



What's Inside?

- 4-H Events and Fliers
- Event Scholarship Available
- Livestock ID Procedure & 4-H Beef Weigh-in

Dec 2025 & Jan 2026

Ellis County 4-H Happenings

Hey 4-H Families!

The new 4-H year is underway and it's time to get those 4-H enrollments in! Just a reminder to those who haven't updated enrollments & participation fees, they are due now.

The Extension Office will be closed for the holidays from Wednesday, December 24th through Friday, January 2nd.

We wish you all safe and wonderful holidays ahead! We have many exciting learning opportunities for your family to be involved in, in the year ahead. This 4-H newsletter is one of the best ways to keep in touch with what's coming up. Take a few minutes to review the possibilities and come join us!

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 – December 1st at 6 PM, Back meeting room of the Ext. Office

Reminder: 4-H Achievement Banquet, 4-H Day, Promotion & 4-H Home Ec., BBQ, Foodstand Committees will now be meeting during Council.

4-H Ag Livestock – January 19th at 6 PM, Back meeting room of the Ext. Office

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

December 1 – Ornaments for tree to office

December 3 – Registration for Ag & STEM Youth Day Camp

January 5 – Kansas 4-H Senior Scholarships Due

January 9 – Record Books going on to Regional Judging to Office

February 13 – Sign up for Jr. Beef Producer Day @ KSU

March 20 – Sign up for Jr. Sheep Producer Day @ KSU

WINTER WEATHER & 4-H ACTIVITIES

Our policy is that if school cancels for weather related events, 4-H events are canceled, too. Please check our website or contact the person in charge before traveling in, if you are in doubt about the status of an event.

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!

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.

4-H PROJECT ENROLLMENT

You must be enrolled in 4-H to participate at any 4-H event or activity. You are able to add projects or delete them from your list of enrollments until May 1 for all areas, **except Livestock projects and shooting sports projects. Those need to be enrolled prior to the weigh-in/identification date set for each specie or before the first SS practice.** I.e. Market Beef is usually weighed in early February and Small Livestock weighed in in late April/early May.

Your enrollment is not complete until you have successfully paid the \$15 fee.

4-H ADULT VOLUNTEERS

4-H volunteers working directly with youth in the club, as a leader or project leader are required to go through this screening and training process. The training module is available as part of the 4-H Online website. You will complete a profile for yourself under your family account.

Contact the Ext. Office to let us know you've completed these steps to schedule an interview. At that time, we will provide you with a link to the background check process.

Current & Returning Volunteers - If you are a current screened volunteer in your 4-H club and plan to continue to do so, please UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION on the 4-H On-line system.

New Volunteers – *will need to add yourself to your family profile in 4-H On-line.* This document can help walk through that process, [New Adult Volunteer Enrollment Guide.pdf](#). Contact our office if you need assistance with this!

DECORATING HAYS PUBLIC LIBRARY TREES

Once again, Gemini Juniors are inviting all clubs to make ornaments for the trees by Hays Public Library. Please bring ornaments to the **Extension Office by 5 pm on Monday, December 1st**, and put them in the box in the entryway. Ornaments must be able to withstand the Kansas wind and elements.

4-H COUNCIL MEETING

At the December meeting, we will hold elections and begin setting goals for the new 4-H year. Council representatives can run for office, alternates cannot. We will elect persons to the following offices:

President	Secretary	Parliamentarian	Fair Board Representatives
Vice President	Treasurer	Reporter	Adult Advisors

Think about stretching your leadership abilities by running for an office. Be sure that ***if you decide to run that you are able to be committed and fully participate*** in the 4-H Council meetings. We will take nominations from the floor at the meeting.

4-H COUNCIL FOOD DRIVE

4-H Council will once again hold a Canned Food Drive at their December meeting. If you would like to donate items to this project, drop them off at the Ext. Office or with your 4-H Council rep who will bring them to the 4-H Council meeting for distribution to a local food pantry.

AG & STEM YOUTH DAY CAMP – DEC 6th

Join the Northwest Ag Ambassadors for a fun filled day to learn all about agriculture at the Wheatland High School on Saturday December 6th starting at 1 PM. Sessions will include Butter & Dairy Fun, In the Life of a Farmer, Ag By-Products, Soil Health & Erosion, and Embryology.

This is open to anyone, but recommended ages are between 7- 13. The cost is \$15 per youth, will pay at the door.

Register online by midnight on December 3rd. To register: https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a5n40H1bB6ca9kG

CLOVER CHRISTMAS MARKET – HELP IS NEEDED

The Ellis County Scholarship and Development committee is looking for your help! The craft show is on Saturday, December 13th, 2025 at the Fairgrounds from 9am to 3pm. They are looking for individuals or clubs to help us with Set-up & tear down.

Set-up will be on December 11th and 12th. The event is on December 13th, with tear down to follow.

This is a perfect opportunity for community service or any volunteer hours needed. This is also a great time to put in the required hours if you received a scholarship or funding from The Scholarship and Development committee this year. **If you are able to help, please reach out to Chantelle Arnold at 785-650-1898 or Rhiannon Corn at 785-432-3495 for details.**

KANSAS 4-H SCHOLARSHIPS – Due January 5th, 2026

Get an early start on your application for the 2026 Kansas 4-H Scholarship. All information is available at [State 4-H Scholarships](#). **The deadline for the Kansas 4-H Scholarship is January 5, 2026 11:59 PM.** A list of scholarships available to apply for is posted on the site, along with eligibility. The KS 4-H Scholarship requires a cover letter, resume and TWO references need to fill out the questionnaire, please plan ahead. **You are considered for all scholarships that you qualify for with one application.**

AREA RECORD BOOK JUDGING

A reminder if your Project Record was selected for area judging, the record book is due into the Extension Office no later than **Friday, January 9, 2026**. If you would like help making edits, contact Tamara to set up a time to meet.

Those eligible from Ellis County are: Lizzy Vajnar – **Communications**, Keeli Kimzey – **Horse**, Faith Schmeidler – **Leadership**, Audrey Yarmer - **Poultry**

SAVE THE DATE - LEADERSHIP DAY – Cimarron

Leadership Day to take place at the Gray County Fairgrounds on January 10th, with guest speaker Dustin Galyon & breakout sessions for youth. Keep an eye out for more information to come once finalized!

EVENT SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The 4-H Scholarship and Development Committee has funds available for all Ellis County 4-H members. The [Event Scholarship Application](#) can be completed to attend any event that would benefit youth. Events can include 4-H camps, livestock clinics, shooting sports competitions, and more that would help youth build on their skills. Members should complete the application and turn into the office 2 weeks before the event registration is due.

INTERESTED IN JOINING 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

If you are interested in joining Ellis County 4-H Shooting Sports, please contact the Ellis County Extension Office for enrollment details and program information.



4-H LIVESTOCK ID PROCEDURES & BEEF WEIGH-IN DATE

Large and Small animal ID procedures for 2026 are in the process of being revised! Please take time to review them after the December 1st Council meeting.

If you're planning to show Market Steers & Heifers at this year's Ellis County Fair, **you need to be enrolled in the Beef project by the February weigh-in date.** (Take time now to check your on-line enrollments!)

EID tags will NOT be sold before hand, tagging and weighing will take place at the same place and time. We are in the process of getting the location, date and time set for this – Please keep an eye out for the final details!

SAVE THE DATE – FOOD CHALLENGE

Make plans to join us on Sunday, February 15 at the Ellis Co Fairgrounds Schenk Building for this exciting competition. More information to come soon!



KANSAS 4-H HORSE PANORAMA

The 4-H Horse Panorama will be held Saturday and Sunday, February 21st and 22nd, 2026 at the Rock Springs Ranch. Save the date for fun, learning and competition at the 2025 Kansas 4-H Horse Panorama! This is the state event for hippology, horse bowl and public speaking. Contest information is being updated and registration will be released in the coming months at [Horse Panorama Website](#)

K- STATE JUNIOR PRODUCER DAYS 2026 DATES

We are excited to announce the dates for the 2026 K-State Junior Producer Days and new location! The 2026 K-State Junior Producer Days will be hosted at the new Bilbrey Family Events Center, which is in Manhattan, north of campus, near the livestock units.

The junior producer day programs are one-day educational programs through which families can attend to learn about the selection and management of a specific specie. These events are open to all ages and skill levels including youth, parents, extension agents, ag teachers, project leaders, and other volunteers. A variety of topics are provided by K-State faculty, staff, graduate students, former exhibitors, and guest speakers. The tentative program and topics for each day are included on the flyer. This is a family event! Parents and youth are invited to come learn together!

The Junior Beef Producer Day will be Saturday, March 7. The deadline to register is February 13.

The Junior Sheep Producer Day will be hosted Saturday, April 11. Registration is due March 20.

The junior day registration fee is \$20/person for those who register before the deadline and \$30/person for those who sign up late. T-shirts are only guaranteed for those who register by the specified deadline. Lunch will be provided for participants. There will also be an optional instructor-led YQCA training at the conclusion of the program for both events, with a different registration for an additional \$3.

More information and online registration available here: [Kansas Junior Producer Days](#)

4-H DAY—Sunday, March 1 – North Oak Community Church

4-H Day is a chance for 4-H members to showcase their project learning through public presentations. *If you ask any 4-H alumni what one of the most important things they gained through their 4-H experience, they'll most likely tell you it is their public speaking ability.* Consider building that powerful skill in your children through their involvement in 4-H Day activities; such as skits, project talks, talent, etc. Mark Sunday, March 1 on your calendar and make plans now to participate in 4-H Day. [Check out the website](#) for the latest information, rules and guidelines will be updated soon!

SUPER SATURDAY 2025 – Fort Hays State University

Next year's Super Saturday judging event will take place on March 21st at Fort Hays State University. There will be 7 judging contests—Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Livestock, Livestock Skill-A-Thon & Photography for 4-H & FFA youth 7 - 18. You can judge at 1 or all of these great contests. There will also be several workshops in the afternoon to help 4-H'ers explore project learning. Watch for more info as these activities are finalized!

ELLIS COUNTY FAIR 2026 will be July 13 - 17, 2026
The Theme is "Let the Good Times Roll"

