

Flint Hills District 4-H News

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November 2025 Newsletter



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Flint Hills Extension District 4-H Newsletter

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November 2025

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**4-H Enrollment,
Re-Enrollment &
Volunteer
Renewals Begin
Wednesday,
October 1st**

4-H Enrollment for the New Year

The new 4-H year began **October 1st** which means it is time to enroll! You must enroll via 4-H Online, version 2. The link is <https://v2.4honline.com/>. New enrollment and re-enrollments for 4-H members and all volunteers begins **October 1st** and needs to be completed **ASAP!** The enrollment fee is \$15 (Morris County members, please see the Morris County section on enrollment for more information on enrollment fees.) Your enrollment is not complete until the fee is paid. If you are unable to pay the enrollment fee please contact the Extension Office.

Please let us know if you have any questions as you complete the enrollment process. There are also enrollment guides available on the Kansas 4-H webpage: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-online/index.html>

Please enroll in all projects that you plan to participate in this year. The enrollment list is what is given to project leaders so they can communicate about upcoming meetings. The final drop or add deadline for project selection is **May 1st**.

Shooting Sports

Safety Day for 1st year BB members will be **November 9th at 1 p.m.** at the Morris County 4-H Building, this is mandatory in order to participate in Shooting Sports. New shooters first practice will be November 16th and practice for everyone else starts November 23rd. Be sure your are on the Morris-Chase County Sharp Shooters Facebook page for updates.

Help us Welcome Our Newest Staff Member

We want to welcome our newest member to the K-State Flint Hills District staff - Tara Thomsen. Tara, her husband, Dave, and their 4 children recently moved back to the Flint Hills upon Dave's retirement from the Army. Tara is a 4-H Alumni of Morris County and enjoys family, farm life, and making meaningful memories. Tara will be working with our 4-H Youth Development and Extension programs in both Chase and Morris County. Welcome Tara - We're excited you're on our team!

Volunteers

Volunteering is a great way to show your 4-H youth how to get involved in 4-H. We have 4-H projects that are in need of project leaders in both counties. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for our 2025-2026 4-H year please reach out to the Extension Office to get signed up! Share this with others in the community as well.

District News

Save the Dates:

What: Flint Hills District 4-H Club Days
When: February 28, 2026
Where: Council Grove Junior/Senior High School

What: Jr. Beef Producer Day
When: March 7, 2026
Where: Manhattan, KS

What: Regional Club Days
When: March 28, 2026
Where: Madison, KS

What: Jr. Sheep Producer Day
When: April 11, 2026
Where: Manhattan, KS

What: Discovery Days
When: June 3-5, 2026
Where: Manhattan, KS

State 4-H Horse Judging Contest

The 4-H Horse Judging Contest provides youth an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of equine related subject matter, including structure and movement, in a competitive setting. This contest will provide an educational experience for all participants.

What: 2026 Kansas State 4-H Horse Judging Contest

- Cost: Early bird (by January 2, 2026) - \$25; Late (by January 9, 2026) - \$30

When: January 23, 2026

- Check-in: 7:45 am
- Rules Meeting: 8:15 am
- Contest begins: 8:30 am

Where: Equifest of Kansas; Stormont Vail Events Center; Topeka, KS

Who: The contest awards are available to all Kansas 4-H members 9-18.

Kansas 4-H Scholarships

The Kansas 4-H Scholarship program is open to graduating high school seniors, current college students, and graduate students who have been part of the 4-H experience. Each scholarship has its own criteria, and you may qualify for several.

The scholarship process combines the State 4-H Scholarships and the Vanier Family Scholarship Program (VFSP) applications together. We hope that this encourages more applicants to pursue both of these scholarship opportunities.

Scholarships are due January 5, 2026 by 11:59PM CST

For more information or questions regarding the scholarship application process please contact Sarah Keatley at keatley@ksu.edu or 620-366-0035. Visit the website for more information: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html>

Leadership & Citizenship

It is not too early to start thinking about leadership and citizenship experiences for your 4-H projects in the new 4-H year. As we looked through record books we noticed some youth struggled to list anything under these areas. If you need ideas or aren't sure please reach out to the Extension Office or Community Leaders. Start planning now and recording your activities so it is easier come next Fall for record book submission. Remember it is always project specific when it comes to the project pages.

Project Leadership Experiences: Record your leadership experiences within the project. Be as specific as possible. Leadership is teaching another person or a group, skills or information, also includes organizing or coordinating an activity, event, or meeting; selecting and preparing materials, and selecting presenters. When appropriate, include quantities or frequencies, and your level of involvement (were you a member or an officer or chairperson?). Include elected, appointed and volunteer leadership.

Project Citizenship: Record your Citizenship experiences within the project. Be as specific as possible. Citizenship means helping out in your community and serving others without compensation. List civic engagement, community service or service learning projects that might include: clean ups, collections, repairs, construction, care packets, visitations, education, and donations.

District 4-H Dates

November

November 1 - 4-H & VIP Enrollment Deadline

November 2 - Morris Co. 4-H Achievement Banquet

November 4 - Chase Co. 4-H Officer Training

November 8 - Chase Co. Health Fair

November 9 - Chase Co. 4-H Achievement Banquet

**November 11 - Extension Offices Closed-
Veterans Day**

November 13 - Morris Co. 4-H Officer Training

November 22-23 - Kansas Youth Leadership Forum

**November 27-28 - Extension Offices Closed
Thanksgiving**

December

**December 25 - Extension Offices Closed -
Christmas**

Looking Ahead

**January 1 - Extension Offices Closed - New Years
Day**

**January 5 - Kansas 4-H Scholarship Applications
Due**

January 16 - NE Region Record Book Judging

**January 23 - State 4-H Horse Judging Contest-
Topeka**

February 15-16 - 4-H Citizenship in Action- Topeka

**February 21-22 - 4-H Horse Panorama- Rock
Springs Ranch**

4-H Project Selection

Explore your interests, develop new skills, and discover your spark with a 4-H project! Whether you're interested in caring for animals, building a rocket, creating art or growing a garden, 4-H projects provide the perfect opportunity to dive in, get creative, and make a real impact. You will not only have fun but also build confidence, leadership, and problem-solving abilities as you work alongside peers, mentors, and experts.

Check out the Kansas 4-H Page at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/> to explore Kansas 4-H project opportunities. Be sure to contact the Extension for additional information and program availability.

Kansas 4-H Projects

Animal Science

Beef
Dairy Cattle
Dairy Goats
Dog
Horse
Meat Goats
Pets
Poultry
Rabbits
Sheep
Swine
Veterinary Science

Communication & Expressive Arts

Communications
Interior Design & Architecture
Performing Arts
Photography
Visual Arts

Engineering & Technology

Aerospace/Rocketry
Ag Mechanics Welding
Astronomy
Building Block Engineering
Computer Science
Electric & Renewable Energy
Robotics
Small Engines
Uncrewed Aircraft Systems
Woodworking

Family & Consumer Sciences

Family Studies
Fiber Arts (includes 9 projects)
Foods & Nutrition
Health & Wellness
Sewing & Textile Design
Shopping in Style

Leadership & Personal Development

Civic Engagement
Entrepreneurship
Leadership
Reading Adventures
Self-Determined

Natural Resources

Environmental Science
Geology
Shooting Sports (includes 10 projects)
Wildlife

Plant Sciences

Agromony
Entomology
Forestry
Horticulture & Landscape Design

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.

4-H Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for **January 26 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. Officers for the 2025-2026 4-H Program Year are as follows:

President: Sadie Mushrush

Vice President: Cooper Miller

Secretary/Treasurer: Tate Gibb

Achievement Banquet

The date for the Achievement Banquet has been set for **Sunday, November 9th at 6pm** and will be held at the Pendergraft Building (new 4-H building). No cost to the 4-H member who turned in a record book, parents and siblings. Anyone extra and who didn't turn in a record book will need to pay \$10.

4-H Council 2025-2026 members and youth who are enrolled in the leadership project are invited to help set-up and decorate starting at 5 pm.

The theme is Find Your Spark with 4-H!!

Officers Training

Training will be held **Tuesday, November 4th at 6:30 pm** at the Pendergraft Building (New 4-H Building) in Cottonwood Falls. Youth under the age of 10 must have an adult present. Everyone is welcome to participate in officers training even if you do not hold an office. It is a great way to learn about an office that you may want to hold in the future. Pizza will be provided.

2026 Livestock Deadlines

- ◆ Market Beef tagging / ownership deadline for 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 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 County Fair is **May 1st**.
- ◆ Poultry and Rabbit ownership deadline is **May 1st**.

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 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.**
- ◆ If you have any questions with the new changes please feel free to contact the Extension Office.

State Events

Youth who want to attend State 4-H Events are encouraged to visit with the Extension Office about scholarships available to assist with registration cost. 4-H Council voted to offset cost associated with specific events (the office has a list).

NOVEMBER 2025 Chase

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						¹ 4-H & VIP Enrollment Deadline
²	³ USD 284 No School	⁴ 4-H Officer Training @ 6:30 pm- Pendergraft Building	⁵	⁶	⁷	⁸ Health Fair 7:30 am-12:00 pm
⁹ 4-H Achievement Banquet 6:00 pm - Pendergraft Building	¹⁰	¹¹ Extension Office Closed - Veterans Day	¹²	¹³	¹⁴	¹⁵
¹⁶	¹⁷	¹⁸	¹⁹	²⁰	²¹	²² KYL F
²³ ³⁰ KYL F	²⁴	²⁵	²⁶	²⁷	²⁸	²⁹
USD 284 NO SCHOOL. THANKSGIVING BREAK						
				HAPPY Thanksgiving ↓ EXTENSION OFFICE CLOSED		

Achievement Banquet

Please join us at our Achievement Banquet to recognize the hard work of our 4-Her's in 2024-2025! Ricky's Café will be catering the evening.

Ticket Prices are: \$7 per person.

When: November 2nd; Doors open at 6pm

Where: Morris County 4-H Community Building

Set-Up: Saturday, November 1st @ 5pm;
Dwight Sunflowers & Flint Hills 4-H Clubs

Clean-Up: Sunday, November 2nd after the banquet;
Willing Workers & Neosho Valley 4-H Clubs

4-H Leader Training

Club officers and 4-H members considering future leadership opportunities are encouraged to join us for the Leader Training on Thursday, November 13 at 6:30PM at the Morris County Community Building on the MRCO Fairgrounds. We will have fun learning about the responsibilities of club

leadership while mixing with 4-H members from across the county! A light meal will be served – please RSVP to Deb by November 11 at

4-H Adult Leader Training

Project, Club, and Community Leaders are asked to participate in training targeted for adult volunteers in Morris County 4-H. Club Leaders' training is on November 13th, 2025, from 5-6 pm. Project Leader & General Volunteer training will follow at 6:00PM. A light meal will be served – please RSVP to Deb by November 11 at dandres1@ksu.edu so that we can plan for the meal.

Save the Dates

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

Important Dates

Fair Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 4, 7 pm

4-H Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 6:30 pm

4-H Council News

Congratulations to the following 2025-2026 Morris County 4-H Council Officers:

President: Haley Nielsen

Vice-President: Warren Longren

Secretary/Treasurer: Laramie Mayer

Reporter: Jameson Lauth

Fair Board Representatives: Warren Longren;
Laramie Mayer

We are excited to see what the new 4-H year brings to Morris County 4-H under their leadership!

The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 20 at 6:30PM at the Morris County Community Building on the MRCO Fairgrounds.

Souper Sunday Fundraiser

Fundraiser benefits Morris County 4-H members attending 4-H Ignite 2026 in Washington, D.C.

When: November 23rd from 5:00-7:00pm

Where: Morris County 4-H Community Building
612 US Hwy 56, Council Grove, KS 66846

5:00pm - Dinner is served \$10 (includes 1 bowl refill)
soups - cinnamon rolls - beverages - toppings

5:30-7:00pm - BINGO
\$20/card to play for the night (min. 12 games)

Draw for Lifetime Hunting License
Baskets - Silent Auction

NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 4-H & VIP Enrollment Deadline Achievement Banquet Setup 5:00pm
2 4-H Achievement Banquet 6:00pm	3	4	5	6	7 USD 417 - No School	8 Chase Co. Health Fair 7:30am - 12:00pm
9	10	11 Extension Office Closed - Veterans Day	12	13 Club Leader Training 5:00pm Adult Project & General Volunteer Leader Training 6:00-6:30pm 4-H Officer Training 6:30-8:00pm	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 KYL
23 30 KYL	24	25	26	27 HAPPY Thanksgiving	28 EXTENSION OFFICE CLOSED	29