 12 – Western Kansas – Smoky Hills; June 19th – Southeast Kansas; June 26th – Central Kansas. Visit the 4-H Geology page to learn more about how to get involved.

4-H Shutterbug Events in May
Are you a 4-H Photography member? The state 4-H Action team is planning several great events in the next couple of weekends.

Shutterbugs at Botanica is held in Wichita, Saturday, May 1. Shutterbugs at Wichita Botanica will begin at 9:15am. There is an admission fee for each family member. Short 30-minute workshops will be held from 9:15am until Noon (closing). Admission is good for the entire day and families are encouraged to spend the afternoon using cameras to record images using skills learned in the morning.

Shutterbugs at the Zoo is held in Garden City, Saturday, May 8. Shutterbugs at the Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City will open for registration on 8:30am in the Finnup Center for Conservation Education. Admission is $5.00 per family member age 6 and up with a maximum charge per family of $20. Workshops will be held on the half and whole hours with the last starting at 11:30am.

Photo Adventures Day Camp – Budding Photographers 8 – 12 Years Wanted
Do you like to take photos? Not sure how to use all the settings on your camera? Here’s a great chance to learn more! Photo Adventures Day camp is Thursday, June 17 at the Ag Research Center. It is a day filled with fun workshops that will stretch your photo skills. And you’ll leave that day with a project all ready for exhibit at the County Fair! Space is limited, so get registered now! Register through Hays Rec. by June 2 or sooner if spaces are filled.

4-H Photo Day Camp – Presenters and Teen Group Leaders Needed
The 4-H Council planning committee is looking for teens with a love of photography to help lead workshops and help younger campers learn to use their cameras during this year’s Photo Adventures day camp, Thursday, June 17. If you would like to get involved in this high energy event, give the Extension Office a call. We will be meeting to do our final planning on Wednesday, May 5, 5:30 p.m. You are welcome to join us. Let the Extension Office know if you plan to attend so we can order enough pizza for the group.

4-H KAP Pilot – How’s it Going?
If you haven’t started using the new 4-H recordkeeping system, now’s the time to get going!! It is meant to be done as you go throughout the year to eliminate the stress that comes from waiting until the days before the deadline to capture all the great things you’ve done throughout the year. Send Susan an email at sschlich@ksu.edu to fill us in on your experiences with the new system so far. And let us know if you need any help with the process. We want you to have a great experience working with this new system!

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!