



What's Inside?

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- Leadership Opportunities
- Officer training
- 4-H Achievement Banquet
- 2024 Fair Sale – Mandatory YQCA

October 2023

Ellis County 4-H Happenings

Hey 4-H Families!

Please read this monthly newsletter carefully, as there is a lot of information provided!

The new 4-H year is HERE! Take advantage of the great opportunities to practice and learn new skills by being actively involved in the Ellis Co. 4-H program. It's time to set goals and plot your plan for getting the most out of this year's 4-H experience.

4-H Week is October 1-7. What's your club doing to invite new families to join us? **Be sure to WEAR GREEN on Wednesday and invite your friends** to come and get involved! **48 Hours of 4-H is October 8-9**. KS 4-H is sponsoring this special service weekend. Be sure your club gets registered for this great way to give back to our community.

There are many great learning opportunities ahead in the new 4-H year. We'll look forward to working and learning together!

As always, if you have questions, don't hesitate to ask . . . a leader, a 4-H member, or Extension Staff.

Join our private Facebook group - **Ellis County Kansas 4-H** for more update information and for deadline reminders!

Yours in 4-H,

Tamara Robertson



Meetings Coming Your Way

Previous Council members (Cookie Thank You Boxes put together) – October 2, 6:00 p.m. – Ext. Office Backroom

NEW 4-H Council – October 2, 7:00 p.m. – Ext. Office Backroom

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Ways to Contact Us

- You can reach the Office at (785) 628-9430
- Extension Office fax # is (785) 621-2002
- el@listserv.ksu.edu
- www.cottonwood.ksu.edu

IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO NOTE

- October 1** – 4-H Dog Conference Registration Deadline
- October 2** – KS 4-H Youth Council Aps Due
- October 16** – Register for KS 4-H KVF @ Rock Springs
- October 16** – Register for KYLF @ Rock Springs
- October 20** – Slide Show Pictures to Tamara by 5 pm
- October 20** – RSVP for 4-H Achievement Banquet by 5 pm
- November 1** – 4-H Online Volunteer Renewals completed in 4-H Online
- November 1** – 4-H Club Financial Reports due
- December 1** – 4-H Reenrollments Updated for new 4-H year in 4-H Online

Remember, **DEADLINES are DEADLINES** in **Ellis Co. 4-H**. Please pay attention to and respect those deadlines so that your child doesn't miss out on an opportunity!

K-State, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Ellis Co. Extension, 785-628-9430 or Michelle White-Godinet, Assistant Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University (TDD) 785-532-4807.



KANSAS STATE FAIR

Congrats to all 4-H'ers who exhibited or participated in this year's fair. There were a number of personal "bests" at the event. Way to represent, Ellis Co. 4-H'ers!!!

KANSAS STATE FAIR EXHIBITS

Watch the Hays Arts Council Main street window for your state fair exhibits to be on display starting October 2nd through the 20th. Exhibits that are on display for National 4-H week will be at the Achievement Banquet on October 28th for pick up. After that, they will return to the Extension Office. **We ask that everything be picked up by November 3rd.**

4-H ENROLLMENTS

Welcome to the New 4-H year! The 4-H Online enrollment system is open now to update your enrollment choices for 2023 - 24. **Even if you are enrolling in the same projects, you will still need to log-on and update your profile and make project selections.**

The \$15 fee per member is payable to the KS 4-H program as you enroll. Your enrollment is not considered complete until you make a payment and hit the **SUBMIT** button. You can pay by credit card or by check to the State 4-H Office. **Payments do not come to the local Extension Office.** If this fee is a hardship for your family, you can select the "Request a Waiver" button and the State 4-H Office will consider your request.

We ask that you take time this month to complete this process and have everything finalized by December 1.

You will be able to add projects or delete them from your list of enrollments until May 1 for all areas, **except Livestock projects. Those need to be enrolled prior to the weigh-in and identification date set for each specie.** I.e. Market Beef is usually weighed in early February and Small Livestock weighed in in late April/early May.

VIP (Volunteer Information Profile)

4-H volunteers working directly with youth in the club, as a leader or project leader are required to go through this screening and training process. The application is available as part of the 4-H On-line website. You will complete a profile for yourself under your family account. Take part in the training modules available on that site.

Contact the Ext. Office to let us know you've completed these steps and schedule an interview. At that time, we will provide you with a link to the background check process. Aps can be submitted at any time during the next few months, but the screening and training process **must be completed by January 1.**

National Background Checks—Kansas 4-H requires national background checks for all volunteers. 1/3 of our 100+ current VIP volunteers will go through this process this year. Your club leader has this list and will be contacting you to complete this process now. **All volunteers will be required to go through this process every 3 years.**

Current Volunteers - If you are a current screened volunteer in your 4-H club and plan to continue to do so, please **UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION** on the 4-H On-line system as your complete **VIP Renewal Form by November 1.**

New & Returning Volunteers – **will need to add yourself to your family profile in 4-H On-line.** Visit with your club's leader or our office if you need assistance with this!



48 HOURS OF 4-H

Join us October 7-8 in seeing just how much we can give back to our communities! The weekend after National 4-H Week, is the perfect opportunity to setup a service project. Invite your friends, clubs, adult volunteers, and past 4-H'ers too!

Find all the information here and start planning your projects.

<http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/48-hours-of-4-h/index.html>

4-H Leaders – Remember to register your club's project on the kansas4-h.org website so that they can track how many youth and hours went into this statewide effort!

4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

Are you interested in Shooting Sports? Air Rifle, BB Gun and Air Pistol will begin in October. Contact Cory Depenbusch NOW if you'd like to get involved. Cory Depenbusch, County Coordinator 785-639-1652 or e-mail him at cdepenbusch@yahoo.com for more information.

4-H COUNCIL MEETING

At the next 4-H Council meeting (October 2), we will hold elections and begin setting goals for the new 4-H year. Council representatives can run for office, alternates cannot. We will elect persons to the following offices:

President
Vice President

Secretary
Treasurer

Parliamentarian
Reporter

Fair Board Representatives
Adult Sponsors

Think about stretching your leadership abilities by running for an office. Be sure that **if you decide to run that you are able to be committed and fully participate** in the 4-H Council meetings. We will also take nominations from the floor at the meeting. If you'd like to have your name placed on the ballot ahead of the meeting, please contact the Extension Office.

KANSAS YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

The [Kansas Youth Leadership Forum](#) will be November 18-19, 2023 at Rock Springs Ranch. The Forum is for youth ages 14-18, as of January 1, 2024. **Registration is open now and the deadline is October 16.** This event includes: speakers, workshops, consulting groups and election of the State 4-H Youth Council.

4-H VOLUNTEER FORUM

The Kansas Volunteer Leaders Forum is an opportunity for volunteers from around the state to learn together while building a network of likeminded passionate adults. Participants will have the opportunity to dive into interactive content they can use to engage their youth members, connect with state and local extension staff to learn about new and exciting 4-H happenings, and engage with the Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers as a support system for volunteering efforts throughout the year. This event is at the same time as KYLF, November 18-19 at Rock Springs Ranch.



To learn more and to register, visit [Kansas Volunteer Leader Forum](#) **Deadline to register is October 16.**

4-H WATER AMBASSADORS

Teens 13 and up are invited to apply to join the 4-H Water Ambassador team for 2024. Here's a chance to help educate others on the importance of our water resources. The team members will receive training and go out into the community to teach others at schools and community events throughout the year. Application can be found at [4H Water Ambassador Application](#) **Due date is December 1st** with interviews later in December.

4-H Dog Conference and Quiz Bowl at Rock Springs is October 21-22

If you love working with your dog, check out this great statewide event all about dogs! The educational sessions are open to youth and adults interested in the Kansas 4-H Dog project. To participate in the quiz bowl and public speaking 4-H enrollment is required. **Registration is open now and is due October 1.**

4-H Achievement Banquet – Saddle up for 4-H!

Each year we meet at the end of the current 4-H year to celebrate the successes of our members, parents, leaders and to thank our 4-H supporters. Be on the look out for an invitation in the mail with all the details!

This year's theme is **"Saddle up for 4-H!"**. The committee's been working hard to bring you a fun event. **Plan to join us for a special fun activities**, supper and award presentations on October 28th. Everything gets underway at 6 p.m. Meal will be served at 6:15 and award ceremony at 7.

Pictures for Slide Show – There will be a year in review slide show being shown before the awards ceremony. If you have any pictures of your child or club that you would like to share, please email them to tarobertson@ksu.edu with JPEG copies. Please have any pictures submitted by 5 pm on October 20th!

Cowboy Hat Decorating Contest – Everyone is encouraged to participate in decorating a cowboy hat. **Pick up a blank hat at the Extension Office, decorate, and bring them with you when you come to the banquet.** There are only 25 hats available, so they will be a first come, first served. There will be 4 age divisions, including adult. **Prizes will be awarded in each division. Everyone in attendance can vote by making a monetary contribution to the mask they like best.**

Attire – Dress for this event is casual but don't be afraid to dress up!! We will have a photo backdrop so you and your friends can have your picture taken!

Please RSVP to the Extension Office by 5 pm Friday, October 20 to reserve your meal. While there currently is no cost to attend, please be aware that if you sign up and don't show up to eat, we still have to pay for your meal! And that takes \$5 away from other important 4-H activities that 4-H Council sponsors. **Your club will be billed for every meal that is not served as reserved.** The caterer will provide the meal and the dessert this year.

We'll again be holding the **Basket Silent Auction and Live Auction** to benefit the Scholarship Fund. Thanks to the clubs for donating a basket of \$40 value for this project! **Be sure to notify Theresa of your theme choice and have them there by 5:30 p.m. on October, 28th.**



MANDATORY YQCA FOR 2024 ELLIS CO. FAIR SALE

The Cottonwood District Extension Board and the Ellis County Fair Board have agreed that the YQCA program is important. **To be able to participate in the 2024 Ellis County 4-H Livestock Auction, all youth must complete the YQCA program and attend the mandatory sale information meeting.** We will be planning to offer both in the spring time, watch for more information to come.

YQCA is designed as an annual education and certification program focused on food safety, animal well-being and character awareness for youth ages 8 to 21 producing and/or showing pigs, beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, rabbits, and poultry. The program has been designed by extension specialists and national livestock program managers to ensure it is accurate, current and relevant to the needs of the animal industry and shows and is appropriate for youth.

AS EACH 4-H YEAR BEGINS, REMEMBER...

- 4-H youth are more important than the project exhibit itself.
- Learning how to do a project is more important than the project itself. To “learn by doing” through a useful project is fundamental in any sound educational program, and is characteristic of the 4-H program.
- There is more than one good way of doing most things.
- Our job is to teach 4-H members how to think, not what to think.
- Winning isn't always measured by the results of the ribbon or judging event, but by the character of the 4-H'er, parent and leader.

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