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# Ellis County 4-H Happenings

May 2026

Hey 4-H Families!

Summer is almost upon us. As of May 1, fair is 73 days away!! Hopefully you have started working on all your projects. We are excited to see everyone and everything they do this summer!

**May 1 is an important date in the 4-H year.** It's the date that you need to be enrolled in any and all projects you plan to take to the Ellis Co. Fair. Be sure to take time now to review the projects you are enrolled in and make sure it reflects those areas you are working on project learning in at this time. **Your projects don't just "roll over" from year to year,** you have to make the selections. This is especially important if you are moving from being a Cloverbud where you don't declare projects to becoming a regular member. **You must have those projects selected by May 1.**

As always, if you have questions, don't hesitate to 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

**Council** – May 11<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM, back meeting room of the Extension Office

**Fashion Revue Committee** – Watch your email to set a date

## 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

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

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

**May 8** – Registration for Discovery Days Closes

**May 8** – Registration for FCS Contest

**May 15** – Registration for State Geology Trip closes

**May 25** – Registration for Insect Spectacular closes

**June 1** – 4-H Horse ID Papers Due in Ext. Office

**June 5** – RSVP for King Arthur Scones Class by 5 pm

**June 15** – YQCA Training Due for KS Fair and KJLS

**June 15** – All Commercial Heifer, Sheep, Swine & Meat Goat nominations for KSF and KJLS are due in State Office

**June 26** - Herdsmanship Award preferences to the Ext. Office

**June 26 – County Fair Entry Deadline for Livestock, Horse, Fashion Revue paperwork + FairEntry due by 5pm**

**July 1** – RSVP for Pizza Break Night (Fair Set up on July 8th)



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## CONGRATS TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS. . .

Mariella Dreiling, Mark Grabbe, Scarlett Herrman, Keeli Kimzey, Isaac Moreno, Ella Neher, Serena Ross, Emily Ross, Blaise Staab, John Stremel, Jacob Taylor and Lizzy Vajnar.

## SENIORS RECEIVING ELLIS COUNTY 4-H SCHOLARSHIPS

It is our plan to honor this year's recipients, Mark Grabbe, Scarlett Herrman, Keeli Kimzey, Ella Neher, and Lizzy Vajnar, at the 4-H Livestock Auction during the fair this summer.

## LIVESTOCK TAG INVOICES

If you attended weigh-in and tagging on April 29th, we ask that you submit payment as soon as possible.

Families are asked to come into the office and **pay for tags during the week of May 4th-8th**. Any remaining invoices will be emailed out after May 11th. Checks should be made out to **Ellis County 4-H Ag Livestock**.

## 4-H PROJECT ENROLLMENT

Hopefully by now, you have gone on and completed your family profile and enrolled your members on-line. Remember, **you can make changes to your enrollments until May 1**.

**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.

## CLUB FUNDRAISER OPPORTUNITY - 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.

## FIBER ARTS PROJECT WORK

Natalie Oborny (Fiber Arts Project Leader) will be at the Extension Office on Thursdays May 14 & 28, 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.

See the graphic at the end of the newsletter for the next few months meeting dates.

## 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)**.

Nomination Deadlines:

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

## **KANSAS 4-H DISCOVERY DAYS**

Put June 3-5, 2026 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, 2026.

**Registration for Discovery Days is now OPEN and will close on May 8th!** Remember, high demand classes tend to fill up quick! To check out the class catalog go to: <http://bit.ly/4ITF2BF> To register, use the QR code below or this link: <https://cvent.me/OyR3dO>

## **4-H FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES (FCS) EXPERIENCE**

The FCS Judging Contest includes:

- Consumer Decision Placing classes and reasons (individual participants)
- Skill-a-thon identification (individual participants)
- Group Think – which is a presentation inviting the team's perspective in response to a situation presented on the day of competition. (Team presentation to a judge)

**WHO:** Open to all youth ages 9-18 (youth can participate as individuals or a team of 3-4 youth in the same age group). Intermediates are ages 9-13; Seniors are ages 14-18.

**HOW MUCH:** Fee is \$15 per participant (includes lunch at Kramer Dining Center); \$10 for Discovery Days participants. No refunds (but substitutions will be allowed).

**WHAT TO EXPECT:** The FCS Experience will include the Family and Consumer Sciences Judging Contest, lunch on campus, workshops, and a campus tour.

**WHERE:** Justin Hall at Kansas State University

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 4, 2026

This is the Life Skills contest that has previously been at the Kansas State Fair. **Please contact the Extension Office if you are wanting to participate, as we have to register the youth! Deadline is May 8th!**

## **KING ARTHUR SCONES CLASS**

FCW Agent, Monique Koerner will be hosting a Scones Class to help 4-H members (and Open Class participants) get ready for the King Arthur category at the Ellis County Fair. Join us at the **Residential Kitchens at Hays High School on June 10, 2026 from 1-5pm.**

**Please register online at [https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_e3BQjjjHpKedKyG](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e3BQjjjHpKedKyG) by 5 pm, June 5th.**

## **2026 4-H GEOLOGY STATE FIELD TRIP**

A variety of workshops and activities are planned for June 12-14<sup>th</sup>, at Parsons Middle School. Multiple stops are planned on the Field Trip Saturday and Sunday. Project members are encouraged to participate in judging and quiz bowl. Registration is \$10 per person. **Every family member who attends trip must register.** Field Trip t-shirts can be purchased for \$20. **Registration is open and will close on May 15<sup>th</sup>.** More information about this event can be found on the State 4-H website at [2026 State Geology Field Trip](#)

## 2026 KANSAS 4-H INSECT SPECTACULAR

The State Entomology Workshop will be held Friday and Saturday, **June 19-20, in Iola, Kansas**. Workshop events include collection and photo trips, pinning class, identification class, and a pollinator garden community service activity. Full Participant registration fee of \$85.00 includes supper Friday, lunch Saturday, bottled water, class materials, T-Shirt, and handouts. **A parent or legal guardian must attend with their 4-H'er**. Schedule, and full information can be found at [2026 Insect Spectacular](#), **registration closes on May 25<sup>th</sup>**.

## 4-H EVENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The [2026 4-H Event Scholarship App](#) has been updated and posted to the forms page of our website. **It must be completed with the 4-H members handwritten signature or it will not be accepted by the Scholarship and Development committee! Submit it to the Extension Office at least two weeks before the scheduled event.**



## CAT PROOF OF VACCINES FOR COUNTY FAIR

Cats & kittens over 2 months of age shown at the Ellis Co. Fair must be current on rabies and distemper vaccinations. Provide proof of vaccination or vet check at show check in.

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



## 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

Ellis County Extension Office

Thursdays, 5-6:30pm

Bring project work and supplies.

February 26  
March 26  
April 23  
May 14 & 28  
June 11 & 25  
July 9



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

# Scones Class



**June 10, 2026**

**1:00PM-5:00PM**

**Hays High School**

**Residential Kitchens**

**Everybody Welcome!**



SCAN TO  
REGISTER

Spots limited, be sure to sign up **before June 5, 2026** at  
[https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_e3BQjjjHpKedKyG](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e3BQjjjHpKedKyG)

*Assisting Adult Division and Junior Division participants in preparing for the Ellis  
County Fair: Open Class King Arthur Category Submissions.*

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