



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.

SMITH COUNTY CLOVER CONNECTION

☎ POSTROCK.KSU.EDU

📞 (785)282-6823

✉ SGARLOW@KSU.EDU

SHELLY GARLOW, OFFICE PROFESSIONAL



VALENTINE COOKIE FUNDRAISER

Orders due February 2

- Completed sale forms are DUE by 5:00 p.m. on February 2 to the Smith Center Extension Office.
- Each 4-H member is invited to sell one (1) cookie.
- Valentine Cookies are frosted and delivered by the 4-H Council Representatives. They will be frosting cookies on February 8. Deliveries will take place as soon as possible next week to keep our special friends' cookies tasting fresh!

4-H DAY REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS HERE!

Sign-up online for your presentation entries and to volunteer. Find the details on the [4-H Day webpage!](#)



4-H COUNCIL MEETING

February 8

1:00 p.m.

Location TBD

Here are some items Council Representatives will be discussing with their 4-H Clubs:

- Review the county-wide t-shirt design options (emailed to Council Rep / Club Leader) and pick your club's favorite. The Council will choose a design for the county shirt to be worn when exhibiting at the fair. This design will last approximately four years.
- As a club, discuss if you would like Smith County to consider having a rate-of-gain contest for the swine project. We have this contest for beef, sheep, and goats already.
- The 4-H Council is looking at the date of March 28 to host a county-wide fun activity of BOWLING! Does this date work for many in your club? We'll finalize winter activity plans soon.



BEEF WEIGH-IN

February 21, 2026

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. | SC Vet Clinic

All beef must be weighed-in to be part of the Smith County Fair 4-H rate-of-gain contest. While the contest is optional, it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** for youth showing market beef because it provides a great livestock industry learning experience.

BEEF PROJECT ACTIVITY

Alena and Ransom Russell will be hosting a come-and-go beef project activity alongside weigh-in on February 21. Each 4-H member will receive a personalized ear tag!

LIVESTOCK TAGS

County and state EID tags for ALL 4-H livestock projects are free of cost in Smith County thanks to a donation and 4-H Council support.



WELCOME EMMA!

Emma Anderson has started serving Post Rock District as a 4-H Program Coordinator! She'll be working part-time and helping support the Smith County 4-H program and across the district. Emma will be working regular hours at the Smith Center Office beginning in February.

Keep directing your questions to the Smith Center Office at 785-282-6823 or stop by during business hours, M-F 8:00 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.



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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 3rd 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 6-12th grades. NCK LEAD will take place on Saturday, February 28 at CCCC 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.



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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. 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.

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. 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.

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 Morrical
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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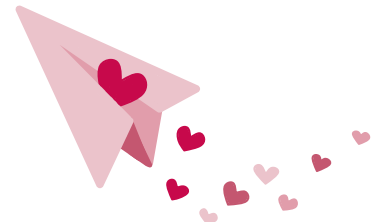
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FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE

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



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