

Flint Hills District 4-H Newsletter

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August 2026

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Flint Hills District

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Kansas State Fair Entry Information

State Fair entries are due to the Extension Office no later than **Friday, August 7th at 5:00 pm**. Please do not bring your exhibits at this time.

In lieu of premiums in 4-H project areas, youth exhibitors will once again be given two complimentary tickets to the Kansas State Fair. Additional tickets may be ordered through the Extension Office no later than **Friday, August 7th at 5:00 pm**. All extra tickets must be paid for by the August 7th deadline. The price for extra tickets is \$7 for adults and \$4 for youth.

Non-perishable State Fair exhibits will be due to the Extension Office no later than August 31st at 5:00 pm. If your exhibit is too large to be transported in the Expedition or requires machinery or more than one person to load or unload you will need to make your own arrangements for transporting it to and from the State Fair. Absolutely NO animals will be transported by the Extension Office.

Remember that the following 4-H Club Day events are also eligible for State Fair competition if you qualified at our District Club Day: Demonstration/Illustrated Talk, Project Talk, Public Speaking, and Poetry and Prose (Reading). Those who qualified for the State Fair will have had a sticker on their score sheet indicating that they are State Fair eligible. If you have questions about your eligibility, contact the Extension Office. **For Public Speaking, all Kansas State Fair participants will use the same topic of: How has your journey in 4-H contributed to being Beyond Ready for current challenges and future goals?**

Additional information about 4-H exhibits at the Kansas State Fair can be found at the following link: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/fair-resources/kansas-state-fair/>

48 Hours of 4-H

Join us this fall in seeing just how much we can give back to our communities! 48 Hours of 4-H falls on **October 10-11, 2026**, this year. The weekend after National 4-H Week is the perfect opportunity to set up a service project. Invite your friends, clubs, adult volunteers and 4-H Alums too!

48 Hours of 4-H is giving you the chance to show how much you can do in your communities. Community service is a core value of 4-H, featuring as one of the four Hs and recited at every meeting to pledge "my hands to larger service." Your service project can be as small as mowing a neighbor's lawn or as large as designing an innovative new community service project that will extend well beyond the 48 hours. Whatever your project is, this is your weekend to make a lasting, positive impact and spread the word about the positive impact of 4-H in our communities.

More information at this link: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/48-hours-of-4-h/>

District News

KJLS Entry Information

The entry deadline is coming up for the Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS). **Remember that a complete nomination does not count as an entry in the show!** Nomination is only the first step in making animals eligible to exhibit at a state show. All exhibitors of market animals, commercial females, and purebred breeding females must officially enter and pay entry fees for each show in which they would like to participate. The KSJ Grand Drive and KJLS are separate organizations, so if you plan to participate in both shows you must enter each show separately.

KJLS Entry Deadline - August 15

Animals that are nominated, but do not follow the entry process in place for each show will not be allowed to exhibit. As separate organizations, each show manages their own rules and entry process. Exhibitors will log in and submit entries using the same ShoWorks account used for state nominations, including user name and password. Then nominated animals can be selected from a drop-down menu using their 4-H tag number. Registered breeding females will be entered using the information from their registration papers, which must be in the youth exhibitor's name by the deadline listed in the show rules.

KSJ Grand Drive Website:

<https://www.kansasstatefair.gov/p/competitions/grand-drive1>

KJLS Website: <https://www.kjls.net/>

National 4-H Conference & Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Applications Open Now

Applications are available now to be considered for either National 4-H Conference Delegate and/or Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Representative for 2027. Through this application, candidates may pursue one or both opportunities: National 4-H Conference Delegate and Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Representative. Both roles serve on the State 4-H Youth Leadership Council, with delegates selected and representatives elected at the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum on November 21-22, 2026. **Applications, including online reference, are due no later than 11:59 pm on Thursday, October 1, 2026.**

Available positions include 12 Council Representative seats (3 per Extension Region: NE, SE, SW, and NW) and up to 6 National 4-H Conference Delegate appointments. Any Kansas 4-H member between the ages of 14 and 18 before January 1, 2027 may apply as a Youth Leadership Council Rep, and those 15-18 before January 1, 2027 may apply for National Conference.

This is an amazing opportunity for older 4-H members to really grow and shine in leadership positions. For more information about this opportunity, contact the Extension Office or find more information under the Helpful Links and Resources section of this web page: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/teen-leadership-opportunities/youth-leadership-council/>

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KYLf)

Build your leadership skills and potential through workshops, consulting groups, inspirational speakers and more. In addition, the 2027 State 4-H Youth Leadership Council will be elected and up to six National 4-H Conference delegates will be selected through an interview process at KYLF.

Objectives:

- Broaden your understanding of the meaning of leadership and the qualities of a leader.
- Practice leadership skills you can use in other situations, like your local club, school and community.
- Improve interpersonal communication skills.
- Gain confidence.

Who: Youth 14-18 years of age before January 1, 2027

When: November 21-22, 2026

Where: Rock Springs 4-H Center

Cost: 2026 cost will be set this summer, in 2025 the registration cost was \$215, with additional optional \$55 for Friday overnight and breakfast.

Registration: Registration information and link will be released soon. The registration deadline is Thursday, October 15, 2026 by 11:59 p.m.



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This institution is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the Flint Hills Extension

District four weeks prior to the start of the event at 620-767-5136 chelse1@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

District 4-H Dates

August 2026

August 1 - State 4-H Horse Show Entries Due
August 4 - 4-H Wheat Expo - El Dorado, KS
August 7 - State Fair Entries Due to Extension Office
August 10 - Chase County 4-H Council Meeting
August 15 - State Horticulture Judging Contest
August 15 - Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) Entries Due
August 17 - Morris County 4-H Council Meeting
August 20 - Morris-Chase Sharpshooters 4-H Shooting Sports Banquet
August 22-23 - State 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes



September 2026

September 5 - State 4-H Dog Show
September 7 - Extension Offices Closed - Labor Day
September 11-20 - Kansas State Fair
September 26 - State Smallbore/Muzzleloading Match

October 2026

October 1 - New 4-H Year Begins
October 2-4 - Kansas Junior Livestock Show
October 10-11 48 Hours of 4-H
October 10-11 - State Shotgun Match
October 17-18 Kansas 4-H Dog Conference

Looking Ahead

November 7 - Morris County Achievement Banquet
November 21-22 - KYLF - Rock Springs Ranch

Livestock Sweepstakes

What: The Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes includes the state 4-H livestock judging contest, meat judging contest, livestock skillathon, and livestock quiz bowl in one action-packed weekend. 4-H'ers can test their knowledge and display their expertise in a variety of livestock-related events.

When: August 22-23, 2026

Where: K-State Campus in Manhattan, KS.

Who: Each county can take up to 9 participants in each contest. The top 4 participants, as determined by the county Livestock Judging Contest, will form the judging team for each county and the remainder may participate as individuals.

Cost: • Livestock Judging - \$20/contestant

• Meat Judging - \$15/contestant

• Skillathon - \$15/contestant

• Quiz Bowl - \$15/contestant (\$60/team) – must register 4-member team to participate

Registration: Please contact Jessica Mayhew at jrmayhew@ksu.edu no later than **Thursday, July 30th** to register to attend the 2026 Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes.

State 4-H Horse Show

The Kansas State Fair 4-H Horse Show schedule is posted on the Kansas 4-H website. The entry system for the State 4-H Horse Show is open, and is found at the following link. **Entries are due by August 1st, 2026.**

Exhibitors must have completed ALL requirements to show at the State 4-H Horse show prior to August 1st, including completing the Horse Safety Webinar and exam each year. Find more information on the state 4-H website under the Horse Show drop down menu:

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/fair-resources/kansas-state-fair/>

State Horticulture Judging Contest

What: The Kansas 4-H State Horticulture Judging Contest has 4-H members compete in plant identification, knowledge testing, and judging classes. This is a great opportunity to test your plant and horticultural knowledge in a variety of ways.

When: August 15, 2026 starting at 9:30 am

Where: Throckmorton Hall on the K-State Campus in Manhattan, KS.

Who: This contest is open to all 4-H members ages 9 and up. Intermediates must be 9 thru 13 before January 1 of the current year. Seniors must be 14 thru 18 before January 1 of the current year.

Cost: \$25 per participant

Registration: Please contact the Extension Office no later than **Monday, August 3rd** to register for the contest. If we have enough interest we can form a team of 3-4 members.

Kansas 4-H Dog Conference

The Kansas 4-H Dog Conference will be held **October 17-18** at Rock Springs Ranch. The theme this year is “Stars, Stripes, & Wagging Tails.”

Kansas 4-H Dog Conference Logo Design Contest

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 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. 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.

4-H Council Meeting

The next 4-H Council Meeting is scheduled for **August 10, 2026 at 5:30pm** at the Pendergraft Building.

Morris-Chase Sharpshooters Annual Banquet

The annual banquet for the Morris-Chase Sharpshooters 4-H Shooting Sports Team will be held on **August 20, 2026 at 6:30 pm** at the Territory Ballroom in Council Grove, KS.

Record Books

You will only need to complete one personal page and one copy of the permanent record. Each member will need to complete records for at least half of the projects that you are enrolled in (if half is not a whole number, round up). If you are enrolled in the Leadership project, this must be one of the projects that you complete records for to complete this project for the year.

- Please find the Chase County 4-H Record Book Order of Assembly page here: <https://www.flinthills.k-state.edu/4-h/chase-county/ChaseCounty4-HRecordBookOrderofAssembly8-31-22.pdf>
- Leaders will collect club record books but will not score them at the club level. Please check for completion and that all signature lines are signed.
- **Record books and club officer books will be due to the Extension Office by Monday, September 28, 2026.**
- Books will be swapped with another county for scoring. Look for a date soon for leaders or volunteers to sign up and evaluate record books.
- Remember that the Chase County Record Check Sheet has been updated for the 2025-26 4-H year. Make sure you are using the updated version. It is on the District Record Keeping page of the website near the bottom under Chase County Specific Documents: <https://www.flinthills.k-state.edu/4-h/district-record-keeping/recordbooks.html>

Key Award

The Kansas Key Award is one of the highest honors awarded to 4-H members across Kansas. As a reminder, the basic requirements are:

- The 4-H'er must have passed their 16th birthday by January 1st of the current year.
- Completed four or more years of 4-H work.
- Enrolled in the 4-H Leadership Project for four or more years.
- Must meet 9 of the 11 optional requirements.

If you are interested in applying for the Key Award during your 4-H career, it is important you take a look at those requirements at least four to five years prior to applying.

Fair Survey

Please visit the QR code and take time to give your Chase County Fair feedback. The survey will be open until August 10, 2026 at 5 pm.



Thank You Notes

Remember as the Chase County Fair wraps up and you collect your ribbon money, merchant prizes, and/or premiums from the Livestock Sale to get your thank you notes written and in some cases your goodies baked and delivered to those who have so graciously donated to this year's Chase County Fair.

State Fair Entries

- State Fair entries are due to the Extension Office by **August 7th at 5:00 pm**. Please **do not** bring your exhibits at this time.
- Please bring your exhibits to the Extension Office no later than **September 4th** except for foods and floriculture/horticulture.
- Please bring foods and floriculture/horticulture exhibits to the Extension Office between **7:30-8:00 am on September 10th**.
- If an exhibit is too large to fit in a vehicle or requires a machine or multiple people to load and unload it, then you will be responsible for taking it to the State Fair and picking it up.
- The Extension Office will **NOT** transport any animals.

2026-2027 Ambassador Applications

It's hard to believe with county fair so fresh in our minds, but it's nearly time to start thinking about the next 4-H year! If you're interested in expanding your leadership role and promoting 4-H in the community applications are now available to be a Chase County 4-H

Ambassador. Applicants must be enrolled in the Leadership project, have the experience to promote 4-H in Chase County, and be prepared to be an active and engaged member of the Ambassador team. Applications can be found on the Chase County 4-H page of the Flint Hills District website or may be picked up at the Extension Office. Current members do not have to reapply and term limits have been removed.

Applications are due no later than September 8, 2026.



Chase County August 2026



July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29	July 30 Livestock Sweepstakes Registration Due	July 31	1 State Fair Horse Show Entries Due
Chase County Fair						
2	3 State Horticulture Judging Contest Registration Due to Extension Office	4 4-H Wheat Expo	5	6	7 State Fair Entries and Extra Ticket Orders Due	8
9	10 4-H Council Meeting 5:30 p.m. Pendergraft Building	11	12	13	14	15 State Horticulture Judging Contest KJLS Entries Due
16	17	18	19	20 First Day of School USD 284 Morris-Chase Sharpshooters Banquet 6:30 pm Territory Ballroom, Council Grove	21	22 Livestock Sweepstakes
23 Livestock Sweepstakes	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Sept 1	Sept 2	Sept 3	Sept 4 Deadline to Bring State Fair Entries to the Extension Office.	Sept 5 State 4-H Dog Show

MORRIS COUNTY

Morris County Extension Office Location:

315 W. Main St. Ste A, Council Grove, KS

Office Phone Number: 620-767-5136

4-H Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for **August 17, 2026 at 6:30pm** at the Morris County Community Building at the Morris County Fairgrounds.

Carcass Contest Awards Dinner

The Morris County Fair Carcass Contest Awards Dinner will be held on **August 19, 2026 at 6:30 pm** at the Morris County Community Building at the Morris County Fairgrounds. This is an educational experience open to all members of the Beef and Swine projects even if you did not participate in the carcass contest this year. Please RSVP by August 14, 2026 by 5:00 pm to the Extension Office by calling 620-767-5136.

Morris-Chase Sharpshooters Annual Banquet

The annual banquet for the Morris-Chase Sharpshooters 4-H Shooting Sports Team will be held on **August 20, 2026 at 6:30 pm** at the Territory Ballroom in Council Grove, KS.

State Fair Entries

- State Fair entries are due to the Extension Office by **August 7th at 5:00 pm**. Please **do not** bring your exhibits at this time.
- Please bring your exhibits to the Extension Office no later than **September 4th** except for foods and floriculture/horticulture.
- Please bring foods and floriculture/horticulture exhibits to the Extension Office between **7:00-7:30 am on September 10th**.
- If an exhibit is too large to fit in a vehicle or requires a machine or multiple people to load and unload it, then you will be responsible for taking it to the State Fair and picking it up.
- The Extension Office will **NOT** transport any animals.

Record Books

Record books are due to the Extension Office from Club Leaders by **Thursday, October 1, 2026**. Please coordinate with your club leaders to get them fully signed by members, parents, and leaders.

Morris County Achievement Banquet

Save the date and mark your calendars! The 2026 Morris County 4-H Achievement Banquet will be on **Saturday, November 7, 2026** at the Morris County Community Building at the Morris County Fairgrounds.

Fair Survey

Please visit the QR code and take time to give your Morris County Fair feedback. The survey will be open until August 10, 2026, at 5:00 pm.



Fair Thank You Reminders

A huge thank you to all of the 4-H members, parents, leaders, superintendents, fair board members, and volunteers who worked hard to make the 2026 Morris County Fair a success! Congratulations to all who participated in the fair.

- Please remember to fill out your thank you cards and return them to the Extension Office no later than **August 28, 2026 at 5:00 pm**.
- Livestock premium sale participants: Please be sure to have your verification card signed by the buyer when you hand-deliver your thank you. These need to be turned in to the Extension Office no later than **August 28, 2026, at 5:00 pm**.

2026-2027 Ambassador Applications

It's hard to believe with county fair so fresh in our minds, but it's nearly time to start thinking about the next 4-H year! If you're interested in expanding your leadership role and promoting 4-H in the community, applications are now available to be a Morris County 4-H Ambassador. Applicants must have the experience to promote 4-H in Morris County and be prepared to be an active and engaged member of the Ambassador team. Applications can be found on the Ambassador page of Morris County 4-H section of the Flint Hills District website or may be picked up at the Extension Office. **Applications for new ambassadors are due on August 28, 2026.**

Key Award

The Kansas Key Award is one of the highest honors awarded to 4-H members across Kansas. As a reminder, the basic requirements are:

- The 4-H'er must have passed their 16th birthday by January 1st of the current year.
 - Completed four or more years of 4-H work.
 - Enrolled in the 4-H Leadership Project for four or more years.
 - Must meet 9 of the 11 optional requirements.
- If you are interested in applying for the Key Award during your 4-H career, it is important you take a look at those requirements at least four to five years prior to applying.

Morris County August 2026



July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29	July 30	July 31	1
	Morris County Fair			Livestock Sweepstakes Registration Due		State Fair Horse Show Entries Due
2	3 State Horticulture Judging Contest Registration Due to Extension Office	4 4-H Wheat Expo	5	6	7 State Fair Entries and Extra Ticket Orders Due	8
9	10	11 Fair Wrap-Up Fairboard Meeting 6:30 p.m. Fairgrounds Community Building	12 First Day of School USD 481	13	14	15 State Horticulture Judging Contest KJLS Entries Due
16	17 4-H Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. Fairgrounds Community Building	18	19 Carcass Contest Dinner 6:30 pm Fairgrounds Community Building	20 First Day of School USD 417 Morris-Chase Sharpshooters Banquet 6:30 pm Territory Ballroom, Council Grove	21	22 Livestock Sweepstakes
23 Livestock Sweepstakes	24	25	26	27	28 Fair Thank You Notes and Verification Cards Due 4-H Ambassador Applications Due	29
30	31	Sept 1	Sept 2	Sept 3	Sept 4 Deadline to Bring State Fair Entries to the Extension Office.	Sept 5 State 4-H Dog Show

Flint Hills District 4-H News

Flint Hills Extension Office

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Deb Andres

Family and Consumer Sciences & 4-H Agent

Jessica Mayhew

4-H & Agriculture Agent

Tara Thomsen

Program Assistant

Gianna Zimmerman

Office Professional, CG Office

Kelley Gawith

Office Professional, CWF Office

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