



POST ROCK DISTRICT 4-H NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

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4-H Clover Connection Facebook Private Groups



- *PRD Insider Experience*, our district Facebook private group, is being replaced. *PRD Insider Experience* is discontinued.
- We have launched new Facebook private groups - one for each County 4-H program served by Post Rock District.
- The private group will provide reminders and updates for active members, families, and volunteers in the local Kansas 4-H program.
- Official, primary 4-H correspondence will still be sent to members, families, and volunteers via email based on the enrollment contact information provided.
- Please continue to direct questions to your local K-State Extension Post Rock District office.



Jewell
County 4-H



Lincoln
County 4-H



Mitchell
County 4-H



Osborne
County 4-H



Smith
County 4-H

1. Request to join your group.
2. Answer the member questions to be approved.
3. Engage!

New Year! New Goals! Same Great You!



Kansas 4-H
Project Resources
(UPDATED SELECTION GUIDE!)



"Setting 4-H
Project Goals"
Worksheet



A 4-H Project:
More than a
Fair Entry



Kansas 4-H
Clover
Classroom

JEWELL COUNTY CLOVER CONNECTION

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TONIA UNDERWOOD, 4-H PROGRAM COORDINATOR



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 LIVESTOCK TAGS

Tags are available in the 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 Jewell County office know how many EID Tags you will need two weeks before weigh-in by January 31. This will allow us to make sure we have enough of each kind of tag in stock.

LIVESTOCK EDUCATION CLASS in Lebanon on Monday, January 19

Blaire Todd, Livestock Agent, will be leading an in-person YQCA class in Lebanon at the Community Center on January 19. Youth in livestock projects (all levels) are encouraged to attend! This is a day there is no school for Rock Hills.

- Youth need to register, pay, and take the pre-survey in advance. See *District news YQCA article for how-to register steps.*

SHARE YOUR 4-H FUN!

We want to hear about your exciting activities during December (and all year long). Email pictures and highlights to Tonia to be featured by Post Rock District 4-H! Remember to send articles to the local newspaper regularly.

4-H Council Meeting



The 2026 Jewell County Fair is July 9 - 12!
Let the Good Times Grow.

The Jewell County 4-H Council Meeting is Monday, February 2, at the Courthouse meeting room at 7:00 p.m. Start thinking about holding a district project workshop. Do you know anyone who would be able to teach it, and what are the youth going to make that they could take to the fair?

2026

GET READY, GET SET, AND GO!

I hope each of you is enjoying a restful and relaxing break filled with special memories made with friends and family. As January begins, Post Rock District 4-H is gearing up for new challenges, leadership opportunities, and fun activities. Together, we can make great things happen! ~ Tonia

4-H QUIZ BOWL

This year again, we have extended an invite to neighboring extension units 4-H members to participate, making Quiz Bowl a fun regional event. Get your team ready to go January 10 at Sylvan-Lucas Unified High School in Sylvan Grove.

WHAT IS 4-H DAY?

Post Rock District 4-H Day is an annual competitive event where 4-H youth can showcase their talents in music, drama, dance, reading, and public speaking. 4-H members have the opportunity to participate in club, individual, and/or team activities. Youth have fun, develop self-confidence, and build communication skills when they participate in 4-H Day. Make plans to participate in Post Rock District 4-H Day in Beloit on February 14 or in Smith Center on March 2.

Happy New Year!

LINCOLN COUNTY CLOVER CONNECTION

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CARLA MORRICAL, 4-H PROGRAM COORDINATOR

2026 QUIZ BOWL

Lincoln County is hosting the Post Rock District Quiz Bowl at the Sylvan Lucas High School on Saturday, January 10, 2026 in Sylvan Grove. Deadline to register your team, or as an individual, is **Monday, January 5, 2026**. On January 10th team registration is between 8:45 - 9 a.m. Welcome/rules review at 9 a.m. with competition beginning immediately after rules review. Adult volunteers are needed! Please help by calling the Lincoln Extension office at 785-524-4432.

LINCOLN COUNTY 4-H/FFA TAGS

If you plan to exhibit livestock beyond the county fair, please let our office know how many EID Tags you will need at weigh-in. We need this information to ensure we have enough.

Tags are available in the office for purchase and will also be available at weigh-ins. Please note that EID tags cannot 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. 4-H/FFA tags are \$1.00 for Lincoln County tags, \$3.50 for beef EID tags and \$2.75 for small animal EID tags.

LINCOLN COUNTY 4-H CLOVER CONNECTION

Lincoln County's new Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lincolncounty4hcloverconnection>. The 4-H Insider page will go away 12/23/25. Click to join & wait to be approved.



I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year. May 2026 be your year to show the world what youth leadership truly looks like. You are the generation that carries the spirit of **head, heart, hands, and health** into a future that needs your courage, creativity, and compassion.

4-H DAY

4-H Day and Judging Extravaganza is Saturday, February 14, 2026 in Beloit and on Monday, March 2, 2026 in Smith Center. This is an excellent event to participate in or help with as this is an optional item on your Achievement Pin application.

WEIGH IN DATES

Beef Weigh-In Saturday, February 21, 2026 at Sylvan Sale Barn from 10-11 a.m.
(Backup date is March 7th.)

Small Animal Weigh In Saturday, April 25 Lincoln County Fairgrounds - 10 a.m.

OFFICE CLOSURE

Our office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th, through Thursday, January 1st.

The 2026 Lincoln County Fair is July 12th - 18th. The theme is "All American Flair at the Lincoln County Fair".



MITCHELL COUNTY CLOVER CONNECTION

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CASSIE THIESSEN AND BLAIRE TODD, EXTENSION AGENTS

Happy New Year!

Ring in the New Year

by Setting your
2026 Goals

easy to use QR Code link

4-H Goals Worksheet



2026 POST ROCK DISTRICT

4-H DAYS & JUDGING EXTRAVAGANZA

February 14th in Beloit

March 2nd in Smith Center

Why should youth participate?

Youth Have Fun,
Develop Self-Confidence & Further
their Communication Skills
by Participating.

2026 POST ROCK DISTRICT 4-H QUIZ BOWL



TRIVIA



Register by January 5th
Event

Sylvan Lucas High School

Sylvan Grove / January 10th.



SAVE THE DATE FOR FAIR!

Mitchell County Fair Dates:

July 20th-25th, 2026



4-H Senior Scholarship
Deadline January 5th

apply @ KS 4-H
awards & recognition



MITCHELL COUNTY 4-H BEEF WEIGH-IN

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Solomon Valley
Veterinary Hospital

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.



Two opportunities for
YQCA trainings this winter.

- **LEBANON COMMUNITY CENTER**

Monday, January 19 at 9:00 a.m.

Register on the YQCA website
searching for class name
"Smith County YQCA Training."

- **BELOIT METHODIST CHURCH**

Saturday, February 14 at Noon

Register on the YQCA website
searching for class name
"2026 Beloit 4-H Day Training."

For questions, contact Blaire
at Beloit Extension Office.

4-H COUNCIL MEETING



January 26th | 7:00 p.m.



The Bank of Tescott Meeting Room

PLEASE SEND US YOUR 4-H

2026 Fair Theme Ideas,
Fun Photos & Highlights
tlneiter@ksu.edu

OSBORNE COUNTY CLOVER CONNECTION

 POSTROCK.KSU.EDU

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KIM NABER, 4-H PROGRAM COORDINATOR



2026 POST ROCK DISTRICT 4-H DAYS & JUDGING EXTRAVAGANZA



What is Post Rock District 4-H Day? It is an annual competitive event where 4-H youth can showcase their talents in music, drama, dance, reading and public speaking.

What is Judging Extravaganza? It is an interactive/come and go experience held at the same time as 4-H Day. Youth judge classes in various projects.



Why should youth participate? Youth have fun, develop self-confidence and further their communication skills by participating.

When and where? **Saturday, February 14th in Beloit and Monday, March 2nd in Smith Center.**

Read page 2 and check out the Post Rock District website for additional details.

IT'S 4-H QUIZ BOWL TIME!

Do you enjoy trivia, teamwork and friendly competition? The 4-H Quiz Bowl is a great way to grab a few friends and see what you can do. 4-H Quiz Bowl is much like Scholar's Bowl except all questions pertain to 4-H history and trivia. A study guide is available. See page 2 for details.



CLOVER CONNECTION FACEBOOK PAGE

Osborne County 4-H Clover Connection

- A new Facebook private group has been launched for Osborne County 4-H.
- Stay connected with 4-H reminders and updates for Osborne County 4-H families, members & volunteers.
- Joining is easy. Request to join the group. Answer a few questions to be approved and start engaging!

OSBORNE OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSING

The Osborne office will be closed December 24 - January 1. Office will reopen January 2, 2026.

SAVE THE DATE 2026 OSBORNE COUNTY MARKET BEEF WEIGH-IN

Market Beef Weigh-in is optional but any 4-H/FFA member wishing to participate in the Market Beef Rate of Gain contest will need to bring their market beef projects on Sunday, February 22 at 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tagging will be held at the Osborne Producers Sale Barn in Osborne. This weigh-in is for all market beef steers and heifers.



SAVE THE DATES FOR 2026 OSBORNE COUNTY FAIR



July 22 - 25, 2026



START 2026 WITH GOALS

- Set your sights on 2026 - choose goals that excite and challenge you. Dream big!
- Take action. Learn by doing, keep trying, and don't give up.
- Celebrate it. Every effort counts; recognize your progress, not just the final result.

4-H COUNCIL NEWS

Attention Osborne County 4-H Council members and adult representatives - Be sure to bring feedback from your club regarding the 2026 Osborne County 4-H Event Schedule to the January 12th Council meeting. It will soon be time to lock in county fair judges.

Upcoming Council Meetings



January 12th | 7:30 p.m. | Extension Office



February 16th | 7:30 p.m. | Extension Office

SMITH COUNTY CLOVER CONNECTION

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SHELLY GARLOW, OFFICE PROFESSIONAL



4-H COUNCIL MEETING

January 11 at 1:30 p.m.
Smith Co. Courthouse

LIVESTOCK EDUCATION CLASS

in Lebanon on Monday, January 19

Blaire Todd, Livestock Agent, will be leading an in-person YQCA class in Lebanon at the Community Center on January 19. Youth in livestock projects (all levels) are encouraged to attend! This is a day there is no school for Thunder Ridge and Smith Center.

- Youth need to register, pay, and take the pre-survey in advance. See *District news YQCA article* for how-to register steps.

**THE EXTENSION OFFICE IS CLOSED
DECEMBER 24 - JANUARY 1.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



VALENTINE COOKIE FUNDRAISER

Orders due February 2

4-H Council encourages all to participate in the 2026 Valentine Cookie Fundraiser! Money raised supports project workshops and classes offered in the county.

- **Completed sale forms are DUE by 5:00 p.m. on February 2 to the Smith Center Extension Office.**
- Each cookie is \$5.00. The cookie is 5"x5" and decorated with a Valentine's message. A card with a personalized message will also be delivered to each special recipient.
- **Each 4-H member is encouraged to sell at least 1 cookie.**
- Complete one sale form per cookie. The form has been emailed out, you can find it on [Post Rock District's 4-H Events website](#), or pick some up at the Extension Office.



BEEF WEIGH-IN

February 21, 2026 (note corrected date)
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. | SC Vet Clinic

We're sorry for listing the incorrect date last month. Saturday, February 21, appropriately aligns with the weekend we've done a weigh-in in years past. 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.

SMALL ANIMAL WEIGH-IN AND EID TAGGING VERIFICATION

Small Animal Weigh-in will be April 26, 2026 in the afternoon. This is also a great opportunity to have your EID Tagging Verified for ALL species you're working on nominating for the Grand Drive and Junior Livestock Show.

4-H DAY

Smith Center: Monday, March 2
Beloit: Saturday, February 14



Make plans to participate in a District 4-H Day by entering a public presentation contest (project talk, illustrated talk, demonstration, public service announcement, etc.). You can present individually or with a group. Work on your presentation now, and share it with your club at a meeting for practice!

You can also enter to share a talent like music, dramatics, and dance; however, if you enter a talent, you are also strongly encouraged to enter a 4-H public presentation. It's a great opportunity to share about your project work while also gaining confidence as a communicator.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT 4-H DAY

Volunteers are needed to help with 4-H Day in Smith Center. When you register online, please select a time you can help as a volunteer. Adult and youth volunteers are needed. We can even assign clubs upon request.

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POST ROCK DISTRICT 4-H NEWSLETTER



QUIZ BOWL

**REGISTER BY JANUARY 5
FOR THIS REGIONAL 4-H EVENT!**

Make plans to participate in 4-H Quiz Bowl on Saturday, January 10 at Sylvan-Lucas Unified High School in Sylvan Grove, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The 4-H Quiz Bowl is a fun, semi-competitive event where participants demonstrate their knowledge about various topics related to the 4-H program, its history, and its values. It is free to participate, but registration is needed by January 5. Youth will participate in teams of four. If you don't have a team at sign-up, we can assign you to a team. Registration, rules, and a study guide are available online at the [Post Rock District's 4-H Quiz Bowl website](#).

- **Adult Volunteers are NEEDED in order to host this event. If you can help throughout the morning, please let Carla know at the Lincoln Extension Office (785-524-4432).**

DOWNLOAD 4-H ACTIVITY GUIDES



CLOVER by 4-H creates opportunity for all youth with curriculum from over 100 Universities, interactive hands-on learning activities, and the supportive 4-H community – available anytime, anywhere – helping young people discover their passions and build the life skills to thrive. Explore the downloadable [content online](#).

4-H DAY ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 8!

Get ready to showcase your communication skills at the 4-H Day events. 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 events 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.



**Review the
[4-H Day Guide!](#)**

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POST ROCK DISTRICT 4-H NEWSLETTER

COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESENTATION STRATEGIES

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

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

KANSAS 4-H PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Checkout the helpful [Kansas 4-H Presentation Overview](#) to understand the public presentations and what makes each presentation unique.

GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Did you know you can participate as group at 4-H Day, in addition to individual opportunities? There are opportunities for groups to compete with demonstrations and illustrated talks. Two to four 4-H members can present in a group, with each member having an equal amount of speaking and demonstration/illustration roles. There are also opportunities for groups and clubs to enter entrepreneurship contests, model business meetings, as a chorus or band, or by presenting a dance or skit.

MUSIC, DANCE, AND DRAMATICS

Participants entering any music, dance, or dramatics contest area at 4-H Day are strongly encouraged to also enter a public presentation contest area. Consider giving a project talk or public service announcement (PSA). Try spontaneous speaking or giving a demonstration. Don't forget to review the 4-H Day Guide to make sure you know the expectations about giving an introduction to all music, dance, and dramatics entries.

Visit the [4-H Day website](#) to discover opportunities for each member to build presentation skills at 4-H Day!



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.

MODEL MEETINGS

Model meetings will not be performed at 4-H Day. They will be recorded by video with audio and submitted virtually. You'll need to submit by the virtual entry deadline of February 25, 2026. The meeting agenda, roll call, and secretary's minutes need to be submitted to complete the entry. Other officers are encouraged to submit a written report to complement their verbal reports. Read the 4-H Day Guide for complete details about this contest. Plan ahead now to get your model meeting recorded.

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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 will be available mid-January on the [Post Rock District's Judging Extravaganza website](#). Judging Extravaganza is a great district-level activity for your achievement pin applications.

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 CLASS OPPORTUNITIES

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (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 Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and Kansas Junior Livestock Show participants. YQCA training can be completed online or by attending an in-person class.

2026 IN-PERSON YQCA CLASS SCHEDULE IN POST ROCK DISTRICT

Register for the in-person YQCA classes we currently 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. Encourage your 4-H friends of all experience levels to attend. We need 10 participants at each site to host the course!

- **LEBANON COMMUNITY CENTER** - Monday, January 19 at 9:00 a.m - Register on the [YQCA website](#) searching class name "Smith County YQCA Training."
- **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."



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

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POST ROCK DISTRICT 4-H NEWSLETTER

AGRICULTURAL AMBASSADORS PROGRAM APPLY BY JANUARY 15



The Northwest Kansas 4-H Agricultural Ambassador Program is a premier leadership opportunity for youth ages 13 to 18 (current 8th-grade through Senior in high school) who are passionate about agriculture and are willing to complete a one-year term. Participation/membership in 4-H is not required. The program focuses on: connecting youth with their local agricultural industries; exploring the richness and diversity of Kansas opportunities; developing ag advocacy skills and fostering educational mindsets; and increasing access to career and post-secondary experiences within the agriscience world. Ambassadors complete training to develop leadership and teamwork skills used to promote and educate communities about agriculture. This includes leading educational experiences for youth and attending ag events, such as the Kansas Youth Ag Experience trip.

Youth interested in being a part of the ambassador program must complete an application, submit a leadership resume, a cover letter, three letters of reference, and complete a virtual interview if selected as a finalist. Applications and supporting documents are due by January 15th and may be submitted to your local Extension Office. Find the application and more details on the [NW Ag Ambassador webpage](#) at the Twin Creeks Extension District.

CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION (CIA)

REGISTRATION OPEN...SPACE IS LIMITED, SIGN UP ASAP!

Citizenship in Action is February 15 - 16 in Topeka! Post Rock District will provide a chaperone and transportation to the experience. The purpose of the two-day Kansas 4-H personal development event is for teens (13-18 years old by January 1) to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in their local communities. The legislative visit will not only familiarize youth with the capitol building, but will also show them how they can affect the legislative process. Register now or by the January 26 deadline at the [event website](#).



CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS APPLICATIONS DUE 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](#).

KANSAS 4-H SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS JANUARY 5

The application for Kansas 4-H Scholarships are now available on the [Kansas 4-H website under Awards & Recognition](#). 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. You will only need to fill out one application to be considered for all available scholarships. It is important to review the requirements before getting started on your application. Applications and supporting documents are due no later than January 5, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. CST.

Additionally, there may be a local scholarship opportunity you are eligible for as a 4-H member! Find applications and details on the [Post Rock District's Education Scholarships website](#). Contact your local office with questions.

COLLEGE JOURNEY PREP SESSIONS

Kansas 4-H and K-State Admissions are partnering to help youth and their families confidently navigate the college journey. Through a series of interactive sessions, participants will gain a clear understanding of the college preparation process, explore strategies for financing education - including scholarships, loans, and other resources - and learn how students are supported both academically and personally, from both the student's and parent's perspective. Sessions will also focus on "beginning with the end in mind," equipping youth with tools to prepare for life after college, create personalized plans, and take ownership of their future. In addition, open office hours will provide families with direct access to experts for questions and guidance, ensuring every student feels prepared and empowered for success. These sessions will be targeted at 4-H parents of juniors and seniors in high school; 4-H members are also encouraged to attend. Sessions will not be recorded to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of participants. Registration information will be emailed directly to families via 4-H Online. For questions, please email the State 4-H Office at kansas4h@ksu.edu.

Upcoming Sessions (all 6:00-7:00 p.m. via Zoom):

- January 13: Student Support at K-State - Academic and Personal Resources
- February 10: Begin with the End in Mind - Preparing for Life After College
- March 10: Create Your Own Plan - Personalized College and Career Planning
- April 14: Open Office Hours - Expert Guidance and Q&A

NW JUDGING EVENT - SUPER SATURDAY SAVE THE DATE OF MARCH 21

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. 4-H and FFA members are encouraged to save the date!

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POST ROCK DISTRICT 4-H NEWSLETTER

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE

4-H members are encouraged to think about how project learning can be enhanced through business planning and entrepreneurship. Look for an opportunity to compete in YEC in your county! The Kansas Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC) takes place through a partnership between Network Kansas, K-State University, and Kansas 4-H.

- **Need a mentor?** If you need a mentor or additional support, let your local Extension Office know! We are happy to help! We can assist you with connecting with business owners related to your idea; we can help proofread; and we can help you practice your public speaking presentations.
- **There are contests at 4-H Days that are entrepreneurship-focused!** This gives youth entrepreneurs an opportunity to practice pitching a business, and you'll gain valuable feedback to help you prepare for YEC! Checkout the guide to learn more at the 4-H Day webpage.
- **NEW 4-H project called "Entrepreneurship".** Kansas 4-H has launched a new project for the 2025-2026 program year. Check it out, along with the many other 4-H projects at the Kansas 4-H website.

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 teens. NCK LEAD will take place on Saturday, February 28 at CCCC in Concordia. Participants will engage with collegiate professionals to gain information to assist with making post-high school decisions. We are excited that the 2026 experience will include NEW hands-on workshops exploring careers through CCCC's Technical Education and Innovation Center. There will also be opportunities for teens to boost their leadership skills and have fun with 4-H friends from the region. Not only is it a great leadership and career development experience - it provides youth with a regional-level activity for your achievement pins and project records! Watch for online registration to open in January. When you register, select the hands-on sessions you'd be interested in participating in.



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!

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.

2026 K-STATE JUNIOR PRODUCER DAYS: BEEF AND SHEEP

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.

THE GREEN LINK DISTRICT & STATE NEWS

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POST ROCK DISTRICT 4-H NEWSLETTER

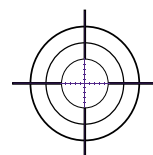
ARCHERY PRACTICES BEGIN JANUARY 18



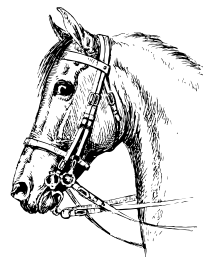
Indoor archery practices will begin on January 18 at the Jewell County Fairgrounds in Mankato. Stede Underwood, certified Kansas 4-H instructor, will facilitate the practices on Sunday afternoons January 18, 25, and February 1, 15, and 22. He will run 2 groups this winter. Beginners practice will start at 2:00 p.m. More experienced archers (aka: youth that have been to a qualifier before) will practice at 3:00 p.m. It is important to attend the first meeting! Please sign-up to attend by contacting Tonia at tiunderw@ksu.edu or 785-378-3174.

BB GUN / AIR RIFLE PRACTICES BEGIN JANUARY 18

Indoor BB Gun and Air Rifle practices will begin on January 18 at the Jewell County Fairgrounds in Mankato. Jeff Cady, certified Kansas 4-H instructor, will facilitate the practices on Sunday afternoons January 18, 25, and February 1, and 22. He will run 2 groups this winter. BB Gun practice will start at 3:00 p.m. Air Rifle practice will start at 4:00 p.m. It is important to attend the first meeting! Please sign-up to attend by contacting Tonia at tiunderw@ksu.edu or 785-378-3174.



HORSE JUDGING CONTEST REGISTRATION DUE JANUARY 2



The state-level Kansas 4-H Horse Judging Contest will be held on January 23, 2026 at EquiFest of Kansas in Topeka. Registration, cost, and other details are on the [Kansas 4-H event's website](#). **Register by January 2!**

HORSE PANORAMA REGISTRATION DUE JANUARY 30

The Kansas 4-H Horse Panorama will be February 21-22 at Rock Springs Ranch. Horse Panorama contests include: quiz bowl, hippology, public speaking presentations, photography, and educational posters. Registration, cost, and other details are on the [Horse Panorama website](#). Register by January 30!

LIVESTOCK COUNTY FAIR MANAGEMENT CLINIC

Save the Date! The 2026 Livestock County Fair Management Clinic will be hosted virtually via Zoom on April 13 and 16 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Program information and registration will be released at a future date. The clinic is designed for county fair board members, superintendents, and volunteers involved in local livestock fair management and leadership. If you work with livestock at your county fair, it is strongly recommended to plan to attend as this clinic is not offered each year. Let your local Extension Office know if you are interested, so we can share the details as they become available.

**SAVE
The DATE**

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.

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APPLY BY JAN. 2

WE'RE **HIRING**



4-H PROGRAM COORDINATOR

MULTIPLE
JOB
OPENINGS



MITCHELL COUNTY
JEWELL COUNTY
SMITH COUNTY

- Opportunity to enrich the lives of young people
- Network of support and professional development
- Purposeful work with a fun team
- Flexible schedule; Some nights, weekends, and overnight travel required
- Candidates seeking part-time OR full-time positions will be considered to meet the needs of the local unit. A full-time position will be assigned to two counties of focus.

Find the position description and
application procedure at postrock.ksu.edu.



Apply by January 2, 2026 for best consideration.

For more information, contact Nora Rhoades, District Director. Call the Post Rock District - Mankato Office at 785-378-3174 or email nrhoades@ksu.edu.

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OFFICES CLOSED DECEMBER 24 THROUGH JANUARY 1

Post Rock District Offices will be closed December 24 through January 1 for the holidays. There will be very limited access to Post Rock District staff by email and phone during this time. Please plan ahead if you need support with your 4-H experience or if you need to visit the local Extension Office. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

4-H PROJECT RECORDS ADVANCING TO REGIONAL JUDGING DUE JANUARY 6

Post Rock District Senior age 4-H members (ages 14 – 18) are eligible to advance to the Northwest 4-H Project Record screening if they were chosen as the project award winner in their local county. 4-H members must turn in project records for regional screening to their local Post Rock District Extension Office by January 6, 2026. More details were shared in the December newsletter. Call your local Extension Office if you have any questions.

FUNDRAISERS FOR 4-H CLUBS

NEED TO NOTIFY THE EXTENSION OFFICE IN ADVANCE

Communicate with your local Extension Office in the early planning stages of your fundraiser to make sure you meet all Kansas 4-H policies and best practices relating to raising money in the name of 4-H. We have a form that helps share the necessary information. Complete the form and submit it to your local Extension Office or email to postrock4h@ksu.edu BEFORE beginning your fundraiser. Do not promote or implement your fundraiser until you receive approval from Post Rock District. Allow at least 10 business days for the fundraiser to be reviewed. If the fundraiser needs to be revised, the individual listed on the form is the one who will be contacted. Find the form on the [Post Rock District 4-H website under Club and Council Support, finances and fundraising](#).



4-H BRANDING REQUIRED ON CLOTHING, AWARDS, AND SWAG

The use of the K-State Research and Extension/Kansas 4-H co-wordmark is required on all 4-H print, digital, apparel, and merchandise. This requirement applies to all designs created at the local, county, district, area, and state levels BEFORE ordering any items to ensure your club, council, fair board, etc. are using licensed vendors and that all designs include the required co-wordmark. We have a form to help with approval. Submit the form & design artwork (in full color) to your local Extension Office or by email to postrock4h@ksu.edu. Allow at least 10 business days for the design to be reviewed. If edits need to be made, the individual listed on the form is the one who will be contacted. Find the form on the [Post Rock District 4-H website under Club and Council Support, branding and marketing](#).



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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JANUARY 2026 ISSUE

Dec. 24-31:	Christmas Holiday, all Post Rock District Offices are closed	Feb. 10:	Citizenship Washington Focus applications due
Jan. 1:	New Year's Day Holiday, all Post Rock District Offices are closed	Feb. 14:	Saturday Morning 4-H Day 2026/Judging Extravaganza
Jan. 2:	4-H Program Coordinators jobs applications due	Feb. 14:	YQCA Training, Beloit
Jan. 5:	Kansas State 4-H Scholarships deadline	Feb. 15:	Jewell County Beef Weigh-in
Jan. 5:	Post Rock District Quiz Bowl deadline	Feb. 15-16:	Citizenship in Action, Topeka
Jan. 6:	Regional Project Record Judging deadline	Feb. 16:	Osborne County 4-H Council meeting
Jan. 10:	Post Rock District Quiz Bowl, Sylvan Grove	Feb. 21:	Lincoln County Beef Weigh-in
Jan. 11:	Smith County 4-H Council meeting	Feb. 21:	Smith County Beef Weigh-in
Jan. 12:	Osborne County 4-H Council meeting	Feb. 21-22:	State 4-H Horse Panorama, Rock Springs Ranch
Jan. 13:	NW Regional Record Book Judging	Feb. 22:	Osborne Co. Beef Weigh-in
Jan. 13:	College Journey Prep Sessions, Zoom	Feb. 25:	Mitchell County Beef Weigh-in
Jan. 15:	Agricultural Ambassadors Program applications due	Feb. 28:	NCK Lead, Cloud Co. Community College
Jan. 18, 25:	Winter Archery Practices, Jewell Co. Fairgrounds	Mar. 1:	4-H Day with KSU Women's Basketball
Jan. 18, 25:	Winter BB Gun/Air Rifle Practices, Jewell Co. Fairgrounds	Mar. 2:	Monday Evening 4-H Day 2026/Judging Extravaganza
Jan. 19:	YQCA Training, Lebanon	Mar. 7:	Junior Beef Producer Day, Manhattan
Jan. 23:	State 4-H Horse Judging Contest, Topeka	Mar. 10:	College Journey Prep Sessions, Zoom
Jan. 26:	Mitchell County 4-H Council meeting	Mar. 21:	NW Super Saturday Judging Contests & Workshop, Hays
Jan. 31-Feb. 1:	Dog Show Judge Training & Certification, Salina Expo Center	Apr. 11:	Junior Sheep Producer Day
Feb. 1, 15, 22	Winter Archery Practices, Jewell Co. Fairgrounds	Apr. 13, 16:	Livestock County Fair Management Clinic
Feb. 1, 22:	Winter BB Gun/Air Rifle Practices, Jewell Co. Fairgrounds	Apr. 14:	College Journey Prep Sessions, Zoom
Feb. 2:	Jewell County 4-H Council	Apr. 25:	Lincoln County Small Animal Weigh-in
Feb. 2:	Valentine Cookie Fundraiser orders due	Apr. 26:	Osborne County Small Animal Weigh-in
Feb. 5:	College Journey Prep Sessions, Zoom	Apr. 26:	Smith County Small Animal Weigh-in
		Jun. 3-5:	Discovery Days, Manhattan



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