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

I hope everyone’s school year is off to a great start! As the year gets busy with sports practice and other school activities, I encourage you to look at your calendar and pencil in 4-H Club Meetings. October is the beginning of a new 4-H year so we will be celebrating our past year with an Awards Banquet in November!

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

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<tr>
<th>October 1st</th>
<th>Record Books, Membership Pin Applications, Key Award Applications, Year End Finances, Club Seal Applications Due</th>
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<td>October 2-8</td>
<td>New 4-H Year Begins</td>
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<td>October 7-8</td>
<td>National 4-H Week</td>
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<td>October 10</td>
<td>48 Hours of 4-H</td>
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<td>October 10</td>
<td>Ice-Cream Stand Committee Meeting 5:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>October 10</td>
<td>Fair Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
<td>Junior Leaders Meeting 6:30 p.m. @ Extension Office</td>
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<td>Office</td>
<td>4-H Council Meeting 7:30 p.m. @ Extension Office</td>
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<td>October 24</td>
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<td>November 5</td>
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<td>November 10</td>
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<td>November 22-23</td>
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<td>February 3</td>
<td>Crawford County 4-H Club Day</td>
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Enrollment

4-H Online system opens October 1, 2023 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 31st 2024 to re-enroll in 4-HOnline. All new families have until May 1st to enroll in 4-HOnline. All volunteers must renew their 4-HOnline. http://v2.4honline.com/

New Volunteers
If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact Will to learn more on how to become a certified 4-H volunteer.

4-H at your Fingertips
Coming to a phone near you; Wildcat 4-H Connection phone app! With our app you will be able to quickly have access to 4-H Online, each county page, as well as registration links and our district calendar. This is a FREE app, scan the QR Code

Check out the new Wildcat 4-H App!

Wildcat 4-H Connection

District Wide and County Specific Calendars
Event Registration Links
Camp Information

K-STATE Research and Extension
Wildcat District

Junior Leaders
Junior Leaders is open to all 4-H youth 13-18. The next Junior Leaders meeting will be on Monday, October 16, at 6:30 p.m.

4-H Council
The Next 4-H Council meeting will be Monday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m. Remember each club should have 2 council reps, 1 club president, and 2 adult leaders attend. If one is unable to attend then they need to find an alternate to fill in for that meeting.

Ice-Cream
We are now where we can offer the rest of the Fair ice-cream. It is $25 a tub and you get the $5 back when you return the tub. Just come by the office to get some we will not hold it.

BBQ
We have three large pans of BBQ left over from the fair. They have been in the freezer since the fair and cost $70. These would be great for an upcoming event. Let me know if you would like one.

Shooting Sports
Western Heritage Meeting
Lyon County Western Heritage 4-H club is having an old time camp out/shoot/rendezvous on October 13-14 in Reading, KS (@2 1/2 hours away, close to Emporia). The schedule is: Friday, October 13th, chuckwagon cookout from 4-5 p.m. and then a discussion and presentation of the different personas that youth have developed to help each other understand the process of developing a frontier persona including dress and individual lifestyles. There may also be a short learning exercise/test on Kansas frontier history so we can all learn more about the early lifestyle of people in Kansas. Then, everyone can camp out in tents or bedrolls under the stars by the campfire. The next day on the 14th will be chuckwagon breakfast followed by a shoot with several stages on their range which is a heck of a lot of fun. Please contact me with any questions (Brian @ 620-249-1088) as we (Sheila and I) will be going as the Lyon County club are great hosts and the fellowship is always good.

Fair Proposals
A complete document of all Fair proposals made at 4-H Council and at Fair board for the 2024 Fair was emailed to you. The 4-H Council and Fair Board will vote on these at their October meetings and then the Collaboration Committee will meet. Once
the committee has met in mid-October, I will send the results out to you all. 4-H families, you need to make sure you are attending your meetings this month and next in order to provide feedback for your council reps. Once the committee meets, I will be sending the results so that you have them and are aware. If there is anything else that the Extension office or Fair Board has to update/change I will do my best to communicate it to you all as soon and often as possible. Please remember that all State Fair updates to indoor projects and proposal changes will be in **RED** when the Fair Book is released. If you have any questions about anything please know that my door is always open and I would be happy to talk with you.

**Entomology Project Meeting**
Do you have a 4-Her who is interested in the Entomology project? Then come join us on October 14th for Family Day! We will meet at the Allen County Extension Office at 1:30 p.m. Come see the different things you can do to learn about insects! Several 4-Hers will have games and challenges for youth and adults! If you are thinking about trying this project for 2024, come check us out. Among the many fun activities we will have, we will be looking at safely using Social Media in 4-H projects. Family and Consumer Science Agent Cassidy Lutz will be joining us to work with the parents in a special session on this topic. If you want your picture taken with “The Bug”, please bring your own camera or cell phone. I will have pinning set ups available for purchase for $10 each at this meeting for new families that want them. Hope to see your families there! Brothers and sisters of all ages are welcome!

**Photography Project Meetings**
Here is an opportunity that Southwind has shared with us. Photographers Jennifer Han, and Ken Kraxberger are joining with Susan Stich, Ks. 4-H Photo Action Team member, to bring Photography project meetings to Southwind District.
Photography project meetings will be held on the following dates. Location will be at 1202 W. Main in Chanute, KS at Zion Lutheran church unless otherwise noted. They will be held 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Any type of camera is okay to use, bring your cameras with you to each meeting. Please RSVP if you are coming for the first meeting. All photography project members are welcome to come to any of the meetings. Contact Susan Stich at home: at 620-431-6986 or cell: 620-212-2943 to RSVP or for more information. Parents are welcome to come and stay for the meetings.
October 10, 2023, November 14, 2023, January 9, 2024, February 13, 2024, March 19, 2024, April 9, 2024, May 14, 2024, June 11, 2024 Location to be determined, July 9, 2024 - Mounting fair photos

**Rabbit Project**
A letter to potential and current rabbit project members, October is upon us and so is a new year of signing up for projects for the coming 4H year. I just wanted to put in writing a few things to keep in mind especially as you sign up for the rabbit project. I usually get one or two calls a year (just got one last week) about someone who has free rabbits that they need to get rid of and do I know of any 4-Her’s that would want them for their project? As it was in this case most of these particular rabbits were neutered and therefore not showable even as 4-H projects. Rabbits for 4-H need to be purebred (not necessarily pedigreed-will get to that shortly) AND unaltered-meaning NOT spayed or neutered. 4H shows follow the same guidelines as ARBA (The American Rabbit Breeders Association) which judges rabbits on a breed standard and any rabbits that are not purebred and/or altered are considered a DQ (disqualification) which in 4-H is a white ribbon and a lower premium.
I’ve also had several conversations with meat breeders as a lot of them use breed crosses (I’ve done this myself) and it is mostly to get a bigger rabbit to market faster. HOWEVER, a judge will be able to tell if you have purebred rabbits in a meat pen or not. Typically, this will also affect the placing of the meat pen and also the price you get at the market sale. Now onto pedigrees-while it is not necessary to buy a rabbit with a pedigree, it is helpful to at least ask the breeder to see the pedigree for the rabbit you are looking to purchase. A full pedigree will go back 3 generations on both the doe’s and buck’s side. It will list the following: tattoo, weight, color/variety, DOB, registration no./Grand Champion (if applicable), and any legs (winnings). Some breeders charge extra for the pedigree to go with the rabbit so if you don’t want to pay for it but want to at least make sure that you
have a purebred rabbit always ask to see the pedigree before buying.
When purchasing a rabbit make sure you read everything you can about the breed you are choosing, there are several good references in print and online to do your research. The ARBA Standard of Perfection is a really good source of information (the breed standard book is updated every 4 years) and mostly it is updated due to a new variety added to a breed or a new breed added to the standard. Join a breed club they will have a lot of specific information about the breed you are interested in showing.
Do your research on breeders-breeders typically sell their “culls” which means they don’t want the qualities of that rabbit in their lines, it doesn’t necessarily mean that there is anything wrong with the culled rabbit, just that they are looking to expand on a different quality for their herd-know what you are paying for. Go to a show and talk to different breeders-there are usually a lot of different breeds represented, (fall show season will be gearing up after the national convention in early October). There are several shows posted on the ARBA website https://arba.net - find a show. Ask a lot of questions-rabbit breeders LOVE to talk about their rabbits!
I hope you have a great upcoming 4-H year and please don’t hesitate to reach out to me or any other project members for questions. My e-mail address: pagekristine@yahoo.com
Regards,
Kris Page

4-H Super Sunday
This year we will be trying something a little different when it comes to Officer Training and Awards Banquet. This will be in the afternoon/evening of Sunday, November 5th at Girard High School and is open to everyone. I am needing some volunteers for the things below and would like to have some community involvement to provide real-world experience for youth.

Volunteers Needed-
Parliamentary Procedure- I am seeking someone who has a passion for this and would be willing to lead a group review and even an activity about this.
Secretary- Looking for a community member who can partner with a Junior Leader to provide real-world knowledge and experience.
Treasurer- Looking for a community member who can partner with a Junior Leader to provide real-world knowledge and experience or even someone who works in finance.
Recreation and Song Leaders- Looking for a community member who can partner with a Junior Leader to provide real-world knowledge and experience.
Historian- Looking for a community member who can partner with a Junior Leader to provide real-world knowledge and experience.
Reporter- Looking for a community member who can partner with a Junior Leader to provide real-world knowledge and experience.

Project Leaders/Coaches/Superintendents- If you fall under one of these categories and would be willing to set up a table about the area you represent, please let me know. The goal is to highlight all of the amazing things happening in all the projects and allow families the opportunity to meet those who are experts in that area.

State Events
48 Hours of 4-H 2023
We hope every Extension Unit will join us this fall in seeing just how much we can give back to our communities! The weekend after National 4-H Week is the perfect opportunity to set up a service project. Invite your friends, clubs, adult volunteers, and 4-H Alums too!

When: October 7-8, 2023

Who: 4-H Members, 4-H Clubs, Friends, Adult Volunteers, Parents, 4-H Alumni

It's time to make plans for your club to participate.

Leadership Weekend
November 18-19, 2023 Lights, Camera, Action, Leadership! Kansas 4-H Leadership Weekend will be November 18-19 at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch and consists of the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum and the Kansas Volunteer Leader Forum. KYLF is for youth ages 14-18 before January 1, 2024, and KVF is for all Kansas 4-H Volunteers. KYLF will feature leadership workshops, Youth Council Elections, and opportunities to learn and have fun. The Kansas
4-H Volunteer Leader Forum will feature workshops and information to help volunteers be more effective and learn from each other. This Forum for adults is organized by the Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers. This year's speaker will be Jason Wetzler. He has spoken to over 800,000 people in 45 states and three countries. Jason will have our participants thinking, laughing, and thankful they chose to attend. Registration is open! Again, this year participants in both forums will register through the same system. Registration deadline is October 16, 2023, for both events. There will also be an option for coming in Friday evening and having breakfast Saturday morning for those coming from a distance.

**Counties/Districts Needed for 2024 Kansas 4-H Japan Exchange**

The summer inbound Kansas 4-H Japan Exchange program which Kansas 4-H began participating with LABO and LEX in 1977 is seeking counties to participate in 2024. Kansas 4-H will soon commit to hosting a specific number of youth and adult chaperones for the 2024 summer inbound program. In 2023, Kansas hosted 31 Japanese youth and chaperones.

Participating counties get to host a small group of young Japanese teens who are highly motivated to become a member of their Kansas host family and to learn English. Kansas 4-H families have reported many good experiences and say that the program has had a positive impact on their children.

The Japanese will arrive in counties July 24, 2024, and stay with one family each for three and one-half weeks through August 16, 2024. Consider getting involved with your county/unit. Participating counties/units are encouraged to find a locate a volunteer coordinator who then manages the recruitment and screening of five to six host families, and organizes local activities during the stay. Training, resource materials, and some expense money are available for the coordinators and agents. Extension staff liaison with the Kansas 4-H Japanese Coordinator to conduct the program.

If you think your county might be interested, or to find out more details about your county/district hosting Japanese youth from 12-16 years old in 2024, contact Pam Van Horn, Kansas 4-H Japan Exchange Coordinator by September 30th. Email: pvanhorn@ksu.edu or call Pam at 785-826-8917. Please consider trying this popular program this upcoming year.

**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 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 Americas Farmers Grow Comminutes donation. By filling out this application youth can receive a $100 scholarship to go toward a 4-H camp/activity. Please call Will if you have any questions.
Will Morris
4-H Youth Development
Wildcat Extension District
willmorris@ksu.edu

Happy fall Y'All