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March 2021

Ellis County 4-H Happenings

Hey 4-H Families!

Looking forward to seeing many of you at this weekend's 4-H Day events.

We have a great group of 4-H'ers participating in this year's event! Way to go! Thanks to the parents and leaders who helped 4-Hers take advantage of this opportunity to grow in their skills. Remember, we will be following local covid guidelines and limiting the number of spectators at the event to immediate family (including grandparents). The final 4-H Day schedule will be posted Friday afternoon and the event results will be posted on the website soon after the conclusion of the event. Those who receive Top Blues will represent Ellis Co. at the Virtual 4-H Regionals. Good Luck! As always, if you have questions, don't hesitate to give us a call!

Yours in 4-H,

Susan Schlichting

Susan Schlichting

District Extension Agent – 4-H Youth Development



Meetings Coming Your Way

4-H Ag Livestock – March 15, 6:30 p.m.

Home Ec, BBQ, Foodstand – March 18, 6:00 p.m.

4-H Council – April 6, 6:00 p.m.



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Ways to Contact Us

- We make a drop box available in the front of the Extension Office for your convenience.
- You can reach the 4-H Office Voice Mail at (785) 628-9430 ext. 14
- Extension Office fax # is (785) 621-2002
- sschlich@ksu.edu

IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO NOTE

March 1 – Sign up to sponsor a [County Fair Award](#)

March 1 – State 4-H Scholarships & KAPs Due On-line

March 4 – [Sign up for Swine Across Kansas Series](#)

March 5 – [Ellis Co. 4-H Scholarships Due](#)

March 8 – Sign up for [Jr. Meat Goat Producer Week](#)

March 15 – Sign up for [Regional 4-H Day](#)

March 17 – Sign up for [NW SpaceTech Day](#)

March 18 – [Water Poster Contest Entries](#) Due

April 1 – [Heart of KS 4-H Camp Counselor Aps](#) Due

April 15 – [4-H Camp Scholarship Aps](#) Due

April 28 – [Bucket Calf](#), [Feeder Calf](#) & [Commercial Breeding Heifer](#) forms due in Ext. Office

April 30 – [Heart of KS 4-H Camp Registrations](#) Due

May 1 – Last Day to Make Changes to Your 4-H Enrollment for 2021

May 1 – [4-H Horse ID Papers](#) Due in Ext. Office

May 1 – Registered Breeding Livestock in name of 4-H'er

WINTER WEATHER & 4-H ACTIVITIES

Our policy is that if school cancels for weather related events, 4-H events are canceled, too.

Please check our website or contact the person in charge before traveling in, if you are in doubt about the status of an event.

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.

Congrats to . . .

Kaden Haas, Brandee Staab and Marisa Wasinger who completed their 4-H Water Ambassador training. Watch for them to provide fun water related activities at community events in the coming months. Good luck, 4-H Water Ambassadors!



4-H Cookie Thank You Project

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we won't be holding the cookie thank you project this year. We will hope to be back on schedule in 2022.

4-H Enrollments

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.

Ellis County 4-H Senior Scholarships due March 5, 2021

By now, you should have received your copy of the application in the mail. You can apply for [Ellis County Senior 4-H Scholarships](#) through the form fill-able link on our website. **Aps are due March 5**. This year's process will also include an interview.

4-H KAP Pilot – How are YOU doing??

Have you set your 4-H project goals for 2021?? If not, now's the time to do so. There's a [great form](#) to help you get them in writing. Once you get those goals in writing, visit with your club's KAP trainers to learn how to get started with the new KAP on-line process. 4-H'ers of all ages will use the new on-line zsuite site for building your 4-H record this year. The cool thing is you can build your 4-H project records on-line as you go through the 4-H year. And you can track all of your project work through the NEW Permanent Record form found on Zsuite, too. It's an easy to navigate process and one you can use from a smart phone, tablet or computer. We are piloting these forms and the website process, so you may encounter some glitches along the way. The company we are working with will want to hear from you if you encounter something that isn't working right so they can fix it. We would also like your feedback as you work with this new system. Your feedback will help us to make the forms and process the best it can be as we roll it out statewide in 2022.

4-H Day is Coming—Sunday, March 7 – North Oak Community Church, Hays

4-H Day is a chance for 4-H members to showcase their project learning through public presentations. If you ask 4-H alumni what one of the most important things they gained through their 4-H experience, they'll most likely tell you it is their public speaking ability.

Due to Covid, this year's event will be a little different from years past. There will be a face to face and a virtual participation option this year. All face to face participants and family members will be required to wear a mask while in the building. 4-H'er may remove their mask while presenting, if the judge is ok with it. Only judge and immediate family (including grandparents) will be allowed in the room during the presentation. [Check out the website](#) for the latest information, rules, final schedule, etc.

Model Meetings

Congratulations to Buckeye Jr. Farmers and the Gemini Jrs. 4-H clubs for participating in this year's Model Meeting event. The recordings are at the judge at this time. Watch for results coming soon. The club receiving the top ribbon placing will represent Ellis Co. at the Virtual Regional 4-H Day event.

SUPER 4-H SATURDAY Coming to Hays – June 5

Super Saturday is a day filled with great 4-H activities for the whole family! There are judging contests in Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Livestock & Photography for 4-H & FFA youth 7 - 18. You can judge at 1 or all of these great contests. There are several workshops in the afternoon to help 4-H'ers explore project learning. **Mark your calendars now and watch for more information about this fun event as plans develop.**



Small Livestock Weigh-in Date Set for April 28, 6 – 8 p.m.

If you're planning to show Feeder Calves, Meat Goats, Sheep or Swine at this year's Ellis County Fair, make plans now to **get your official 4-H tags and tag your project animals before the weigh-in** at the Fairgrounds. Swine will continue to have to option to weigh or have their tags visually inspected. The Ellis Co. Spring Livestock Show has been set as an alternate weigh-in date on Sunday, May 3, 7 – 9 a.m.

Please call our office to let us know if you plan to use the alternate date. Remember, you need to be enrolled in the Market livestock project by Wednesday, April 28. (Check your on-line enrollments)

[K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy](#)

The ninth annual K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy will be held June 15 – 18 as a hybrid program incorporating on-line and Kansas State University's campus experiences. This four-day event focuses on increasing knowledge of Kansas's diverse livestock industry, as well as building participant's leadership skills. Twenty high school students will be selected to participate based upon educational, community, and agricultural involvement. The event is sponsored by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council. Visit www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu to learn more. **Aps postmarked by April 15, 2021.**

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

State level livestock shows in Kansas require youth to have YQCA certification. For this year, you will have the option to do the training on line at \$12 per member. Visit YQCA.org to get your training completed for 2021.

JR Producer Week for Meat Goats

This year the junior producer days will be hosted virtually as week-long educational series. A few sessions will be presented on week-night evenings, with the program wrapping up on Saturday morning. The Junior Meat Goat Producer Week is slated for March 15-20, 2021. All ages and knowledge levels are invited for both events! K-State faculty members, graduate students and guest speakers will cover topics including selection, nutrition and feeding, meat science, livestock guard dogs, health, grooming and clipping, showmanship, and the state livestock nomination process.

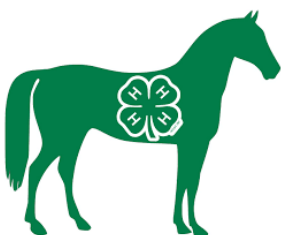
The program will be free this year, but all attendees, including youth and adults, must register online. Families may register for Junior Meat Goat Producer Day at <https://bit.ly/KSUJrMeatGoatWeek>. The deadline to register and receive the necessary materials **is March 8**. Participants are encouraged to use an email they check regularly, as links and program details will be communicated to those registered via email.

For more information, contact Lexie Hayes at adhayes@ksu.edu or 785-532-1264.

Swine Across Kansas Series – “Ask Before You Buy!”

Here's a new series for those of you wanting to learn more about raising pigs. The first in the series is coming up Sunday! Learn what you should know before purchasing your next show pig project. Meet with swine experts and show pig producers about insider tips on selecting the best pig for your barn.

This session is FREE and open to ANYONE! **Register by Thursday, March 4.**



4-H Horse Level Testing

The Level 1 Achievement test is required for all youth to participate in District and State Horse Shows. Online/video levels testing will be accepted again this year. Learn more and prepare for the Level 1 tests, visit the [4-H Horse Project page](#).

4-H HORSE ID PAPERS DUE MAY 1

Horse ID papers are available at the Extension Office or on line at kansas4-h.org. You have to have these papers completed and on **file with our office by May 1** in order to show at 4-H sanctioned horse shows. Now's the time to get the photos taken and the forms filed with the Extension Office. **If you have an old form, you should transition to the form linked above.**

State 4-H Horse Panorama will be virtual in 2021. The current schedule is as follows with specific times released along with additional registration details:

Digital Uploads (Photography, Logo, Poster, Power Point, Ad Layout, Exhibition Model Horse Show) - **Uploads will open March 26 and close April 7.** Judging will begin after April 7.

Hippology- April 10

Quiz Bowl Preliminaries via Qualtrics- April 10

Quiz Bowl Finals via Zoom- April 11

Public Speaking, Demonstration, & Project Talks- Zoom with judges by scheduled date/time, April 10-14. Sign-ups will be available.

It will be the participant's responsibility to make sure they have access to reliable internet to fully participate in each contest. With the online format, we want to remind participants that an important aspect of youth development is practicing integrity and character development. While we have included securities for each event, youth need to practice the fairness pillar and adhere to the honor system.



ELLIS COUNTY FAIR 2021 is set for July 10 - 17, 2021.
The Theme is "Ellis County Fair – It's a Jungle Out There!"

Ellis County Fair Volunteers Needed

Fill out the [on-line Volunteer form](#) to let us know how you'd like to help. Older 4-H'ers and interested adults are encouraged to join our "team" in getting things ready for this year's Fair.

Once again, all clubs will be asked to recruit volunteers to help with a variety of jobs at the Fair, as well. Watch for that listing coming your way soon.

Fair Award Sponsors Needed

The Ellis Co. Fairboard is seeking award sponsors. In order for a special award to be awarded in any given area, there must be a sponsor. **Contact Norleen Knoll by March 1** if you'd like to sponsor a special award. Sponsorships are listed in the Ellis Co. Fairbook and in several news releases/ads. The sponsorship form is posted on our website. Check out the areas that are listed and think about helping sponsor a special award for the Fair. [Sponsorship Letter](#)
[Award Sponsorship Form](#)

Fair Pride Projects

What can your club do to help make our Fairgrounds a place to be proud of?? If you have an idea let us know and we'll share it with the fairboard. Every club will be asked to do some kind of project during 2021. There's always painting to be done. New picnic tables are on the list of improvements for 2021. We'll need a club to help build them. Watch facebook and our website for details as they develop. If either of the above mentioned projects are of interest to your club, let the Extension Office know.



4-H Camp Here WE Come!

4-H Camp will be held June 21-24 at Rock Springs 4-H Center! We will know by mid-March if camp will not be held. Get ready to have fun exploring streams, riding horses, canoeing, swimming, and much more! Start asking your clubs now for financial support to attend. **Registrations will be due April 30.**

Camp Scholarship Aps for 4-H Camp and other trips are due April 15. The application will be posted on the [4-H Forms Page](#) of the Ellis Co. 4-H website as soon as it's received.

4-H Camp Counselors Wanted

We are also looking for enthusiastic teens 15 & older to serve as counselors. Applications will soon be posted on the Ellis Co. website on the [Camp Central](#) page. They are **due in the Ellis Co. Extension Office April 1**. Consider this awesome leadership opportunity.

Campference

Too old to go to 4-H Camp, but you love camp? **Campference is for YOU!** It's held at Rock Springs at the end of June. Campference is a cross between Camp and a Leadership Conference for 12 – 14-year-old 4-H members. Registration will open soon on the [State 4-H](#) website. Register quickly, as spaces fill quickly. There's been a long waiting list the last several years! Don't miss out!

4-H TECH TALK

NW 4-H SpaceTech Day at Barton Community College

We are planning to hold a fun and interactive SpaceTech day at Barton Community College on March 20. At this time, we are moving forward with modified plans to make this event happen! There will be duplicate sessions offered in morning and afternoon, so plan to attend one or the other. Sessions will include **rocket building, junk drawer robotics, physics fun, drones, coding** and more! [Watch for more details](#) coming soon and plan to **register by Wednesday, March 17**.



Kansas 4-H Discovery Days will be held virtually in 2021. The event will be held on June 1-4th, 2021. Watch for more information as it becomes available.

4-H Ambassador Training – Virtual

March 23 – 6:30 p.m. – Role of 4-H Ambassadors, First Impressions & Networking

March 30 – 6:30 p.m. – Promoting 4-H to non-4-H Audiences, Relationship Building, Promotional Materials Available
Watch for the zoom link on the 4-H Ambassador Facebook group.

May 1 Deadline for Hosting Short Term and Year Long School 4-H'ers

Families wishing to host a Japanese teen 4-H'er or one of their chaperones through the States' 4-H International Exchange Program should **complete the on-line application before May 1, 2021**. These applications may be accessed through the Kansas 4-H web site on a link titled "[2021 Electronic Host Family Application Process Link](#)".

4-H International Pen Pal Program Started in February

We were excited to learn that a number of Ellis Co. 4-H'ers were accepted into the 4-H Pen Pal program. They have just started to receive communications with their new pals through email, Facebook, Face-time or any method to share information and photos. We're aware of our member communicating with youth in Romania, Thailand and Taiwan. We will ask them to share what they're learning through this new project that continues until May 18.

Water Fun Fest

Looking for something to do over Spring Break? Check out the Water Fun Fest at Sternberg Museum on **Thursday, March 25, 10 – Noon**. **Free** event sharing hands on activities about our precious water resource. Fun for all ages! Door Prizes! Meet WaterSmart Wally!



[Water Poster Contest](#)

"Let's Talk Water" is the theme of this year's contest. This contest is open to all ages Pre-K – Adult. There are some great prizes. Water conservation, Stormwater, Water Quality are the key concepts to share in the poster. We have poster paper available in the Extension Office, if you'd like to participate. For rules, visit the [City of Hays website](#). **Posters are due to school offices, City Hall or Hays Public Works by Thursday, March 18**. Prize winners will be announced by March 31.



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!

