



AUGUST 2026

Highlights:

August 7: State Fair Entry Forms DUE 5 pm

September 8-9: State Fair Project Drop-Off

September 11-20: Kansas State Fair

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Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Dates to Remember:

- August 7th: State Fair entry forms due to Office
- August 13th: Ambassadors @ 6 pm
- August 13th: Events Council @ 7 pm
- September 7th: Office closed for Labor Day
- September 8th-9th: Project Drop-Off for State Fair
- September 11th-20th: Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson

In the event of severe weather watch our Facebook page for updates!

Search for Shawnee
County 4-H



Please send Chatterbox submissions to Grace by August 26th

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

Grace Wiens
4-H Youth Development Agent
wiensg@ksu.edu
785-232-0062 ext.120

A Word From Your Agent...

Happy August everyone! I hope you have all rested and recovered from the fair. I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of our volunteers, superintendents, sponsors, and families for all of your hard work and dedication to make the fair happen!! So many people went above and beyond this year, and we really can't put on a fair without your help. It was a really wonderful fair, and I look forward to doing it again with you next year!

Since we have gratitude on our minds, make sure you are writing thank you notes! A handwritten note to a sponsor, superintendent, or volunteer goes a long way toward assuring that they continue to give to Shawnee County 4-H, as well as centers your mind around the larger picture of what all goes into making the fair happen. One sponsor I would ask that each club sends a thank you note to is Tractor Supply. Both stores in Topeka donated large amounts to the fair, and every 4-Her that exhibited received at least one item from them. If you are unsure of who to write thank you notes to, please reach out to the extension office and we can point you in the right direction!

State fair entries are due to the extension office by 5 pm on August 7th. You can find the entry form here: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/fair-resources/kansas-state-fair/>. We will be taking your projects down to Hutchinson this year on Thursday, September 10th. All static exhibits should be dropped off at the office during business hours on September 8th or 9th, or between 7:30-7:40 am on the 10th. Because the space in the van is limited, you will need to make your own arrangements for projects that are larger than a geology box. If you need to check if your project qualified, or need help with your entry form, please reach out!

Staff Change

As of July 16th, Lisa is no longer with the Extension Office. All emails & phone calls need to be directed to me until we fill the Program Assistant position again. We will have our summer intern staying on part-time through the end of the year, so be sure to tell Camryn hello if you stop by the office!

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

County Notes

Promotional Materials Available

If your club is having a table at an upcoming event, such as a Back to School night or similar event and you would like flyers promoting Shawnee County 4-H, please reach out to Grace! We do need a few days notice, so please keep that in mind. Enrollment for the new 4-H year opens October 1st so now is a great time to recruit new members and volunteers!

Opportunities to Promote 4-H

There are 2 events coming up for 4-H promotion:



- Wildly Creative at the Topeka Zoo, August 29th 8:30 AM-2:00 PM, Topeka Zoo
- TPS 501 Family Fitness Fun Night, September 23rd 5:00 PM-7:00 PM, Hummer Sports Park

If you are able to help with all or a portion of either of these events, please contact the office. 4-Hers who are involved in or interested in the Ambassador program are encouraged to attend to help with promoting 4-H!

Ambassador Information

All older 4-Hers who are looking for ways to become more involved in promoting the program are invited to join 4-H Ambassadors! The group is open to 4-Hers who are program age 12 or older and who have been in 4-H for at least 3 years. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of even months, at 6 pm before the Events Council meetings at 7.

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

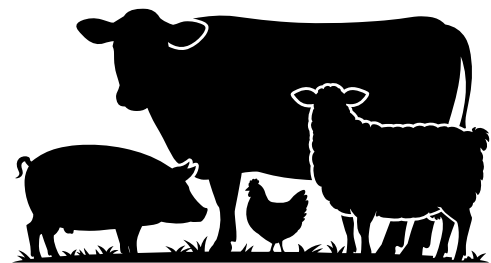
"To Make the Best Better!"

Livestock Corner

Kansas Junior Livestock Show

The Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) entries can be submitted here: <https://kansasjls.fairwire.com/>. Check their website and social media accounts for information regarding show entries, as well as the show rules. Show website: <https://www.kjls.net/>

August 15 - KJLS Entry Deadline



County Fair Sale Updates

Congratulations to everyone who sold an animal at the county fair! The sale committee is hard at work compiling your buyers list and preparing invoices. Once those lists are received at the Extension Office, you will be emailed a list of buyers & addresses. Please be sure to send handwritten thank you notes to all of your buyers! They make a tremendous investment in you and your project and should be recognized for that. If you are able to spend a day, a visit in person goes a long way towards building a long-lasting relationship with your buyers!



Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

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State News

Youth Council and National 4-H Conference Applications

Applications for the Kansas Youth Leadership Council and the National 4-H Conference will be open. All applications will be completed online and will be due by October 1, 2026, 11:59 p.m. CT.

Any Kansas 4-H member between the ages of 14 and 18 before January 1, 2027, may apply as a Council Rep, and those 15-18 before January 1, 2027, may apply for the National 4-H Conference.

This year's KYLF delegation will elect representatives from the four extension program areas (NE, NW, SE, SW) for one-year terms on the council. Up to 6 National Conference Delegates will be selected through an interview prior to KYLF, and they serve a two-year term on the council.

2027 Outbound Exchanges Announced

States' 4-H International Exchange Programs recently announced the Outbound Exchanges to be offered for summer 2027. The following exchanges are for four weeks beginning in June or July 2027 for Kansas Youth ages 12 or 15 to 18, depending on the destination country: Norway (June 17-July 17), Costa Rica (June 24-July 23), Taiwan (June 30-July 30), Japan (July 7-August 6), and South Korea (July 7-August 6). The Japan 8-Week Exchange will run from June 9 to August 6. More details will be available in early June with a flyer posted on States' 4-H and Kansas 4-H websites.

The online outbound application will be live in September. Kansas will again have a due date for applications on November 1. For more information, contact Kansas outbound coordinator, Mary Kay Munson at mkm2@ksu.edu or (785) 375-3189.

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

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4-H Dog Conference Logo Design Contest Open

"Stars, Stripes, & Wagging Tails" is the theme of the 2026 Kansas 4-H Dog Conference scheduled for October 17 & 18 at Rock Springs Ranch. Think about celebrating our 250th anniversary and the freedoms of the United States of America as you design a logo to be used for this year's conference.

All Kansas 4-H dog project members are invited to participate in the logo design contest by emailing a drawing of your idea in JPEG format to Jill Martinson at martinso@ksu.edu by August 5, 2026. The winning design will be used by our graphic designers as a basis for the logo to be used for conference t-shirts, hoodies, and promotional materials. The winning designer will be awarded their choice of a t-shirt or hoodie featuring their "Stars, Stripes, & Wagging Tails" design.

Recruiting for the 2027 Kansas 4-H Project Partnership Teams

For over a century, Kansas 4-H has been rooted in volunteer and teen leader involvement. Groups and committees across our project areas have delivered opportunities, guided project advancement, and more. As we prepare for the new 4-H year, it's time to recruit members for our 4-H Project Partnership Teams.

What is the Kansas 4-H Project Partnership Teams (PPT)?

It is a team bring youth, volunteers, and K-State Extension professionals together to:

- Enhance learning through project pathways,
- Provide leadership in developing a project's subject matter,
- Review, recommend, and offer professional development on curriculum and resources for professionals and volunteers, &
- Lead planning of one or more state educational experiences.

PPTs ensure grassroots involvement, create leadership opportunities, and build a statewide network of informed, motivated individuals. Teams may be ongoing or convened for a specific initiative, providing guidance in developing a project or program, including managing major state events.

How to apply:

- Prospective members must apply.
- Deadline: August 10. Applications are reviewed by the 4-H Specialist and the team chair or an adult representative. The final appointment is made by the 4-H Specialist with the State 4-H Program Leader or designee, who will notify the applicants.
- An annual PPT Summit will be held Saturday, January 23, 2027 (location TBD). All appointed members are expected to attend.

Learn more at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/volunteers/projectpartnershipteams/>.

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

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Club Chatter

Auburn

The July monthly meeting for the Auburn 4-H club was held at Genesis for our annual pool party before the county fair. A short meeting was held to review county fair reminders and to hand out pancake tickets. Then everyone got to swim and have some fun together. Next came the county fair where we all got together for the club tour. We walked around to share our exhibits and took a club picture. Congratulations to everyone!



~Harley Brossard

Rossville Rustlers

The Rossville Rustlers 4-H club members had a great time at the Shawnee County Fair. They showed off their hard work in a variety of projects from cattle, pigs, photography, welding, woodworking, archery, foods, clothing, and so much more. The clubs next big event is the Tallcorn Festival Parade on August 8, 2026. We are extending an invitation to all of the Shawnee County 4-H club members to "fill the float". Come hang out with the Rossville Rustlers club on the float, wave to the crowd, toss candy and have a great time. Then head over to the festival grounds where there will be fun activities, food trucks, and lots of arts, crafts and other vendor booths. The parade starts at 10 a.m., float riders would need to arrive at 9:30 a.m. in the field behind the Rossville Grade school. Parents and members can both ride the float. If you have questions please contact Chris Crawford at 785-213-3388.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, August 17, 2026.

By Valencia Crawford

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

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Silver Lake

Several members of the Silver Lake 4-H Community Club participated in the Shawnee County Fair last week, and we are proud of all they accomplished!! At the beginning of the fair, members worked together to decorate the club hay bale, earning 1st place in the Hay Bale Competition. Great teamwork and creativity were on display from the start.

Our members showcased numerous projects throughout the fair. They did an outstanding job representing our club, and several members qualified to exhibit their projects at the Kansas State Fair. Congratulations on this achievement! A special recognition goes to Mary Leigh Myers and Hanna Myers for their success in the Shawnee County Fair Queen Contest. Mary Leigh was crowned the 4-H Queen, and Hanna earned the title of First Runner-up. What an incredible accomplishment.

Thanks to all our members, families, leaders, and volunteers for your hard work and dedication. We are proud of everyone who participated and represented the Silver Lake 4-H Community Club so well, along with those in the rest of the county.

-Clara Thomas



Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

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Shawnee County 4-H Calendar

August 2026

1 Kansas State Fair Horse Show Entries Due
 3 Bunny Bunch Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
 4 Wheat Expo, El Dorado
 6 4-H Exchange, EMR, 7 pm
7 State Fair Entry Forms Due to Office by 5 pm
 13 4-H Events Council Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
 15 State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest, Manhattan
 19 Livestock Committee Meeting, Downstairs Conference Room, 7:15 pm
 22-23 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes, Manhattan
 24 Paw Prints Dog Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
 25 Shawnee County Fair Board, EMR, 7 pm
26 Chatterbox Submissions Due
 27 Horse Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
 29 Wildly Creative @ the Topeka Zoo

September 2026

3 4-H Exchange, EMR 7 pm
 7 Office Closed- Labor Day
 8-9 Static Exhibit Drop Off
 10 State Fair Judging & Volunteer Opportunities
11-20 Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson
 23 Topeka 501 Family Night
 24 Horse Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
25 Record Books Due to Office by 5 pm
 28 Paw Prints Dog Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm



EMR= Extension Meeting Room at Extension Office

K-State Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

K-State 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.

