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March 2024

Ellis County 4-H Happenings

Hey 4-H Families!

We are looking forward to seeing some of you at this weekend's 4-H Day events. **Remember— The skit is scheduled at 1 p.m. and everything is running on a tight schedule. Please arrive early to get on the schedule! Clubs are responsible for room monitor duties (see 4-H Day info on next page of this newsletter)**

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. Event results will be posted on the 4-H website and Facebook. Those who receive Top Blues can represent Ellis Co. at 4-H Regional Club Day in Stockton. Good Luck!

As always, if you have questions, don't hesitate to give us a call!

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

4-H Ag Livestock – March 4th, 6:30PM, Back meeting room

Achievement Banquet/4-H Day/Promo – Set up for 4-H Day at 12:30PM on March 3rd

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

March 1 – Sign up to sponsor a County Fair Award

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

March 6 – Water Poster Contest Entries Due

March 8 – Turn in Lions Club Pancake Feed Tickets

March 8 – RSVP for poultry

March 15 – Ellis Co. Scholarship Due

March 15 – Register for Super Saturday

March 15 – Ag Ambassador App Due

March 28 – Sign up for Regional 4-H Day by 5 PM

April 7 – MANDATORY YQCA training and livestock sale meeting

May 1 – Last Day to Make Changes to Your 4-H Enrollment for 2024

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.

4-H Enrollments

You can 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. To learn more about how to do the updates, [click here](#).

State 4-H Scholarships Due

Now's the time to start planning. You can apply for KS 4-H Scholarships and Ellis Co. 4-H Scholarships. **State scholarship apps are due March 1, 2024.**

Get an early start on your application for the [2024 Kansas 4-H Scholarship](#). A list of scholarships available to apply for is posted on the site. The KS 4-H Scholarship requires a copy of your grade transcript, resume, several letters of recommendation, an essay and a short video, so plan ahead! Any past 4-H member who is currently in college is eligible to apply for the KS 4-H scholarships. **You are considered for all scholarships that you qualify for with one application.**

Ellis County Scholarships

The Ellis Co. 4-H scholarship app is now available on the website. [EllisCo4HScholarships2024.pdf](#)
Seniors, check your emails for a message from Tamara!

4-H Day is Coming—Sunday, March 3 – North Oak Community Church – Hays

The skit is scheduled at 1 p.m. and everything is running on a tight schedule. All other events will have a **BLANK** schedule posted outside of each room. **Please arrive early to get signed up for a judging time!** There will be a life skills judging contest set up in the lobby for everyone who wishes to participate. [Check out the website](#) for the latest information, rules, entry form, etc.

Room Monitor Duties

Jr./Int. Demonstrations & Illustrated Talks – **VV**

Readings – **GH**

Talent (Skits, Dance & Other Talent) – Sanctuary – **ES**

Project Talks, Show & Tell – **BJF**

Public Speaking, Extemp. Speaking, Sr. Demo – **BCA**

Warm Up Room & ARI – **GJ**

Rest Rooms & Lobby – Everyone's responsible to make sure the restrooms and lobby are kept in good order during the event. Thanks for doing your share to keep the facility clean!

Regional 4-H Day – Friday, April 5 – Stockton High School

If you received Top Blue at the local 4-H Day, you are eligible to represent Ellis County at the Regional Competition. **Entry Deadline is Thursday, March 28th at 5:00 PM**, call 785-628-9430 to let us know if you will be participating.

Water Poster Contest

"KNOW YOUR 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. For rules, visit the [City of Hays website](#). **Posters are due to school offices, City Hall or Hays Public Works by Wednesday, March 6.** Prize winners will be announced by March 29.

Poultry Meat Pen Project donated by Bomgaars

If you were enrolled in the poultry project as of 2/27/2024, you should have received this information via 4-HOnline email. Once again, Orschlens/Bomgaars' has agreed to donate chicks for the Meat Pen Project at the County Fair. You will receive 5 chicks to raise and then bring your best 3 birds to the Fair as an entry...this entry can possibly be sold in the Livestock Auction.

If you want to participate Please CALL the Extension Office at 785-628-9430 and talk to Theresa Meis. (no emails or messages please!!!) **We need to know by Friday, March 8th.**

Lion's Club Pancake Feed Tickets

The Ellis County 4-H Council has been asked to help sell tickets for the Hays Lion's Club pancake feed that will happen on March 12th. The Lion's Club has donated money to Council the last few years and we think this would be the perfect way to support them in return. For each ticket sold, Council will receive \$1.

We have been asked to sell all of the 200 tickets we were given; I am asking for each club to sell at least 25 tickets. This would be easy if you were to sell to your friends, family and neighbors!

Contact your club leader to pick up tickets!! Unsold tickets, checks made out to "Hays Lion's Club" and money needs to be back to our office by 5PM March 8th.



Water Fun Fest

Looking for something to do over Spring Break? Check out the Water Fun Fest at the Sternburg Museum on **Tuesday, March 12, 10am – Noon**. Free event sharing hands on activities about our precious water resource by the Water Ambassadors. Fun for all ages! Door Prizes!



**DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR AGRICULTURE?
ARE YOU AGES 13-18 AND INTERESTED IN FURTHERING YOUR LEADERSHIP ABILITIES?**

JOIN THE TEAM...
**NORTHWEST KANSAS 4-H
Agricultural Ambassador Program**



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NEW Northwest Kansas 4-H Agricultural Ambassador Program

The ambassador program will be a premier leadership opportunity for youth ages 13 to 18 (current 8th-Grade through Senior in high school) who are passionate about agriculture and are willing to complete a one or two-year term. The program focuses on connecting youth with their local agricultural industries, exploring the richness and diversity of Kansas opportunities, developing ag advocacy skills and fostering educational mindsets, and increasing access to career and post-secondary experiences within the agriscience world. Participation/membership in 4-H is not required.

The Northwest Kansas 4-H Agricultural Ambassadors complete training to develop leadership and teamwork skills that are used in promoting and educating communities about agriculture. This

includes leading educational experiences for youth and attending ag events, such as the Kansas Youth Ag Experience trip.

Youth interested in being a part of the ambassador program must complete an application, submit a leadership resume, a cover letter, three letters of reference, and complete a virtual interview if selected as a finalist. Applications and supporting documents are **due by March 15th** and may be submitted to your local K-State Research and Extension office.

For more information, a copy of the flyer and application visit the Twin Creeks District website at: <https://www.twincreeks.k-state.edu/youth-ag/index.html>

For questions about the Northwest Kansas 4-H Agricultural Ambassador Program, please contact Twin Creeks District Youth Agriculture Agent, Jenilee Godsey. (Phone: 785-421-3411, Email: jenileem@ksu.edu)

SUPER 4-H SATURDAY at FHSU – March 25

March 23 is a day filled with great 4-H activities for the whole family! New this year, there will be another contest included – Livestock Skill-A-Thon! There will be 7 judging contests—Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Livestock, Livestock Skill-A-Thon & Photography for 4-H & FFA youth 7 - 18. You can judge at 1 or all of these great contests. There will be several workshops in the afternoon to help 4-H'ers explore project learning. More information can be found on the website at [Northwest 4-H Judging](#).

Any questions contact Robyn Trussel, Walnut Creek District Extension 4-H Agent at rdeines@ksu.edu

Registration is due by Friday, March 15th.



Small Livestock Weigh-in Date TBA

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. **All market animals have the option to weigh their animals. Tags must be verified at weigh-in. Remember, you need to be enrolled in the Market livestock project by May 1.** [Bucket Calf](#) & [Commercial Breeding Heifer](#) forms due in Ext. Office **by 5PM on the Weigh-In date.**



IMPORTANT

Mandatory Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Training and Livestock Sale meeting – April 7th, 1:30pm – Ag Research Center

On April 7th, Stacy Campbell will be conducting an in-person YQCA training. **All youth who plan to sale at the Ellis County 4-H Livestock Auction, exhibit in the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and/or KJLS should complete the training** at their earliest convenience. This is an annual training, so youth need to complete it each year. For this year, you will have the option to do the training on line at \$12 per member or in person on April 7th. Following the training there will be a Livestock sale meeting.

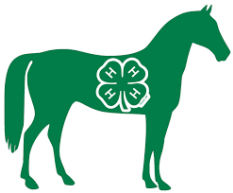
Please visit yqcaprogram.org to register for this class and pay the \$3.00 fee OR to complete your training for 2024. NO money will be collected at the door that evening. You MUST be enrolled and complete the pre-test BEFORE the class!!

Livestock Nominations

Detailed Information on this process will be posted soon on the [K-State Youth Livestock webpage](#). Plan ahead as DNA envelopes will need to be ordered directly through ShoWorks (Old DNA envelopes will not be accepted) and families will enter their animal and exhibitor data online through ShoWorks. DNA envelope orders will close 1 week prior to the nomination deadline for each specie. (**April 20th for market beef and June 5th for small livestock**). You will still need to mail the signed DNA samples by the following deadlines:

May 1 Market beef/heifer nominations due for KS State fair and KJLS

June 15 commercial heifer/market/commercial swine, market goat and market/commercial lamb nominations for KS State fair and KJLS are due



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 will need to transition to the form linked above it updated in 2023.***

Volunteer training Opportunity

The Association of Kansas 4-H Volunteers is hosting "Spring Into Volunteering" in Salina on the K-State Campus on Saturday, April 20. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and the day will conclude at 3 p.m. This is for anyone serving as a 4-H Volunteer or considering it! The goal is for volunteers to go home recharged, excited and ready to try some new things in their volunteer roles.

More information can be found on the [Kansas4-H website](#).

Registration for the day is \$20 and includes; materials, snacks and lunch! Online registration is due April 15, 2024 and the fee will be submitted to local office.

Club Fundraising Opportunity – Wheat Plot Tour Meal

Each year we hold and conduct a county wheat plot tour/field day near the end of May/early June. After the field day we come into Hays to the Municipal Park, 1st and Main Street for dinner. Any 4-H club in the county can throw their clubs name in the hat to prepare and serve the meal. Stacy will go out and get the donations and the 4-H club will receive the donated money after the event. The meal has generally consisted of grilled hamburgers and brats with the condiments, pickles, onions, chips, baked beans or potato salad, a dessert, water, tea, and lemonade (optional). We are encouraging people to RSVP, so we will give the club an estimated head count closer to the date.

If your club is interested in doing this for a fundraiser, **please let Theresa know by May 1st**. If you have any questions feel free to ask Stacy or Theresa.

ELLIS COUNTY FAIR 2024 will be July 15 - 20, 2024
The Theme is "Moo'in & Groovin'!"



Ellis County Fair Volunteers Needed

Call the office at 785-628-9430 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.

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
Research and Extension



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WORLD WATER DAY Fun Fest

10 AM - NOON

TUESDAY, MARCH 12
STERNBERG MUSEUM
HAYS, KANSAS

Come celebrate water with us! See loads of exhibits, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and jump feet-first into the **Know Your Water** program for community water quality.

FREE ADMISSION



MORE INFO: 785-769-3297 OR 785-628-7350
www.MyKansasWatershed.com
www.watersmarthays.com



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to help with the Ellis County Fair! July 15 - 20, 2024
Call 785-628-9430 for more information!



K-STATE Research and Extension Cottonwood District



NW 4-H

Judging Event

Super Saturday

Saturday, March 23, 9:00am -Finish

Host Site: FHSU Albertson Hall on campus and Livestock Pavilion north of I-70. Hays, Kansas

Judging Contests include:

Crops, Entomology, Horticulture, Life Skills, Photography, Livestock Skill-a-thon and Livestock Judging

Project Opportunities: (These are for NON-LIVESTOCK Judging youth)

- 1) KS Shooting Sports Ambassadors will host a non shooting, educational, hands-on activity.
- 2) The Ins and Outs of the dog project - make a parachute cord leash and other dog project related learning activities - \$8.00
- 3) Hands-on STEM activities that coordinate with basic engineering and match up with several 4-H projects.
- 4) Club meeting ideas, activities and challenges, that are great for officer leadership teams.
- 5) Fiber Arts - Bohemian Macramé wall hanging - \$15

Volunteer Sessions for Parents and Volunteers - Free
Sack Lunches provided with mandatory RSVP - \$8.00



Registration Link:

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6n7ovscdg5SbzEO

If you have any questions concerning this event, you may contact Robyn Trussel at 785-798-5020 or rdeines@ksu.edu or Chandra Plate at 620-588-7157 or cplate@ksu.edu



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YQCA TRAINING
IS NOW MANDATORY TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE ELLIS COUNTY
FAIR LIVESTOCK SALE



YQCA TRAINING
WITH LIVESTOCK SALE
MEETING TO FOLLOW
APRIL 7TH @ 1:30
AG RESEARCH CENTER
REGISTER NOW!

