



## What's Inside?

- Scholarships
- 4-H Day Details
- Upcoming Events
- Livestock Nomination Update
- Horse ID and Coggin's Test
- 2026 Fair Superintendents/Volunteers

March 2026

# Ellis County 4-H Happenings

Hey 4-H Families!

Congratulations to our winners from the 4-H Food Challenge! Thank you to everyone who participated and those that volunteered or helped in any way!

We are looking forward to seeing some of you at the 4-H Day event or at the Shooting Sports Qualifier! Good Luck to everyone!

We have a great group of 4-H'ers participating in this year's 4-H Day event! Thanks to the parents and leaders who helped 4-Hers take advantage of this opportunity to grow in their skills. [See all 4-H Day info on next page of this newsletter.](#) Event results will be posted on the 4-H website and Facebook. Those who receive Top Blues can represent Ellis Co. at 4-H Regional Club Day in WaKeeney on March 27th.

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



**4-H Ag Livestock** – March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 PM, Back meeting room of the Ext. Office

**4-H Council** – March 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:el@listserv.ksu.edu)
- [www.cottonwood.ksu.edu](http://www.cottonwood.ksu.edu)

### IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO NOTE

**March 1** – Sponsorship for County Fair Award Due

**March 6** – Fair Superintendent Sign Up Due

**March 12** – Water Poster Contest Entries Due by NOON

**March 12** – Registration for Babysitting Clinic Due

**March 13** – Ellis Co. 4-H Scholarship Due

**March 16** – Cody Younger Scholarship Due

**March 16** – Register for Super Saturday Due

**March 25** – Sign up for Regional 4-H Day by 5 PM

**April 19** – YQCA training and NEW MEMBER livestock sale meeting

**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

## 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.

Kansas State University is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

This institution is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Discrimination based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, ancestry, disability, genetic information, military status, or veteran status is prohibited. Program participants may request information 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 also be requested by contacting the Cottonwood District - Ellis County Extension Office at 785-628-9430. Language access services, such as interpretation and translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.



## FOOD CHALLENGE WINNERS

**Beginner Champions:** Buckeye Junior Farmers **Team Members:** Melanie Kruse, Karson Lang, and Emery Knight

**Junior Champions:** Buckeye Junior Farmers **Team Members:** Emma Wichert, Jessa Fuertges, and Sutton Seib

**Senior Champions:** Gemini Juniors **Team Members:** Sophia Mills, Serena Ross, Emily Ross, and Janae Ross

## 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 and identification date set for each specie or the start of the shooting sports practice.** I.e. Small Livestock weighed in will be April 29<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM at the Fairgrounds.

To learn more about how to do the updates, [click here](#).

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

## ELLIS COUNTY 4-H SCHOLARSHIPS

The [Ellis Co. 4-H Scholarship](#) and the [Cody Younger Agriculture Scholarship](#) applications are now available on the website. **Seniors, check your emails for a message from Tamara!**

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

**Members who entered should have received an email from Tamara on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> with important details. Please review the guidelines and information provided.**

**The club skit is scheduled at 2 p.m. and everything is running on a tight schedule. All other events will have a BLANK schedule posted outside of each room. Please arrive early to get signed up for a judging time! [Check out the website](#) for the latest information, rules, room monitor duties, etc.**

There will be a Life Skills Judging and Crops ID Contest set up in the lobby for everyone who wishes to participate.

### Room Monitors

Jr./Int. Demonstrations & Illustrated Talks – BCA

Readings – GJ

Talent (Skits, Dance & Other Talent) – Sanctuary – VV

Project Talks, Show & Tell – GH

Public Speaking, Extemp. Speaking, Sr. Demo – ES

Warm Up Room & ARI – BJJ

**Restrooms & Lobby – Everyone's responsible to make sure these are kept in good order during the event. Thanks for doing your share to keep the facility clean!**

## REGIONAL 4-H DAY – Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – Grade School in WaKeeney

If you received Regional/Top Blue at the local 4-H Day, you are eligible to represent Ellis County at the Regional Competition. **Entry Deadline is Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM**, call the Extension Office at 785-628-9430 to let us know if you will be participating.

## BABYSITTING 101 CLINIC – March 16<sup>th</sup>

This course gives participants the knowledge, skills and confidence to care for toddlers through school-aged children. Topics include safety issues, preventing injuries and illness, basic childcare, and age-appropriate activities to do with children. Each student will receive a wealth of information. Students will also learn how to make a snack for kids. Please let us know at registration if your child has any food allergies that we need to be aware of. Participants must be 11 by the class date. **Pre-registration is required by March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:00pm.** See flyer at end of newsletter for more details.

## FIBER ARTS PROJECT WORK

Natalie Oborny (Fiber Arts Project Leader) will be at the Extension Office on Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup> from 5-6:30 PM to help with fiber arts projects. Youth are welcome to see what is available or bring supplies and materials to work on. For more information, join the Fiber Arts GroupMe – QR Code at the end of the newsletter.

## WATER POSTER CONTEST

**“Water...It's Important!”** is the theme of this year’s contest. This contest is open to all ages Pre-K – Adult. There are some great prizes. Water conservation, Stormwater, Water Quality are the key concepts to share in the poster. For rules, visit the [City of Hays website](#). **Posters are due to school offices, City Hall or Hays Public Works by NOON on Thursday, March 12th.** Prize winners will be announced by March 27<sup>th</sup> with an awards ceremony on March 31st.



## WORLD WATER DAY FUN FEST

Looking for something to do over Spring Break? Check out the Water Fun Fest at the Sternburg Museum on **Thursday, March 19, 10am – Noon.** Free event sharing hands on activities about our precious water resource by the Water Ambassadors. Fun for all ages!

## 4-H SUPER SATURDAY – March 21<sup>st</sup> at FHSU

March 21 will be a day filled with great 4-H activities for the whole family! There will be 9 judging contests—Crops, Entomology, Geology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Livestock, Livestock Skill-A-Thon, Photography and Wildlife Skills for 4-H & FFA youth 7 - 18. You can judge at 1 or all of these great contests. There will be several workshops in the afternoon to help 4-H’ers explore project learning. More detailed information is available on the flyer on our [website](#).

Event Fees: (Pay at event check in, day of) \$7 for contests (one or all 9), \$8 includes contests and a Sack Lunch, and an additional \$5 for afternoon project opportunities.

**Register by March 16th** at [https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_78Jwy8nnfMNIBW6](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_78Jwy8nnfMNIBW6)

For questions contact Robyn Trussel, Walnut Creek District Extension 4-H Agent at [rdeines@ksu.edu](mailto:rdeines@ksu.edu)

## Livestock ID Procedures

Large and Small animal ID procedures for 2026 have been updated. Please take time to review this!

**AG TECH DAY** APRIL 4, 2026  
10:00 - 2:00  
Flickner Innovation Farm, Moundridge, Ks.

• Free and open to the public - come and go  
• Activities are tailored to middle and high school students

**REGISTER TODAY!**

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Institute for Digital Agriculture and Advanced Analytics

K-STATE  
Research and Extension

Beyond Ready

KCARE  
Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment

## AG TECH DAY – April 4<sup>th</sup>

Kansas 4-H, Kansas State University ID3A (Institute for Digital Agriculture & Advanced Analytics), KCARE(Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment) are co-hosting an engaging Ag Tech Day in Moundridge, Kansas at [Flickner Innovation Farm](#).

A wide variety of stations will be set up around the farm for attendees to visit while they learn from presenters.

### Stations may include:

- Unmanned aircraft systems and drone technologies
- John Deere technologies
- Sensors
- An under canopy robot
- Technology for finding and tracking insects

**The event will be held at Flickner Innovation Farm from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 4. Attendees are welcome to come and go as**

**they please, and snacks will be provided!**

Registration online at: <https://bit.ly/AgTechDay>

Ag Tech Day is **FREE and open to the public**, but registration is required. Please register by **Wednesday, April 1**. You can register as an individual or as a group. Group registration allows up to five people at a time.



## SMALL LIVESTOCK WEIGH-IN & TAGGING

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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 4th-8th**. Any remaining invoices will be mailed out after May 11th. Checks should be made out to **Ellis County 4-H Ag Livestock**.

## YQCA TRAINING & SALE MEETING – April 19th, 1:30pm – Ag Research Center

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 2026, you have two options to complete the training:

- In-Person Training on April 19th.
  - If you cannot attend this in-person session, you are welcome to attend the 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](http://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.**

**NEW MEMBER Livestock Sale Meeting:** Immediately following the YQCA training, there will be a NEW MEMBER Livestock Sale Meeting. This meeting is essential for any new participants of the Ellis County Fair Livestock Sale, and **there will not be another opportunity to attend. It is important that both youth and a parent are present.**

**This is a change from previous years, so 4-H members who have participated in the Fair Livestock Sale last year will not need to attend but should be prepared to talk to potential buyers!**

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> for market beef and June 5<sup>th</sup> for small livestock)**. You will still need to mail the signed DNA samples by the following deadlines:

May 1 - Market beef/heifer nominations due for KS State fair and KJLS

June 15 - Commercial heifer/market/commercial swine, market goat and market/commercial lamb nominations for KS State fair and KJLS are due



## 4-H HORSE ID PAPERS DUE JUNE 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 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 will need to transition to the form linked above. It was updated in 2025.***

## 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 Coggins's test can be found on the [K-State Veterinary Health Center website](#).

## CLUB FUNDRAISER OPPORTUNITIES

**SCIENCE FESTIVAL BAKE SALE**- We are excited to invite your clubs to participate in the upcoming Kansas Science Festival in Downtown Hays on May 3rd, 2026. This event will take place from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and we would love for your club to have a bake sale booth as part of the festivities. [2026 Hays Science Festival](#)

This is a fantastic opportunity for your members to showcase their baking skills while also promoting your 4-H Club and the 4-H Program. We encourage you to get creative with your baked goods, and we are certain that your participation will add to the lively atmosphere of the festival.

If your club is interested in participating, **please let Tamara know by March 20th!**

**WHEAT PLOT TOUR MEAL** - Each year we hold and conduct a county wheat plot tour/field day in May. After the field day we come into Hays to the Municipal Park, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1st**. If you have any questions feel free to ask Stacy or Theresa.

**ELLIS COUNTY FAIR 2026 will be July 12 - 17, 2026**  
**The Theme is "Let the Good Times Roll"**



## ELLIS COUNTY FAIR SUPERINTENDENTS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You can sign up via this link: [2026 Fair Superintendent Link](#) by noon on **MARCH 6th** or call the office at 785-628-9430 to let us know how you'd like to help.

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

Ellis County Extension Office

Thursdays, 5-6:30pm

Bring project work and supplies.

February 26  
March 26  
April 23  
May 28  
June 25  
July 9



For more information, join the Fiber Arts GroupMe.  
Leader: Natalie Oborny



# BABYSITTING CLINIC

**March 16, 2026**  
**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
 check-in at 8:45 am  
**Hays Extension Office**  
 601 Main Street

### Calling All Youth 10 and Older:

Are you interested in becoming a babysitter?

Youth will gain knowledge in preparing for the role of a babysitter, food safety, nutrition and wellness, basic first aid/CPR certification, child development, safe practices for infants, and activities for young children.

**Participants will leave with confidence and skills acquired to care for young children!**

### Registration Deadline March 12, 2025

Registration cost:  
 \$50 per youth - cash or check  
 (pay in advance or at the door during check-in)

Includes: CPR & First Aid Certification + babysitting supplies & meal

**Register here:**  
[bit.ly/cottonwood-babysittingclinic](https://bit.ly/cottonwood-babysittingclinic)  
 Limit: 15 participants



SCAN ME TO REGISTER

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Monique Koerner at 785-628-9430 or [moniquek@ksu.edu](mailto:moniquek@ksu.edu). Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# NW 4-H Judging Event

*Super Saturday*

Saturday, March 21, 2026, 9:00am - Finish

**Host Site: Fort Hays State University**

**Judging Contests include: 9:00am to 12:30pm -- \$7.00**  
 Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Photography, Livestock Skill-a-thon  
 NEW this year Wildlife Skills Judging and Geology  
**Volunteer Sessions for Parents and Volunteers - Free, 10:30am**

**Livestock Judging : 12:30pm FHSU enclosed Rodeo Areana, North of I-70**

**Project Opportunities: (NON-LIVESTOCK Judging youth): 1:00 -3:00pm \$5.00**  
 The afternoon will be filled with STEM and Visual Art Rotation stations, including, robots, circuits, Building Block Engineering, painting and paper crafts.  
**Sack Lunches provided with mandatory RSVP - \$8.00**

### Registration Link:

[https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_78Jwy8nnfMNIBW6](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_78Jwy8nnfMNIBW6)

If you have any questions concerning this event, you may contact Robyn Trussel at 785-798-5020 or [rclines@ksu.edu](mailto:rclines@ksu.edu) or Chandra Plate at 620-388-7157 or [cplate@ksu.edu](mailto:cplate@ksu.edu)



K-State, County Extension Districts and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating, K-State Research & Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer

# Ag Tech Day

April 4, 2026 | **Flickner Innovation Farm**  
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Moundridge, Kansas



Visit stations around the farm and learn about technologies to make a farm management plan.



Free and open to the public; activities are tailored for middle and high school students.



Come and go as you please; snacks provided!

Register by April 1 at <https://bit.ly/AgTechDay>

