December Highlights:

- December 3: Holiday Parade, Downtown Topeka
- December 23-January 2: Extension Office Closed
- January 1: Volunteer & Lifetime Volunteer of the Year Nominations Due! Contact the office for details!
- January 8: January Jamboree

In this Issue:

- Assembling Bread Kit Details, Page 3
- What to Expect at 4-H Camp 2023, Page 7
- SAVE THE DATES! on Page 9
- Club Chatter, Pages 11-14
- Shawnee County 4-H Calendar, Page 15
Dates to Remember:
- December 3: Miracle on Kansas Avenue Holiday Parade
- December 8: Events Council Meeting
- December 19: Bread Making Kits
- December 23-January 2: Office Closed
- December 28: Ag Field Trip
- January 8: January Jamboree

Please send Chatterbox submissions to Grace, Haley, & Lisa by December 23rd

Visit us on the Web: www.shawnee.ksu.edu

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A Word From Your Agent...

Dear 4-H Families,

Earlier in November, Shawnee County had 6 youth attend the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum at Rock Springs 4-H Center. They had a great time learning about leadership and meeting new 4-H friends from across the state. If you have never attended a State 4-H Event, you should try to go to at least one. KYLF, Discovery Days and CIA are great ways to experience 4-H on the state level. There is information about all of these events on the Kansas 4-H site https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/index.html.

January Jamboree is scheduled for January 8th from 2-4 pm. In addition to the usual club craft tables, we would like to add a few project feature tables. If you are a 4-Her and would like to share a little bit or do a small activity teaching about your favorite project, please let us at the office know and sign up at the link in the January Jamboree article on page 6!

I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday season! If your club carols or does community service this time of year, please send pictures to the office. We can post them on our Facebook page!
Livestock Judging Clinic & Contest
Leavenworth County Extension is hosting a full day hands-on Livestock Judging Clinic & Contest Saturday, December 3rd in Tonganoxie, KS at the Leavenworth County Fairgrounds. All levels of experience are welcome and encouraged to attend. The Butler County Community College Livestock Judging Team & Coach will be to teach and officiate. More information and Registration can be found on the 4-H Upcoming Events. Registration is due November 14th. Please contact Haley, kelley13@ksu.edu, if you are planning on attending.

Shawnee County Agriculture Field Trip Open to all 4-Hers
The Shawnee County 4-H Livestock Committee is hosting a Field Trip to enhance 4-Her’s knowledge of Agriculture & Livestock. This year, 4-Her’s will get a chance to tour the NexGen Cattle Company on December 28th. More information to come via email and Facebook.

K-State Junior Swine Producer Day
Date – Saturday, March 11, 2023
Registration Deadline – February 15
Cost - $20/person by February 15 ($25/person after February 15)
*Registration must be RECEIVED by February 15 to receive a t-shirt.
  *Both youth and adults attending need to register.
Online Registration - https://commerce.cashnet.com/KSUASIND

K-State Junior Meat Goat Producer Day
Date – Saturday, March 18, 2023
Registration Deadline – February 22
Cost - $20/person by February 22 ($25/person after February 22)
*Registration must be RECEIVED by February 22 to receive a t-shirt.
**Both youth and adults attending need to register.
Online Registration - https://commerce.cashnet.com/KSUASIND
County Events

Assembling Bread Kits on December 19th
Kansas Day is just around the corner and you know what that means ….. we need your help in making bread in a bag kits. We will be putting together bread in a bag kit for School Enrichment on December 19th, Monday at 1:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room. **If we can get 12 volunteers by December 5th; there will be a pizza party.** This is a great opportunity to spend time with your fellow 4-H friends, and add community service to your record book. So come and join the fun!

The School Enrichment program is an opportunity to reach school-age children that may not have had any other 4-H experience. This is not a fundraiser for the Extension Office. The schools pay a nominal fee per student to cover the cost of the supplies. The bread in a bag Wheat Science program is one of the popular programs offered to the elementary teachers in Shawnee County.

Please call Haley Kelley at 785-232-0062 x112 or email kelley13@ksu.edu by December 6th so we will know how many helpers to count on.
The Deer Trail club is hosting a 4-H float in Miracle On Kansas Avenue Parade Saturday, December 3rd. 4-Her's and family are welcome to join us! Please dress for the weather and be prepared to walk the entire route. We will meet between 2nd and 5th streets. Come between 3:30 and 5:30 to decorate a truck with the parade starting at 6:00. We will have flyers to distribute and participants can bring candy to pass out to the crowds. We hope to see you there!

New Shooting Sports Discipline Available

We are adding Air Pistol to our list of available Shooting Sports Disciplines in 2023! All 4-Hers age 9 and older who are interested are welcome to add this project. If you have already enrolled in 4-H for the year and would like to add, please contact the office and we can get you set up. Watch the January Chatterbox for practice dates!
Communications Project Meeting

Have you ever struggled with speaking in front of people? Does it make you nervous? Well, you're in luck! Coming up this January on the 11th from 6-8 we are having the first communications project meeting! It's a group for kids run by kids and is a safe space for all of us to work on our communication skills through games and presentations! We hope to see you there! -Meredith Burgess

January Jamboree

This year January Jamboree will be on January 8th, from 2-4 at Countryside United Methodist Church, 3221 S.W. Burlingame Rd. The January Jamboree is a craft event that is open to the public where you can make small crafts and see all your 4-H friends. Crafts normally range from being free to around a dollar. Most crafts are for younger kids, but all ages are welcome. **If you are interested in leading a craft please sign up by January 3rd, 2023 using the link below.** Invite your friends and make plans to attend the January Jamboree!

https://forms.gle/dkYXfvPfdiLa1m8V9
"To Make the Best Better!"

**Kansas 4-H State Events and Activities**

**Save the Date for 4-H Ambassador and Communication Training**

Kansas 4-H Ambassador Training will be held February 24-25 at Rock Springs Ranch 4-H Camp. They will also be offering some 4-H Communication Training for teens who might not be part of a local ambassador program. Shawnee County 4-Hers who are interested in expanding their leadership skills are encouraged to attend this weekend!

Be watching email and the Chatterbox for additional information.

The state 4-H program is also looking for volunteers and teen leaders who would like to serve on the 4-H Ambassador Action Team or have a passion for helping teens learn and improve communication skills. Please reach out if you have an interest.

---

**Dog Judges Training & Re-certification**

When: January 27-29  
Where: Wichita, KS  
Registration Link: [https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0vLsfQo6VyOzsQC](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0vLsfQo6VyOzsQC)  
Registration deadline: January 15, 2023  
Fees: Certification cost $95; Observing cost $50

This is a great opportunity for local dog project leaders and older 4-Hers to observe the training and better understand how they will be judged at shows. Participants must be 16 years of age and up to attend.

For more information check [https://www.kansas4-h.org/tipsheet/announcement/?id=86180](https://www.kansas4-h.org/tipsheet/announcement/?id=86180)
"To Make the Best Better!"

**What to Expect at 4-H Camp in 2023**

We are excited to share what you can expect in 2023 for Kansas 4-H camp at Rock Springs Ranch.

We are continuing to expand our teen opportunities at camp. Leaders in Training (LIT) will be launched in 2023! These week-long sessions will be for our rising sophomores and juniors, which will include some great volunteer opportunities as well as some unique camp experiences. Be on the lookout for new and updated information about our programs via social media and our website.

Ready, set, register! Summer Camp 2023 registration is OPEN! This includes half week, full week, LIT and Counselor in Training (CIT) sessions. We anticipate an influx of registrations at launch and last summer we did reach capacity in a few sessions. Early bird registration rate (10% discount) ends on December 31. The session dates are below.

Visit www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org for more information!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional 4-H Camp:</th>
<th>Counselors in Training (CIT):</th>
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<tr>
<td>Session 1: June 4-7</td>
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<td>Session 8: July 9-14</td>
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Rock Springs employee applications for summer 2023 are now open! If you know someone who likes spending time outside and working with youth, RSR may be a great fit. We hire approximately 60 staff each summer in a variety of roles from counselor, activity specialist and leadership roles. For more information and job descriptions, visit our website under Employment.

- Rock Springs Ranch
Youth Tractor and Machinery Operations Program

It’s time to start planning for the Spring and Summer 2023 Youth Tractor and Machinery courses. The program that KSRE utilizes is the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP) through Penn State Extension. This program has been selected since it meets the requirements of the U.S. Department of Labor and OSHA, and offers instructor training and support.

We encourage all counties and district agents to offer this important safety program to your communities. To become an Instructor, visit our Instructor Resources webpage. There is a one-time cost of $35. After completion of the course, instructors will receive a teaching guide, lesson plans, PowerPoint deck, updates to materials, annual tests/keys and more. The Instructor Training covers how to administer the course; it does not cover the content to be presented to students. You are encouraged to have multiple presenters to offer different perspectives and specialties. First responders, implement dealers and mechanics, local farmers and agriculture educators are just a few that can add different dynamics to your program.

For CURRENT and NEW Instructors:

The USDOL requires 24 hours of instruction for the minimum core areas. This may take place over several sessions and can include group discussions, demonstrations, field trips to farms or equipment dealers, and hands-on activities, all in addition to the classroom instruction which should meet the 24-hour requirement. We have reviewed this requirement with the university attorney and been advised to meet all the requirements or not offer the training, for two reasons:
1. If the program does not meet the minimum standards for certification, the university may be liable to any person that is certified who is injured in the operation of machinery to the extent the injury is caused by a lack of training;
2. The university potentially could be misrepresenting to an employer that an individual is properly trained, when our program has not met required standards under the regulations. Furthermore, this could extend our liability to future employers of these individuals who have relied upon our certification in authorizing the person to operate machinery.

* There has been discussion in the past about the 10–14-hour courses, this only covers tractor operation training and it is not part of our program.
* Each student should receive the Revised Third Edition manual; it has a green tractor on the cover.
* The GOOD NEWS is that we have been advised that allowing the employer of the student to administer the driving portion of the exam is approved, as long as the agent who is signing the certificate has either observed the test or can corroborate or verify that the person has passed; this should include a written verification of the employer.

CALL TO ACTION:
* Visit National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program
* Join Teams KSRE National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program
* Watch for more updates coming soon!
* Call or email Tawnie Larson with questions, tawnie@ksu.edu, or 785-532-2976
"To Make the Best Better!"

Save the Date!

4-H Day with Wildcat Women's Basketball
KAE4-HA's annual "4-H Day with Wildcat Women's Basketball" has been scheduled for Sunday, February 12, at 1 p.m.! Join us as the Wildcats take on pre-season #15 Oklahoma. Registration will be available soon from the state. If you are interested in going, contact the office so we can assess travel plans!

Kansas 4-H Insect Spectacular
Classes will include basic pinning, basic and advanced identification, insect photography, and much more. A parent or legal guardian must attend with their 4-H'er. Registration, proposed schedule, and full information will be available in the spring. Stay tuned!
The Shawnee County Extension Education Foundation (SCEEF) has exciting news for 4-Hers! SCEEF is committed to SUPPORT SUCCESS and invest in future Key Award recipients' continued development in secondary education. The SCEEF recognizes the project expertise, leadership and service commitment that is required to achieve the Key Award. 4-Hers commit to leading peers, experiment with new ideas and make a difference in clubs and the community. Youth INSPIRE others and MAKE THE BEST BETTER.

SCEEF is honored to announce that beginning in 2026, 4-Hers who achieve the Key Award will receive a scholarship post high-school graduation.

- Today's announcement provides the opportunity to all future 4-H Key Award candidates to make preparations to meet eligibility. See the Achievement Pin documents and Key Award requirements as 4-Hers plan the new year.
- To be eligible for the Key Award, 4-Hers must complete progressive requirements (over a minimum of a 4-year period). As an example, one requirement of the Key Award is to be enrolled and participating in 4-H Leadership project for (4) or more years.
- Recipients must be awarded the Key Award, remain in good standing and attend an accredited University or Tech School.
- Youth will need to apply for the Key Award scholarship beginning in 2026, providing their graduation date, name of the accredited secondary education provider with the 4-Hers student ID#. The one-time award is paid directly to the Educational Institution.

If you have questions about the preparation process to complete progressive Achievement Pins toward the Key Award, don't hesitate to connect with your Club Leader or our 4-H Agent.

The goal of SCEEF is to "Support Success" ... for the next generations of leaders.
"To Make the Best Better!"

Auburn

The Auburn 4-H Club celebrated with a family potluck at our November meeting. Everyone contributed to the meal by bringing a main dish, side and dessert. We had so much food! It was truly a feast! Club members had a great time enjoying wonderful food and getting to visit with each other and their family members. During our meeting we recognized club members for their achievements from earning pins, record books and the Key Award. We also recognized all the club volunteers that help with activities in our club. During our meeting we discussed and came up with our Purple Seal Goals we will work towards this year.

-Kelsey Louderback

Silver Lake

At this month’s meeting, Andrew gave a talk about swine AI, and Evelyn explained her fine arts project. The group got together on a cold November day to clear and clean up Landon Trail.

-Jaylee Hamilton
Silver Lake Club reporter
"To Make the Best Better!"

**Bunny Bunch**

Our Bunny Bunch 4-H club attended the Sunflower RBA and Windy Plains RBA show in El Dorado this past November.

Sunflower show results:
- Brooklyn’s Havana (out of 101 rabbits) won Best of Breed (BOB), her Netherland Dwarf and French Lop won BOB. Kayla’s Tan won BOB.
- Jake/Christian’s Mini Satin won BOB.
- Windy Plains
- Brooklyn’s Netherland Dwarf won BOB and 1st Reserve in the Show overall. Her French Lop won BOB. Jake/Christian’s Otter Mini Rex won BOB and 2nd Reserve in Show, and their Mini Satin and Tan won BOB

If you are interested in learning more about rabbits, the Bunny Bunch 4-H club is hosting a youth clinic/4-H only show with youth contests on January 21st 2023 in Dover KS. Contact Lisa.Tillotson@yahoo.com for additional information.

Shout out to Brooklyn for giving 28 of her rabbits to youth to get started in rabbitry in the past few months. She also gave her beloved mentor, one of her 3rd generation Havanas to help rebuild their herd after a dog attack killed their rabbits. She also attended “Day of the Dwarf” convention and won Best in Show with her Netherland Dwarf earlier in November.

--- Kierstyn Tillotson

**Poultry Project**

Hello there 4Hers and parents. If you have any kids interested in poultry, Andrew Johnson has started a poultry project with the Shawnee County 4-H youth. The educational talks will be held in conjunction with Andy’s North Topeka Tractor Supply meets for more hands on experience.

Any youth interested in poultry is invited to join
When: 3rd Sunday of the month
Between 8-11am. You don't have to be there right at 8 and you don't have to stay until 11. Its a drop in club just find Andy and he will get you informed!

Andy’s Tractor Supply Swaps 2023  North Topeka TSC 3rd Sunday of the month. starts 8am-11
710 Hwy 24 East, Topeka, KS 66608

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Shawnee County 4-H  Chatterbox

"To Make the Best Better!"

**Shawnee Riders**

The Shawnee Riders November 15, 2022 meeting was about Christmas. The recreation game was who could turn their partner into the best Christmas trees with Decorations! We also made Christmas Ornaments for a nursing home as a Community Service Project.

**Deer Trail**

The Deer Trail 4-H club would like to congratulate its members for their accomplishments recognized at Achievement night. Kaylin Phillips and JoyAnne Boutz each received their Key Awards. These awards were hard-earned and well deserved. Congratulations!

We would also like to invite everyone to join us at the Holiday parade on Saturday, December 3rd. The parade is on Kansas Ave and starts at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to meet at 3:30 between 2nd and 5th Street to decorate the trailer. Anyone who would like to walk with us to represent 4-H should be at the float by 5:30. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Swanson at 785-213-2415. We hope to see you there!

-Grace Funk
Indian Creek

This fall has been a busy season for the Indian Creek 4-H Club. In October, 4-Hers and their families participated in 48 Hours of 4-H by helping with projects on the North Topeka Optimist Club grounds. At our October 4-H Meeting we had a Halloween Party. Members came in costumes and enjoyed roasting hotdogs over an open fire and participated in a variety of Halloween games and activities.

Indian Creek 4-Hers kicked off November by attending the Shawnee County Achievement Night. Adonis VanLeeuwen was awarded his Key Award. Other club members received 4-H Achievement Pins and Project Award Pins. Our November 4-H Club meeting was short and sweet. Members were encouraged to sign up for committees and leadership opportunities for the 4-H year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cooper & Keaton Mengarelli
Shawnee County 4-H Chatterbox

"To Make the Best Better!"

Shawnee County 4-H Calendar

**December**

3 Miracle on Kansas Avenue Holiday Parade, Downtown Topeka
5 Bunny Bunch Rabbit Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
8 Events Council Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
19 Making Bread Kits, EMR, 1 pm
23 Chatterbox Submissions Due
23-Jan 2 OFFICE CLOSED
28 Ag Field Trip
29 Paw Prints Fun Night, EMR, 6:30 pm

**January 2023**

1 Volunteer of the Year & Lifetime Volunteer of the Year Nominations Due
2 OFFICE CLOSED
2 Bunny Bunch Rabbit Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
5 Shooting Sports Air Rifle 2, EMR, 6:30 pm
8 January Jamboree, Countryside United Methodist Church, 2-4 pm
10 Horse Panorama registration due
11 Communications Project Meeting
12 Jr Leaders Meeting, 6 pm
16 OFFICE CLOSED
19 Sportfishing, EMR, 6:00 pm
23 Paw Prints Dog Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
26 Chatterbox Submissions Due
27-29 Dog Judges Training and Re-certification, Wichita
28 Horse Panorama, Salina

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact (Grace Wiens) two weeks prior to the start of the event. You may make a request by calling 785-232-0062, ext. 120, or by e-mail at wiensg@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.

All dates and activities are subject to change.