

Flint Hills District 4-H Newsletter

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September 2026

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Flint Hills District Offices

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Extension
Flint Hills District

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Kansas4-H.org

Kansas State Fair

The Kansas State Fair is held in Hutchinson and will be **September 11th-20th** this year. Scan the QR code to the right to access the full schedule of 4-H events at the state fair.



Please drop off your state fair entries to the Extension Office by September 4th with the exception of foods and plant sciences exhibits. Those exhibits can be brought to the Extension Office the morning of September 10th, please see your county page for the times. After the state fair, please pick up your exhibits from the Extension Office at your earliest convenience starting September 21st. If an exhibit is large or requires more than one person to load or unload it, then you will be responsible for transporting it to and from the state fair. As a reminder, the Extension Office will not transport any live animals.

National 4-H Week

National 4-H Week will be held October 4-11 this year. This is a great opportunity to show off your 4-H pride and share with our communities how much 4-H means to you.

- Monday, October 5 - Go Green Day. Wear your green and represent 4-H all day long at home, school, and in the community. We want you to be a positive example of our local 4-H program. If you would like to be featured on our Facebook page showing your 4-H spirit please email a picture to Tara at tlp7777@ksu.edu.
- Thursday, October 8 - Share with our 4-H volunteers, supporters, fair sponsors, and anyone who has had an impact on your 4-H journey just how important their support has been to you. Something as simple as telling someone face to face how much you appreciate them and what they do for 4-H in our communities can mean a lot.

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KYLF)

Build your leadership skills and potential through workshops, consulting groups, inspirational speakers and more.

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 announced soon; in 2025 the registration cost was \$215, with optional additional \$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.

District News

4-H Member Achievement Pins

Member Achievement pins are designed to recognize 4-H members as they reach milestones throughout their 4-H journey. The pins are awarded in a series. As a member's 4-H journey progresses, the achievement pin requirements expand to challenge individuals to explore and engage in more opportunities to develop life skills. You can find Member Achievement Pin Applications on our website here: <https://www.flinthills.k-state.edu/4-h/district-record-keeping/recordbooks.html>

4-H Online Program Year Rollover

4-H Online will be unavailable from September 21st to September 30th, and will reopen on October 1st for enrollments for the new 4-H year. **If you need any information from 4-H Online for completing your Record Book, please access it before September 21st.** Our office will not be able to access or retrieve information from 4-H Online while the system is unavailable, so please plan ahead for anything you may need during that time.



Link to Ronald McDonald House Children's Mercy wish list:



Make your plans now to join us for the best Halloween party in the area. After an evening of trick-or-treating, keep the fun going by joining us for our first annual Halloween Dance and Lock-In!

All 4-H members from both Chase and Morris Counties are invited. Pizza, drinks, snacks, music, and games will all be provided. Bring your own pillow, blanket, sleeping bag, change of clothes, pajamas, toiletries, phone charger, extra snacks, and anything else you may need. Remember, the 4-H code of conduct will apply.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jessica. We can't wait to see you there!

Important Details:

- 👤 Saturday, October 31st at the Morris County Fairgrounds Community Building
- 👻 Doors open at 7:00 pm for all 4-H ghosts, ghouls, and goblins
- 👤 4-H members ages 7-13 must be picked up by 11:00 pm
- 👤 4-H members ages 14+ must arrive before 11:00 pm and will stay until 6:00 am
- 🍎 There will be food, games, movies, music and more
- 👤 Dress to impress for a costume contest
- 👤 The entry fee is a donation item for the Ronald McDonald House at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

RSVP is required to attend. Invitations with RSVP details will be handed out at club meetings. RSVPs are due October 23rd to the Extension Office.

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

September 2026

September 5 - State 4-H Dog Show
September 7 - Extension Offices Closed - Labor Day
September 11-20 - Kansas State Fair
September 21 - Chase County 4-H Council Meeting
September 21 - Chase County Sponsor Appreciation
Cookie Baking
September 21-30 - 4-H Online Unavailable
September 26 - State Smallbore/Muzzleloading Match
September 28 - Chase County Record Books Due

October 2026

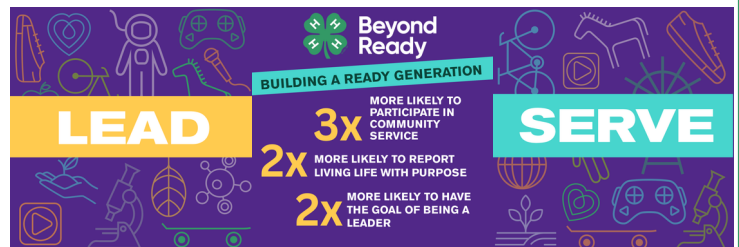
October 1 - New 4-H Year Begins
October 1 - Morris County Record Books Due
October 2-4 - Kansas Junior Livestock Show
October 5 - Morris County 4-H Council Meeting
October 4-11 - National 4-H Week
October 10-11 - 48 Hours of 4-H
October 10-11 - State Shotgun Match
October 17-18 - Kansas 4-H Dog Conference
October 31 - District Dance and Lock-in - Morris County
Fairgrounds Community Building

November 2026

November 7 - Morris County Achievement Banquet
November 8 - Chase County Achievement Banquet
November 21-22 - KYLF - Rock Springs Ranch
November 26-27 - Extension Offices Closed -
Thanksgiving

Save the Date

February 7-8, 2027 - Citizenship in Action - Topeka, KS
June 9-11, 2027 - Discovery Days - Manhattan, KS



4-H Enrollment for the New Year

It's almost time to enroll in the new 4-H year! **Every 4-H member and volunteer, new or returning, must enroll in 4-H Online starting October 1st. Please complete your enrollment for the new 4-H year by November 1st.** If you have any questions about the enrollment process, please reach out to the Extension Office so that we can assist you. 4-H Online is best accessed via a computer rather than a phone browser. There is a \$15 enrollment fee, and some clubs may reimburse this. In Morris County the Morris County 4-H Foundation will cover the enrollment fee for youth who turn in a record book or are first-year 4-H members.

Families should review the years in project as they make project selections. Please also review all personal information to make sure phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses are all up to date. Please enroll in all projects you plan to take for the year as the enrollment list is what allows project leaders to plan the year and communicate about project meetings. The final drop/add deadline for project selection is May 1st.

Enroll at: <https://4honline.com>

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." Dog project members will receive additional information via email once it's released.

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

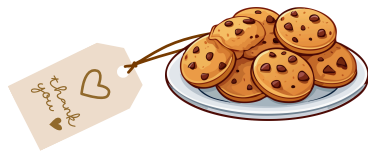
Applications are available now to be considered for either National 4-H Conference Delegate and/or Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Representative for 2027. Through this application, candidates may pursue one or both opportunities: National 4-H Conference Delegate and Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council 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/>

4-H Council Meeting

The next 4-H Council Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, September 21, 2026 at 10:00 am** at the Pendergraft Building. After the Council Meeting, we will bake cookies for Business Appreciation.



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.

State Fair Entries

- 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 Achievement Banquet

Save the date and mark your calendars! The 2026 Chase County 4-H Achievement Banquet will be on **Sunday, November 8, 2026** at the Pendergraft Building.

4-H Week & 48 Hours of 4-H

National 4-H Week is October 4-11 this year and is a great chance to show off your 4-H pride! 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! Now is the time to start planning your service event.

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



Chase County September 2026



		1	2	3	4	5
					Deadline to Bring State Fair Entries to the Extension Office.	State 4-H Dog Show
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Extension Office Closed No School USD 284	4-H Ambassador Applications Due		Bring State Fair Food and Plant Science Entries to the Extension Office between 7:30 and 8:00 am	Kansas State Fair	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Kansas State Fair						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	4-H Council Meeting 10:00 a.m. Pendergraft Building Cookie Baking for Business Appreciation After Council Meeting					
Kansas State Fair	No School USD 284					
27	28	29	30			
	Record Books Due to Extension Office					

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 **October 5, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Morris County Community Building at the Morris County Fairgrounds.

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. 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.

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.

4-H Agent Update

Since joining our team in June, Jessica has been working alongside Deb to learn our local 4-H program and transition into her role as 4-H Agent. **Beginning October 1st with the new 4-H year, Jessica will serve as the agent and primary contact for all 4-H questions, concerns, and information in Morris County.**

This transition allows Deb to return her focus to her Family and Consumer Sciences responsibilities across the Flint Hills District. Our entire office team is always happy to help, but for anything 4-H related, please contact Jessica first beginning October 1.

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.

State Fair Entry Drop-Off

- 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.

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 Morris County 4-H Council has chosen two service projects for Morris County 4-H members to participate in during 48 Hours of 4-H that celebrate and honor the older generations in our communities. Many of our local seniors were once 4-H members, parents, volunteers, fair supporters, farmers, and community leaders who helped build the strong rural communities our 4-H members enjoy today. Now it's our turn to give back!

- **Senior Center Food Drive** - Start planning now how your family and club can help collect food and other items for our local senior centers. We encourage each club to focus their efforts on the Senior Center(s) in their local community.
- **Mini Fair at Morris County Assisted Living** - We are bringing the county fair experience to the residents at the assisted living home on October 11. More details to come soon, but now is the time to begin planning what project(s) you would like to share.

More information on both projects will be shared soon.

I pledge my **H^{AD}** to clearer thinking,

my **HE^{RT}** to greater loyalty,

my **H^{ANDS}** to larger service,

and my **HE^{ALTH}** to better living,

for my club, my community, my country

and my world. 

Morris County September 2026



		1	2	3	4	5
					Deadline to Bring State Fair Entries to the Extension Office.	State 4-H Dog Show
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Extension Office Closed No School USD 417 & 481			Bring State Fair Food and Plant Science Entries to the Extension Office between 7:00 and 7:30 am	Kansas State Fair	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	No School USD 481		Late Start USD 481			
Kansas State Fair						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Kansas State Fair			Late Start USD 417		No School USD 417	
27	28	29	30	Oct 1		
	No School USD 417 & 481			Record Books Due to Extension Office		

Flint Hills District 4-H News

Flint Hills Extension Office

Chelsea Bartels

District Director, Agriculture & 4-H Agent

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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