

4-H Clover News

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Ford County Monthly Newsletter

August 2023

How to Reach Us:

Ford Co. Extension

100 Gunsmoke St.
Dodge City, KS 67801
620.227.4542

Hours:

8:30am—12 noon
1:00pm—5:00pm

Agents:

Andrea Burns, CEA
Ethel Schneweis, CEA

Office Professional:

Cassie Sanko

Emails:

aburns@ksu.edu
eschnewe@ksu.edu
csanko@ksu.edu

Cell Phone Numbers

Andrea—620-682-5530
Ethel—620-338-3676

Check us out
on the web!

www.ford.ksu.edu



www.kansas4-h.org
facebook.com/fordcounty4h

Congratulations, to all parade float riders on the King and Queen float,



Family of the Year –Robert and Lois Swonger Family, horse riders and those that walked or rode for other community organizations!

State Fair Deadlines..

If you are 4-H age 9 and older and received a BLUE ribbon or higher on a project (except livestock and only if there is a State Fair class/division), you may enter it into the State Fair. Some projects such as Visual Arts and Style Review have already been selected by judges at the county level. Other project areas have certain entry limit numbers such as only being able to take one exhibit (please see page 2 for more info). **All State Fair 4-H Exhibit Pre-Entry Forms are due to the Extension Office by Thursday, August 10 at 4:00 pm** or earlier. Some projects require additional forms to be signed, so please stop by or call to see which forms are required for your project area. No late entries accepted. If you email entries, please check to be sure we received them.

Actual exhibit needs to be brought into the Extension Office by September 1st unless it is Foods or Horticulture. Foods/Horticulture can be brought between 7:30 am – 8 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 7 to the Extension Office Parking lot and we will leave for the State Fair immediately at 8 a.m. Judging will take place that day at State Fair.

GENERAL PROJECT ENTRIES

If you received a blue or purple ribbon at the county fair, your exhibit may be eligible for the State Fair. Check with the Extension Office to review State Fair rules. You must be 9 years of age as of January 1, 2023, to show at the State Fair.

For entry guidelines and class numbers, contact our office.

Every exhibit must be pre-entered electronically through the Extension Office. Your item does not need to come to the Extension Office until later, but your **pre-entries are due on or before August 10 by 4:00 pm. Pre-enter before August 10.** Double check with us to make sure we have

you signed up for the correct project areas and classes!

Please remember to check the Kansas State Fair book for the rules and regulations for the project areas you will be participating in at the 2023 Kansas State Fair. You can find a link to it on our website at www.ford.ksu.edu. If you have any questions, please contact the office for clarification.

What Can I take to the State Fair?

Clothing & Textiles: maximum of two exhibits in two different classes. Buymanship is only the Senior Grand and Reserve Grand Champions from Fair.

Communications -Demos, Project Talks, Poetry or Prose & Illustrated Talks: must have received a blue or higher rating at county or district event.

Dog: must have received a minimum of 170 points at county contest. 4-H Dog Show Immunization Record and \$5 entry fee per exhibitor is needed.

Fiber Arts: one exhibit in each class, maximum of 3 exhibits.

Foods & Nutrition: only one non-perishable entry.

Food Preservation: maximum of two entries, one per class.

Horticulture: enter up to a total of 4 vegetables, fruit and or herb exhibits. If qualified with an out of season item, you may substitute it with an in-season exhibit.

Floriculture: enter up to a total of 4 floral exhibits. If qualified with an out of season item, you may substitute it with an in-season exhibit.

Photography: 1st-7th year in project can enter only ONE class. A 4-H'er with 8 years+ can enter TWO photos in different classes.

Shooting Sports: educational display or poster.

Space Tech: only ONE exhibit per class.

Visual Arts: ONLY the 4-H'ers selected at county contest. These exhibits received a "State Fair" sticker at fair & will receive a letter from the office.

Woodworking: only ONE exhibit.

Posters & Displays? These items are NOT eligible for the State Fair unless they fit under an educational exhibit in a division. (example—shooting sports).

Livestock Animals had to be pre-entered earlier in the year.

TRANSPORTATION OF ENTRIES

The Extension Office will transport most exhibits to the State Fair. Please bring your exhibits to the Extension Office before 12:00 noon on Friday, September 1st. Exhibits must be wrapped and/or boxed to protect them. Transportation of large exhibits and animals will be the responsibility of 4-H families. Food and horticulture exhibits may be brought to the parking lot across from the Extension Office on Thursday, September 7, between 7:30—8:00 a.m. We will attach the exhibit entry card/score sheet but any additional forms must be attached by exhibitor before you bring it. (Example— Food stickers, rocketry forms, wood-working plans, etc.)

GATE ADMISSION TICKETS

The State Fair is not providing premiums but an exhibitor will receive two gate tickets to fair.

STATE FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The assistance provided by Extension staff, teen and adult volunteers is absolutely vital to the 4-H Division at the State Fair! A list of exhibit areas and the number of individuals needed is available from our office. An admission ticket will be provided for each day a teen, adult or Extension staff volunteer works. The Kansas State Fair will provide a meal ticket for volunteers who work at least four hours. Parking in the public lots will be free again this year and hang-tags are not needed to park there. Let our office know if you are interested and we can sign you up.



September 8-17, 2023

Future Dates to Remember

August

- 8 Z Books training—2 pm
- 10 State Fair Pre-Entries due
- 15 KJLS Entries due
- 28 4-H Ambassador/Exchange Mtg.
- 29 Z-Books Zoom training, 6:30 pm

September

- 1 State Fair Exhibits due in office
- 4 Closed for Labor Day
- 8-17 Kansas State Fair
- 20 Can pick up State Fair exhibits from office
- 25 4-H Com. Leader/4-H Council Mtgs.

October

- 1-7 National 4-H Week
New 4-H Year Begins
- 2 Record Books due
- 13-14 48 Hours of 4-H
- 23 4-H Ambassador/Exchange mtg

November

- 4 Achievement Night

FYI for the future.....

We want to address some issues from the County Fair. It was brought to our attention there were issues with 4-H'ers vaping in the restroom and having alcoholic drinks on the Fairgrounds. Both are not allowed on the Fairgrounds by minors and these actions violate the 4-H Code of Conduct you agreed to during 4-H enrollment. We also want to remind our members about the 4-H'ers dress code while on the Fairgrounds. Please think about how you are presenting yourself, your club and 4-H to the public.

A BIG THANK YOU TO Our FAIRBOARD

Some of you may not be aware, but it is the Fair Board members who are maintaining the Fairgrounds and Building now that we no longer have a full-time janitor. They are the ones, mowing, cleaning, restocking restrooms, opening and closing of the building for rentals as well as maintaining the water coolers, heaters, replacing light bulbs, etc. They are devoting a lot of their time and energy to the Fairgrounds during the year, but especially during the County Fair. Some of them come early and stay really late to set up for shows, events and activities. Remember they are all volunteers, just as your community leaders, parents and project leaders are volunteers. They do these things because they believe in the 4-H program and want to have a nice facility for the fair and 4-H clubs to meet. Please help them during the year and especially the fair if they ask you to pick up trash, move a table, vehicle, help take something inside or outside for a show, etc. Take pride in the facility, say "thank you" to them for the time, energy, and personal funds they contribute

THANK YOU REMINDER...

You will be receiving a list in the mail of Thank You's you need to write from the Fair Association soon (probably end of August/first of September). Your premium checks will be ready to pick up in the Extension Office (100 Gunsmoke St.) after that. The required Thank You's on your list will be for the sponsors who donated for *grand champion premium, grand and reserve grand champion medallions, miscellaneous awards, general premium, ribbons, belt buckles, livestock/foods auction premium and additional add-ons you received from the fair.*

To receive your premium check, you will need to bring in the 'ready- to-mail' thank you cards and check list you received in the mail to the Extension Office.

(A 'ready-to-mail' thank you includes a thank you card with an envelope, sponsor's name, your return address and a stamp.) You do not need to know the mailing

address of the business or person, just put their name on the envelope and your name in the return area and we can fill out the rest.

Please write your thank you's and pick up your checks in a timely manner. If checks are not cashed by February 1, the funds will be forfeited back to the Fair Association.

Clubs and families can write a general Thank You and have members or siblings sign just one vs several thank you cards. Let us know if your club or family does this so we can mark it off. Your club can do a general thank you for Victory Electric (t-shirts); Ford County Commissioners and possibly other general sponsors, instead of doing an individual thank you to them. Check with us if you have questions.



County Fair Note:

Herdsmanship, Carcass and Beef Rate of Gain winners/information will be posted on our website soon and will be listed in next months newsletter.

::Ford County Shout Outs::

- ALL of the **Fair Board Members** for organizing and managing this year's fair! We appreciate all your hard work!
- **Everyone** who helped with setting and cleaning up; all of the Superintendents; and all of the 4-H members who exhibited projects at the fair!
- **Beckett Williamson and Karley Webb** for being selected 2023 Ford County King and Queen!
- **All of the volunteers and sponsors** who helped with events and/or sponsorship at the Fair.
- **All the adults** who participated in the Adult Fun Showmanship contest.
- **Kyle Ruehle** for organizing the Barnyard Olympics.
- All **4-H Clubs** for their help with Turtle Races.
- To **all the winners** who found the Fair "4-H Medallion" and everyone who searched and enjoyed looking for it!!
- **Cassie Sanko** for keeping the Ford County Fair Facebook page updated with great graphics and information!
- **Brandi and Melvin Stein and J & A Repair** for the pickup and trailer and driving the Exchange float in the parade.
- **Swonger Family** for their vehicle and driving the pickup for our Family of the Year honorees— Robert and Lois Swonger Family — in the Parade.
- **Ford County 4-H Foundation, City of Dodge City and Fair Board** for a wonderful way to end the Fair with a trip to the Dodge City Lagoon Water Park for everyone who helped with clean up!
- **ANYONE & EVERYONE** we have missed who have made this summer a success!

County Fair Ribbon meaning.

The Danish system of judging is a method of evaluation where an exhibit or process is evaluated against a set of standards, and recognition is awarded on the degree to which the standard has been met by each 4-H member. The standards of excellence are often printed on a judge's scorecard and allows for the exhibit to be judged on one's own merit, and not in comparison with others in the class.

All completed exhibits meeting the requirements should receive a Purple, Blue, Red, or White rating. The following ribbons apply:

WHITE: Fair, denotes much improvement needed. Fails to meet minimum standards.

RED: Good, some improvements needed. Meets minimum standards.

BLUE: Excellent, minor improvements needed. Exceeds minimum standards.

Don't forget, if your exhibit had a sticker instead of a ribbon on it and you want a ribbon but didn't get it exchanged for a ribbon on Monday evening, you can still pick up ribbons here in the Extension office!

4-H Ambassador/Exchange Meeting

The regularly scheduled Ambassador/Exchange Meeting will be held the last Monday, August 28 at 7 pm. To accommodate College freshman members, it will also be offered by Zoom. Information on how to connect will be sent out to the members.

Shooting Sports Practices

Practices will be held on August 13, 20 and 27 at 1:30 pm at the Dodge City Gun Club. Contact Troy (620-338-3028) if you have questions.

START NOW ON RECORD BOOKS & AWARDS FORMS

With the end of the 4-H year in sight, there is some paperwork/record keeping that must be taken care of! **The following forms and applications must be turned in to your club leaders on or before the date they specify (typically late September).**

Project Records and Award applications are due into our office by October 2 (due to Oct 1 being a Sunday). The Record Book General and the Livestock forms plus the Record Book Check in Sheet are available on our website under 4-H, then forms, and then under Record Books. Records can be completed using the new Z-Books format also.

Z-Books a record book method!

ZBooks is a user-friendly platform that allows members to complete record books from any device, including mobile! You can log in using your phone or by your computer!

Z-Books trainings: Tuesday, August 8, 2-3 pm at the Dodge City Senior Center Basement meeting room. Please register by August 7, emailing Ethel at eschnewe@ksu.edu as there is a minimum number to hold the in-person training. A zoom training is scheduled for Tuesday, August 29 at 6:30 pm. A link will be sent out before the date to those that register. Register by August 28 by emailing Ethel at the email above.

Can you imagine putting in your weigh in data immediately after weighing your animal? Or putting your Club Day placing in right after you receive your rating?

The system allows members to track items throughout the project year — including photos, animal weights, expenses, meetings, presentation, etc.

Get started on those records now, by creating an account at <https://4h.zsuites.org/>
Other information, along with video tutorials can be found on the Kansas 4-H website at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/ZBooks.html>

RECORD BOOKS



Remember, all 4-H'ers (with the exception of Cloverbuds) should complete a 4-H record book. All record book forms are available from our website at www.ford.ksu.edu. Please make sure you use the correct age forms.

A complete record book includes:

Personal Page

Project Record Form (includes a story or reflection section)—one for each projected

Members younger than 14 can receive county awards and members who are older are eligible for area judging.)

4-H Permanent Record (brought forward from previous year). If you do not have internet access, please contact the Extension Office. If you need help or get confused, please call the office!

No additional story needed this year. Each project record has a section for a story or project reflection. A general story covering your 4-H year is not required but can be included if you want.

ACHIEVEMENT PIN APPLICATIONS

These applications are due with your Record Book. "Pin Apps" are an easy one or two page application for a 4-H'er to fill out each year. These forms are available on our website or in the office.

KEY AWARD

The Key Award is given to youth 16 years or older, who have completed 4 years of 4-H membership, and who have been enrolled in the leadership project for more than 4 years. Youth must meet an additional requirements. It is a very prestigious award, and we encourage all who are eligible to apply!

CLUB OFFICER NOTEBOOKS

Reporters, Secretaries, Treasurers ...did you know you can turn your notebooks in for county judging? Turn it in by due date to your club leader.

RECORD BOOKS

Why turn in a Record Book?

The Record Book is an organized summary of your entire 4-H experience that contains a comprehensive report of your goals, plans and accomplishments. It is one way to make a formal review of your goals and achievements and is a helpful tool to plan your own growth for the future. Your records and report will be a good keepsake for years after you've finished your 4-H career. *The record you build opens doors to many awards and benefits such as medals, trips, scholarships and other kinds of recognitions. Completing a record book will make it easier when applying for scholarships/state awards.*

4-H Members develop the following life skills through record keeping:

- * Maintaining records of 4-H project and club work, school and community activities
- * Keeping personal and business records
- * Improving communication with other people
- * Learning time management and organizational skills
- * Learning responsibility and developing goal setting skills

Do I have to do a Project Record form for EVERY project I'm enrolled in?

The answer to that question is **NO!** Only fill out a record for the projects you would like to be considered for an award in. For example, Suzy is enrolled in Beef, Foods and Visual Arts. She only actively participated in the Beef and Visual Arts Projects during the year. She did take one entry of cookies to the fair. Because she was highly active in Beef and Visual Arts, these are the projects she would consider doing a record for.

What kind of awards can I apply for?

Each of the project areas will award a certain number (a percentage of the total number of 4-H'ers enrolled in the project) of 'project pins' to the award winners.

Visit: <https://www.ford.k-state.edu/4-h/4hrecordbooks/index.html>

To find all of the forms needed to fill out your record books. Most forms are available in a form fillable format, or we can provide you with a copy! Additional resources include at the website:

4-H Record Books - Purpose ; Project Goals; Knowledge & Skills Learned in Project; Citizenship vs Leadership; Planning for Leadership Roles; etc.

VERY IMPORTANT:

Before you begin to keep project record reports for the year, please make sure you have a current version of Adobe Reader DC. If you do not, you may download a free version, here: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>. When you click on that link, the following screen will appear. "Uncheck" the 3 boxes in the middle column and click on the link circled in green to begin your download. Follow the prompts to download and install Adobe Acrobat Reader DC.

August 2023 Ford County 4-H,

Are you ready for school? August is also a month for 4-Hers to prepare for State Fair and Congrats to everyone who has qualified. Kansas State Fair is scheduled for September 8-17, 2023.

Thank you to all who participated in the Ford County Fair this year! I hope you all had a blast with all the different activities and contests Thank you to A's baseball for participating and showing of your skills at the barnyard Olympics. Hopefully you were able to walk around the fair building and look at all the different projects. Don't be afraid to try a new project next year. Thank you to Ryan Ausmus for delivering a outstanding sermon on serving others and a big thankyou to those who helped with setup and cleanup.

At July's Council meeting, we spent time planning for the Ford County Fair and the Awards Ceremony! As a reminder to council members, please remember communication to your club and your council is vital because you have been elected to represent the opinion of the majority of your 4-H Club. Please find an appropriate substitute to attend the 4-H Council Meeting if you are unable to attend. Next meeting will be held Monday, September 25, 2023. Did you know August 2nd is Find a Four Leaf Clover Day?

Kyle Ruehle



2023 Ford County Fair



Fun Activities and Events at the Fair.

Ask A Friend to Join Your 4-H Club!!

Consider asking your friends to join your 4-H club. The State has put together this invite card and we can make copies for you to give to your friends or others within your community. Let us know how many you need and we can get them sent to you.

4-H Club Recruitment and Guidelines

As we start recruiting for new club members for the new 4-H year, remember according to our State 4-H Policies Guide, a community club is an organized group of at least five youth from at least three families, led by two or more VIP-registered adults, with a planned program that is carried on throughout all or most of the year. Also, remember, if a 4-H member graduated from High School but is still 18 (4-H Age) as of January 1, they have one more year of eligibility to be in 4-H. As a current member you are the best person to personally invite someone to join by asking them to come to your next club meeting.

CLUB LEADERSHIP

Change is good! Some clubs have a rotation system in place for volunteers to gradually, with training, move into the Organizational Leadership role. This process aids in recruiting volunteers to serve in leadership roles. Volunteers come in all shapes and sizes and ideas...some volunteers are more willing to serve if they know it's not a forever commitment! Plus...the rotation system strengthens a club...as more volunteers know the club's system! The new 4-H year is approaching...will the leadership stay the same? Will it change? Please notify our Extension Office **by October 1** of who the Organizational Leaders will be for the 2023-24 year! **This is important for preparing promotional materials!**

CLUB ELECTIONS

The following are suggested guidelines for conducting club election of officers:

- ✿ Nominate and vote for the member who would carry out the responsibilities of the office well.
Election of officers should not be a popularity contest.
- ✿ A nominating committee, made up of 4-H members and parents, should develop a slate of candidates, preferably two or more candidates per office.
- ✿ Vote on each office individually. It takes extra time, but allows important learning time for members. Club members should be allowed the opportunity to nominate members from the floor for offices.
- ✿ A club needs to have a motion, a second and approval to close the nominations for each office.
- ✿ A nomination does not need to be a motion. It can simply be, 'I nominate Joe.'
- ✿ Voting should be done by ballot. Ballots should be counted by two to three members who are not running for office and preferably not by members who made the nominations or by parents..
- ✿ Each member should have one vote per office.
- ✿ In cases where the club may have more than one person in office, each member should vote for corresponding candidates.



Please join us at our next 4-H CLUB MEETING

All youth, ages 7-18 are welcome. It doesn't matter where you live or what you want to be when you grow up! 4-H is a community of young people who have fun learning and growing together. From hands-on exploration to project-based skill building, young people thrive in 4-H clubs.



Ford County Extension Office
100 Gunsmoke
Dodge City, KS 67801

Dear 4-H Families,

This newsletter has information concerning County Fair and for the 2023 State Fair. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY. The State Fair will be held September 8–17, in Hutchinson, KS

All State Fair 4-H static exhibit Judging will be done on September 7. Please read about when to have projects into the office within the newsletter.

We have a few t-shirts left. If your shirt was too small or large, call and we can see if we have a different size we can exchange with you. After exchanges, what we have left, we will ask for a free will donation per shirt. You can call to have your name added to a “buy” list and we will contact you if we have your size.

The start of the new 4-H year will begin October 1. Start promoting to your friends, neighbors, and even relatives about joining 4-H for 2023-2024. We would like to increase our 4-H membership this coming year and YOU are important in this mission. By talking about why you are a member, you can encourage others to join and have fun, but also learn life long skills and specific project information. YOU are the best advertising for why other youth would benefit by joining our 4-H program.

Ethel Scheweis
County Extension Agent

Andrea Burns
County Extension Agent



K-STATE
Research and Extension

K-State Research and Extension
Ford County
100 Gunsmoke St.
Dodge City, KS 67801
**K-State, County Extension Councils,
Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating.**

**K-State Research and Extension is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.**