

Flint Hills Extension District 4-H Newsletter

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December 2025

District Info

1-3

District Dates

3

Chase Co Info

4

Chase Co Calendar

5

Morris Co Info

6

Morris Co Calendar

7

Record Books for NE Area Screening

4-Hers who were named a Senior County Project Award winner and meet the age requirements are eligible to submit their Project Record Form to the NE Area Record Screening. You are encouraged to make revisions or improvements based on the feedback you received at the County level. **All Project Records for NE Area Screening are due to the Extension Office by January 13, 2026 at 5pm.** List of those eligible will be in the county specific news.

ASSEMBLING THE 4-H PROJECT AWARD

Complete details can be found on the project record forms webpage:

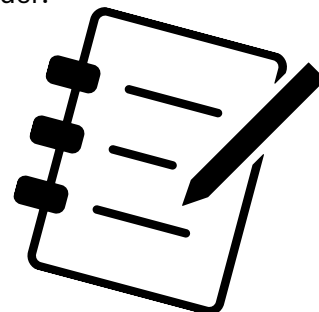
<https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/regionalscreening.html>

Be sure to review the Guide to Kansas 4-H Project Recognition for details on preparing the cover letter and resume. The following items must be turned in for a complete Regional Project Award submission in the following order:

1. Check Sheet
2. Personal Information Page
3. Cover Letter
4. Resume
5. Project Report Form

Please DO NOT include:

- 4-H Permanent Records
- Plastic page sleeves



District Club Day

Our 2026 District Club Day has been scheduled for **Saturday, February 28th** and will be hosted by Morris County. The event will be held at the Council Grove Junior Senior High School, 129 Hockaday St, Council Grove, KS 66846. We appreciate the school's willingness to allow us to hold our event in their facility. Just a reminder that even years will be hosted in Morris County and odd years will be hosted in Chase County.

An entry form has been included with this newsletter to allow clubs and families to begin planning for the day. We encourage families to take the time to complete your registration form and begin work on your entries. **All entries will be due by Monday, February 12th** and will be accepted at either Extension Office or electronically.

Regional Club Day has been scheduled for March 28th and will be held at Madison High School. Let us know if you have any questions.



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District News

State 4-H Horse Judging Contest

The 4-H Horse Judging Contest provides youth an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of equine related subject matter, including structure and movement, in a competitive setting. This contest will provide an educational experience for all participants.

What: 2026 Kansas State 4-H Horse Judging Contest

- Cost: Early bird (by January 2, 2026) - \$25; Late (by January 9, 2026) - \$30

When: January 23, 2026

- Check-in: 7:45 am
- Rules Meeting: 8:15 am
- Contest begins: 8:30 am

Where: Equifest of Kansas; Stormont Vail Events Center; Topeka, KS

Who: The contest awards are available to all Kansas 4-H members 9-18.

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/contests/horse-judging/>

Volunteers

Volunteering is a great way to show your 4-H youth how to get involved in 4-H. We have 4-H projects that are in need of project leaders in both counties. Project leaders are a vital part of the 4-H experience. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for our 2025-2026 4-H year please reach out to the Extension Office to get signed up! Share this with others in the community as well.

4-H Online Enrollment

By this point in the 4-H year new and previous members should have completed enrollment using 4-H Online. Please verify that you have received an email that your enrollment has been approved. Projects can still be added or dropped until May 1st.

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 Extension Office two weeks prior to the start of the event at 620-767-5136. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.

Kansas 4-H Scholarships

The Kansas 4-H Scholarship program is open to graduating high school seniors, current college students, and graduate students who have been part of the 4-H experience. Each scholarship has its own criteria, and you may qualify for several. Many 4-H scholarships are available for college students beyond incoming freshmen, please remind current college students who are 4-H alumni to apply each year.

The scholarship process combines the State 4-H Scholarships and the Vanier Family Scholarship Program (VFSP) applications together. We hope that this encourages more applicants to pursue both of these scholarship opportunities.

Scholarship applications are due January 5, 2026 by 11:59PM CST

For more information or questions regarding the scholarship application process please contact Sarah Keatley at keatley@ksu.edu or 620-366-0035. Visit the website for more information: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html>

District Club Day FAQ

Q: Do 4-Hers from Morris County and Chase County compete against each other?

A: No. Members in each county will be placed separately, so a Chase County Top Blue and Morris County Top Blue will both be eligible for entry at Regionals.

Q: Where are District Club Day held?

A: This year they are at Council Grove High School. Even years will be hosted in Morris County and odd years will be hosted in Chase County.

Q: Where can I find out how my/my club's entry will be scored?

A: On our Flint Hills District Website we have score sheets posted along with other helpful information. Link: <https://www.flinthills.k-state.edu/4-h/district-club-days/districtclubdays.html>

District 4-H Dates

December 2025

December 25-31 - Extension Offices Closed-Christmas

January 2026

January 1 - Extension Offices Closed-New Years

January 5 - Kansas 4-H Scholarship Due

January 10-11 - Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership

Council Orientation Retreat, Rock Springs Ranch

January 16 - NE Region 4-H Project Record Judging -

Manhattan (weather cancellation January 21st)

January 17 - District 4-H Ambassador Training

January 23 - State 4-H Horse Judging, Topeka

January 31 - February 1 - 4-H Dog Judge & Leader
Training - Salina

February 2026

February 15-16 - 4-H Citizenship in Action - Topeka

February 21-22 - 4-H Horse Panorama, Rock Springs
Ranch

February 28 - District Club Day – Council Grove
High School

March 2026

March 28 - Regional Club Day, Madison, KS



Attention Club and Project Leaders

If you have news or information you would like included in the 4-H Newsletter please let the Extension Office know prior to the 20th of the previous month. For the January 2026 newsletter this would be prior to December 19, 2025 as the 20th is on the weekend.

Dog Judges Certification and Leader Training

The 2026 Kansas 4-H Dog Judges Training and Recertification will be held in Salina at the Saline County Expo Center January 31-February 1, 2026.

Participants can become trained and certified to judge the four dog phases of showmanship, obedience, agility and rally obedience in the Dog Care and Training Project. This training is appropriate for both leaders as well as potential judges.

New judges can be certified, returning judges can get a refresher and be re-certified, and leaders can gain a better understanding of the various classes to better prepare local youth for project work. Older 4-H members are invited to observe the training and better understand how they will be judged at the Kansas State Fair 4-H Dog Show. Participants must be 16-years-old and older to attend this certification and training.

- Registration Deadline: January 2, 2026
- Fee: \$120

*Includes lunch both days of training, training materials and certification

Looking Ahead:

What: Jr. Beef Producer Day

When: March 7, 2026

Where: Manhattan, KS

What: Jr. Sheep Producer Day

When: April 11, 2026

Where: Manhattan, KS

What: Spring State Shooting Sports Match - BB, Air Rifle,
Air Pistol

When: April 18, 2026

Where: Great Bend, KS

What: Spring Into Volunteering

When: April 25, 2026

Where: Salina, KS

What: Youth Entrepreneurship Contest (YEC)

When: April 28-29, 2026

Where: Manhattan, KS

What: Discovery Days

When: June 3-5, 2026

Where: Manhattan, KS

Ambassador Applications

A new Ambassador Volunteer Leader has been appointed. Janet Ayers will assume the role moving forward. She is excited to work with existing ambassadors and encourages new members to join. Applications for the 4-H Ambassador program have been reopened for anyone interested. **Applications are due to the Extension by 5pm on December 12th.**

Being an Ambassador has many benefits:

- Increase your knowledge of 4-H
- Improve your self-confidence
- Improve your communication skills
- Gain new leadership skills
- Enjoy getting others excited about 4-H

Applicants must meet the following criteria: be in 9th-12th grade; be enrolled in the Leadership Project; be willing to promote 4-H in Chase County; and be an actively engaged member of the team.

Applications can be picked up from the Extension Office or found on the Flint Hills District website.

Record Books for NE Area Screening

County Champions who meet the age requirements are eligible to submit their Project Record Form to the NE Area for Record Screening. The following 4-H members are eligible to submit their books for screening. **Books must be turned into the Extension Office by January 13th.**

- Kailyn Budke - Dog
- Karlie Gibb - Leadership, Meat Goats, and Sheep
- Tate Gibb - Poultry
- Carter Mann - Swine and Woodworking
- Jerit Inlow - Wildlife

2026 Livestock Deadlines

- Market Beef tagging /ownership deadline for the Chase County Fair is March 27th. Tagging will be held at Mushrush Ranches Friday evening from 5-7pm.
- Small Animal (sheep, swine, goats & bucket calves) tagging / ownership deadline for the Chase County Fair is May 2nd. Weigh-In will be held Friday, May 1st at the Fairgrounds from 5-7pm and Saturday, May 2nd from 8:30-10:30am.
- Ownership deadline for breeding livestock of any species for the Chase County Fair is May 1st.
- Poultry and Rabbit ownership deadline for the Chase County Fair is May 1st.

4-H Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for **January 26 at 6:30pm at the Pendergraft Building**. If the 4-H Council Rep is unable to attend from your club, please have the alternate attend.

2026 Fair Changes

- **2026 Fair Dates: July 23-30, 2026**
- Horse Show will begin at 9 am on Sunday, July 26th at the Strong City Rodeo Grounds
- All projects except for Food & Nutrition are required to be checked in either between 1-4pm on Sunday, July 26th or on Monday, July 27th between 8:30 and Noon.
- Food Flop entry is being added back to the Fair Book. In the instance your food entry is a flop, still bring it!
- Visual Arts and Building Block Engineering will both be required to sign-up for Consultation with the judge in order to be eligible for Champion Awards.
- Consultation Judging for other static exhibits (Electricity, Robotics, Woodworking, Welding, Rockets) is up to the individual 4-Her and is not a requirement.
- All youth who qualify to show in the Round Robin must be able to show all species of animals which include: horse, swine, sheep, goat and beef. A youth who is uncomfortable with showing all these species can pass and the opportunity will go to the next youth who qualified. Once the show order and animal selection is completed there will be no changes.
- Poultry Judging will start at 8:30am on Wednesday morning and Rabbit Judging will start at 9:30am.
- Minimum Weights for Market Animals
 - Beef: 1100 lbs - **New Weight**
 - Lamb: 100 lbs
 - Goat: 50 lbs
 - Swine: 220 lbs
- **No waddle swine breeds will be accepted by the floor buyer in 2026. Families can still show them and take them through the premium sale.**
- If you have any questions with the new changes please feel free to contact the Extension Office.

Chase
County

December 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					No School - USD 284	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				Extension Offices Closed		
	No School - USD 284					
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	Extension Offices Closed					
	No School - USD 284					

4-H Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for **January 20, 2026 at 6:30pm at the Morris County Community Building** at the Morris County Fairgrounds.

Club Organization Reports

As Club elections are completed, Community Leaders will need to be sure the 4-H Club Organization Report is filled out and returned to the Extension Office. Only one per club needs filled out. The form was handed out during Leader Training. If a blank copy is needed, please contact the Extension Office.

Record Books for NE Area Screening

County project winners who meet the age requirements are eligible to submit their Project Record Form to the NE Area for Record Screening. The following 4-H members are eligible to submit their books for screening. **Books must be turned into the Extension Office by January 13th.**

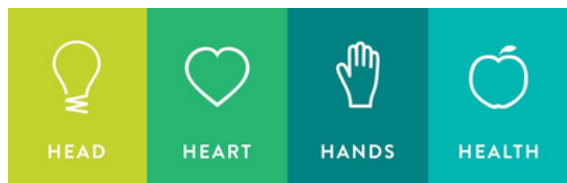
- Castyn Andres - Beef
- Cooper Andres - Self Determined
- Logan Bunn - Swine
- Warren Longren - Woodworking
- Laramie Mayer - Horse and Rabbits
- Ronald Mayer - Shooting Sports
- Cassidy Dalquest - Shopping in Style
- Leo White - Pets
- Haylee Nielsen - Veterinary Science
- August Carson - Dairy Cattle

Club Notebooks

If your club turned in Secretary, Reporter, or Treasurer books for awards and have not picked them up yet, please stop by the Extension Office to pick them up.

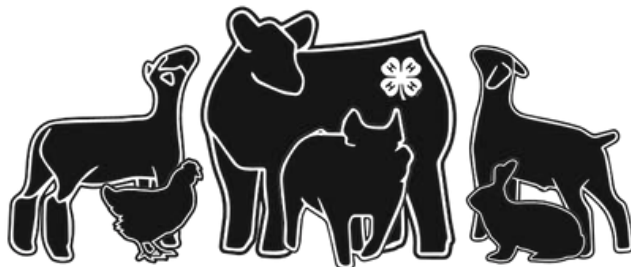
Looking Ahead to the Fair

- Tri-County Fair: July 9-11, 2026
- Morris County Fair: July 18-27, 2026



Morris County Project Day

Morris County Project Day will be held on **Sunday February 22, 2026 from 1:00-4:00 pm** at the Morris County Fairgrounds. This is a day for project leaders to schedule meetings in a way that allows 4-H members to attend multiple project meetings in one afternoon and have maximum participation from leaders and members. There will be four time slots of 45 minutes each. We would like to encourage as many county project leaders as possible to sign up to have a meeting on this day. If you are a project leader and interested in participating please contact the Extension Office at 620-767-5136 or email Deb Andres at dandres1@ksu.edu. Feel free to bring in speakers, have a hands-on activity, or whatever you feel will be a positive learning experience for 4-H members in your project area.



2026 Livestock Deadlines

- Market Beef weigh-in, tagging, and ownership deadline for the Morris County Fair is Thursday March 19th from 5:00-7:00 pm. Tagging will be held at Derek Schrader's house.
- Small Animal (sheep, swine, goats & bucket calves) ownership deadline for the Morris County Fair is April 25th. Weigh-In and tagging will be held Wednesday, April 22nd from 5:00-7:00 pm and Saturday, April 25th from 9:00-11:00 am at the Morris County Fairgrounds.
- Ownership deadline for breeding livestock of any species for the Morris County Fair is May 1st.
- Poultry ownership deadline for the Morris County Fair is May 1st.
- Rabbit ownership deadline for the Morris County Fair is May 15th, except for meat pens and pre-junior rabbits, which should not be over 70 days old from the date of judging at the fair.

Morris
County

December 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			2 Hr Late Start- USD 417		No School - USD 417	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	No School - USD 417 and 481					
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	Extension Offices Closed					
	No School - USD 417 and 481					

Flint Hills District 4-H News

Flint Hills Extension Office

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