

Flint Hills District 4-H Newsletter

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July 2026

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Flint Hills District Offices

Chase County
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Flint Hills District

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Kansas4-H.org

Fair Labels & Forms

All of the following labels and forms may be picked up from the Extension Office.

- **Foods & Nutrition** - Labels for both Foods & Nutrition and Food Preservation can be found on the Kansas 4-H State Fair information page linked below. Extra large bags for Foods entries may be purchased at the Extension Office.
- **Fiber Arts and Sewing & Textile Design** - For Clothing, Fiber Arts or other exhibits needing a cloth label, exhibitors can make their own label on a piece of cloth with a permanent or laundry type marker. Labels should be about 3"x2.5" in size and include exhibitor name, class number and county.
- **Fashion Revue** - Forms for both Shopping in Style and Sewing & Textile Design/Clothing Construction can be picked up from the Extension Office. In Morris County these forms can also be found on the Morris County Fair page on the district website.
- **Aerospace/Rocketry, Ag Mechanics, Astronomy, Building Block Engineering, Computer Science, Electric & Renewable Energy, Robotics, Small Engines, and Uncrewed Aerial Systems** - Forms for these Engineering & Technology divisions can be found on the Kansas 4-H State Fair information page under the "Engineering and Technology" drop down menu.

Kansas 4-H State Fair information page: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/fair-resources/kansas-state-fair/>

Photo Mat Boards for Fair

Photo mat boards are available at the Extension Office for the cost of \$2. Each set comes with one (1) mat board, photo ID strip and matting instructions, and protective plastic bag. New state fair photography rules state that "a full coverage permanent mount using a spray adhesive must be used. Do not use household glues, glue sticks, double stick tape/patches, etc. to adhere photo to matte board." Detailed instructions can be found at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/communication-and-expressive-arts/photography.html>



2026 Fair Deadlines

The following deadlines apply to both Chase and Morris counties.

- Fair pre-entries are due no later than **July 7th**. (See county pages for additional details.)
- Dog vaccine records are due to the Extension Office by **July 7th**.
- **ALL horses must have proof of a current Coggins test in order to show.** Please turn in proof of Coggins to the Extension Office by **July 7th**.

79th Annual Tri-County Fair July 9-11, 2026

ANY 4-H or FFA member in Kansas may show at the
Tri-County Free Fair in Herington!

<https://www.flinthills.k-state.edu/4-h/morris-county/fair/tricountyfreefair.html>



District News

Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and KJLS Entry Information

Entry deadlines are coming up for both the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and the Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS). **Remember that a complete nomination does not count as an entry in the shows!** 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 KSF Grand Drive and KJLS are separate organizations, so if you plan to participate in both shows you must enter each show separately.

Kansas State Fair Grand Drive Entry Deadline - July 15
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.

KSF 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/>



State FCS Judging Results

Our district had four 4-H members participate in the State FCS Judging Experience. Danica Thomsen and Harlow Thomsen participated in the senior division. Andrew Schrader and Beatty Mayer participated in the intermediate division. In addition to the judging contest, 4-H members were also able to participate in the Powercat Financial Workshop, Textile Detective Breakout Experience, and tour Justin Hall. The following members placed in the State FCS Judging Contest.

Danica Thomsen - Senior - 4th place

Beatty Mayer - Intermediate - 5th place

SEA 4-H Youth Challenge Day Results

Seven members of the Flint Hills District participated in various contests at the Southeast Area 4-H Youth Challenge Day in Emporia. Contest options were FCS Judging, Photography Judging, Horticulture Judging, and Crops ID. The following members placed in contests at the event:

Harlow Thomsen - Senior FCS Judging - 1st place

Tate Gibb - Senior FCS Judging - 5th place

Senior Horticulture Judging - 7th place

Danica Thomsen - Senior Horticulture Judging - 10th place

Other participants from the Flint Hills District were Enley Lauer, Liam Lauer, Thea Thomsen, and Ronnie Mayer.

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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

July 2026

June/July - 4-H Camp at Rock Springs Ranch
July 3 - Extension Offices Closed - Independence Day
July 5 - Tri-County Free Fair Horse Show - Herington, KS
July 7 - Chase County Fair 4-H Entries Due
July 7 - Morris County Fair Pre-Entries Due
July 9-11 - Tri-County Free Fair - Herington, KS
July 10-11 - Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic
July 10-13 - Daisy Nationals - Rodgers, AR
July 15 - Kansas State Fair Grand Drive Entries Due
July 18-27 - Morris County Fair
July 24-30 - Chase County Fair

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

Looking Ahead

October 1 - New 4-H Year Begins
October 2-4 - Kansas Junior Livestock Show
October 10-11 - State Shotgun Match
November 7 - Morris County Achievement Banquet
November 21-22 - KYLF - Rock Springs Ranch

State Horticulture Judging Contest

The Kansas 4-H State Horticulture Judging Contest will be held on **August 15, 2026**, at Throckmorton Hall on the K-State Campus in Manhattan. The Horticulture Judging Contest has members compete in plant identification, knowledge testing, and judging classes. Please contact the Extension Office to register for the 4-H State Horticulture Judging Contest.

Morris-Chase Sharpshooters

Members of the Morris-Chase Sharpshooters are headed to Daisy Nationals this month. We wish the following 4-H'ers good luck competing: Kasey Wilson, Lindsay Bunn, Leo McCormick-Evans, Mia McCormick-Evans, Ronald Mayer, Memphis Burton, Wren Markley, Laramie Mayer, Logan Bunn, and returning champion Grace Welsh.

Livestock Sweepstakes

Mark your calendars! 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. This year's contest will be held **August 22-23, 2026** in Manhattan, KS. Entries will be made through the Extension Office and are due August 1st. Please contact the Extension Office 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 now 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/>

Kansas 4-H Wheat Expo

The Wheat Expo will be a fun, educational and hands on program for all Kansas 4-H members, siblings, parents, grandparents, and K-State Extension staff. **4-H members enrolled in Food and Nutrition, Photography and Field Crops are encouraged to participate.** The Kansas 4-H State Wheat Expo is a fun day showcasing all things wheat. Lunch and refreshments are sponsored, and tours will be available. **This event will be held August 4, 2026, in El Dorado, KS.**



What Does a Ribbon Mean?

In 4-H, we use the Danish system for ribbon placing. This means that exhibits aren't judged against each other, but rather are evaluated according to a standard. Seasoned 4-H members are familiar with this system, but for those new to 4-H here's a quick explanation of what those ribbon colors mean. Remember, what you learned in your project and the effort you put in matters more than what color ribbon you bring home from the fair.

A **Purple Ribbon** means superior. It is outstanding on all standards.

A **Blue Ribbon** means above average. It has exceeded minimum standards.

A **Red Ribbon** means average. It meets the minimum standards. It shows honest effort has been made, and there is still room for improvement.

A **White Ribbon** means that for one reason or another it did not meet the minimum standards. A white ribbon doesn't mean that the exhibit is not worthwhile, and can even provide the greatest opportunity for learning and growth.

CHASE COUNTY

Chase County Extension Office Location:

205 Broadway St. Cottonwood Falls, KS

Office Phone Number: 620-273-6491

2026 Raffle Basket Themes

Bazaar - Kansas Pride
Diamond - Gardening
Gladstone - Gift Card Gala
Toledo - Chase County Proud

Remember that each member is asked to sell 12 tickets. You may sell more. Tickets are \$1 each. Community Leaders have received raffle tickets for their clubs. Money can be turned in or more tickets can be picked up at the Extension Office.

4-H Council Meeting

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

Fair Set-Up

Plan to come help set up the fairgrounds for the Fair this year on **Saturday, July 25th**. We will start at 7am and meet at the gazebo. We invite parents to assist as well. The more help we have, the less time it will take. Toledo 4-H Club will be serving breakfast once we are all done.

Sheep, Goat, & Swine Weigh-In

We will not be doing assigned time slots for weigh-in at fair this year. **Sheep and goat check-in is Sunday, July 26th from 5:00-6:30pm**. Please be respectful of your fellow 4-H families as you arrive and be aware of the order we are weighing in. We ask that you sign in with Chelsea Bartels when you arrive. If there is a wait to check-in and weigh, please find your assigned pen and place your animal in there until we get to you. Hopefully by having a sign-in we can make sure families can go in the order they have arrived. **Swine can be brought Sunday, but will not be weighed until Monday, July 27th from 5-6:30pm**. We ask that swine being brought in on Sunday do not interfere with the sheep and goat weigh-in. As always, please contact the Extension Office with any questions.

Judging Contest Results

Photography Judging

Junior (ages 7-8)

1st - Rhett Litke
2nd - Easton Budke
3rd - Wade Bartels

Intermediate (ages 9-13)

1st - Lakin Spain
2nd - Eva Schlup
3rd - Owen Hodges
4th - Brooke Fink

Senior (ages 14-18)

1st - Kailyn Budke
2nd - Alexys Miller
3rd - Karlie Gibb
4th - Heidi Hansford

Horticulture Judging

Junior (ages 7-8)

1st - Peter Tulip
2nd - Wade Bartels
3rd - Easton Budke
4th - Rhett Litke

Intermediate (ages 9-13)

1st - Hezekiah Peters
2nd - Brooke Fink
3rd - Piper Tulip
4th - Sally Tulip

Senior (ages 14-18)

1st - Tate Gibb
2nd - Maggie Peters
3rd - Ava Matile
4th - Jerit Inlow

Chase County Fair 2026

- **Fair Entries are due to the Extension Office by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, July 7th.**
- All projects except for Foods & Nutrition, Floriculture, Horticulture, and Livestock are required to be checked in either between 1-4pm on Sunday, July 26th or on Monday, July 27th between 8:30 and Noon.
- The showing of all species of livestock will be a No-Fit Show, except for horses. "No Fit" is defined as using no adhesive, glue, paint, oil, polish or powder products. Water only is acceptable for fitting. Animals may be clipped, blown, brushed, or combed to enhance their appearance. This rule applies to the livestock shows and the Stanley Stout Memorial 4-H Auction.
- Animals that do not make the minimum weight will show in an underweight class and will not be eligible to show for Grand or Reserve Grand Champion in market hog, lamb, goat and beef classes. They will not be allowed to sell in the Livestock Auction.

Chase County Fair 2026 T-Shirts

Shirts are \$20 and are available in youth and adult sizes!

Shirts are Gildan Softstyle. Orders due July 10. Make

checks payable to Gladstone 4-H.

Thanks for supporting 4-H!



Gildan Unisex Softstyle® T-Shirt
Color: Heather Red

Please add \$2 for 2XL and \$3 for 3XL

Sizes	Quantity	Total
Y XS		
Y SM		
Y MED		
Y LG		
Y XL		
SM		
MED		
LG		
XL		
2XL		
3 XL		

Chase County

July 2026



			1	2	3	Independence Day 4 
					Extension Office Closed	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Tri-County Fair Horse Show		Chase County Fair Entries Due		Tri-County Fair - Herington, KS		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			KSF Grand Drive Entries Due			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
					Chase County Fair	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Chase County Fair						

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 **July 20, 2026 at 6:30pm** at the Morris County Community Building at the Morris County Fairgrounds.

Fair Pre-Entry Deadline

Pre-entries are due in FairEntry no later than 11:59 pm on **Tuesday, July 7th**. Pre-entry is required for the following divisions:

Beef	Dairy Goats	Performing Arts
Swine	Dairy Cattle	Dogs
Meat Goats	Rabbits	Cats
Horse	Poultry	Hand Pet
Sheep	Clothing/Fashion Revue	Carcass
ALL Showmanship Entries	Dining with your Project	

For more information about pre-entries for the Morris County Fair, please see the Fair Book. Pre-entry information is on page 13.

Fair Snack Shack Schedule

After considering feedback from last year's fair, snack shack shifts have been shortened to make them easier for clubs to cover. This does mean that every club has a shift on each day, Saturday through Monday, of the fair. **All 4-H clubs are responsible for making sure that their shifts are covered in the Snack Shack.** The snack shack schedule can be found on page 11 of your Fair Book.

Fair Snack Shack Alumni Night

During Fair check-in on the evening of Friday, July 24th the Snack Shack is scheduled to be staffed by 4-H alumni. We are hopeful that this will allow current 4-H members and parents to focus on checking in animals and exhibits rather than staffing the Snack Shack. **In order to make this work we need your help to recruit 4-H alumni to staff the Snack Shack that evening!** This may look like older siblings of current 4-H families, recently graduated former 4-H'ers, or even friends or family that were once involved in 4-H and wouldn't mind spending a couple hours that Friday evening supporting the 4-H program. **We have two shifts that need filled that evening: 4:30-6:30 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm.** Please have any interested 4-H alumni contact Deb at dandres1@ksu.edu or call the Extension Office at 620-767-5136.

Dog Project Meeting Dates

Below are the dates for the final dog project meetings before the county fair. As a reminder you must attend at least 7 project meetings to show at the Morris County Fair 4-H Dog show. All meetings begin at 6:30 pm and are at the Community Building at the Morris County Fairgrounds. Dog project meetings are on Wednesday, July 1, Tuesday, July 7, and Thursday, July 16, 2026.

2026 Morris County Fair Judges

Dog Show.....	Helen Ramsey
Dining with Your Project.....	Local Volunteer
Clothing Construction.....	Sue Laubhan
Shopping in Style.....	Sharon Bechtel
Cat & Hand Pet.....	Chelsa Nabity
Rabbit.....	Chelsa Nabity
Horse.....	Abbie Powell
Swine.....	Payke Brown
Foods (7-8 yrs old).....	Sue Laubhan
Foods (9-13 yrs old).....	Brook Witty
Foods (14+ yrs old).....	Linda Beech
Open Class Foods.....	Karen Erichsen
Cinnamon Roll Contest.....	County Commissioner(s)
Club Notebooks & Record Books, Self Determined, Posters & Displays, Misc.	
Exhibits.....	Michelle Gibson
Floriculture, Horticulture, & Crops.....	Dr. Sarah Frye
Fiber Arts & Open Class FCS.....	Lisa Markley
Banners, Duct Tape, & Home Environment.....	Karen Erichsen
Visual Arts.....	Angie Sitka
Visual Arts.....	Jeanne Dowell
Dairy Goats & Cattle.....	Gavin Fry
Bucket Calf & Beef.....	Garret Ludwig
Photography.....	Bill Patterson
Photography.....	Eric Otte
Energy Management, Entomology, Forestry, Geology, Shooting Sports, Wildlife, & Woodworking.....	Matt Young
Poultry.....	Randy Dickerson
Sheep & Meat Goat.....	Jeff Ebert
Round Robin Horse.....	Cierra Lindsey
Round Robin Swine & Beef.....	Jake Renner
Round Robin Sheep & Goats.....	Ryan McKoon
Round Robin Dairy.....	Charlie Bestwick
Livestock Judging.....	Ryan McKoon
Herdsmanship.....	Volunteers
Carcass Contest Swine.....	Dr. Beyer Grad Assistant
Carcass Contest Beef.....	Dr. Beyer Grad Assistant

Fair Clean-Up Reminders

Please read your fair book for information about fair clean-up. See page 12 in the Fair Book for your 4-H Club's assigned area. As a reminder, **4-H members are required to sign in on clean up night after the livestock sale in order to receive any and all premium money.** Indoor clean up will sign in with Michelle Poole and outside clean up will sign in with Shandi Andres. Clean-up should go quickly if everyone pitches in to help like they should!

Morris County

July 2026



July 18-27, 2026

			1 Dog Project Meeting 6:30 p.m. Fairgrounds Community Building	2	3 Extension Office Closed	Independence Day 4 
5 Tri-County Fair Horse Show	6	7 Morris County Fair Pre-Entries Due Dog Project Meeting 6:30 p.m. Fairgrounds Community Building	8	9	10	11
				Tri-County Fair - Herington, KS		
12	13	14	15 KSF Grand Drive Entries Due	16 Dog Project Meeting 6:30 p.m. Fairgrounds Community Building	17	18 Morris County Fair
19	20	21	22 Deadline to Enter ALL Entries into Fair Entry That Did Not Require Pre-Entry	23	24	25
Morris County Fair						
26 Morris County Fair	27	28	29	30	31	

Flint Hills District 4-H News

Flint Hills Extension Office

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Jessica Mayhew

4-H & Agriculture Agent

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Kelley Gawith

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