



What's Inside?

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- New 4-H Year – Enrollment Time!
- Event Scholarship Available
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- Leadership Opportunities
- Early start on Project Records
- Event date announcements

November 2025

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 forms on-line, they are due now. Please take time to **update them to ensure that you get all 4-H information.**

The projects remain the same as last year, if you have any questions please reach out! Review the full project list here: [2025/2026 Project Listing](#)

Make the most of your 4-H year by planning ahead! And as always, please give our office a call if you have a question. There is a great resource available to help you learn more about all the learning opportunities available through Ellis County 4-H. Check out the [Project Selection Guide](#).

*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 – November 3rd at 6 pm, Ext Office Back Meeting room

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 – Respond to Doodle Poll by Monday, November 10th

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

November 3 – Club Financial Review and Club Data Forms Due

November 10 – Register for Officer and/or YQCA Training by 5pm

December 1 – Ornaments for tree to office

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 Facebook Page, your email or contact the person in charge, 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!

CONGRATS TO . . .

. . . All Ellis County 4-Her's who participated at KJLS.

. . . All honorees at the annual 4-H Achievement Banquet. A special congrats to our Friends of 4-H, Amy Bainter and Ellis County Farm Bureau.

4-H ACHIEVEMENT BANQUET – Thank You

Thanks to everyone who served on the planning committee. They did a great job with putting together a fun and engaging event. Thanks to Coleen and Kirk Dickinson of Dickinson's Catering for preparing and serving a great meal!

Thanks to the 4-H Clubs for donating baskets for this year's auction. And to the many dedicated 4-H supporters who bid on everything. **We raised over \$1,500 to benefit the Scholarship Fund!**

Any leftover programs and state fair exhibits were placed into club boxes at the office.

NEW 4-H YEAR ELLIS COUNTY EVENT CALENDAR

Under the monthly calendars posted on our website is a new document that lists the events for the upcoming 4-H year. We will try to keep it as up to date as possible with the Ellis County Events. [2025-2026 Ellis County 4-H Year](#)

4-H ENROLLMENTS

The 4-H Online enrollment system is updated and ready for you to sign on starting October 1 to update your enrollment choices for 2025 -26. **Even if you are enrolling in the same projects, you will still need to log-on and update your profile and make project selections.**

The \$15 fee per member is payable to the KS 4-H program as you enroll. Your enrollment is not considered complete until you make a payment and hit the **SUBMIT** button. You can pay by credit card or by check to the State 4-H Office. **Payments do not come to the local Extension Office.** If this fee is a hardship for your family, you can select the "Request a Waiver" button and the State 4-H Office will consider your request. **Your enrollment is not complete until you have successfully paid the \$15 fee.**

This will be the last month that we will send out the newsletter notification email to both last year and this year's email list.

You will be 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 late April/early May.

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!

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.

4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

Interested in joining 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.

Upcoming Practice: BB and Air Rifle

BB Gun and Air Rifle practice begins Sunday, November 2, at 4 PM in the Unrein Building at the Ellis County Fairgrounds. Please remember — you must be enrolled and approved in 4-H to participate in shooting sports projects.

Ellis County 4-H Shooting Sports Team Wins First Place at State Shotgun Championship

The Ellis County 4-H Shooting Sports program achieved top honors at the Kansas 4-H State Shotgun Championship, securing First Place Overall Team and earning multiple individual awards in both the Senior and Junior divisions.

The winning team was composed of Logan Schmidt, Cole McDonough, Zach McCall, Tanner Boxberger, and Barrett Pianalto, whose combined scores placed Ellis County at the top of the competition field.

Highest Overall Shooter Results

In the Senior Division, Logan Schmidt finished 2nd overall, Tanner Boxberger placed 3rd, and Cole McDonough tied for 8th.

In the Junior Division, Mason Zimmerman placed 4th, Jace Herbers 5th, Sean Ryan 7th, Eli Meis 9th, and Owen Bieker 11th.

Skeet Results

In Senior Division, Logan Schmidt earned 1st place, while Cole McDonough tied 6th. Bryce Boxberger and Tanner Boxberger tied for 12th.

Junior competitors also performed strongly, with Eli Meis and Sean Ryan tied for 6th, Jace Herbers in 9th, Owen Bieker in 10th, and Mason Zimmerman in 11th.

Trap Results

The Senior Division featured a five-way tie for second place, leading to a tense shootout. Ellis County's Cole McDonough claimed 3rd place, followed by Jacob Taylor in 4th, Logan Schmidt in 5th, and Lane Wittman in 6th. Tanner Boxberger and Zach McCall tied for 8th.

In the Junior Division, another shootout determined the top positions. Mason Zimmerman secured 1st place, while Eli Meis earned 3rd. Jace Herbers tied for 7th.

Sporting Clays Results

In the Senior Division, Logan Schmidt and Tanner Boxberger tied for 7th place.

In the Junior Division, Mason Zimmerman placed 3rd, Owen Bieker tied for 4th and placed 6th after the tiebreaker, Sean Ryan placed 8th, and Jace Herbers 9th.

These outstanding results reflect the hard work and dedication of Ellis County 4-H Shooting Sports participants, coaches (Eric Schmidt, Ben Hunsicker, Jared Wickham, Dominic Pianalto), and volunteers. Their performance at the state level highlights the strength of the local program and its commitment to safety, skill development, and sportsmanship.

Submitted by club reporter, Evey Schmidt





48 HOURS OF 4-H

Congratulations to the 4-H clubs who recently participated in Trick or Treat so Others Can Eat service project!

4-H Leaders – Remember to log your club's project on the [kansas4-h.org](http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/48-hours-of-4-h/index.html) website so that they can track how many youth and hours went into this statewide effort! <http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/48-hours-of-4-h/index.html>

2025 4-H OFFICER & YQCA TRAINING

This year, we're offering TWO separate days of Officer & YQCA Training to better fit your schedule! Whether you're stepping into a leadership role or need your YQCA certification, we've got you covered. You are welcome to attend just the Officer Training, YQCA Training or both.

Tuesday, November 11th, Russell 4-H Building

- 5–7 PM: Officer Training
- 7–8 PM: YQCA Training

Saturday, November 15th, 4-H Educational Building North of Great Bend

- 4–6 PM: Officer Training
- 6–7 PM: YQCA Training

Register by Monday, November 10th at 11:59 PM. Pizza and drinks will be provided for those attending the Officer Training portion. Get registered for this FREE session at https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ahllRgKlg0TQmEK

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 Sponsors

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.

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



AWARDS CORNER

Record Books – Calling ALL Ellis 4-H'ers!

Building record keeping skills while documenting all the great things you've accomplished through your 4-H career is what it's all about. Just think, if you work at this a little bit at a time, by the end of the year, you'll be almost done with your Project Record Book. And by the end of your 4-H career, you'll have a great documentation of all things that can be used on scholarship and employment applications!

We encourage you to use the goal setting sheet linked in the newsletter opening to get started. Or simply open up your ZSuite site and enter those goals right there. To get started, go to: <https://4h.zsuite.org/> If you haven't already created a family profile and member profile, now's the time to do so. Then off you go!

Each club should have a parent and teen trained on how to use the system. Visit them or give our office a call. There is also a recording of the "Getting Started" training and a quick guide posted on our webpage.

There were several 4-H'ers who completed multiple Project Records this past year, due to the ease in completing them. See what it's all about and get started now!

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



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. They are looking for individuals or clubs to help us with Set up on Thursday, December 11th, 2025 from 6-8pm and Tear down on the 13th from 3:00 to 4:30pm. Set up will include measuring and taping off booth spaces. Tear down will include putting away tables and chairs, removing tape, helping vendors pack out and sweeping the floors. 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 contact Rhiannon Corn at 785-432-3495.**

K-STATE JUNIOR PRODUCER DAYS 2026 DATES ANNOUNCED

We are excited to announce the dates for the 2026 K-State Junior Producer Days!

The Junior Beef Producer Day will be Saturday, March 7.

The Junior Sheep Producer Day will be hosted Saturday, April 11.

There will also be an optional instructor-led YQCA training at the conclusion of the program for both events, as well as a session over the state nomination process.

More information coming soon to the website: <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/ks-jr-producer/>

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!

Kansas State University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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.

OFFICER / YQCA TRAINING



Tuesday, November 11th:
at the Russell 4-H Building

5-7:00 pm - Officer Training

7-8:00 pm - YQCA Training

Saturday, November 15th:
at the 4-H Educational Building in
Great Bend

4-6:00 pm - Officer Training

6-7:00 pm - YQCA Training

Registration Deadline is Monday November 10th at 11:59 pm.

K-STATE
Research and Extension



https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ahIIRgKlgOTQmEK

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. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact Ben Sims prior to the start of the event at (620-793-1910 or benjam63@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.

NW KS 4-H AG AMBASSADORS
PRESENT THE

AG & STEM YOUTH DAY CAMP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2025

1 - 4:30 PM

Wheatland High School
2920 K-23
Grainfield, KS 67737

- RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 7-13
- OPEN TO ANY YOUTH!
- FUN GROUP ACTIVITIES
- HANDS-ON, AMBASSADOR-LED STATIONS INCLUDE:

- BUTTER & DAIRY FUN
- IN THE LIFE OF A FARMER
- AGRICULTURAL BYPRODUCTS
- SOIL HEALTH & EROSION
- EMBRYOLOGY
- SNACK SERVED!



\$15/YOUTH
Pay at the door.

Register by Dec. 3rd!

Scan me to register,
or visit:
https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a5n40H1bB6ca9kG



For questions, contact:
Twin Creeks Extension District-Graham County
785.421.3411 or jenileem@ksu.edu

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