

Flint Hills District 4-H Newsletter

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January 2026

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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 Book 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 Record Book Screening are due to the Extension Office by January 13, 2026 at 5pm.** List of those eligible will be in the county specific news. For more information see the December Newsletter or go to <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/regionalscreening.html>

District Club Day

Our 2026 District Club Day has been scheduled for **Saturday, February 28, 2026** 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 are hosted in Morris County and odd years are hosted in Chase County.

An entry form can be found in the December Newsletter or on the Extension District website under 4-H Youth Development: District Club Day. The website also has resources and score sheets to help as you prepare. We encourage families to take the time to complete your registration form and begin work on your entries. **All entries will be due by Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** and will be accepted at either Extension Office or electronically.

Regional Club Day has been scheduled for March 28, 2026 and will be held at Madison High School. Additional information will be in future newsletters.

Citizenship in Action

What: This two day event is sponsored by the State 4-H Youth Leadership Council. The purpose of the event is for Kansas youth to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in their local communities.

Who: Youth 13-18 years old by January 1 of the current year

When: February 15 - 16, 2026

Where: Topeka, KS - Hotel Topeka at City Center (formerly Capitol Plaza)

Registration Deadline: January 26, 2026 at midnight OR when we reach our CAP

Cost: \$225 per attendee

For more Information: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/citizenship-in-action/>



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District News

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<https://www.facebook.com/flinthillsdistrictksre>

Kansas 4-H Scholarships

Last chance to turn in applications for Kansas 4-H Scholarships and the Vanier Family Scholarship Program. More information can be found in the December newsletter or at the website below. **Scholarship applications are due January 5, 2026 by 11:59PM CST.** Visit the website for more information: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html>

District 4-H Ambassador Training

What: 4-H Ambassador Training with special guest Beth A. Hinshaw, Regional Extension Specialist 4-H Youth Development. A light lunch will be served.

When: January 17th, 2026 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Where: Morris County Community Building at the Morris County Fairgrounds, 612 US Hwy 56, Council Grove

Who: All current 4-H Ambassadors in Chase and Morris counties

Metamorphosis Magic 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, the theme is “Metamorphosis Magic.” The goal is to explore insects that go through complete and incomplete metamorphosis, then create artwork that fits the contest theme.

Information and entry forms can be found at: <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/pesticides-ipm/learning-and-resources.html> Entry deadline is April 15, 2026.

Save the Date for Tractor Safety!

Tractor Safety School will be held **May 26-28, 2026** at PrairieLand Partners in Emporia, KS. This school is designed to certify 14 and 15 year-olds for farm employment.

Junior Beef Producer Day

What: Presentations by K-State faculty, staff, K-State livestock judging team members, students, and guest speakers will cover topics that may include selection, nutrition, daily care, meat science, reproduction, health, grooming, and showmanship. An optional YQCA certification class will be offered at the end of the day.

When: Saturday, March 7, 2026

Where: Bilbrey Family Event Center, Manhattan, KS

Who: This is a family event! Anyone attending the event must register, including youth and adults.

Cost: The registration fee is **\$20 per person** for those who sign up by February 13. The fee will increase to \$30 per person for those who register after the deadline. Lunch and a t-shirt will be provided. Only those who register by February 13 will receive a t-shirt.

Junior Sheep Producer Day

What: Presentations will be provided by featured guests, as well as K-State faculty, staff, and students. This event will be an educational day of activities in which youth, parents, extension agents, ag teachers, and sheep project leaders can increase their knowledge of youth sheep project selection and management. A variety of topics will be shared, including an optional YQCA certification at the end of the day.

When: Saturday, April 11, 2026

Where: Bilbrey Family Event Center, Manhattan, KS

Who: All ages and skill levels are invited! This is a family event! Anyone attending, including both youth and adults, must register.

Cost: The registration fee is **\$20/person** for those who sign up by March 20 or \$30/person for those who register after that date. Lunch and a t-shirt are included. Only those who register by the deadline will receive a t-shirt.

Registration information for both Junior Producer events can be found at the following link:

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/ks-jr-producer/>

You are responsible for registering your youth for the junior producer events. If you have questions please reach out to the Extension Office. There will be no agent attending the above events and no transportation provided.

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.

District 4-H Dates

January 2026

January 1 - Extension Offices Closed - New Year's Day
January 5 - Kansas 4-H Scholarship Application Due
January 13 - Record Books due to Extension Offices for Regional Screening
January 16 - NE Region 4-H Project Record Judging - Manhattan (weather cancellation January 21st)
January 17 - District 4-H Ambassador Training - Morris County Community Building
January 19 - Extension Offices Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 23 - State 4-H Horse Judging - Topeka, KS
January 31 - February 1 - 4-H Dog Judge & Leader Training - Salina, KS

February 2026

February 15-16 - 4-H Citizenship in Action - Topeka, KS
February 21-22 - 4-H Horse Panorama - Rock Springs Ranch
February 22 - Morris County Project Day - Morris County Fairgrounds
February 28 - District Club Day - Council Grove High School

March 2026

March 7 - Junior Beef Producer Day - Manhattan, KS
March 19 - Morris County Beef Tagging and Weigh-In
March 27 - Chase County Beef Tagging and Weigh-In
March 28 - Regional Club Day - Madison, KS

April 2026

April 11 - Junior Sheep Producer Day - Manhattan, KS
April 18 - Spring State Shooting Sports Match - BB, Air Rifle, Air Pistol - Great Bend, KS
April 22 & 25 - Morris County Small Market Livestock Tagging and Weigh-In
April 25 - Spring into Volunteering - Salina, KS
April 28-29 - Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC) - Manhattan, KS

May 2026

May 1 - Deadline to Add or Drop Projects
May 1 & 2 - Chase County Small Market Livestock Tagging and Weigh-In



Horse Panorama

What: Horse Panorama gives youth the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of equine science, structure, movement, and more in a competitive yet supportive environment that emphasizes learning, fairness, and fun. This event also helps determine which youth will represent Kansas 4-H at the national Horse Bowl, Hippology, Horse Public Speaking and Horse Demonstration contests.

When: February 21-22, 2026

Where: Rock Springs Ranch

Who: 4-H members ages 9-18 who are interested in Horse Bowl, Public Presentations, and Hippology. All participants, adults, and attendees must register. Coaches are responsible for registering all teams.

Registration Deadline: Early bird registration deadline is January 30, 2026 and includes a t-shirt. Late registrations accepted until February 6, 2026.

Cost: Full-time youth (Sat-Sun): \$155; Saturday-only youth: \$120; Full-time youth with Friday arrival: \$185; Full-time adult (Sat-Sun): \$130; Full-time adult with Friday arrival: \$160; Saturday-only adult: \$100; Virtual only: \$0

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.

Looking Ahead:

What: Tractor Safety School

When: May 26-28, 2026

Where: PrairieLand Partners, Emporia, KS

What: Discovery Days

When: June 3-5, 2026

Where: Manhattan, KS

What: State 4-H Geology Field Trip

When: June 12-14, 2026

Where: TBD

What: Insect Spectacular

When: June 19-20, 2026

Where: Yates Center, KS

4-H Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for **January 26, 2026 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 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.



Check Sheet Update for 2026

There have been a few updates made to the Chase County Record Check Sheet. The check sheet can be found in the 4-H Youth Development section of the website, under District Record Keeping, near the bottom with county specific documents, or follow this link: <https://www.flinthills.k-state.edu/4-h/district-record-keeping/recordbooks.html>. The check sheet on the website is the new updated version. Please print an updated check sheet and make a note of the changes when planning your 4-H year. If you need a check sheet printed for you, stop by the Extension Office.

Save the Date!

Chase County Project Day is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 2, 2026**. Please make note of the new date due to a scheduling conflict.

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 13, 2026.**

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

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.**

Chase
County

JANUARY 2026



				New Year's Day 1	2	3
				Extension Offices Closed		
				No School - USD 284		
4	5 Kansas 4-H Scholarships Due	6	7	8	9	10
	No School - USD 284					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Record Books Due to Extension Offices for Regional Judging			NE Region Record Book Judging	District 4-H Ambassador Training
18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 19	20	21	22	23	24
	Extension Offices Closed					
	No School - USD 284 unless make up day is needed				State 4-H Horse Judging	
25	26 Citizenship in Action Registration Deadline 4-H Council Meeting Pendergraft Building 6:30 p.m.	27	28	Kansas Day 29	30	31
					Horse Panorama Early Bird Registration Deadline	State 4-H Dog Judge Training

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.

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.

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

Dog Project Meeting Dates

Dog project members, mark your calendars now. The first Dog Care and Training project meeting will be held **Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 5:00 pm**. This first meeting will be **without dogs**. Future meeting dates are listed below. All meetings are scheduled for 5:00 pm at the Community Building at the Morris County Fairgrounds.

- Sunday, February 15th
- Sunday, March 22nd
- Sunday, April 19th
- Wednesday, May 27th



Cloverbuds Meeting

Families with children ages 5 and 6, don't forget about the Cloverbuds program. We will be having a Cloverbud meeting on **Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 2:00 pm** at the Council Grove Extension Office conference room. Even if they aren't enrolled in Cloverbuds yet, we welcome all 5 and 6 year olds to join us for a fun activity and to see what being a 4-H Cloverbud is all about. The 4-H Cloverbuds program is an exciting and enriching non-competitive way for young children to start their journey in 4-H.

Looking Ahead to the Fair

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

**Morris
County**

JANUARY 2026



				New Year's Day 1 Extension Offices Closed No School - USD 417 and 481	2	3
4	5 Kansas 4-H Scholarships Due No School - USD 417 and 481	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Record Books Due to Extension Offices for Regional Judging	14 No School - USD 481	15	16 NE Region Record Book Judging	17 District 4-H Ambassador Training
18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 19 Extension Offices Closed No School - USD 417	20 4-H Council Meeting Fairgrounds Community Building 6:30 p.m.	21	22	23 State 4-H Horse Judging No School - USD 417 Elementary School Only	24
25 Cloverbuds Meeting Council Grove Extension Office 2:00 p.m. Dog Project Meeting Fairgrounds Community Building 5:00 p.m.	26 Citizenship in Action Registration Deadline	27	28 Late Start - USD 417	Kansas Day 29	30 Horse Panorama Early Bird Registration Deadline	31 State 4-H Dog Judge Training

Flint Hills District 4-H News

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