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August/September 2025

Ellis County 4-H Happenings

Hey 4-H Families!

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to 4-H'ers, families, and all that volunteered to make the 2025 Ellis County Fair a big success. Each member can be proud of the things you've accomplished this year. No matter what color ribbon you received or how much your premium check is, you are ALL winners because you **worked hard** and **learned** many new things along the way.

Please take time to write thank you notes to the sponsors of your awards and others that helped with the fair. We need to let our volunteers and sponsors know that we appreciate their continued support!

Here's your chance to give us feedback about the fair. There's an on-line survey to share your thoughts with the Ellis Co. 4-H Council and the Ellis Co. Fairboard. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts by **Friday, August 29**. Here's the link for 4-H families and Superintendents: <https://forms.gle/abi2gp2Pa3hp76517>

Hats off to everyone who stepped in and volunteered . . . in the Schenk Building, the Foodstand, in the barns, at the events, during the shows . . . your help was greatly appreciated and it helped to make everything run smoothly. We all know that many hours were given. Thanks everyone for ALL of your efforts to make the Ellis County Fair a special event!

As always, if you have questions, don't hesitate to ask . . . a leader, a 4-H member, or Extension Staff.

*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

4-H Council – Aug. 5th at 6 pm, back meeting room of Ext. Office

Home Ec., BBQ, Foodstand – Aug. 12th at 6 pm, back meeting room of Ext. Office

Ach. Banquet, 4-H Day, Promotion - TBD, Watch for a Doodle Poll

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

August 6 – Tri-state Royal Entries Due

August 15 – KJLS Entries Due

August 22 – Entry for downtown art walk into the office by 5 PM

August 29 – Indoor Exhibits for Kansas State Fair to Extension Office

August 29 – Fair Feedback Due

September 4 – Food & Hort Exhibits for KSF to Ext. Office 7:30 – 8:00 a.m.

September 26 – 4-H Kansas Project Records & Membership Pin Aps Due

September 26 – Rosemary Smith 4-H Scholarship & Club Award Entries Due

September 26 – I Dare You & KS 4-H Key Award Aps Due

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

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IT'S KANSAS STATE FAIR TIME!

Indoor exhibits are due in the Extension Office by Friday, August 29.

Food and Horticulture exhibits may come in from 7:30—8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 4.

Exhibits will return to the Ext. Office on Monday, September 15 after 1:00 p.m. **If you are willing to share your projects for display during 4-H Week in early October, we will keep them until after that time.**

Good luck to all 4-H'ers participating at the Kansas State Fair and in the 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes!



ELLIS COUNTY FAIR WRAP UP

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 4-H'ers that participated in the Ellis County Fair!

Here are the top individuals for the various contests held during the Fair.

Life Skills Judging—Fair

Jr. 1st – Bret Pope, BJF; 2nd – Ethan Yarmer, BJF

Int. 1st – Alaina Yarmer, BJF; 2nd – Catherine Marintzer, GJ

Sr. 1st – Mariella Dreiling, GJ; 2nd – Lily Dickman, GH

Animal Management Skill-a-thon

Jr. – 1st – Joshua Neher, VV; 2nd – Brynlee Walter, BJF

Sr. 1st – Lizzy Vajnar, GH; 2nd – Logan Leiker, GH

Livestock Judging

Jr. – 1st – Mya Neher, VV; 2nd – Karci Kimzey, BJF

Sr. 1st – Lizzy Vajnar, GH; 2nd – Ella Neher, VV

Herdsmanship Winners

Beef – Buckeye Jr. Farmers

Meat Goats – Buckeye Jr. Farmers

Sheep – Buckeye Jr. Farmers

Swine – Ellis Sunflowers

Poultry – Gemini Juniors

Rabbits – Victoria Vikings

All results can be found at this FairEntry Link - [Results - 2025 Ellis County Fair - FairEntry.com](https://www.fairentry.com/Results/2025-Ellis-County-Fair)

PREMIUM CHECKS

Indoor exhibit premium checks are available at the Extension Office from now until August 8th, then they will be mailed out. **If you received a sponsored award you will need to complete a Thank You before receiving your check.**

LIVESTOCK SALE Fair Premium checks will be coming to the Ext. Office in MID-AUGUST, watch for an email for when they arrive. We will be hosting a **Thank You Card Night**, where members can turn in their completed Thank You cards for their livestock buyers and receive their checks.

Youth should handwrite the thank you note and bring it in a stamped envelope to the Extension Office to receive their premium check! ***The Fairboard has asked that you please cash all checks within 60 days.***

TRI-STATE ROYAL

Tri-State Royal selection procedure. Showmanship representatives from Ellis County will be selected through the placings in the showmanship contests for each specie. The Senior Grand Champion Showman will have the first opportunity to represent Ellis County, followed by the Senior Reserve Champion. If neither Senior is able to attend, the Junior Grand Champion, followed by the Junior Reserve Champion will have the opportunity. If none of the champions is able to participate, no one will represent Ellis County in that division. Champion Market and Breeding overall champions in each species may also represent Ellis Co. 4-H at the Tri-State Royal. If the Grand Champion is unable to participate, the Reserve Champion may attend and represent Ellis County. If no champion is available, no one will represent Ellis County in that division.

Entries are due by Wednesday, August 6th, more information can be found at [Tri-State Royal Champion of Champions](https://www.tristateroyal.com/).

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!

KANSAS YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

The [Kansas Youth Leadership Forum](#) will be November 22 - 23, 2025 at Rock Springs 4-H Center. The Forum is for youth ages 14-18, as of January 1, 2026. **Registration will open Mid-August and are due by midnight on October 15th.** KYLF will feature leadership workshops, Youth Council Elections, and opportunities to learn and have fun. Ellis County 4-H members can fill out and submit an [Event Scholarship](#) to assist with the cost of registration.

KS 4-H YOUTH COUNCIL

Any Kansas 4-H member between the ages of 14 and 18 by January 1, 2026 may apply to be a state council member. The duties of the Council members include planning the next Youth Leadership Forum and other events, and may include assisting with State 4-H functions, working with 4-H public relations, and speaking at local achievement programs, forums, and other workshops or conferences. More information can be found at [State 4-H Youth Council](#). Applications and all materials for the Kansas 4-H Youth Council are **due by midnight on October 1.**

GET INVOLVED IN 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

Ellis County 4-H Shooting Sports program provides an opportunity for caring adults to assist kids in positive youth development. **Youth must be enrolled in the project prior to participating in the first practice.**

All youth aged 8 to 17 years old before January 1 of the current year can participate in 4-H Shooting Sports. Currently, Ellis County 4-H offers the following shooting sports disciplines: Air Rifle, Archery, BB Gun, Hunting Skills, Shotgun, and Smallbore Rifle.

If interested in shooting sports, please contact, Kelli Herbers, Shooting Sports Coordinator, for more information. Email: ellis coordinator@outlook.com or Phone: (785) 337-0169

SAVE THE DATE AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FCW Agent, Monique Koerner, will be hosting a Family Pizza on September 29th from 4-6 PM at the Extension Office. Papa Murphy's donates 90 crusts for families to make together. We will need some volunteers to make this event a success. If you would like to volunteer to help prep the toppings before or to help during the event, **please contact the Extension Office.** Volunteer families will be awarded with a pizza to take home as a thank you.

The NEW 4-H Year is Almost Here!

As you already know, 4-H is a network of families that work together to grow great kids! And 4-H has something to offer both city and country families. Now's the time to invite families you know to come and get involved as we get ready to start the new 4-H year in October. Let's work together to encourage more Ellis Co. youth and families to come and join the fun as we learn and work together!

AWARDS CORNER



4-H Awards

It's time to begin thinking about wrapping up the 2024-25 4-H year! While County Fair is still fresh in your mind, and before school gets into full swing, why not take time to complete your project record and Member Pin Applications. These application forms are found on the [Ellis Co. 4-H Forms page](#) of the Ellis Co. 4-H website www.cottonwood.ksu.edu.

If you'd like help in getting your project report forms or Pin Ap completed, give the Extension Office a call.

EACH AGE GROUP HAS AN ASSIGNED COLORS FOR BINDERS FOR THEIR PROJECT AWARD APPLICATION

7-9 years old – BLUE

This age group will fill out the project award application for the 7-9-year olds. There is a specific project award application for animal projects (this includes ALL animal projects). This age group will need to turn in their award application in a **blue** binder. Everyone in the 7-9-year-old group who has turned in a project award application will

receive a participation certificate. Be sure to complete the 4-H Personal Page and include in the front of the Project Award Application.

10-13 years old – WHITE

This group will need to use the project award application for the 10-13-year olds. There is a specific project award application for animal projects (this includes ALL animal projects). This age group will need to turn in their award application in a **white** binder. Be sure to complete the 4-H Personal Page and include in the front of the Project Award Application.

14 years and older – BLACK

This group will need to use the project award application for the 14 years and older. There is a specific project award application for animal projects (this includes ALL animal projects). This age group will need to turn in their award application in a **black** binder. Be sure to complete the 4-H Personal Page and include in the front of the Project Award Application

Project Report Forms & Member Pin Aps Due September 26

[Your Project Report Forms](#) & [Pin Aps](#) are **due in the Extension Office by 5 pm on Friday, September 26**. You will print off your Record Book pages for your project report as either the PDF or through the Z-suite app. You can pick up forms at the Extension Office or print them from our website for the Member Pin Aps.

If you would like to schedule an appointment for assistance with this process, give our office a call.

Cloverbud Scrapbooks

4-H participation teaches youth many new skills. Record keeping is one of those skills. We use those skills daily as adults. A Cloverbud & their adult guide will fill out the [Cloverbud Personal Page](#). They can design a cover and add up to 3 additional scrapbook pages. These might include photos, ribbons, or clippings. Be creative. These will not be judged, but those completing the process will receive special recognition at the fall 4-H Achievement Banquet. Submit these to the Extension Office **by 5 pm on Friday, September 26**.

KS 4-H Key Award

The Key Award is a very prestigious award given to only 10% of Kansas 4-H youth. 4-H'ers 16 & over may apply if enrolled in the Leadership project and meet eight requirements. [Applications](#) are available at the Ext. Office and are due **by 5 pm on Friday, September 26**.

"I DARE YOU" Leadership Award

Each year, two 4-H'ers in their junior year of HS or older can be recognized for their leadership abilities. This award is given in the hope of encouraging young people to lead purposeful lives. This ap requires a letter of recommendation from the club leader. **Club Leaders can nominate youth for this special award.** [Applications](#) are due to the Extension Office **by 5pm on Friday, September 26**.

Charter Seal Applications Due

4-H Clubs...it's time for your club's leadership team to meet and see what you've accomplished this past year. Your [Charter Seal applications](#) are completed and turned in **by 5 pm Friday, September 26**. Let's try for 100% completion in 2024!

Club Officer Notebooks Due

Reporters, secretaries, historians, and treasurers...did you know that you can turn in your notebooks for county judging? Please finish them up and turn them into the Extension Office immediately after your September meeting. Submit officer notebooks **by 5 pm on Friday, September 26**.

Friend of 4-H

There are many people and businesses who share their time, talents and resources with the local 4-H program. Ellis County 4-H recognizes an outstanding individual and business that goes above and beyond to assist with 4-H activities. Please take time to nominate a business and an individual that your club sees as deserving of this special honor. The application forms are [available online](#) or copies at the Extension Office and are **due by 5 pm on Friday, September 26**.

Rosemary Smith Scholarship

Scholarships available to Ellis Co. 4-H members in their Jr. or Sr. year of HS, currently enrolled in a Higher Ed course or former 4-H members who are currently enrolled in college. [Applications](#) are available at the Extension Office & are **due by 5 pm on Friday, September 26.**

MORE ON MEMBER PIN APPLICATIONS

Standard of Excellence Award Categories: Here a “standard” is set and completion of categories is determined by a minimum requirement.

- Membership Pin** – Complete Ellis Co. Achievement Plan—1 optional requirement AND Personal Page OR 4-H Story
- Bronze Pin** - Complete Ellis Co. Achievement Plan—3 optional requirements AND 4-H Personal Page, 4-H Story, Photos OR 7-8-year-old project report
- Clover Pin** - Complete Ellis Co. Achievement Plan—7 optional requirements AND 4-H Personal Page, 4-H Story, Photos OR 9-13-year-old project report
- Emerald Pin** - Complete Ellis Co. Achievement Plan—9 optional requirements AND 1 Project report
- Silver Pin** - Complete Ellis Co. Achievement Plan—10 optional requirements AND 1 Project report
- Silver Guard Pin** - Complete Ellis Co. Achievement Plan—12 optional requirements AND 1 Project report
- Jr. Leader Pin** - Complete Ellis Co. Achievement Plan—16 optional requirements AND 1 Project report
- Gold Pin** - Complete Ellis Co. Achievement Plan—19 optional requirements AND 1 Project report
- Gold Guard** - Complete Ellis Co. Achievement Plan—21 optional requirements AND 1 Project report
- Key Award** - State Application Form - Limited to 10% of those 16 and over.

MORE ON KANSAS AWARD PORTFOLIOS

County Champion - Awarded in individual projects. Jr. & Sr. pins awarded. Must complete Kansas Project Record. There are 44 project areas available. Seniors advance to the Regional screening held in January each year. Regional winners submit their Project Report to the state screening. State screening may include an interview process to select the finalists who are recognized at the Emerald Circle Banquet in Manhattan and who earn a trip to the National 4-H Congress held in Atlanta.

[More on Kansas 4-H Project Award Portfolios](#) - All forms are available on-line as PDF's, on the [Zbooks site](#), at the Extension Office or visit with your 4-H Club Leader. Information on the Zbooks and helpful resources can be found on the [State 4-H website](#). There are 3 different levels of forms – Jr. 7 – 9 years, Intermediate 10 – 13 years and Senior 14 & up.

Kansas Project Records and Pin applications are due to the Extension Office by 5 pm on Friday, September 26.

YOUR 4-H STORY

The 4-H Story is a very important part of your project record. A well-organized story is easiest to read and follow. You may want to try outlining your story before you begin writing. In the new system, the story is included in your project record. It is called a project reflection. So, you don't need to include a separate story. As you get older, there is more to write about. Use the below prompts to help you with the writing.

Introduce yourself - include your age, interests, family, where you live, where you attend school, when and why you joined 4-H.

Tell about your favorite 4-H project. Why did you choose the project; what goals did you set and which ones did you reach; what have you learned in the project; how has the project grown in size and scope; describe the things you have tried and found successful and some that were not so successful; how have you arranged for financing; include profits, losses and savings.

Highlight other 4-H projects and activities. Give information about other project activities you have participated in: include major learning experiences; special interests; usual experiences; and unusual situations that you've encountered.

Describe how 4-H participation has influenced your school and career goals. Tell about your plans for the future and the career you would like to pursue. What do you want to do next year?

The Kansas Project Record process is a ***one-year snap shot of your 4-H work in one project area***. It helps 4-H'ers learn record keeping skills. One Ellis Co. 4-H Alumni said "*Why didn't I start doing this a long time ago?*". It's not as difficult and time consuming as you may remember if you did a 4-H Record Book! And having this ***information captured in the project record will help the 4-H'er when it's time to apply for college scholarships or jobs!***

Save the Date!

**Celebrate
Family Day
with Pizza
Make &
Take**



**FAMILY MEALS MAKE
FAMILIES STRONGER**



K-STATE
Research and Extension
Cottonwood District

Extension Office


601 Main Street, Hays, KS

Monday

September 29th

4:00PM-6:00PM

**Volunteers will
receive a free pizza**

www.cottonwood.k-state.edu 

785-628-9430 