



MARCH 2026

Highlights:

- ✦ March 7: K-State Junior Beef Producer Day
- ✦ March 18: Ambassadors Trip to Rock Springs
- ✦ March 21: Regional Club Day

In this Issue:

- ✦ County Notes, Page 2
 - ✦ Livestock Corner, Page 3-4
 - ✦ State News, Page 5-6
 - ✦ Club Chatter, Page 7-9
 - ✦ Shawnee County 4-H Calendar, Page 10
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Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Dates to Remember:

- March 7: K-State Junior Beef Producer Day
- March 18: Ambassadors Trip Rock Springs
- March 21: Regional Club Day, Baldwin City

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



Search for Shawnee County 4-H

Please send Chatterbox submissions to Lisa and Grace by March 26

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

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A Word From Your Agent...

Congratulations to everyone who participated in 4-H Club Day! We had a great afternoon with nearly 50 presentations from our 4-Hers. Regional Club Day will be held on March 21st at Baldwin Junior High School. Be on the lookout for a room monitor sign up, this is a great way to check off a box on your Achievement Pin applications!

March is also a good time to check your 4-H projects before the May 1st deadline for enrollment. You can join 4-H at any time during the year, but if you want to take a project to the fair you must be enrolled in that project by May 1st. Be aware, simply going to project meetings does not mean you are enrolled, it must be listed in your 4-H Online profile. If you need to add a project, please contact the office and we will get it taken care of for you! If you are paying the enrollment fee by check, please don't wait until the 1st to enroll. You will need to allow for time to mail the check to the state 4-H office and for the check to be processed.

On March 18th, all 4-Hers program age 12 and older are invited to join the Ambassadors on a trip to Rock Springs for the ropes course and some camp activities! It will be \$21/person. We will be leaving the office by 10:30 am and having lunch in Junction City on the way down. Please bring some cash for your lunch as well!

Sign up at <https://forms.office.com/r/bg8PFgEpVc>

Changes to 4-H Online Messaging

The 4-H Online broadcast system will no longer allow us to send text message notifications when we send emails. If you would like to be signed up for text messages about county events and activities, please join our county-wide GroupMe here:

https://groupme.com/join_group/102815469/5JDLS55L

Ambassador Information

Ambassador meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of even months, at 6 pm before Events Council. If you'd like to join, we'll see you on February 12th in the upstairs meeting room!

We are updating our email list for Ambassadors! 4-Hers who are program age 12 or older and who have been in 4-H for at least 3 years are encouraged to join the group. For email updates, please sign up for the official Ambassador's email list here: <https://forms.office.com/r/42n2ayuTaC>

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County Notes

Farm to You- Help Needed

From Farm to You will be held April 15 from 9:00am-2pm in Domer Arena. We have Shawnee County second graders attending to learn about where their food comes from. We need 4-H'ers (8th graders and above) to act as group leaders throughout the day. 4-H'ers will guide the students and their teachers from learning station to learning station. This is a great service project and is also fun to watch the second graders learn about their food. We will provide lunch that day and if your school needs a note for your absence, we can do that too!

Please email Grace at wiensg@ksu.edu and let her know if you can help with this program.



Fair Book Cover Contest

Congratulations to Bella B. from the Deer Trail 4-H Club and Brooklynn P. from the Riverside 4-H Club for having their artwork selected in the Fair book cover contest!



"To Make the Best Better!"

Livestock Corner

2026 Weigh-In and Tagging Dates

Please note, all county fair animals must be tagged by the Friday following their species tagging date. Any 4-Her wishing to participate in the Rate of Gain contest must have their animal present at the tagging date for official weigh-in. Animals that are only going to State Fair or KJLS have a later deadline. Arrangements must be made with Grace for tagging state animals.

Small Animal (Bucket Calf, Meat Goat, Sheep, Swine)

Sunday, April 26, 1-4 pm at Blythe Farms
(Address will be sent to project members)

Livestock Educational Sessions

Attendance of at least 2 of 3 educational meetings hosted by the 4-H Livestock Committee is required to sell animals at the Shawnee County Fair Livestock Sale. Meetings will be recorded this year in the event that a 4-Her needs to make up the session.

May 20: Extension office, 6-7 pm

K-State Junior Producer Days

These are one-day, educational events for families to learn about the selection and management of youth livestock projects. Registration for the Junior Sheep Producer Day closes March 20.

Updates will be posted on the youth livestock program Facebook page. Registration is at <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/ks-jr-producer/>.



Save the Date

**2026
K-STATE JUNIOR
PRODUCER DAYS**

Beef
MARCH 7

Sheep
APRIL 11

K-STATE
Research and Extension

YLP

"To Make the Best Better!"

2026 YQCA Dates- Shawnee County

Tuesday, March 31 at 6 pm

Saturday, April 18 at 9 am

Thursday, May 28 at 6 pm

Registration should be available by the end of this week on the YQCA website! Reach out to the office if you have any questions!



2026 Spring Show

This year's event information including the show flyer and rules & regulations document are on our website at https://www.shawnee.k-state.edu/4-h/4-h_livestock/spring_show/.



"To Make the Best Better!"

State News

IPM Insect Art Contest

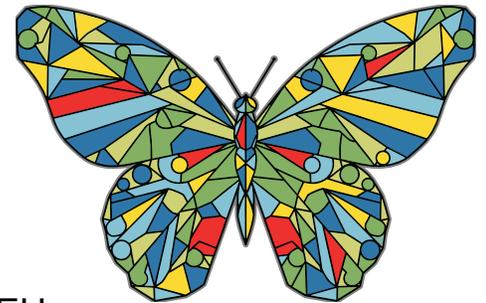
The K-State Extension Pesticide Safety and IPM Program is hosting its annual insect-themed art contest, open to all ages and skill levels in Kansas! This year's theme is "Metamorphosis Magic." The goal is to explore insects that undergo complete and incomplete metamorphosis, then create artwork that fits the contest theme. Artwork may include drawings or paintings, digital art, or a 3-D piece such as sculpture, stained glass, or other creative media.

Awards will be given for 1st-3rd place in each of the following age categories:

- Kindergarten - 2nd grade
- 3rd grade - 5th grade
- 6th grade - 8th grade
- High school
- Adult

Entries must be received or postmarked before April 15, 2026.

Full contest rules and details are available at: <https://bit.ly/3NHuIEU>



Ag Tech Day

Kansas 4-H Youth Development, ID3A and KCARE are co-hosting Ag Tech Day in Moundridge, Kansas at Flickner Innovation Farm. This event is geared for youth in grades 5-12. Details and registration can be found on the [Ag Tech Day webpage](#).



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



Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

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Spring Into Volunteering

The Association of Kansas 4-H Volunteers is hosting "Spring Into Volunteering" at the K-State Polytechnic Campus in Salina on Saturday, April 25.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and the day will conclude at 3 p.m. This is for anyone serving as a 4-H Volunteer or considering it! The goal is for volunteers to go home recharged, excited, and ready to try new things in their volunteer roles. Online registration will be available soon.

Upcoming State Events

Keep an eye out for more information coming soon for events this spring and summer!

- April 11, 2026, Shutterbug event at Midwest Dream Car Museum in Manhattan
- June 3-5, Discovery Days, K-State campus in Manhattan
- June 12-14, State Geology Field Trip
- June 19-20, Insect Spectacular, Yates Center

SAVE THE DATE

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

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Club Chatter

Indian Creek

The Indian Creek 4-H meeting on Monday February 16th was our valentines auction. We went through the meeting same as usual while introducing 2 new people into our club. We finished the meeting with the valentines food auction, where people bring in treats and we bid on the treats while the money raised will be donated to a local organization . We finished the meeting like any other and got a picture with our treats.



Auburn

The Auburn 4-H club met on February 9th for our monthly meeting. We kicked off our pre-meeting with members creating Valentine cards to donate and pass out at Cedarhurst Senior Living. In the opening activity, we practiced and shared our club skit with others in preparation of County Club Day. We have 12 members participating in our Fashion Show of Project skit. Cooper Harshbarger led us in a song. Program presenters were Cooper Harshbarger on Geology and Addi Harshbarger on her Lego project. We discussed and voted on having a March fun activity at Helping Hands Humane Society. Our next monthly meeting is scheduled on March 9th.



-Harley Brossard

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

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Riverside

The Riverside 4-H Club met on February 9th at the Berryton United Methodist Church. We talked about 4-H Day and our skit planning. We sang for February birthdays and enjoyed a project talk by Grayson Kuckelman about testing soil. Our next meeting will be March 9th at 7 pm at the same location.

-Willa Tucker

Topeka Trailblazers

Our 4-H club participated in the 4-H club days. So proud of everybody.



Silver Lake

Silver Lake 4-H Community Club members enjoyed making and handing out valentine's cards to the residents of the Home of the Flint Hills in Silver Lake after the club meeting on February 8th. Congratulations to the members that participated and volunteered at the County Club Days. Join the fun at the next Silver Lake 4-H Community club meeting on March 8th at 4 pm at Silver Lake United Methodist Church. Good luck to everyone participating at Regional Club Days!



- Clara Thomas

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

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Rossville Rustlers

The Rossville Rustlers club held their monthly meeting at the Citizen Potawatomi Community Building February 16, 2026. The members reviewed meeting agenda items with special focus on the club fundraiser. The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, March 16, 2026.

-Valencia Crawford

Dover

Dover has had a busy winter! We wrapped up Christmas break learning how to make posters for Club Days and the fair. At our January club meeting we learned to make paracord bracelets. Mr. Luke Bryan showed us how.

In February, we sold concessions at a Mission Valley basketball game. During our February meeting, we learned about ribbons we can earn in 4-H and what they mean. Then we participated in a skit at Club Days about the type of ribbons you can earn at the fair.



Grove

Nine members of Grove 4-H attended the Livestock Education session in February. Members learned from previous Shawnee County 4-Hers about setting goals, how to pick out goats, and different builds on animals. It was informative. We appreciated that they came back from KSU to help us.

-Chance Nolte

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Shawnee County 4-H Calendar

March 2026

- 2 Bunny Bunch Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
- 3 Air Pistol, EMR, 6 pm
- 4 Shooting Sports I, EMR, 6 pm
- 5 4-H Exchange, EMR, 7 pm
- 7 K-State Junior Beef Producer Day, Manhattan
- 11 Shooting Sports I, EMR, 6 pm
- 12 Sportfishing, EMR, 6 pm
Archery Info Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
- 17 Air Pistol, EMR, 6 pm
Geology, TSCPL- Marvin B, 7 pm
- 18 Ambassadors Trip to Rock Springs
Shooting Sports I, EMR, 6 pm
Livestock Committee Meeting, Downstairs
Conference Room, 7:15 pm
- 19 Shooting Sports II, EMR, 6 pm
- 21 Regional Club Day, Baldwin City
- 23 Paw Prints Dog Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
- 24 Shawnee County Fair Board, EMR, 7 pm
- 26 Horse Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
Chatterbox Submissions Due
- 31 YQCA session, EMR, 6 pm

April 2026

- 1 Sportfishing, EMR, 6pm
- 2 4-H Exchange, EMR, 7 pm
- 6 Bunny Bunch Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
- 8 Sportfishing, EMR, 6pm
- 9 4-H Events Council Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
- 11 K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day,
Manhattan
- 15 Sportfishing, EMR, 6pm
Livestock Committee Meeting, Downstairs
Conference Room, 7:15 pm
- 16 Shooting Sports II, EMR, 6 pm
Archery Practice, Domer Arena, 6 pm
- 18 YQCA session, EMR, 9 am
- 21 Geology, TSCPL-Marvin B, 7 pm
- 22 Sportfishing, EMR, 6 pm
- 23 Horse Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
- 26 Small Animal Tagging, 1-4 pm
Chatterbox Submissions Due
- 27 Paw Prints Dog Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
- 28 Shawnee County Fair Board, EMR, 7 pm
- 29 Sportfishing, EMR, 6 pm

EMR= Extension Meeting Room at Extension Office

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All dates and activities are subject to change.

