



Crawford County 4-H News

January 2026

Dear 4-H members, parents, leaders, and friends,

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a happy and safe holiday season. Now is a great time to review the goals you have set for the year and ensure that you have a plan to achieve them. At any time throughout the year, if you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. **Don't forget the Enrollment Deadline for Returning Families is January 31st, 2025!**

Sincerely,
Will Morris
4-H Youth Development
620-724-8233
willmorris@ksu.edu

Wildcat Extension District – Crawford County 4-H Website:
www.wildcatdistrict.k-state.edu/4-h/crawford/



Find us on Facebook @ Wildcat Extension District &
@ Wildcat Extension District 4-H

Please make sure you are getting all of your fair checks cashed ASAP! Also, if you have not gotten your buyers checks picked up please do so.

Jan 5	Kansas State 4-H Scholarship Deadline
Jan 13	Junior Leaders Meeting 6 PM
Jan 15	Regional Record Books Due to Extension Office
Jan 16	Regional Record Book Judging
Jan 26	4-H Club Day Sign Up Deadline
Jan 28	Returning Family Enrollment Help Deadline
Jan 31	Returning Family Enrollment Deadline
Feb 7	Crawford County 4-H Club Day
	Junior Make Sausage @ Extension Office
Feb 8	Crawford County Junior Leaders Pancake Feed
Feb 15-16	Citizenship in Action in Topeka
Feb 21-22	Horse Panorama @ Rock Springs
Feb 23	Junior Leaders Meeting 6:30 PM
	4-H Council Meeting 7:30 PM
Feb 28	Regional Club Day @ Neosho County Community College
March 7	Beef Producer Day in Manhattan
March 26	Beef Weigh In @ Mesa Animal Clinic 6-7:30 PM

Enrollment

The 4-H Online system opens on October 1, 2025, for a new year. Step-by-step instructions can be found on our Crawford 4-H website or at <http://v2.4honline.com/>

Youth/Volunteer Enrollment

The new 4-H year is **October 1st!** Don't forget that all returning families have until **January 31, 2025, to re-enroll in 4-H Online**. All new families have until **May 1 to enroll in 4-H Online**. All volunteers must renew their 4-HOnline. <http://v2.4honline.com/>

Junior Leaders

Pancake Feed planning meeting Tuesday, January 13, at 6:00 p.m.

The Junior Leaders' next meeting will be held on Monday, February 23, at 6:30 p.m.

4-H Council

The Next 4-H Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 23, at 7:30 p.m. Please note that each club is required to send two council representatives, one president, and two adult leaders in attendance. If one cannot participate, they need to find an alternate to fill in for that meeting.

Fair Wrap Up

Your checks are ready to be picked up at the Extension Office, M-F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Don't forget to send thank-you cards to all who sponsored awards and purchased items at the sale.

Fair Proposals

A complete document of this year's Fair proposal results for the 2026 Fair was emailed to you. Please note that all State Fair updates to indoor projects and proposal changes will be highlighted in red when the Fair Book is released. If you have any questions, please know that my door is always open, and I would be happy to talk with you.

Fair Shirts

Co-op was kind enough to provide each 4-H member with a fair shirt again this year. If you did not pick you up at the Coop trailer at the fair, please go to their main office to pick you up as soon as possible.

4-H Club Day

4-H Club Day sign-up is now up and running! Please visit our website, where you will find guidelines, information, and the sign-up form. Club day will be on **Saturday, February 7**, at the Girard High School Cafeteria. Clubs remember that you must do a model meeting in order to be eligible for a purple seal at the end of the year

Livestock Sale Buyers Checks

If you have not already done so, please collect your check from your buyer as soon as possible. It reflects poorly on you and 4-H if your buyer has to track you down to give you your check. Remember that if they have a bad experience, they may not return as a buyer.

Wildcat District Livestock Judging Team Facebook Group

Parents, please use this QR code to join this private group. It will help you stay up-to-date on all the latest happenings.



Record Books

Now is the time to begin thinking about record books. This year, you will be able to do those online! Recourses can be found for the forms here: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/ProjectRecognition.html>. Resources for our online book record-keeping can be found here: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/ZBooks.html>.

Entomology Project

Join us for the SE Kansas Entomology project meeting and learn something new about the fascinating world of insects! We will meet on

January 10th, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Allen County Extension Office meeting room. 4-Hers will be working on pinning insects again. So bring your pinning boards, pinning supplies, and 3 or 4 insects to pin. I would like each 4-H'er to look up an insect nickname and bring a short project talk on how the insect got its nickname. A few examples are: Dragonflies are called Devil's Darning Needles and several other things

Ladybird Beetles are called Ladybugs

Sphinx Moths are called Hummingbird Moths

Remember to put your insects you want to pin in a relaxing chamber on Friday before the meeting on Saturday. Hope to see you there!

Rabbit Project Meeting

At the extension office-9 am, February 14-Rabbit basics (ie, care, supplies, record books-goal setting, picking a breed)

At the small animal barn(fairgrounds)-9am

4/11- (meat rabbits and meat pens, when to breed for fair)

5/16- (potential meat processing clinic)

6/27- (handling rabbits, basics of rabbit showmanship/herdsmanship, fair entry questions, tattoo rabbits)

7/18- (last-minute questions/things for fair, tattoo rabbits)

I'm going to try and line up some guest speakers for various topics, so let me know what you would like to hear about rabbits or the rabbit project I have created a FB page for members of the rabbit project as an easier way to send information to families. **CC Rabbit Project Members** is the page name. It will be a private page, so you will need to ask to join. I will also send invitations to project members via email.

Meeting times/dates/locations/topics are subject to change, but plenty of notice will be given

YQCA Training

This course is required for youth who are planning to attend the Kansas State Fair or the Kansas Junior Livestock Show. All youth are encouraged to participate in this. Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21. The program is designed to provide a minimum of 60 minutes of education each year.

Sign Up at: yqcaprogram.org

Step 1- Sign in or create a profile

Step 2- Search the course "Crawford County YQCA Training 2025-2026" if you attended the class at 4-H Super Sunday on November 2. If not, you will need to take the online course.

Step 3- Register for that course and pay the \$3

Step 4: Take Pre-Test

Step 5: Attend the training

Step 6: Take the Post-Test and print the certificate.

Plan for the future!

4-H Camp Scholarships

Camp Scholarships are available through the 4-H Council. These are limited to one per youth per year. To be eligible for this, you must complete a Talk/Demonstration at County 4-H Club Days or participate in the Favorite Foods Contest. The Scholarship will be refunded up to \$100 upon the youth's return from camp. This is a great way for youth to experience more youth development opportunities! There is also the scholarship from Carolyn Zagonel and America's Farmers Grow Communities donation. By filling out this application, youth can receive a \$100 scholarship to help cover the cost of a 4-H camp/activity. Please call Will if you have any questions.

Regional Record Book Judging

All eligible record books are due at the office by January 15th at noon. If you would like to set up a time to review it with me, please reach out to arrange that beforehand.

Yearly Calendar

A complete list of dates and events for this year is available on the website. Please note that not all dates.

Camp Dates 2026

Summer Camps and Events- Save the Date! Below is a list of all the camps being offered locally this summer. I will send out registration links when they are live, typically around the first of March. Please note that space is limited at some camps and available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Don't forget that you can earn up to \$100

scholarship toward camp by giving an individual talk/demo or sharing your favorite foods at 4-H Club Day.

Discovery Days **June 3-5** - College readiness camp at Kansas State University for youth 13-18 years.

Greenbush Overnight 4-H Camp **June 8-9** - This is an overnight camp for youth 7-9 years.

NEW Greenbush Overnight 4-H Camp **June 9-10**

- This is an overnight camp for youth 10-13 years.

Geology Field Trips **June 12-14** - These are state events that travel to different parts of the state each year.

Floating on Leadership **June 16** – This is a one day event for youth 13-18 years old. Youth must know how to swim in order to attend.

Sewing Camp **June 16-18**- Youth 10 and up. May not attend more than 2 years in a row. Takes place at the Extension Office.

Insect Spectacular **June 19-20** – This year's will be in Yates Center!

SE Area Challenge Day **June 25**- This event includes Horticulture, Crops, Family and Consumer Science, Favorite Foods, and Photography Judging.

Livestock Judging Camp **June 29 - July 1**- This camp is open to all youth interested in learning more about judging livestock.

SE Area Livestock Contest **July 2** - This is a one-day event that includes Meat Judging, Skill-a-Thon, and Livestock Judging in Iola.

Rock Springs Camp - This is open to all youth who wish to attend. Registration and more information can be found on their website

Livestock Tag/Weigh-In

Below is some information for the Livestock Tag/Weigh-In for the 2026 Fair. Remember, it is not required that you weigh in; however, it is required for all market animals and bucket calves to be tagged on or before the designated days listed below. If you are unable to make the designated tag in days, then you need to make prior arrangements with me to set a time to tag your animals. No animals will be tagged after the designated tag in days. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, YOU RISK NOT GETTING YOUR ANIMALS TAGGED IN ON TIME. LACK OF PLANNING**

ON YOUR PART DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN EMERGENCY FOR ME!

I would encourage you to visit the Crawford County Fair Facebook page and like the events as a way to receive reminder notifications.

Market Steer/Feeder Steers - The tag/weigh-in will take place on Thursday, March 26, at Mesa Animal Clinic, 518 E 47 Hwy, Girard, KS 66743, from 6:00 to **7:30 PM**. If you are unable to attend, you must make prior arrangements with me to tag your animal, or it will not be eligible to show at the fair. The tags are \$4 each. Please bring cash or a check made out to 4-H Council to pay for your tags. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, YOU RISK NOT GETTING YOUR ANIMALS TAGGED IN ON TIME.**

This year's event will take place on a Thursday evening due to scheduling conflicts with other youth events and activities. If you cannot attend on a Thursday evening, please arrange a time with me beforehand. Also know that you are always welcome to reach out to a trusted friend or family member to bring your animals for you. The youth does not have to be present at the time of tagging.

Small Animals- Small Animals include Bucket Calves, Market Goats, Market Sheep, and Market Swine. This will take place on **Saturday, April 25th, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at the Fairgrounds**. The tags are \$3 each for goats, sheep, and swine. The tags are \$4 each for bucket calves. Please bring cash or a check made out to 4-H Council to pay for your tags. If you are unable to attend, you must make prior arrangements with me to tag your animal, or it will not be eligible to show at the fair. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, YOU RISK NOT GETTING YOUR ANIMALS TAGGED IN ON TIME.**

Breeding Class animals do not have to be tagged in; however, I encourage you to tag them in in the event that something would happen to your Market Class animal.

Save the Date! K-State Junior Producer Days Scheduled

The 2026 K-State Junior Producer Days have been scheduled. The dates are provided below. We host two Junior Producer Days each year, with beef and sheep in even years and swine and meat goats in odd years. We will be hosting a Junior Beef and Sheep Producer Day next spring. These are one-day, educational events focused on a specific species for families, extension agents, and ag teachers to learn about the selection and management of youth livestock projects. All ages and skill levels are invited to attend!

Registration information will be released in the next few weeks. Once released, updates will be emailed to those on the YLP listserv, posted on the Youth Livestock Program Facebook page, and added to the Junior Producer Days page of the Youth Livestock Program website, located under the Events tab.

K-State Junior Beef Producer Day – Saturday, March 7, 2026

K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day – Saturday, April 11, 2026

Kansas 4-H Horse Judging Contest

Kansas 4-H, Kansas Quarter Horse Association, and EquiFest of Kansas are teaming up to host the 2026 Kansas State 4-H Horse Judging Contest. The Contest will be held January 23, 2026, in conjunction with EquiFest of Kansas in Topeka. Two contests are available- an open contest and a 4-H contest. Kansas 4-H members aged 9-18 are invited to participate in the 4-H contest, and may also participate in the open contest. Youth of any age are eligible to participate in the open contest hosted by the Kansas Quarter Horse Association. The cost to enter the 4-H contest is \$25.

Registration for the open contest is \$15. Coaches should register teams and individuals here. Early-bird registration closes January 2nd; late registration is available until January 9th. Registration will NOT be taken on the day of the contest.

Please be sure to read all rules prior to entry, specifically the 4-H Horse Judging rules.

4-H Dog Judges and Leader Training

The 2026 Kansas 4-H Dog Judges Training/Recertification and Leader Training will be held in Salina at the Saline County Expo Center, January 31-February 1, 2026.

New judges can be certified, returning judges can get a refresher and be re-certified, and leaders can gain a better understanding of the various classes to better prepare local youth for project work. Older 4-H members are invited to observe the training and gain a better understanding of how they will be judged at the invitational and the Kansas State Fair 4-H Dog Show. Participants must be at least 16 years old to attend this certification and training. Emails will be sent to judges who need to recertify, encouraging them to become familiar with the revised 2023 Kansas 4-H Dog Rule Book.

Registration will open on December 1 and is due by January 2, 2026. Complete information and registration link are available on the 4-H Dog Judge and Leader Training page.

Japan Exchange Host Families Needed

Families looking for a new summer experience in 2026? Host a Japanese delegate in the comforts of your own home while exploring the world. Thirty teenagers from Japan are seeking host families this summer. The Japanese delegate will be in Kansas from July 21 to August 16, but families are needed for hosting from July 23 to August 15. Host families are needed who would be willing to host a Japanese boy or girl. The Japanese youth will be between the ages of 12 and 16. Our responsibility is to make host family assignments that match each delegate with an American same-gender host sibling as soon as possible, so that families and exchange delegates can communicate and get to know each other.

Any Kansas family with children aged 9-17 who is interested in the Japanese culture may host. A separate bed is required, but not necessarily a separate room from the host sibling. Delegates are 100 percent medically covered by 4-H insurance and are responsible for bringing their own spending money for souvenirs. They can go on host family vacations, camping trips, or join their host sibling for summer camps and the county fair. The focus is on everyday family life as the delegate becomes

part of your family. The delegates' information is to be available in February 2026.

If you have further questions, please contact Pam Van Horn, Kansas 4-H Japanese Exchange Coordinator, at 785-826-8917 or via email at pvanhorn@ksu.edu.

Benefits: Increase your family's cross-cultural and global understanding, broaden family communication skills, make a new friend from another country, and have fun while learning about Japan in your own home.

How to apply: Families may now apply online by visiting:

<https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host>. (The link is open now.) There is a required application with references. Additionally, an in-home interview will be conducted, and background checks will be performed for all adults residing in the household.

What you do: The host family treats the delegate as a family member (rather than a tourist/guest) and keeps a "regular" family schedule. That could mean chores, fairs, camping, ballgames, etc.... very busy – or not so busy. It just depends on what your family likes to do! Most delegates will have studied English for one year in school. They are usually shy and don't want to make mistakes, so getting them to talk during the first few days may be a challenge.

The host family needs to be proactive in communicating without words, or using a Japanese-English translation dictionary, etc. The host family can visit with the Japanese chaperones if they are having challenges and need assistance. Chaperones are always available by phone when needed.

Agents, please include the announcement in the local county/district newsletter and encourage interested families to contact Pam Van Horn at pvanhorn@ksu.edu.



The poster features a black silhouette of a horse with a green four-leaf clover on its chest. The text "WILDCAT 4-H" and "HORSE JUDGING PRACTICES" is displayed. Below the horse, the text "January 14th 6:30 p.m." and "January 18th 2:00 p.m." is listed. At the bottom, it says "Southeast Kansas Research Center" and "25092 Ness Rd, Parsons".

RVSP by January 1st to 620-784-5337



**Wildcat Extension District
Crawford County
120 E. Buffalo
Girard, KS 66743**

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January 2026

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