



4-H UPDATES



Official Newsletter of Meadowlark Extension District 4-H

March 2024

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Sheep & Goat School

You are invited to the Northeast Kansas Sheep and Goat School on **March 13** starting at 6:00 PM at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Complex – 12200 214th Road, Holton, KS .

The schedule will be as follows:

- 6:00 PM – Shearing Demonstration
- 6:30 PM - Registration and snacks
- 7:00 PM – Basic Sheep and Goat Management
- 7:30 PM – Economics of Multi-Specie Grazing
- 8:00 PM – Questions and Answers

This is being presented by Matthew Young - Brown County Agent, Ross Mosteller - Meadowlark District Agent, Katharine Sharp – Doniphan County Agent and Tyler Sale – Leavenworth County Agent. In conjunction with them, JJ Jones-Area Agricultural Economics Specialist from Oklahoma State University and Manus Brothers' Shearing will be presenting!

Registration is free, but they ask for you to RSVP by **March 11** at <http://tinyurl.com/NEKsheepgoat>, 785-336-2184 or rmostell@ksu.edu.

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

It is once again required that YQCA certification must be completed if you are exhibiting any of the following: beef, dairy cattle, dairy goats, meat goats, sheep, swine, meat pen rabbits and meat pen poultry. You are more than welcome to attend ANY in-person class whether it is hosted by our District, a neighboring one or at Junior Producer Days! We just need assurance by way of a .pdf or screenshot of your certificate. Online class certifications are also accepted.

To sign up for in-person or virtual courses, go to <https://yqcaprogram.org/>. If you have any questions regarding the process, feel free to visit their help desk on their website or email them at help@yqcaprogram.org. You can also email Clay at croland@ksu.edu.

The following dates and locations will be the in-person classes hosted by Clay and Ross:

- **February 29** at 6:00 PM—Valley Falls at the Fair Grounds
- **March 3** at 4:30 PM—Holton at the NEK Heritage Building
- **March 26** at 6:00 PM—Seneca at the Woolsoncroft Events Center (1615 Branch St.)

Jefferson County Spring Beef Show

4-H Beef exhibitors take note! The 25th Annual Jefferson County Spring Beef Show will be held Saturday, **March 30** at the fairgrounds in Valley Falls. This is one of the first spring shows of the season and a great opportunity to get your calves out. Entry forms need to be postmarked by Friday, **March 15**. For more information, contact Toni Reeves at reeves.toni@yahoo.com.

4-H Camp at Rock Springs Ranch

Rock Springs Ranch (RSR) will be hosting many sessions of camp as they always do! There will also be two new additions this year that they are extremely excited to offer! More on those below.

Youth/Families can select the time frame to attend 4-H Camp at the time that works best for you. You can register and pay for 4-H Camp directly at <https://www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org/>. The three-night and five-night options are available. Other options for camp outside of the “traditional” camper ages follow.

- **Explorers** – Ages 8-10 (Rising 3rd -5th graders) This is the youngest campers. They will work on gaining their independence, making new friends, and discovering the larger world around them. While at camp they will enjoy archery, swimming, intro to horses, BBs, Corcl boats (easier to handle than canoes/kayaks), the giant swing and many other fun activities. This group will also have the highest staff to camper ratios.
- **Trailblazers** – Ages 11-13 (Rising 6th -8th graders) This group has greater access to activities and will spend time with more campers in their age group and work on skills development. Activities include aerial archery, swimming, horses, rifles, canoes, climbing wall, and more.
- **Adventurers** – Ages 14-17 (Rising 9th-12th graders) The oldest group in or “traditional” camp. Adventurers spend most of their time at activities they choose along with other campers in their group. Activities are at the top tier of RSR offerings including 3D archery, swimming, horses, trap shooting, kayaks, high ropes and zipline.
- **Leaders-In-Training** – Ages 14-16 (Rising sophomores and juniors) This immersive experience empowers youth to find their voice and transition into leaders ready to serve their communities. Teens participate in camp activities and challenges while also learning leadership development and civic engagement skill. During the week teens bond and find a sense of belonging through teambuilding, leadership skill development, and generosity
- **Counselors-In-Training** – Ages 16-17 (Rising HS seniors) They will be given responsibility over a group of younger campers from breakfast to bedtime. These teens will receive camper care training and counselor experience, but they will also have “camp” time with their peers built into each day. The CIT program is a fun and wonderful way to explore what it means to be a beginning leader and a mentor and is a good fit for young people who may want to explore a career in education, early childhood care or other related fields. The program also covers important skills such as learning how to give and receive feedback, set and achieve goals, resolve conflict, plan and lead activities and build confidence. Time in this program also looks good on college applications.
- **Family Camp** – Treat your family to a weekend getaway at Rock Springs Ranch. It is a time to be outdoors, spend quality time together, and experience all the fun camp has to offer as a family!
- **Specialty Camps** – These are special interest camps that are 5 nights. These sessions are named Ranch Camp and Shooting Sports Camp.

Super 4-H Saturday

The Annual Super 4-H Saturday NW Judging Contest, which includes Crops, entomology, horticulture, livestock skill-a-thon, photography and livestock will be held at Fort Hays State University in Hays on Saturday, **March 25**.

- Indoor Judging will start at 9:00 AM and run until 12:30 PM. You can judge one or all five contests.
- The Livestock judging registration will start at 12:30 PM with contest starting at 1:30 PM.

Mark your calendars and watch for the final details to be announced soon. If you have any questions, or wish to register, contact Clay in the Oskaloosa office. He will direct you to the appropriate contact.

Regional Club Day

All eligible entries from County Club Day have been contacted regarding our Regional Club Day, which is Saturday, **March 23**, at Atchison Elementary School. Your response is needed no later than **March 3**.

Contact the office with any questions. The schedule will be posted to the county webpages as soon as it is available.

94th Annual Hoard's Dairyman Cow Judging Contest

You are invited to join the thousands of others who participate in this fun and educational picture judging contest. This interactive web-based portal contains all five classes, and allows you to submit your entries online and receive your scores via email at the completion of the contest. Cash prizes and framed certificates are awarded to winning individuals and groups. Also, each team member who is part of a group entry is eligible for individual prizes. Please go to <https://judging.hoards.com/> to register. This year's contest entry deadline is Monday, **March 25**.

Premium Sale Requirements

Any 4-H member wishing to participate in premium auctions at county fair, need to annually complete the premium sale requirement form. Virtual opportunities will continue to serve as satisfactory replacement for in-person activities of 2023-2024 (where offered). The process encourages year-round 4-H engagement and involvement. FFA members (in counties where eligible for fairs) have a corresponding set of requirements. To review the form go to: https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/docs/4h/fair-forms-for-all-offices/PREMIUM_SALE_REQUIREMENTS_4-H.pdf. Many of these requirements can be met by engaging with your local club all year, participation in local/area/state events.

Willie and the Beanstalk

Willie and the Beanstalk is a soybean competition for Kansas K-12 students to encourage interest in the field and increase their knowledge of soybean development. Students who enter the competition will work to see who can grow the largest soybean plant. The contest can prove to be a valuable teaching tool as it allows students to plant their own soybean, then watch it grow and document the progress the plant has made.

Registration for the 2024 contest is now open. Register by Monday, **February 26**. For more information or to register, please visit the website at: <https://www.agronomy.k-state.edu/outreach-and-services/k-12-educators/willie-and-the-beanstalk/>.

Spring Beef Show

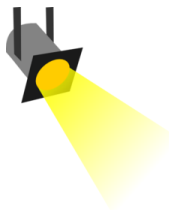
The show will be **March 30**, beginning at 10:00 AM at the Valley Falls Fairgrounds. Check-in will be from 7:00–8:30 AM. The deadline to register is **March 15**. Contact Toni Reeves at 785-640-8457 for more information or see the registration form on the Oskaloosa 4-H website, https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/docs/4h/jefferson/local_shows/JF_CO_Spring_Show_Flyer_2024.pdf.

Spring Poultry Show

This show is on Saturday, **April 6** at the Valley Falls fair building. Doors open at 7:00 AM and the show begins at 8:00 AM. Set-up for this event will be Friday evening, **April 5** at 6:00 PM. For more details, contact Katie at HoneyCreekFarms@hotmail.com or 785-231-0413. The entry form can be found on the Oskaloosa 4-H webpage.

Livestock Weigh-In

1. Weigh-In/ID sheets (if applicable for your county) for all species are available at weigh-in.
2. Each specie requiring an ear tag will have a cost of Beef—\$3.50; Sheep, Swine and Meat Goats—\$3.00). Please have cash or checks payable to your local county's 4-H Council at weigh-in.
3. If you are unable to attend your local county's weigh-in, you are permitted to attend either one of the other two district's county's weigh-ins. If you choose to do this, please inform your local office and Clay your intentions.
4. Beef weigh-ins are:
 - Nemaha County – **February 23** from 4:00-6:00 PM
 - Jackson County - **March 3** from 2:00-4:00 PM at the Holton Livestock Exchange
 - Jefferson County – **March 9** from 9:00 AM to Noon at Valley Falls Fairgrounds
5. Sheep and Goat weigh-ins are:
 - Jackson County – **May 9** from 6:00-7:00 PM at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Barn
 - Jefferson County – **April 24** from 6:00-8:00 PM at the fair grounds
 - Nemaha County – **May 4** from 7:30–8:30 PM at the fair grounds



Interviews



This summer I had the privilege of talking to several people from each county in the Meadowlark District. My intent was not only to include parts of them here in the newsletter but I have taken them back to the state council to gather more information about youth involvement in the state. There is so much that the state council can learn from youth talking about their experiences and interests. Throughout the next few months I will be sharing more of these interviews for you all to read.

The next interviews I want to share with you are from The two County Council Presidents, Nick Thompson from Nemaha County, and Hade Doyle from Jackson County. I was unable to visit with the Jefferson County President.

Nick Thompson

- What is your favorite project? - “Food Preservation”
- What is your favorite opportunity in all of 4-H? - “Meeting new people from across the state”
- What is a fair tradition that you enjoy? - “Spending the night at the fairgrounds”
- What is something you would change about your fair or county 4-H? - “Location”
- What is something you would tell your younger self relating to 4-H? - “Be confident, it isn’t as scary as it seems”

Haden Doyle

- What is your favorite project? - “The Beef project”
- What is your favorite opportunity in all of 4-H? - “To help lead and make decisions that impact the future of other 4-H kids for the better”
- What is a fair tradition that you enjoy? - “I love round robin, getting to show all the breeds of animals against the best showers Jackson County has”
- What is something you would change about your fair or county 4-H? - “Change the female beef show and take into account the EPD’s in choosing the overall heifer”
- What is something you would tell your younger self relating to 4-H? - “I would remind myself that the endless work is worth it, because you only have a short, few years in this organization. The memories you make last forever and I would dislike for someone to miss out on the fun times 4-H brings.”

I am still so grateful for the time I got to spend serving Kansas 4-H and am excited to do it again this year.

Brooke Slipke
Kansas State Youth Leadership Council
Jackson County—Meadowlark

Why 4-H ???

*(Noting the **IMPACT** of the 4-H Program in the lives of young people, in their own words.)*

“I am beyond thankful for my time in 4-H, the lessons and skills learned through it, and all of the friendships that have come along the way. Being able to tell people that I am 4-H Grown is something that I am so proud of.”

Jackson County News

Regional Club Day

Those who received a Top Purple from Jackson, Nemaha, Jefferson, Brown, Doniphan, Atchison and Leavenworth Counties will have the opportunity to present at Regional Club Day on Saturday, **March 23**. Entries are due to the office by **March 3**.

Ambassador Sponsored Easter Egg Hunt

The Holton Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **March 30** at 1:00 PM at the NE KS Heritage Complex. If anyone would like to donate candy or prizes, please bring your items to the Extension office by **March 18**.

4-H Council Meeting

Our next Council meeting will be Thursday, **April 11** at 7:00 PM at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Complex.

2024 Concession Stand Manager

The Jackson County 4-H Council is taking applications for a Concession Stand Manager for the 2024 Fair. This is a paying job and does have some requirements. Please contact the Extension Office for an application and more information.

Livestock Tagging and Weigh-In

Don't forget if you are planning to show market livestock you must have your animals weighed and tagged at a District weigh-in or ID'd by the ID date. Tags must be paid for at weigh-in and breed must be identified.

- Swine – All swine animals must be tagged and proper paperwork with pictures returned to the office by **May 1**. *This includes all breeding, market and open class swine.* All swine tags must be picked up by the individual 4-H families from the office. **We can no longer sell the tags to the breeders.**
- Sheep & Goats – **May 9** from 6:00-7:00 PM at the Northeast Kansas Heritage Barn

If you have questions, please contact the Extension Office.

Project Meetings

Looking for ideas for Project Meetings for this upcoming spring. If there is something you would like to learn about or have someone interested in teaching please contact the office and let us know.

Fair Changes for 2024

- All 4-H/FFA online entries are due **June 24**. This is due to use having an early fair this year.
- No Home Raised Animal Classes
- All Breeding animals must be owned by **May 1**.
- Poultry/Rabbits must be owned by **June 1**.
- Self Determined—Class 707 size is now 2'x4'

Superintendents Needed

Superintendent sign up will be emailed out to all 4-H families. If you are interested in helping out during the fair please fill out the form and return to the Extension Office. We still need help in following areas: Rabbits and Wildlife.

Building Award Presentation

It was decided at the last Council meeting that the Building Award Presentation will be Thursday night, **July 18**, at 6:00 PM at the Farm Bureau pad. Anyone who won a Champion prize with one of their building projects will be awarded at this time.

Fair Trophy Sponsors Needed

The following trophies are in need of sponsors for the 2024 Fair: **Robotics—Advanced Robotics Champion.**

4-H Council Alumni Scholarship Changes

Changes were made to the Alumni scholarship and if you have received this scholarship in the past, you may apply for it again. Please see the updated scholarship application on our website.

Dog Practice

Dog Practice will begin the end of March or the first of April. Please be watching your email for more information.

Congratulations!

We had three 4-Hers chosen from the NE Regional Screening to advance for state project award consideration. They are the following:

- **Paden Askren** in Shooting Sports
- **Dalton Peters** in Poultry
- **Jarett Abel** in Self-Determined.

Wish them the best as they compete at the state level!

Jefferson County News

Swine Project Meeting

This year at our county fair, swine will be shown according to breeds. There will be an information meeting on **February 29** at 6:00 PM before the YQCA training at the Fair building in Valley Falls. Please contact swine superintendent, Dana Gettel at dgettel@msn.com with questions or call the office.

Livestock Weigh-In

Beef-Market Steers

- Saturday, **March 9** from 9:00-Noon at Valley Falls Fairgrounds. Cattle must be halter broken. In case of inclement weather, listen to local stations or check the Jefferson County 4-H webpage. Please enter through the upper south driveway to avoid congestion. The snow date is Saturday, **March 18**.
- Market steers, not weighed at this or another Meadowlark District Beef Weigh-In, are not eligible to show at the Fair. Let the office know if you plan to weigh in at the Jackson or Nemaha weigh-ins.
- Current Beef Committee members are Frank Boyce, Toni & Randy Reeves and Kris & Karson Kahler.

Sheep and Goat

- Wednesday, **April 24** from 6:00-8:00 PM at the 4-H Fairgrounds, Valley Falls.

County Horse Project Update

The horse judging team is heading to Equifest for the state horse judging contest on **March 14** in Salina. Our senior team members are **Dani Reeves, Bowie Weishaar** and **Karlee Porter**. Our intermediate team members are **Audrey Handke, Makena Reeves, Sierra Tucker** and **Alayna Westbrook**. Good luck!

Jefferson Co. 4-H Scholarships

Applications are due in the office on Wednesday, **March 15**. Scholarships are for current high school seniors or high school graduates enrolled in higher education. This also includes the Career & Technical College Program (example: Washburn Institute of Technology) during junior or senior years in high school. Applicants must be a current Jefferson County 4-H member. The application form is accessible on the Oskaloosa 4-H webpage.

Jeff. Co. Educational Extension Scholarships

High school seniors and college freshmen attending in-state colleges or Vo-Tech programs are eligible to apply. See your school counselor or contact the office for the applications. These are due on **April 1**.

What will be at the CARNIVAL?

- Rock Climb Slide Obstacle Course, Inflatable Ax Throwing and a Bounce Castle
- Cupcake Walk
- Dodge Ball, Corn Hole & Bingo
- Hair braiding with tinsel & Face painting
- Country Store home-made basket items in a LIVE AUCTION
- Cotton Candy
- Raffle Prize Drawing
- Many, many more games, activities and prizes

Community 4-H Carnival—All County Invited

The COMMUNITY 4-H CARNIVAL is Saturday, **March 16** from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Oskaloosa Junior High School. This is one of our 4-H Council's largest fundraisers, so it's important to be selling your raffle tickets. If you need tickets, contact your club leader or stop by the office. The clubs and Council have been very generous in the prize donations and there is something for everyone! Game tickets will be 25¢ a piece and there will be wristbands for sale for the inflatables.

4-H Council Meeting

The next 4-H council meeting is **March 25** at 7:00 PM in the Valley Falls fair building.

Bucket Calf Project Meeting

Meeting is **March 28** at 6:30 PM at Oskaloosa City Hall.

Citizenship & Leadership Projects

Calling all of the movers and shakers in the Leadership and Citizenship Projects! These are two projects that, at first, may seem difficult. If you would like to be part of county-wide leadership or community service events, please contact Heather at hroenne@ksu.edu to join in the planning, organization and execution of several new events this year.

Congratulations!

We had seven 4-Hers chosen from the NE Regional Screening to advance for state project award consideration in NINE project areas! They are **Lauren Conser** (Prosperity) in Dog Project, **Jayden Herrman** (Prosperity) in Horse and Shooting Sports, **Hadley Houk** (Jolly Juniors) in Dairy, **Clara Johnson** (Winchester) in Performing Arts, **Karson Kahler** (Clover Power) in Leadership and Wood Science, **Sara Leitner** (Jolly Juniors) in Clothing & Textiles, **Landen Olson** (Mooney Creek) in STEM Energy Management. Wish them the best as they compete at state level!

Nemaha County News

Club Day

Thank you to all who participated and the volunteers who helped make Club Day run smoothly. We had a nice turnout and very talented presenters. Just a reminder that all results are posted on our website under the Nemaha County tab.

Regional Club Day

Those who received a Top Purple from Nemaha, Jackson, Jefferson, Brown, Doniphan, Atchison, and Leavenworth Counties will have the opportunity to present at Regional Club Day on Saturday, **March 23** at the Atchison Grade School. Entries are due to the office by **March 3**.

Congratulations

We are happy to announce one of our 4-Hers Project Award Recognition has been chosen to go on to state judging. Dane Haverkamp will be sending his Beef Record on to state. Best of luck.

4-H Council Food Stand Committee Meeting

If you signed up to be on the 4-H Council Food Stand Committee, we will meet Monday, **April 8** at 6:30 PM before the Council Meeting. We will be planning the menu and going over any needs for the Concession Stand. Every club is asked to have at least 2 youth and 2 adult representatives from their club on this committee. This does not include those that are on 4-H Council. Please make sure you let Deb know who will be on the committee from your club.

4-H Council Meeting

Our next Council meeting will be Monday, **April 8** at 7:30 PM at the Community Building.

4-H Council Events Scholarship

Have you attended or plan to attend a state camp this year? Help pay for it by applying for the Councils Events Scholarship. It is a good idea to print that off and be making notes of what you have done, as far as the check offs needed. <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/seneca.html>.

Discovery Days

Discovery Days is one of the largest events that is put on by the Kansas 4-H program. This year the event will be held **June 5-7**. Discovery Days objectives:

- Help youth learn new ideas, techniques, and skills they can use personally and in their 4-H clubs or groups and communities.
- Give youth in-depth training through hands-on educational sessions from content and youth development experts.
- Prepare youth to make informed decisions about their careers and college path.
- Enhance personal growth by giving opportunities to develop responsibility, confidence, independence, accountability, problem-solving, decision-making, and time management skills.
- Help youth meet new people and make new friends from different places and with different backgrounds from across the state.
- Provide an opportunity for youth to experience the K-State campus and its wealth of resources.

Develop college and career readiness skills which prepare participants academically and socially for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.

Fair Dates

Mark your calendars for the Nemaha County Fair **July 25-29**. Pre-fair judging will be on Wednesday **July 17**.

Fair Auction Requirements

If you plan to take anything through the Actions at the fair this year you must meet certain requirements and submit the Premium Auction Requirement form. This includes Livestock, Decorated Cakes, and Bread Baskets. Members must attend a "minimum" of 5 Club meetings, livestock members must complete Youth Livestock Quality Assurance training (YQCA) and members must have also participated in FOUR (4) approved activities. This form can be found at <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/forms.html>. If you have yours completed, you can turn it into the office anytime.

Kansas Pride Theme - "Arches"

Photo Opportunity

How would you like for a picture you took to be on the cover of the 2024 fair book? Pictures need to be based on this year's fair theme "Summer Nights, Arena Lights". You do not have to be in the Photography project to do this. These photos can be taken anytime not just this year. Please submit your photo to Deb at dahenry@ksu.edu before **April 1**.



Meadowlark Extension District

Oskaloosa Office

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Address Service Requested

Calendar of Events

Feb. 26: Willie and the Beanstalk registration due

Feb. 29: Swine Project Meeting, JF

YQCA, JF/Valley Falls

Mar. 1: Fair book changes to office, NM

State 4-H Scholarship applications due

Mar. 2: Junior Beef Producer Days, Manhattan

Mar. 3: Regional Club Day entries due to office JA

YQCA, JA/Holton

Mar. 3: Beef Weigh-In, Holton

Mar. 9: Beef Weigh-In, Valley Falls

Mar. 11: RSVP for Sheep & Goat School, Holton

Mar. 13: Sheep & Goat School, Holton

Mar. 15: JF Co. Spring Beef Show entry forms due

Jefferson County 4-H Scholarships due

Sign up to receive Fair book, NM

Mar. 16: Community 4-H Carnival, JF/Oskaloosa

Junior Sheep Producer Days, Manhattan

Mar. 18: Holton Community Easter Egg Hunt donations due

Mar. 23: Regional Cub Day, Atchison

Mar. 25: Hoard's Dairyman Cow Judging Contest deadline

Super 4-H Saturday, Hays

Mar. 25: Dog practice, NM

4-H Council Meeting, JF

Mar. 26: YQCA, NM/Seneca

Mar. 28: Bucket Calf Project Meeting, JF/Oskaloosa

Mar. 30: JF Co. Spring Beef Show, Valley Falls

Holton Community Easter Egg Hunt, Holton

Apr. 1: 2024 Fair book Cover Photo Submissions due, NM

JF Co. Educational Ext. Scholarship applications due

Apr. 5: Spring Poultry Show Setup, JF

Apr. 6: Spring Poultry Show, JF

Apr. 8: 4-H Council Food Stand Committee meeting, NM

4-H Council Meeting, NM

Apr. 11: 4-H Council Meeting, JA

Apr. 24: Sheep/Goat Weigh-In, JF

May 1: Swine ID paperwork & pictures due to office

May 4: Sheep/Goat Weigh-In, NM

May 9: Sheep/Goat Weigh-In, JA

June 5-7: Discovery Days

June 24: 4-H/FFA online entries due, JA

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