












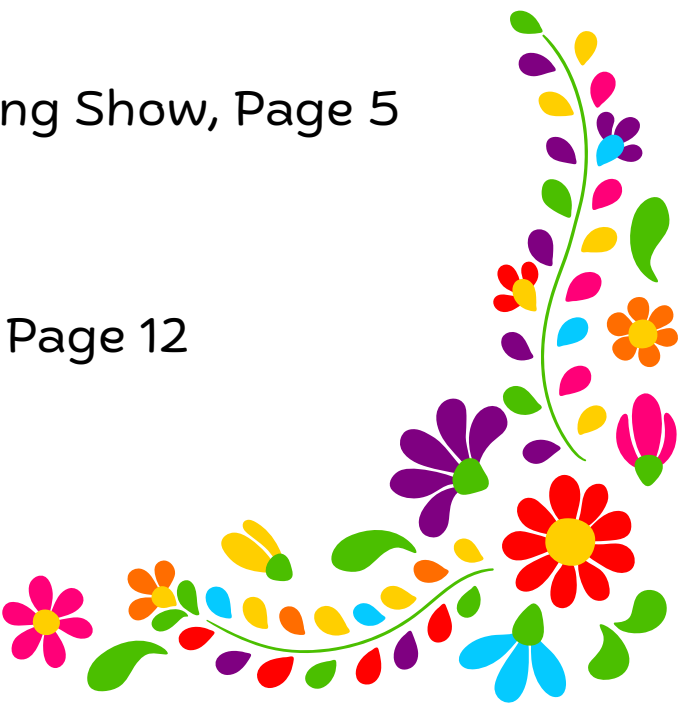


MAY 2026

Highlights:

-  May 9: Shawnee County Livestock Spring Show
-  May 25: Office Closed- Memorial Day
-  May 28: Horticulture Judging Practice
-  May 28: YQCA Session
-  June 1: Horse ID Papers DUE
County Fair Entry Opens

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Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Dates to Remember:

- May 9: Shawnee County Livestock Spring Show
- May 25: Office Closed- Memorial Day
- May 28: YQCA Session
- June 1: Horse ID Papers Due
 - County Fair Entries Open

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 May 26

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

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A Word From Your Agent...

Hello Shawnee County 4-H,

As the school year winds down, things are getting busier here at the office with fair preparations! Printed fair books will be available for pick up from your club boxes at the office by mid-May. Keep an eye out for an email from 4-H Online notifying you that they are ready. The deadline to enter fair projects will be July 1, so make sure you mark that date on your calendar! We will not accept late entries, the July 1 deadline is final. You will receive a user guide to FairEntry when entries open. Lastly, please, if you have questions about your entries, contact us before the July 1 deadline so we can help you!

13-18 year old 4-Hers: There are just a few days left to sign up for Discovery Days! We do have \$100 scholarships again this year. Be sure to sign up by May 8th!

-Grace

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 April 9th 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>

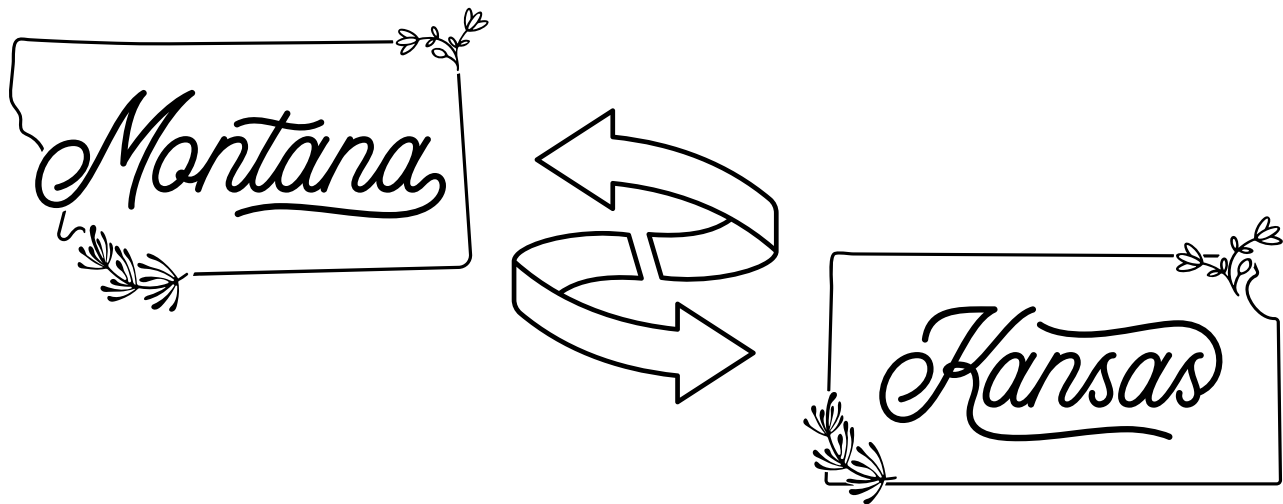
Shawnee County 4-H Chatterbox

"To Make the Best Better!"

County Notes

Shawnee County 4-H Exchange

The Shawnee County 4-H Exchange group is looking for one more girl age 13-17 who would like to join the 26-27 rotation. It is a two year commitment. We will be hosting a group from Montana this summer and will travel next summer. If interested please contact Twyla Hernandez by email at twylah78@gmail.com.



County Fair Info

FairEntry Opens June 1 and closes July 1- watch our Facebook page!

Horse

Horse ID Papers: Due **JUNE 1**

All members must use the 2024 version. The form is available at the office or online at https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/item/horse-identification-certificate_P1039

JUDGING SCHEDULE CHANGES

Horse Show: Saturday, July 18

Clothing Judging (includes Fashion Revue, Sewing & Textile Design, and Shopping in Style): Sunday, July 19 starting at 2:30 pm

Foods & Nutrition, Cake Decorating, and Table Setting: Thursday, July 23 starting at 10:30 am

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Horticulture Judging Contest Practices

Hello Shawnee County 4-H families! If you don't know me, I'm Lane Wiens and I've been the horticulture agent here in Shawnee County since 2023. Just like the last several years, I am hosting horticulture judging contest practices to prepare for the local and state contests. Even if you're not in the horticulture project, everyone is more than welcome to attend!

This year's practices are scheduled for:

-May 28th (**Note the schedule change**) from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Ted Ensley Gardens. We will meet at The Garden House (3720 SE Yacht Ct, Topeka, KS 66609) and walk around the gardens to see what the ID plants look like in the garden. Parents are more than welcome (and encouraged!) to come along too!

-June 16th from 2-4 pm, upstairs meeting room at the Extension Office. This session will cover Plant Identification and show practice resources to the youth.

-July 9th from 2-4 pm, upstairs meeting room at the Extension Office. This session will cover the quality judging and knowledge test portion of the contest, and an overview of the county contest.

I want to thank you all in advance for supporting the horticulture judging team make it to state and continue improving horticulture skills! See you this summer!



Sunlit Summer: Shawnee County 4-H Leadership Event

Come and join 4-H youth leaders from across the county as we learn and grow together through leadership activities-summer style! This event will be an excellent time to build friendships, enjoy leadership activities with county Ambassadors and keynote speaker, and finish the event with some fun in the sun at the pool!

When: Saturday, June 20, 2026







Where: Shawnee County North Community Center & Pool

300 NE 43rd St, Topeka, KS 66617

Cost: \$20

Sign Up Link: <https://forms.gle/nm8NtP9DiSh95CSG7>

Schedule of Events:

-  Registration 2-2:30 pm
-  Icebreaker with Ambassadors 2:30-3 pm
-  Motivational Speaker 3-3:30 pm
-  Ambassador Games 3:30-4 pm
-  4 pm Pizza & Treats
-  4:30 pm-6 pm Make Our Way to the Pool (weather permitting)

Registration Closes June 11.

*4-H Council Committee Responsible for Event: Junior-Senior Youth
Leadership Activity*



Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Livestock Corner

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

2026 YQCA Dates- Shawnee County

Thursday, May 28 at 6 pm

Reach out to the office if you have any questions!



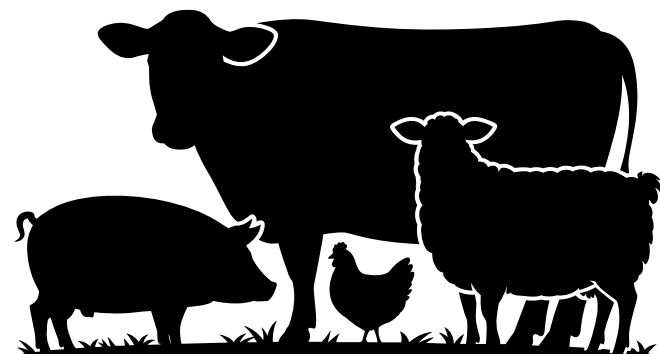
State Livestock Nominations- Small Livestock

State Livestock Nomination is for 4-Hers 9 to 18 with animals they want to have eligible for the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and/or the Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS).

Nomination Deadline: June 15

DNA Envelope Order Deadline: June 5

All details can be found at <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/nominated-livestock/>



"To Make the Best Better!"

2026 Livestock 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/.

Share our Facebook event!



Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1712808740093342>



**SHAWNEE COUNTY
LIVESTOCK
SPRING SHOW**

MAY 9TH, 2026

**NORTHEAST KANSAS HERITAGE COMPLEX
HOLTON, KS**

K-STATE |  Shawnee County
Research and Extension



"To Make the Best Better!"

State News

Discovery Days

LEAD WITH HEART, THINK WITH COURAGE, ACT WITH WISDOM

When: June 3-5th, 2026

Where: Kansas State University

Who: Youth ages 13-18 before January 1, 2026 are invited to register

Cost: \$245

Registration Closes: May 8th

Find details and the link for registration at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/discovery-days/>



State Geology Field Trip

2026 KANSAS 4-H GEOLOGY FIELD TRIP REGISTRATION OPEN



When: June 12-14th 2026

Where: Southeast with Headquarters at Parsons Middle School

Registration Deadline: May 15th



K-STATE | Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.
Research and Extension | K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

When: June 12-14th, 2026

Where: Southeast Kansas, HQ at Parsons Middle School

Who: 4-H Geology project members and families (all those planning to attend must be registered)

Registration Closes: May 15th

Cost: Registration starts at \$10. Guidebooks, t-shirts, and geology boxes are additional.

Find details and the link for registration at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/geology-field-trip/>

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

4-H Insect Spectacular

When: June 19-20th, 2026

Where: Iola, KS

Who: 4-H Entomology members and families

Registration Closes: May 25th

Cost: \$85.00- full participant, \$65.00-additional participants (see more on webpage)

Find details and the link for registration at
<https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/insect-spectacular/>



REGISTER TODAY



4-H INSECT SPECTACULAR
JUNE 19-20, 2026 IOLA, KS

Beyond Ready
Kansas State University is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Club Chatter

Auburn

The Auburn 4-H Club held our monthly meeting on Monday, April 13, 2026 at the Auburn Community Center. The club discussed and had signups for the upcoming Master Gardener bake sale fundraiser on May 2. Each club member donates cookies, cinnamon rolls and other food items to help raise money for our club. For the program, Bryson Philipi demonstrated how to tie a fishing knot and Winnie Philipi talked about how horses have five senses. Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for May 11th.

-Harley Brossard

Topeka Trailblazers

We had our monthly meeting. We made blankets for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Kansas. Lennox Sidesinger did a project talk on her award winning rug. We had the elections for candidates for the fair. I am the Prince Candidate; my sister, Julia Diehl, is the Queen Candidate, and Addison Thompson is the Princess Candidate for the Shawnee County Fair this year. We voted on a shirt.

-Max Diehl



Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Riverside

The Riverside 4-H Club had our monthly meeting on April 13th at Berryton United Methodist Church. We talked about the spring show on May 9th and other upcoming dates. We also voted for a club t-shirt design. Willa Tucker that did a demonstration on making Mini Pizzas and Coralee Tucker demonstrated how to make a Fruit Parfait. Our next meeting will be May 11 at 7:00pm.

-Willa Tucker



Grove



A few of the Grove 4-H members helped with Farm to You on April 15. It was a good experience teaching kids where their food comes from.

-Chance Nolte

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Bunny Bunch

This month we discussed making Mother's Day cards and delivering them to the retirement center in Topeka. We are going to make them at our May 4th meeting. In addition to our monthly meeting I was asked back to the Annual Easter event in North Topeka where I brought rabbits and poultry to promote 4-H. It was a lot of fun and I passed out a lot of informational pamphlets for Shawnee Co 4-H. Our next meeting is May 2nd and June 1st at 7 pm.

-Brooklynn Powell

Silver Lake

Several members of the Silver Lake 4-H community club participated in cleaning the Silver Lake community, with appreciation extended to Keep America Beautiful of Shawnee County and We Are Silver Lake for their collaboration and providing lunch afterwards. Join the fun at the next Silver Lake 4-H Community club meeting on June 14th at 4 pm at Silver Lake United Methodist Church.

Happy Mother's Day!!

-Clara Thomas



Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Shawnee County 4-H Calendar

May 2026

1 LAST DAY TO ENROLL

- 4 Bunny Bunch Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm
- 7 4-H Exchange, EMR, 7 pm
- 9 Shawnee County Livestock Spring Show, Holton

14 Archery Practice, Domer Arena, 6 pm

19 Geology, TSCPL- Marvin B, 7 pm

21 Shooting Sports II, EMR, 6 pm

25 OFFICE CLOSED- MEMORIAL DAY

Paw Prints Dog Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm

26 Shawnee County Fair Board, EMR, 7 pm

Chatterbox Submissions Due

28 Archery Practice, Domer Arena, 6 pm

YQCA session, Downstairs Conference Room, 6 pm

Horse Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm



June 2026

1 HORSE ID PAPERS DUE TO OFFICE

Bunny Bunch Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm

3-5 Discovery Days, Manhattan, KS

5 4-H Exchange, EMR, 7 pm

11 Archery Practice, Domer Arena, 6 pm

4-H Events Council Meeting, EMR, 7 pm

12-14 State Geology Field Trip, Parsons, KS

15 State Nomination Deadline for Swine, Sheep, Meat Goat & Commercial Heifer

16 Geology, TSCPL- Marvin B, 7 pm

17 Livestock Committee Meeting, Downstairs Conference Room, 7:15 pm

18 Shooting Sports II, EMR, 6 pm

19 OFFICE CLOSED- JUNETEENTH

19-20 Insect Spectacular, Iola, KS

22 Paw Prints Dog Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm

23 Shawnee County Fair Board, EMR, 7 pm

25 Archery Practice, Domer Arena, 6 pm

Horse Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm

26 Chatterbox Submissions Due



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.