

Flint Hills District 4-H Newsletter

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May 2026

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Discovery Days

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

What: Discovery Days is a mini-college experience held on the K-State campus. The primary purpose of 4-H Discovery Days is to gain new ideas and expand your 4-H experience. Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Judging will be held during Discovery Days. It is listed as a session youth can choose from the Class Session Catalog. **Discovery Days participants who plan to participate in FCS Judging will need to select the afternoon session.**

When: Wednesday, June 3rd to Friday, June 5th, 2026

Where: Kansas State University campus

Cost: \$245, some sessions have additional fees.

Registration: Registration deadline is May 8th. Many sessions have a participant limit so early registration gives the greatest flexibility in selecting sessions.

Registration is online and can be found at this link: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/discovery-days/> Additional information including tentative schedule and a class session catalog can also be found at the link.

State Family & Consumer Sciences Judging

This year State Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Judging will be held on K-State Campus during Discovery Days. The FCS Experience will include the FCS Judging Contest, lunch on campus, workshops, and a campus tour.

Who: Open to all youth ages 9-18 (youth can participate as individuals or a team of 3-4 youth in the same age group). Intermediates are ages 9-13; Seniors are ages 14-18.

Where: Justin Hall on the Kansas State University Campus

When: Thursday, June 4, 2026

What: The FCS Judging Contest includes: Consumer Decision Placing classes and reasons (individual participants), Skill-a-thon identification (individual participants), Group Think – which is a presentation inviting the team's perspective in response to a situation presented on the day of competition. (Team presentation to a judge).

Cost: \$15 per participant (includes lunch at Kramer Dining Center); \$10 for Discovery Days participants. No refunds (but substitutions will be allowed).

Registration: Deadline is Friday, May 8th. Registration is through our local extension offices. There is no limit to the number of 4-H'ers who can participate in the contest. We will form separate Chase and Morris county teams for each age division. **Discovery Days participants who plan to participate in FCS Judging will need to select the afternoon session.**

There will be a Study Session/Informational meeting on May 22nd for those registered for the State FCS Judging Contest. Time and location to be determined.



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Flint Hills District

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Congratulations Graduating Seniors

Chase County

Guthrie Danford
Karlie Gibb
Bryson Koch



Morris County

Castyn Andres
Kassidy Belt
Gus Wainwright
Mallory Wells

District News

4-H Week at Rocking KM Vet

Once again Rocking KM Vet Service has generously offered special dates to assist 4-H families in meeting the testing and vaccine requirements for 4-H shows and our county fairs. **This year they are offering greater flexibility by designating a full 4-H week.**

Who: All 4-H members in the Flint Hills District with dog, cat, horse, or livestock projects.

What: A full week available to schedule appointments for 4-H project animals. **Exams will be free for all animals.** You must call or text Rocking KM Vet at 620-767-5914 to schedule your appointment.

When: June 15-19, 2026

Where: Rocking KM Veterinary Service, Council Grove, KS
Cost:

- DAPPL (canine Distemper, Adenovirus (Hepatitis), Parvovirus, Parainfluenza, and Leptospirosis) - \$48.25
- Canine Bordetella - \$29.75
- Rabies (canine and feline) - \$21.75
- FeLV/FVCRP (feline leukemia/Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (FVR), Calicivirus (C), and Panleukopenia (P) - \$65
- Core Equine Vaccine (EEE, WEE, West Nile, Tetanus, Rabies): \$70.75
- Equine Flu Vaccine (EIV, EHV-1 & 4): \$42.75
- AGID Coggins: \$66.25
- ELISA Coggins: \$82.25

Rocking KM Vet recommends that every horse receives the core equine vaccine, and horses traveling or exposed to new horses receive the equine flu vaccine as well, which would apply to those planning to show at the fair.

State Livestock Nomination

Official DNA envelopes MUST be ordered in advance.

DNA envelope order deadlines:

Beef - April 20

Small Livestock - June 5

Nomination deadlines:

Market Beef - May 1

Commercial Heifer, Swine, Sheep,
and Meat Goat - June 15



More information on the Kansas State Livestock Nomination System is in the April 4-H Newsletter or can be found online: <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/nominated-livestock/>



Insect Spectacular



Who: 4-H'ers enrolled in the Entomology project.

What: Beetles, bugs, dragonflies, and more! It's time to get registered for the 34th Insect Spectacular. You will need to wear appropriate clothing for venturing into natural areas and bring insect/tick repellent, sunscreen, collection net, kill jar and lots of specimen containers. You will need your own camera for taking pictures of insects. More information is available at the registration link.

When: June 19-20, 2026

Where: North Community building at 505 N. Buckeye Street in Iola, Kansas

Registration: Pre-register by May 25, 2026 via link: <https://cvent.me/4oL0D4>

Cost: \$85 for full registration. A parent from each family must pay full registration and attend the workshop. Younger siblings under 4-H age, spouses, etc. that may be coming along, but not participating in the classes, will need to pay a fee of \$65.00.

Tractor Safety School

Who: This school is designed to certify 14 and 15 year-olds for farm employment.

What: Youth tractor safety training. Participants must attend all three sessions. A youth will receive their completion certificate once they return the signed document providing proof that he or she received four hours of equipment operation training from their prospective employer.

When: May 26-28, 2026

Where: PrairieLand Partners - Emporia, KS

Why: With certain exemptions, employment of youth under 16 for tasks that require operation of a tractor and machinery is illegal unless the youth are certified. By successfully completing this certification program, 14 and 15 year old youth may legally operate farm tractors and powered machinery for hire which they otherwise would not be allowed to operate under the U.S. Department of Labor's Hazardous Occupations Order in Agriculture.

Registration: Pre-register by May 20, 2026 by contacting the extension office at 620-767-5136 (Council Grove) or 620-273-6491 (Cottonwood Falls). You will need to provide name, address, phone number, and birth date to pre-register.

Cost: \$10, due at registration

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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

May 2026

May 1 - Deadline to Add or Drop Projects
May 1 - State Show Market Beef Nominations Due
May 1 & 2 - Chase County Small Livestock Tagging and Weigh-In
May 22 - FCS Judging Study Meeting
May 25 - Extension Offices Closed - Memorial Day
May 26-28 - Tractor Safety School - Emporia, KS

June 2026

June 1 - Horse IDs Due
June 2 - Chase County Project Day
June 2 - Chase County 4-H Council Meeting
June 3-5 - Discovery Days - Manhattan, KS
June 4 - State FCS Judging Contest - Manhattan, KS
June 12-14 - State 4-H Geology Field Trip - TBD
June 15 - Morris County 4-H Council Meeting
June 15 - State Show Commercial Heifer, Swine, Sheep, & Meat Goat Nominations Due
June 15-19 - 4-H Week at Rocking KM Veterinary Services
June 18-20 - Kansas All Breeds Junior Dairy Show - Salina
June 19 - Extension Offices Closed - Juneteenth
June 19-20 - Insect Spectacular - Yates Center, KS



July 2026

June/July - 4-H Camp at Rock Springs Ranch
July 3 - Extension Offices Closed - Independence Day
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 18-27 - Morris County Fair
July 24-30 - Chase County Fair

Looking Ahead

August 15 - State Horticulture Judging Contest
August 22-23 - State 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes
September 11-20 - Kansas State Fair
October 1 - New 4-H Year Begins
October 2-4 - Kansas Junior Livestock Show
November 21-22 - KYLF - Rock Springs Ranch

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.tricountyfairks.com/>

State Geology Field Trip

Who: 4-H'ers enrolled in the Geology project.

What: A variety of workshops and activities are planned for Friday and Saturday evenings. A variety of stops are planned on the Field Trip Saturday and Sunday. Project members are encouraged to participate in judging and quiz bowl. This trip will focus on the Tri State Mining District, the Southeast Kansas Coal Mining Area and the Silver City Dome Mining Area. We will be collecting specimens from the Pennsylvanian and Mississippian age rocks of the Cherokee Lowlands and Osage Cuestas.

When: June 12-14, 2026

Where: Headquarters will be at Parsons Middle School, 2719 Main Street, Parsons, KS. Indoor camping will be available at Parsons Middle School and outdoor camping is available nearby.

Registration: You must register ALL those who plan to attend including siblings ages 0-18 and ALL adults 19 and up - One registration per person NO LATE REGISTRATIONS and NO registrations at the door. **Pre-register by May 15, 2026 via link: <https://cvent.me/3owkLQ>**

Cost: \$10 per person registration. Guidebooks will also be available for \$5, and t-shirts for \$20. Geology boxes will also be available for sale at a cost of \$55-\$65 depending on wood type.

Kansas All Breeds Junior Dairy Show

The Kansas All Breeds Junior Dairy Show is scheduled for **June 18-20, 2026** at the Saline County Livestock and Expo Center in Salina. Registration opens on May 1, with a registration deadline of June 8, 2026. This is a unique opportunity for Dairy project members to participate in Dairy Judging, Quiz Bowl and Skillathon while networking with other youth dairy enthusiasts from across the state.

More information can be found at this link:

<https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/dairy/dairyevents/jr-dairy-show/>

Spring Livestock Shows and Events

Information on spring livestock shows and events can be found on the K-State Youth Livestock Program website here: <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/spring-shows/springshows.html>

Dog Qualifiers and Events

Information on dog shows and events, including state qualifiers can be found on the Kansas 4-H webpage. The dog show at the Morris County Fair will be a state fair qualifying event. Link: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/dog/local-dog-events/>

2026 Livestock Deadlines

- Small Animal (sheep, swine, goats, & bucket calf) 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. **Tags are \$3 per tag. Please bring exact change.**
- 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**.
- **Dog vaccine records are due to the Extension Office by July 7th.**
- **Horse ID's due June 1st to the Extension Office. All horses that will be exhibited at the County Fair must have a Horse ID. ALL horses must also have a current Coggins. Proof of Coggins is required in order to show. Please turn in proof of Coggins to the Extension Office by July 7th.**

Project Day

The 2026 Chase County 4-H Project Day is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 2, 2026 from 9:00 am to Noon**, at the Pendergraft Building. We will start the day with **Photography Judging** and **Horticulture Judging** available from 9:00-10:00 am. Youth may judge any time during that hour. The projects that will be represented at Project Day are:

- Ag Mechanics (Welding)
- Beef
- Foods & Nutrition
- Leadership
- Meat Goat
- Photography
- Rabbits
- Sheep
- Swine
- Visual Arts
- Woodworking

Youth are encouraged to attend and participate in these regardless if they are in the project or not. They are great opportunities and can be marked in your record books!

The full schedule can be viewed on our district website:
https://www.flinthills.k-state.edu/4-h/chase-county/project_day/

Please RSVP for Project Day using the QR code below.



4-H Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for **June 2, 2026 after Project Day** 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 24-30, 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.**
- **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

May 2026



					Project Drop/Add Deadline Breeding Animal Ownership Deadline Livestock Tagging 5:00-7:00 PM Chase Co Fairgrounds	1 2 Livestock Tagging 8:30-10:30 AM Chase Co Fairgrounds
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mother's Day 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				Last Day of School USD 284	FCS Judging Practice TBD	
24	Memorial Day 25	26	27	28	29	30
	Extension Office Closed	Tractor Safety School Emporia, KS				
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2026 Livestock Deadlines

- Breeding livestock of any species ownership deadline for the Morris County Fair is **May 1st**.
- Poultry and rabbit ownership deadline for the Morris County Fair is **May 31st**, except for meat pens and pre-junior rabbits, which should not be over 70 days old from the date of judging at the fair.

2026 Fair Updates

- **2026 Fair Dates: July 18-27, 2026**
- The theme for the 2026 Morris County Fair is **Hometown Harvest**.
- All 4-H clubs are responsible for making sure that their shifts are covered in the Snack Shack. **If a club is unable to cover their entire shift they must coordinate with leaders from other clubs to ensure the Snack Shack stays fully staffed.**
- Wearing the fair shirt during the premium sale is optional.
- **New for 2026** - 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.
- At the end of the night, all families are expected to pitch in and help with clean up. Inside/outside assignments are listed in the fairbook. **It is the responsibility of every 4-H member to keep the fairgrounds clean and tidy throughout the entire fair. Do your part!**

FFA Rule Updates for Fair

- **2026** - FFA members are allowed to exhibit in Morris County Fair divisions which align with the possible SAE project list. **FFA members who wish to exhibit at the fair must designate the desired divisions to exhibit for the upcoming fair by May 1 to the Fair Secretary.** Market animals must follow designated weigh-in dates.
- **2027** - FFA members are allowed to exhibit in Morris County Fair divisions which align with the possible SAE project list. FFA members must designate their SAE to the FFA Adviser in the fall prior to the Fair. SAE projects should be on record with the Fair Secretary by May 1. Market animals must follow designated weigh-in dates.

4-H Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for **June 15, 2026 at 6:30pm** at the Morris County Community Building at the Morris County Fairgrounds.

Konley Harding Memorial Scholarship

Applications for the Konley Harding Memorial Scholarship are available by contacting our office or on our website: <https://www.flinthills.k-state.edu/4-h/morris-county/scholarships/> This scholarship is for current or former 4-H members who are from Morris, Marion, or Dickinson counties who are seeking post-secondary education. Preference is given to students applicants who are pursuing an agricultural-related field of study. **The application deadline is May 8, 2026**

Food Handling and Safety Meeting

There will be a county foods meeting/snack shack food safety training on **Monday, June 15th at 5:30 pm** at the Community Building at the Morris County Fairgrounds. **All Club/Community Leaders and 4-H Council Members are asked to attend this meeting as well to prepare for the Fair Snack Shack.** Please wear your hair pulled back or wear a ball cap, as we will be in the kitchen preparing food. No loose clothing or open-toed shoes allowed. Contact Deb Andres at the Extension Office if you have questions.

Dog Project Meeting Dates

The May Dog Care and Training project meeting will be held **Wednesday, May 27th at 6:30 pm**. June & July meeting dates will be Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Actual dates will be announced at a later time. All meetings are at the Community Building at the Morris County Fairgrounds.



Swine, Poultry, & Rabbit Clinic

The Bunn family is hosting a swine, poultry, and rabbit clinic at their farm on **June 12, starting at 5:30 pm**. The address is 1800 K Ave, White City. There will be showmanship demonstrations and practice opportunities, and 4-H'ers are invited to bring their own animal to practice with. You may also bring your own chair. This will be a great learning opportunity for Morris County 4-H'ers as they are preparing their own animals for the fair.

Morris County

May 2026



					1 Breeding Animal Ownership Deadline Project Drop/Add Deadline	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mother's Day 10	11	12	13	14	15 Last Day of School USD 481	16
17	18	19	20 Last Day of School USD 417	21	22 FCS Judging Practice TBD	23
24	Memorial Day 25 Extension Office Closed	26	27 Dog Project Meeting 6:30 p.m. Fairgrounds Community Building	28	29	30
31 Rabbit and Poultry Ownership Deadline		Tractor Safety School Emporia, KS				

Flint Hills District 4-H News

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