



# POST ROCK DISTRICT 4-H NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2026

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# 4-H DAY

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS QUICKLY APPROACHING!

4-H Day is a great opportunity for Post Rock District 4-H members to develop and showcase their communication skills!

The 2026 Post Rock District 4-H Day Guide will help determine what contests to participate in, and it includes the contest rules and other event details. Review the guide and register at [Post Rock District's 4-H Day webpage](#).

- **4-H Day #1:** Beloit United Methodist Church on Saturday, February 14. Communication contests start at 8:00 a.m.  
**Registration deadline is February 2.**
- **4-H Day #2:** Smith Center Jr./Sr. High School on Monday, March 2. Communication contests start at 4:30 p.m.  
**Registration deadline is February 16.**
- **Virtual:** It is strongly encouraged to compete at a 4-H Day in-person event. If your schedule does not allow, there are some contests that are available for virtual entry. Review the Virtual Entry Expectations for details. **Registration deadline is February 16.**



**Sign-up Online  
Today!**

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESENTATION STRATEGIES

As you prepare for presentations at 4-H Day and during your club meeting, remember there are many resources available:

- [Kansas 4-H Presentation Overview](#)
- [Post Rock District Communications Webpage](#)
- [Kansas 4-H Project Webpage – Communications](#)
- [Kansas 4-H Project Webpage – Performing Arts](#)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 4-H DAY

*CLUB ASSIGNMENTS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST*

Adults and youth volunteers are needed for both 4-H Day events and Judging Extravaganza activities! When you register for 4-H Day there will be an opportunity to sign-up to volunteer as a greeter, door monitor, judging contest assistant, or with event clean-up. Please plan to have volunteers serve from your 4-H club! If your club wants assigned a task, let us know by calling the Mankato Extension Office at 785-378-3174 or emailing [tiunderw@ksu.edu](mailto:tiunderw@ksu.edu).

# JEWELL COUNTY CLOVER CONNECTION



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📞 (785)378-3174

✉️ [TIUNDERW@KSU.EDU](mailto:TIUNDERW@KSU.EDU)

TONIA UNDERWOOD, OFFICE PROFESSIONAL

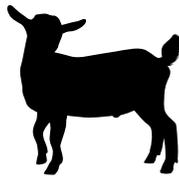
## JEWELL COUNTY 4-H/FFA BEEF WEIGH-IN



Beef weigh-in is on  
February 15 at  
3:00 p.m. at the Sale Barn  
in Mankato.

## JEWELL COUNTY 4-H/FFA SMALL ANIMAL WEIGH-IN

Small animal weigh-in is on  
April 12 at 2:00 p.m. at  
Mankato Fairgrounds.



## JEWELL COUNTY 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK TAGS



Tags are available in the Extension Office and will also be available at weigh-ins. Please note that EID tags can not be sold over the counter. A Post Rock District staff member must be present and observe all EID tags being placed in the animal's ear. Jewell County 4-H/FFA tags are free thanks to support from the 4-H Council; \$3.50 for beef EID tags; and \$2.75 for small animal EID tags.

## EID TAGS FOR JEWELL COUNTY

Please let the Extension Office know how many EID Tags you will need by January 31, two weeks before weigh-in. This will allow us to make sure we have enough of each kind of tag in stock.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Nelson and Harlee for being selected to send their Project Record book on to State Judging. Nelson is going in Shooting Sports and Harlee is going in Horse.



## WELCOME PAIGE

Paige Duskie has started serving Post Rock District as a 4-H Program Coordinator! She'll be working full-time and helping to support the Mitchell and Jewell 4-H Programs. Paige will be working regular hours at the Beloit Office beginning in February. Keep directing your questions to the Mankato Office at 785-378-3174.

## BACK-ORDERED ACHIEVEMENT PINS ARE HERE

Please bring in your Project Card to get your Achievement pin that was not available at the Jewell County Achievement Celebration.

## 4-H Council Meeting

The Jewell County 4-H Council Meeting is Monday, February 2, at the Courthouse meeting room at 7:00 p.m.

## 2026 4-H QUIZ BOWL



All the Jewell County youth who participated in Quiz Bowl.



The Webber Wide Awake 4-H Club was runner-up for the Outstanding Club Award at the Post Rock District 4-H Quiz Bowl.



Sweet Lemonade team take 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Junior division at the Post Rock District 4-H Quiz Bowl.



Fast Attack team takes 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Senior division at the 4-H Quiz Bowl.



Clover Crushers team take 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Senior division at the 4-H Quiz Bowl.

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## JUDGING EXTRAVAGANZA

JUDGING CONTESTS | DISTRICT 4-H EVENT ALONGSIDE 4-H DAY

We've expanded the judging contests that are part of 4-H Day into a Judging Extravaganza! Judging Extravaganza is a come-and-go experience. There is no pre-registration required for these contests. Youth will participate individually.

Study guides for each judging contest are posted on the [Post Rock District's Judging Extravaganza website](#). Contests are related to the areas listed below.

- Animal Science
- Financial Management
- Foods and Nutrition
- Horticulture
- Photography

Explore the  
Study Guides!



**GIVE A 4-H DAY PRESENTATION + COMPLETE JUDGING EXTRAVAGANZA CONTESTS = ACHIEVEMENT PIN WIN!**

**Did you know?** On the same day, you can get 2 separate district-level activities to note on your achievement pin applications - Judging Extravaganza AND 4-H Day. A 3<sup>rd</sup> district-level activity can be counted if you also serve as a volunteer throughout the day!

## YQCA IN-PERSON CLASSES



YQCA is a national, multi-species youth livestock quality assurance program that covers food safety, animal well-being, and character development. It is a great learning experience for youth involved in any livestock project! The class is required to be completed annually by all KSF Grand Drive and KJLS participants. YQCA training can be completed online or in person. Register for the in-person YQCA classes we have scheduled. Youth register and pay for the course through the [national YQCA website](#). Participants also need to take the online pre-test at the YQCA website before attending. We need 10 participants at each site to host the course!

- **BELOIT METHODIST CHURCH** - Saturday, February 14 at Noon after 4-H Day - Register on the [YQCA website](#) searching class name "2026 Beloit 4-H Day Training."
- **LINCOLN SENIOR CENTER** - Friday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m. Register on the [YQCA website](#) searching class name "2026 Lincoln County Training."



Reference the "Help Guide for Registering for YQCA" on our [Post Rock District 4-H YQCA website](#).

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## NCK LEAD

**FEBRUARY 28 AT CLOUD COUNTY CC**

Post Rock District and River Valley District are teaming up with Cloud County Community College to offer a drive-in personal development experience for 4-H teens in 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades. NCK LEAD will take place on Saturday, February 28 at CCC in Concordia from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Participants will take part in interactive simulation activities led by collegiate professionals in animal science, nursing, drone technology, renewable energy composites and climate classes. Through engaging experiences, youth will develop workforce and leadership skills. Sign-up by February 13, space is limited! Lunch will be provided. \$20 fee due to your local Extension Office. Registration is available on the [event website](#).



**NCK LEAD**



**Register by  
February 13**

## 4-H DAY WITH K-STATE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



**Register by February 8**

Join 4-H friends from across the state to cheer on the K-State Lady Wildcats vs. Iowa State on Sunday, March 1. For the \$28 package, get a ticket, a \$10.00 concession voucher, and a t-shirt. Or, for the \$18.00 package, get a ticket and a \$10.00 concession voucher. You can pick up ticket packages on game day from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Doors open for the general public at 12:00 p.m. Tip-off is at 1:00 p.m. [Register online](#) by February 8. Find more details and the event flyer on our [Post Rock District 4-H Events webpage](#).

## KANSAS YOUTH INSTITUTE IS MARCH 6

**AGRICULTURE CAREER EXPLORATION**

**Register by February 23**

The Kansas Youth Institute is a transformative experience where high school students engage with local leaders and agricultural experts to explore critical global challenges. Through hands-on activities and meaningful discussions, students discover ways to make a difference in Kansas and around the world. The event, hosted by Kansas State University's College of Agriculture, will take place on March 6. The deadline to register is February 23. Learn more at [kstate.ag/ksyouthinstitute](http://kstate.ag/ksyouthinstitute).



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## BEEF AND SHEEP K-STATE JUNIOR PRODUCER DAYS

Register by February 23

The K-State Junior Producer Days focus on beef and sheep in even years and swine and meat goat in odd years. These are one-day, educational events for families to learn about the selection and management of youth livestock projects. Both events will be hosted at the new Bilbrey Family Event Center. This is a family event!

- Junior Beef Producer Day – Saturday, March 7, 2026
- Junior Sheep Producer Day – Saturday, April 11, 2026

Registration is now open on the [Junior Producer Days](#) page of KSU Youth Livestock Program website, which is under the events tab. Cost information and a schedule are also available online. All attendees must register, which includes both youth and adults.



Registration for the junior day events has transitioned to a new platform.

Families will be prompted to set up a profile under a parent/guardian and then add at least one child. Once the account is created and you login to register for each day, you will have the opportunity to add children and other adults. The platform is not linear, so if you follow the prompts to the end and have multiple kids or adults to register, you will have to click on the “child” or “additional adult” tab on the left to view the options to add those individuals. Once you checkout, you will be able to view the number of kids and adults registered. A photo release and liability waiver will also be requested for each person through the platform. Families will receive a confirmation email to the address used to set up the profile after the registration is submitted. Families who plan to attend both junior days will need to register through each unique link, separately. A confirmation email for each event will be issued once payment is processed.

## MEAT JUDGING INVITATIONAL MARCH 1 IN MANHATTAN

The K-State Invitational Youth Meat Judging Contest is set for Saturday, March 1, in Manhattan at the K-State University Meat Lab. Youth of all ages are welcome. Contest begins at 8:00 a.m. There will be at least 6 Classes, 40 retail IDs, and Questions. Awards will be given to the top 10 and the highest team. If you have questions, please contact Erin Beyer at [erbeyer@ksu.edu](mailto:erbeyer@ksu.edu). Register at online at the [event website](#).

## NW JUDGING EVENT - SUPER SATURDAY MARCH 21 IN HAYS

Super Saturday is set for Saturday, March 21, in Hays at Fort Hays State University. Judging Contests at this regional 4-H experience include: Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Photography, Livestock Skill-a-thon, and Livestock Judging. Most judging contests are in the morning, with livestock judging happening in the afternoon. Additionally, in the afternoon, there are some project workshops for youth to enjoy. You can pick and choose what you participate in. Registration will be announced as the event gets closer. Save the date!

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## CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS



**Apply by  
February 5**

Road trip across the USA stopping to see Philadelphia, Gettysburg, the Liberty Bell and more! Meet, learn, share and tour with youth from other states and respected resource people. Walk among places that have made history and places that are making news today. Visit Capitol Hill, government departments, historic sites, and memorials. Get a close-up view of the political process through visits to Capitol Hill. The Kansas 4-H CWF Trip is for youth who will be 15 before June. The trip is set to take place June 13-23 with Oklahoma and Missouri. Sign up is due by February 5. Space is limited, so don't wait! Details and costs are on the [Kansas 4-H CWF Website](#).

## LIVESTOCK TAGGING AND ANIMAL WEIGH-INS

Each county hosts a beef weigh-in and a small animal weigh-in. The dates will be shared on your county's newsletter page. Attending the weigh-in is required to participate in the rate-of-gain contest at your county fair. It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** to bring your animal to the beef and small animal weigh-in events because attending can assure you are understanding of and ready to meet all exhibition requirements (so you won't be disqualified at fair); you can connect with other adults and youth in the project for support, encouragement, and assistance throughout the year; and you can get many of your questions answered.



Post Rock District will not sell Kansas 4-H EID tags over-the-counter at our Extension Offices. The state requires our staff to approve all State Nominations for livestock, and part of that approval process is confirming that we have physically seen each Kansas 4-H EID tag in your livestock animal's ear at tagging time (photos and over-the-counter sales do not qualify). Plan to attend your county's tagging and verification event (i.e. weigh-in) for beef, swine, sheep and goats. Call the Extension Office ASAP if you know you'll have a conflict and need an animal verified with an EID tag for State shows.

## KANSAS 4-H DAIRY SHOW SURVEY DUE FEBRUARY 1

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Kansas All Breeds Junior Dairy Show on June 18-20 in Salina. To help Kansas 4-H gauge potential participation and make plans for this year's event, we would greatly appreciate each family taking a brief moment to complete the [short online survey](#) by February 1. If you have any questions or need further assistance, contact Kevin Snell at [kpsnell@ksu.edu](mailto:kpsnell@ksu.edu).

## KANSAS 4-H CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN

Sign-up for Kansas 4-H 2026 Summer Camp is open! Kansas 4-H camp sessions are posted at [www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org](http://www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org). 4-H and non-4-H youth are welcome to register to enjoy 4-H camp! Each family will register directly with Rock Springs Ranch through the website. Before you register, contact your local Extension Office and your club leader. There may be club or county-level event scholarships available.

## TEEN-LED PROJECT LEARNING

Teens are challenged to plan and implement learning experiences to help others gain knowledge and skills in project areas. Taking the step to plan and implement project workshops and meetings can help teens reach upper-level achievement pin requirements, work toward earning your key award, build a stronger comprehensive project experience for record book recognition, complete the district's ambassador expectations, explore the leadership project, and, most importantly, give back to younger members by providing your mentorship and passion to help others. If you are interested in leading a project workshop or meeting in the spring or summer, contact your local Extension Office so we can help you promote and support your effort!

## YQCA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 15 FOR YOUTH WITH ANIMAL SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

The national youth livestock quality assurance program, Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA), is continuing the scholarship program they initiated in 2025. Applications are now open and will close on February 15. High school seniors through college students who are 21 years of age are encouraged to apply. Applicants must have experience with an animal project in one of the species covered by YQCA (beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry, or rabbits). All applicants must show a commitment to pursuing a career path in agriculture, livestock, or food systems. Last year, Kansas had two of the scholarship recipients! For more information, visit the [YQCA program website](#).

## NATIONAL YOUTH IN ACTION APPLICATIONS OPEN

The 4-H Youth in Action (YIA) program celebrates young people who are creating real change in their communities. This national program amplifies the stories and leadership of 4-H youth, showcasing how 4-H has shaped their lives and equipped them to impact others. Award Winners will receive a(n): \$5,000 scholarship for higher education, paid directly to the institution, including two-year and four-year colleges, trade schools, or other advanced learning opportunities; Year of professional and media development, training, networking, and national opportunities to serve as a spokesperson and thought leader; All expenses paid trips for each award winner and a chaperone to attend national events; Official reference letter from a National 4-H Council leader for educational or career purposes. Applications are due April 13. To learn more about the program and application process, National 4-H Council is hosting a webinar for applicants and their parents on March 4 at 7:00 p.m. ET. To sign up for one of these webinars and review application details visit the [program website](#).

## INSECT ART CONTEST

The K-State Extension Pesticide Safety and IPM Program is hosting its annual insect-themed art contest, open to all ages and skill levels in Kansas. This year's theme is Metamorphosis Magic. The goal is to explore insects that undergo complete and incomplete metamorphosis, then create artwork that fits the contest theme. Entries must be received or postmarked before April 15. Full contest rules and details are available at the [contest's website](#).

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## 4-H HISTORY RESOURCES

The National 4-H History Preservation Team invites you to explore how they help preserve the 4-H story. Check out the resources available:

- [National 4-H History Preservation Team Website](#)
- [National 4-H History Facebook Page](#)
- [“The Bridge” Newsletter](#)

## WE'RE HIRING AN EXTENSION AGENT

Post Rock District is expanding our team! We're hiring a 4-H Youth Development Agent! Review the position description and application procedure at the [K-State Extension careers website](#).



**Do you have a passion for seeing youth succeed?  
We would love for you to join our team.**

**Apply to be a 4-H Youth Development Agent**

**Learn more at [www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/careers](http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/about/careers).**

**Apply by February 9, 2026.**

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A criminal background check is required.

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## HAPPY RETIREMENT, TERESA!

Teresa Shipley will be retiring from her role as an Office Professional at the end of February. Teresa has been the magic behind the scenes of many Post Rock District 4-H communication processes and events over the years. If you are in Mankato, stop by the Extension Office and wish her well. We are going to miss her, yet know she'll be enjoying lots of time with family. Thank you for helping make the best better, Teresa!

## WELCOME PAIGE AND EMMA

Paige Duskie and Emma Anderson have joined the Post Rock District 4-H Team, and we are so glad they are here! They are excited to meet you all at the various district-wide events in the coming weeks, so be sure to say 'hello'!

Paige is serving as a full-time 4-H Program Coordinator. Her home office is in Beloit, with regular hours at our Mankato office in the future, too. Paige will be focusing on the Mitchell and Jewell County 4-H programs. Emma is serving as a part-time 4-H Program Coordinator. Her home office is in Smith Center. She'll be focusing on our Smith County 4-H program. Emma and Paige are eager to help 4-H Youth Development thrive across Post Rock District!



**Emma and Paige**

## MEET OUR 4-H PROGRAM COORDINATORS

4-H Program Coordinators are extension program assistants who work closely with our Office Professionals and Extension Agents to support the Kansas 4-H Youth Development program in Post Rock District. If you have a 4-H question, we encourage you to reach out to your local Extension Office. We are happy to help!



**Kim Naber**  
4-H Program Coordinator  
Osborne Office



**Carla Morrival**  
4-H Program Coordinator  
Lincoln Office



**Emma Anderson**  
4-H Program Coordinator  
Smith Center Office



**Paige Duskie**  
4-H Program Coordinator  
Beloit / Mankato Offices

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 event contact four weeks prior to the start of the event. 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. Kansas State University is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# POST ROCK DISTRICT 4-H

## DISTRICT/STATE EVENTS AND DEADLINES AT A GLANCE



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### FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE

- |             |   |              |   |
|-------------|---|--------------|---|
| Feb.1,15,22 | Winter Archery Practices, Jewell Co. Fairgrounds          | Mar. 1:      | 4-H Day with KSU Women’s Basketball                 |
| Feb. 1, 22: | Winter BB Gun/Air Rifle Practices, Jewell Co. Fairgrounds | Mar. 1:      | Meat Judging Invitational, Manhattan                |
| Feb. 2:     | Jewell County 4-H Council                                 | Mar. 2:      | Monday Evening 4-H Day 2026/Judging Extravaganza    |
| Feb. 2:     | Valentine Cookie Fundraiser orders due                    | Mar. 4:      | National Youth in Action Webinar                    |
| Feb. 5:     | College Journey Prep Sessions, Zoom                       | Mar. 6:      | Kansas Youth Ag Institute, Manhattan                |
| Feb. 8:     | Smith County 4-H Council                                  | Mar. 7:      | Junior Beef Producer Day, Manhattan                 |
| Feb. 8:     | 4-H Day with KSU Women’s Basketball reg. due              | Mar. 10:     | College Journey Prep Sessions, Zoom                 |
| Feb. 9:     | Post Rock 4-H Youth Development agent app. due            | Mar. 13:     | YQCA Training, Lincoln                              |
| Feb. 10:    | Citizenship Washington Focus applications due             | Mar. 21:     | NW Super Saturday Judging Contests & Workshop, Hays |
| Feb. 11:    | Lincoln County 4-H Council                                | Apr. 11:     | Junior Sheep Producer Day                           |
| Feb. 11:    | Osborne County 4-H Council                                | Apr. 12:     | Jewell County Small Animal Weigh-in                 |
| Feb. 14:    | Saturday Morning 4-H Day 2026/Judging Extravaganza        | Apr. 13:     | National Youth in Action application due            |
| Feb. 14:    | YQCA Training, Beloit                                     | Apr. 13, 16: | Livestock County Fair Management Clinic             |
| Feb. 15:    | Jewell County Beef Weigh-in                               | Apr. 14:     | Insect Art Contest deadline                         |
| Feb. 15:    | YQCA Scholarship application due                          | Apr. 14:     | College Journey Prep Sessions, Zoom                 |
| Feb. 15-16: | Citizenship in Action, Topeka                             | Apr. 15:     | Mitchell County Small Animal Weigh-in               |
| Feb. 16:    | Osborne County 4-H Council meeting                        | Apr. 25:     | Lincoln County Small Animal Weigh-in                |
| Feb. 16:    | All Post Rock District Offices Closed for President’s Day | Apr. 26:     | Osborne County Small Animal Weigh-in                |
| Feb. 17:    | All Post Rock District Offices Closed for staff meeting   | Apr. 26:     | Smith County Small Animal Weigh-in                  |
| Feb. 21:    | Lincoln County Beef Weigh-in                              | Jun. 3-5:    | Discovery Days, Manhattan                           |
| Feb. 21:    | Smith County Beef Weigh-in                                | Jun. 13-23:  | Citizenship Washington Focus                        |
| Feb. 21:    | Beef Project Activity at Smith County Beef Weigh-in       | Jun. 18-20:  | Kansas 4-H Dairy Show                               |
| Feb. 21-22: | State 4-H Horse Panorama, Rock Springs Ranch              | Jul. 9-12:   | Jewell County Fair                                  |
| Feb. 22:    | Osborne Co. Beef Weigh-in                                 | Jul. 12-18:  | Lincoln County Fair                                 |
| Feb. 25:    | Mitchell County Beef Weigh-in                             | Jul. 16-20:  | Smith County Fair                                   |
| Feb. 28:    | NCK Lead, Cloud Co. Community College                     | Jul. 20-25:  | Mitchell County Fair                                |
|             |   | Jul. 22-25:  | Osborne County Fair                                 |



# FEBRUARY

