



What's Inside?

- YQCA Training and Sale Meeting
- National Volunteer Week
- 4-H Enrollment Deadline is May 1st
- 4-H Market Livestock Weigh-in
- Poultry and Rabbit Barn t-shirt orders
- Livestock Nomination Updates
- Horse ID Papers & Coggins Test
- Youth Learning Opportunities

Ellis County 4-H Happenings

April 2025

Hey 4-H Families!

Congrats to those who participated at Super Saturday! Results will be posted soon. It is the hopes of the NW 4-H Advisory that we continue to alternate hosting this event, the **2026 NW 4-H Super Saturday Judging Event to be in Hays** and plans for the 2027 contest to be back in Colby.

Congrats to all that participated at the Regional Club Days and thank you to everyone that helped out. Check for the results on our website.

The months are flying by and it will soon be time for the Ellis County Fair!! Now is the time to make sure you have everything in order regarding 4-H online enrollments and to focus on the many upcoming deadlines. You still have time to add any projects you may get completed in time for the fair. If you have done anything at school, you can more than likely enter it into the fair!

As always, if you have questions, please give us a call!

Join our private Facebook group - **Ellis County Kansas 4-H** for more update information and for deadline reminders!

Yours in 4-H,

Tamara Robertson



Meetings Coming Your Way

Home Ec./BBQ/Food Stand – April 1st @ 6 pm, back meeting room

4-H Council – April 22nd @ 6 pm, back meeting room of Ext. Office

Ag Livestock – April 30th @ 8 pm (after small animal weigh-in), Fairgrounds



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Ways to Contact Us

- You can reach the Office at (785) 628-9430
- Extension Office fax # is (785) 621-2002
- el@listserv.ksu.edu
- www.cottonwood.ksu.edu

IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO NOTE

April 15 – Insect Art Contest are due

April 15 – K- State Animal Science Leadership Academy App Due

April 15 – NW Kansas Ag Ambassador App Due

April 16 – Influential Volunteer Notes to Tamara

April 20 – Last day to order DNA envelopes for Nominated Market Beef

April 30 – Small Animal Weigh-in 6-8 pm

May 1 – Market beef/heifer nominations Due for KS State Fair and KJLS

May 1 – **Last Day to Make Changes to Your 4-H Enrollment for 2025**

May 1 – Registered Breeding Livestock in name of 4-H'er

May 1 – Poultry and Rabbit Barn t-shirt orders due

June 1 – [4-H Horse ID Papers](#) Due in Ext. Office

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

All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

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.

YQCA TRAINING & MANDATORY SALE MEETING – April 6th, 1:30pm – Ag Research Center

On April 6th, Stacy Campbell will be conducting an in-person YQCA training. **This training is required for all youth planning to participate in the Ellis County 4-H Livestock Auction, exhibit in the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and/or KJLS.** This is an annual training, so youth need to complete it each year.

For 2025, you have two options to complete the training:

- In-Person Training on April 6th.
 - If you cannot attend the in-person session on April 6th, you are welcome to attend an in-person training in another county. Please notify the Extension Office that you will be doing this.
- Online Training for \$12 per member.

Important Registration Details: To register, visit yqcaprogram.org. There, you can:

- Register for the class
- Pay the \$3.00 fee
- Complete the PRE-TEST

Please note that NO payment will be accepted at the door. You must be enrolled and complete the pre-test before attending the class.

Mandatory Livestock Sale Meeting: Immediately following the YQCA training, there will be a MANDATORY Livestock Sale Meeting. This meeting is essential for all participants, **and it is important that both youth and a parent/guardian are present.**

FIBER ARTS PROJECT WORK

Natalie Oborny (Fiber Arts Project Leader) and Connie Haselhorst will be in the front room of the Extension Office on Tuesday's April 8th and 29th from 5-6:30 PM to help with fiber arts projects. Bring your own supplies and materials to work on. See the graphic at the end of the newsletter for the next few months meeting dates.

Please email Natalie at natalie.oborny@gmail.com or contact the Extension Office if you will be there.

2025 INSECT ART CONTEST

The K-State Research and Extension Pesticide Safety and IPM Program is hosting its annual insectthemed art contest, open to all ages and skill levels in Kansas. This year, the theme is "By the Light of the Moon: Insects at Night." The goal is to explore which insects are active or inactive at night and why, then create artwork that fits the contest theme. **Entries should be postmarked by April 15, 2024.**

We will select a winner from each of the outlined categories and one overall winner will be selected from those entries. Artists that have art selected as 1st - 3rd place winners will receive a certificate and a prize to recognize their achievement. Select artwork may be used to create educational items.

For more information call the Extension Office at 785-628-9430.

Age categories are as follows:

1. Kindergarten – 2nd grade
2. 3rd grade – 5th grade
3. 6th grade – 8th grade
4. High School
5. Adult

Categories

1. Traditional Illustration: Drawing or painting
2. 3-D: canvas, collage, pottery, stained glass, or other media
3. Digital Artwork

NW AG AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Youth interested in being a part of the ambassador program must complete an application, submit a leadership resume, a cover letter, three letters of reference, and complete a virtual interview if selected as a finalist.

Applications and supporting documents are **due by April 15th** and may be submitted to your local K-State Research and Extension office.

For more information, a copy of the flyer and application visit the Twin Creeks District website at:

<https://www.twincreeks.k-state.edu/youth-ag/index.html>

For questions about the Northwest Kansas 4-H Agricultural Ambassador Program, please contact Twin Creeks District Youth Agriculture Agent, Jenilee Godsey. (Phone: 785-421-3411, Email: jenileem@ksu.edu)

VOLUNTEER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The Association of Kansas 4-H Volunteers is hosting "Spring Into Volunteering" in Salina on the K-State Polytechnic Campus on Saturday, April 26. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and the day will conclude at 3 p.m.

This is for anyone serving as a 4-H Volunteer or considering it! The goal is for volunteers to go home recharged, excited and ready to try some new things in their volunteer roles. Sessions for the day include Preparing Youth for Real-World Opportunities, Personalities and How They Affect Volunteers, Facilitating Civic Engagement and Service, Keeping Kids Engaged, and Resources for You.

More information can be found on the [Kansas 4-H website](#).

Registration for the day is \$20 and includes; materials, snacks and lunch! Online registration is due April 15, 2025 and the fee will be submitted to local office.

K-STATE ANIMAL SCIENCES LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Applications are now open for the 2025 K-State Animal Science Leadership Academy, held June 11-14, 2025. The goal of this academy will be to further develop young leaders within the livestock industry and prepare them for a successful future in this field.

The four-day session focuses on increasing knowledge of Kansas' 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, as reflected through an application process.

Applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2025. More information and the application form are available at: [K-State Animal Science Leadership Academy](#) For questions about the academy, please contact Sharon Breiner, Director, at sbreiner@ksu.edu or 785-523-6533.



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 20 – 26

We have a lot of great volunteers in Ellis County 4-H! Thanks to each of you who step forward to give your time and talents to 4-H members! THANK YOU!

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. Send to tarobertson@ksu.edu **by April 16** so that we can highlight on our Cottonwood Extension District Facebook page. Please indicate how you would like your name listed; by first name/last initial, initials only, full name, or anonymous.

SPRING LIVESTOCK CLINIC – Russell County – April 27th

The Russell County Jr. Leaders is planning a Spring Livestock Clinic on Sunday, April 27th from 2:00-5:00pm. Four different species will be available to learn about, including: Beef, Meat Goats, Poultry, and Rabbits. 4-H members and non 4-H members are welcome to attend. This event is FREE, but registration is required. Registration closes April 20th at 11:59pm at https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e9kkn4KEZF1Tk6W

***We would encourage you to NOT bring your animals from home, as the presenter will have animals there to demonstrate with. We are hoping this will give the youth the opportunity to learn more about the projects/species they are interested in but have not pursued.

If you have any questions, reach out to Karrie at the Russell County Extension office (785) 483-5037 or by email at karrievan@ksu.edu.



SMALL LIVESTOCK WEIGH-IN & TAGGING – April 30th, 6-8 PM

If you're planning to show Commercial Breeding animals, Feeder/Bucket Calves, Meat Goats, Sheep or Swine at this year's Ellis County Fair, make plans now to attend weigh-in and tagging on **April 30th from 6-8 PM at the Fairgrounds**. **EID tags will NOT be sold before hand**, tagging and weighing will take place at the same place and time. **All animals have the option to weigh their animals.**
Remember, you need to be enrolled in the Market livestock project by May 1.

Families are asked to come into the office and **pay for tags during the week of May 5th-9th**. Any remaining invoices will be mailed out after May 12th. Checks should be made out to **Ellis County 4-H Ag Livestock**.

4-H PROJECT ENROLLMENT

The last chance to make changes in your project enrollments for 2025 is coming up on May 1. Be sure to check in on your 4-H Online account and make sure you are enrolled in the projects that you are planning to work in. **Remember that you must be enrolled in a project in order to exhibit in that project area in the 4-H division of the County Fair.** If you've found a new area you'd like to explore, be sure to get your enrollment updated in 4-H Online before May 1. To learn more about how to do the updates, [click here](#).

Your enrollment is not complete until you have successfully paid the \$15 fee. You must be enrolled in 4-H to participate at any 4-H event or activity.

POULTRY & RABBIT BARN T-SHIRT ORDERS DUE MAY 1

Support our Poultry and Rabbit Barn at the 4-H Fair by ordering your t-shirt today! **Orders are due to the Extension Office by May 1.**

T-shirts are available in sizes youth through adult extra-large for just \$15.00. Sizes 2XL are available for \$16.00, and 3XL for \$17.00.

All proceeds from the t-shirt sale go directly toward funding the Poultry and Rabbit Barn, providing essential supplies, equipment, and support for our hardworking 4-H members.

See the order form for more information and to place your order.

CLUB FUNDRAISER OPPORTUNITIES - Wheat Plot Tour Meal

Each year we hold and conduct a county wheat plot tour/field day near the end of May/early June. After the field day we come into Hays to the Municipal Park, 1st and Main Street for dinner. Any 4-H club in the county can throw their clubs name in the hat to prepare and serve the meal. Stacy will 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 and brats with the condiments, pickles, onions, chips, baked beans or potato salad, a dessert, water, tea, and lemonade (optional). We are encouraging people to RSVP, so we will give the club an estimated head count closer to the date.

If your club is interested in doing this for a fundraiser, **please let Theresa know by May 2nd**. If you have any questions feel free to ask Stacy or Theresa.

LIVESTOCK NOMINATIONS

Detailed Information on this process will be posted on the [K-State Youth Livestock webpage](#).

Plan ahead as DNA envelopes will need to be ordered directly through ShoWorks (Old DNA envelopes will not be accepted) and families will enter their animal and exhibitor data online through ShoWorks. DNA envelope orders will close 1 week prior to the nomination deadline for each specie. **(April 20th for market beef and June 5th for small livestock).**

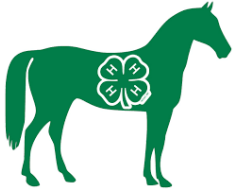
Nomination Deadlines:

April 20 - Deadline to order DNA envelopes for Market Beef

May 1 - Market Beef

June 5 - Deadline to order DNA envelopes for Small Livestock & Commercial Heifers

June 15 - Small Livestock & Commercial Heifers



4-H HORSE ID PAPERS DUE JUNE 1

Horse ID papers are available at the Extension Office or on line at kansas4-h.org. You have to have these papers completed and on **file with our office by June 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.

If you have an old form, you should transition to the form linked above it was updated in July 2024.

4-H HORSE COGGINS TEST REQUIRED AT FAIR

All exhibits in the 4-H Horse Show must present proof of negative Coggins test within the last 12 months at check-in. **If you are needing the test completed please reach out to our office** and we will work with a local vet to get it completed.

More information on the Coggin's test can be found on the [K-State Veterinary Health Center website](https://www.k-state.edu/veterinary/health-center/).

KANSAS 4-H DISCOVERY DAYS

Put June 4-6, 2025 on your calendar to be in Manhattan on the K-State campus. Discovery Days is open to all youth who are 13 to 18 years old by January 1, 2025.

Registration coming soon! Some of the classes will be limited in size, so make sure you don't wait if there is a class you really want. All the information that is available, will be found on our Discovery Days webpage found at [Kansas4-h.org](https://kansas4-h.org)

ELLIS COUNTY FAIR 2025 will be July 13 - 19, 2025
The Theme is "Another Day in Fair-adise!"



ELLIS COUNTY FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Call the office at 785-628-9430 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. 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.

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!

Fiber Arts Project Work

Tuesday evenings, 5-6:30pm
Ellis County Extension Office

April- 8 & 29

May- 6 & 20

June- 3 & 17

July- 1 & 8

Natalie Oborny and Connie Haselhorst will be in the front room of the Extension Office to help with fiber arts projects. Bring supplies and materials to work on. Please email Natalie or the Extension Office if you will be there.
natalie.oborny@gmail.com

INSECT ART CONTEST 2025

By the Light of the Moon: Insects at Night



The K-State Research and Extension Pesticide Safety and IPM Program is hosting its annual insect-themed art contest, open to all ages and skill levels in Kansas. This year, the theme is "*By the Light of the Moon: Insects at Night*." The goal is to explore which insects are active or inactive at night and why, then create artwork that fits the contest theme.

AGE GROUPS

- Kindergarten - 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade - 5th Grade
- 6th Grade - 8th Grade
- High School
- Adults

CATEGORIES

- Traditional Illustration (drawing or painting)
- Digital Artwork
- 3-D Creation (painting on canvas, collage, sculpture, or other media)

AWARDS

Certificates and prizes will be awarded for each art category in each age group for 1st through 3rd place.

HOW TO ENTER

Submit your entry by April 15, 2025. See full rules and details by visiting <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/pesticides-ipm> or by scanning the QR code.

K-STATE
Research and Extension

Integrated Pest Management
and Pesticide Safety Education

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, as amended. Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating. Emie Minton, Director.

DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR AGRICULTURE?

ARE YOU AGES 13-18 AND INTERESTED IN FURTHERING YOUR LEADERSHIP ABILITIES?

JOIN THE TEAM...

NORTHWEST KANSAS 4-H
Agricultural Ambassador Program

K-STATE
Research and Extension



K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for all individuals in its programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact, Karrie Van Winle, four weeks prior to the start of the event at 785-483-3157 and karrievan@ksu.edu. 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.

The Association of Kansas 4-H Volunteers Board
Invites **YOU**, 4-H volunteers and 4-H parents to

Spring Into Volunteering

SAT, April 26 9AM - 3PM

K-State Polytechnic Campus - College Center Conference Room
2310 Centennial Rd, Salina, KS 67401

Admission

\$20 covers lunch and materials

Register online by April 15, 2025

<https://bit.ly/3XAGM0v>

Take payment to local Extension office

Agenda:

Get Acquainted and Introductions
Personality Types and Volunteer Work
Strategies to prepare youth for real-world opportunities
Civic Engagement and Service Projects
Training Wheels Activities
4-H Volunteer Resources

K-STATE
Research and Extension



K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting: Beth Hinshaw two weeks prior to the start of the event March 31, 2025 at bhinshaw@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.

SPRING Livestock Clinic

Sunday, April 27
from 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Russell 4-H building
702 Fairway Dr, Russell, KS 67665

Sessions include: Beef, Meat Goats,
Poultry, and Rabbits

There will be 3 rotations with each rotation being 1 hour long. Each member can attend up to 3 sessions. You are more than welcome to come to 1 or 2 sessions.

This event is FREE and
available for 4-H members
and non 4-H members

Registration closes
Sunday, April 20
at 11:59pm



K-STATE
Research and Extension



DANE G. HANSEN
FOUNDATION

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. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact, Karrie Van Winle, four weeks prior to the start of the event at 785-483-3157 and karrievan@ksu.edu. 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.

