

4-H Focus

MARCH 2026



Clover Connection Articles Needed

Love to write? Love 4-H? Then this new opportunity might be just what you are looking for. I am starting a new opportunity called Clover Connection. Clover Connection articles will be submitted to the Leavenworth Times on a month basis.

What is a Clover Connection article you ask? A Clover Connection article is a 200-250 word write-up sharing one of your 4-H projects and some interesting things about that project such as what you have learned, how it has helped you in life, your future plans and the difficulties that you have overcome.

Why would you do this? It is a great opportunity to practice your writing skills, tell the public about something that has had an impact on you or that you really enjoy, complete a checkmark in your record book that might not be easy to do otherwise and get published in the newspaper. It is also a great opportunity for club reporters as well.

Interested? Here's how. Please email your articles to sonyam@ksu.edu. Articles recieved will be reviewed. You will recieve an email when your article has been submitted to the paper so you can keep an eye out for it.



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K-STATE
Research and Extension

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

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Annual Training

All 4-H youth, ages 7 to 18 who are enrolled in swine, beef cattle, dairy cattle, bucket calf, sheep, all goats, rabbits, and poultry are required to take YQCA training each year. You will not be able to show at our Leavenworth County Fair or any state events without this annual certification.

What is YQCA you ask? Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a multi-species livestock quality assurance program for youth ages 7-18.

There are two option to take the course:

Option A:

Taking the course through one of our three face-to-face sessions. (Two trainings remain) The course takes approximately one hour and will cost \$3 for each youth participant.

Option B:

Taking the course online through YQCA. This option is \$12 per youth participant. This option is not available for 7 year olds. They must take it in-person. All 4-H youth, ages 7-18, will need to register online through yqcaprogram.org before taking the class.

When you register, please click the 4honline box and register with your 4honline username and password.

Face-to-face trainings for 2026

All county face-to-face trainings will be held at the Leavenworth County Extension Office. All trainings will start at 6pm with check-in starting at 5:30pm. Be sure you are preregistered before coming to class.

Training 1: March 12th (Completed)

Training 2: March 30th

Training 3: April 14th



4-H Summer Camp at Rock Springs Ranch

Every year, thousands of kids come to 4-H Camp at Rock Springs Ranch. They unplug, explore, play and learn the kinds of lessons that can last a lifetime. Campers grow socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively. Many make friends for life. It's also just plain FUN!

The values of 4-H are at the core of Rock Springs Ranch and they guide all of our programming. We believe the lessons learned here can create a foundation for success that will last far beyond their visit. **But you don't have to be a 4-H member to come to camp at Rock Springs! Everyone is welcome, regardless of 4-H membership! Visit Rock Springs Ranch if you'd like to learn more about sessions, dates, rates and the 4-H Camp experience!**



IMP Insect Art Contest

The K-State Extension Pesticide Safety and IPM Program is hosting its annual insect themed art contest, open to all ages and skill levels in Kansas! This year's theme is "Metamorphosis Magic." The goal is to explore insects that undergo complete and incomplete metamorphosis, then create artwork that fits the contest theme. Artwork may include drawings or paintings, digital art, or a 3-D piece such as sculpture, stained glass, or other creative media.

Awards will be given for 1st-3rd place in each of the following age categories:



Kindergarten - 2nd grade
3rd grade - 5th grade
6th grade - 8th grade
High school
Adult



Entries must be received or postmarked before April 15, 2026. Full contest rules and details are available at: <https://extension.k-state.edu/pesticides-ipm/learning-and-resources.html>

Pen Pal Program with 4-H Friends Around the World

There is an international pen pal program available to 4-H members. Registration opens March 1 and is available until the program is full. Sign up early if interested. This program is a good opportunity for Kansas kids ages 9-18 to interact weekly with a kid their age in a partner country as school winds down in April-May. Sign up at <https://www.states4hexchange.org/>. Direct questions to Kansas 4-H international programs coordinator, Mary Kay Munson at mkm2@ksu.edu.

Photo Boards

Before we know it, it will be time to purchase photo boards for all those beautiful photos your 4-Her has been taking. The price for each board is \$1.75. Just a reminder, the Extension Office does not make money on these boards. We simply pass the cost on. Boards are available anytime at the Extension Office.

Small Animal Tagging

Goat, Sheep and Swine

Small Animal Tagging is scheduled for Sunday, May 3rd. All swine, goats and sheep are required to attend this event. If you are not available this day, you must make arrangements with someone else to bring your animals. More information along with letters for each species will be coming in Late March/Early April. Please save the date!!

Market and Commercial Animals going to KJLS or State Fair

If you need animals tagged for Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) or State Fair but those animals are not coming to our county fair, there are two ways to get them tagged.

Option 1 (Recommended if possible): Bring those animals to spring tagging day.

Option 2: Contact the extension office to set up a time for an agent to come out to your farm and tag animals. Reminder: This is only for KJLS or State Fair animals that are not coming to the Leavenworth County Fair. All beef, swine, sheep and goats coming to the Leavenworth County Fair that require an EID tag must come to spring tagging.

Fair Superintendents Still Needed

Thank you to those who have already answered the call for sponsorships and volunteered to be a superintendent. We still have a few projects who need superintendents. Please sign up to serve as an Leavenworth County 4-H Fair Superintendent. Older youth (14 and older) can sign up also. Volunteering as a superintendent is a great opportunity to learn more about a project. No experience needed. For more information or to sign up to help, please contact the Extension Office at 913-364-5700 or email Sonya at sonyam@ksu.edu.



Food Preservation Judging

PLEASE HOLD THIS DATE AND TIME BLOCK for Food PRESERVATION JUDGING:

Tuesday, July 21st from 4-8pm at the Leavenworth County Fairgrounds (405 W 4th St, Tonganoxie, KS 66086) in the 4-H Building (Brown Building).

We will be partnering with the Jefferson County Extension Office this summer to offer a joint Food Preservation Judging date.

LVCO 4-Hers would still have the opportunity to bring a food preservation item(s) in for consultation judging if they choose. We would also offer an option to do a "drop off" at our Leavenworth County Extension office if consultation judging isn't an option for the 4-Her that day. We would most likely require them to be dropped off the day before.

Thank you, and please reach out if you have any questions!



Leavenworth County Fair 4-H Rules

4-H County Fair Rules are now available on our website. Please take a few minutes to read the rules of the projects you plan to exhibit at our 2026 Leavenworth County Fair. There are changes this year. You will find them highlighted in red. Many questions can be answered by simply reading the fair rules. A little prep ahead of time can save lots of heartache later. Rules can be found on our website under 4-H Youth Development and then Fair Book and Information.



Know the rules!

Leavenworth County Fair 4-H Schedule

Just like fair rules, the Leavenworth County Fair 4-H Schedule is also very important. The 2026 schedule is posted on our website. You can find it here: <https://www.leavenworth.k-state.edu/fair-book/>

Fair Week is a busy week. Take some time now to get a rough plan on what your week may look like. Again, many questions can be answered by simply looking through the fair 4-H schedule.



SHUTTERBUG PHOTOGRAPHY EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

MANHATTAN, KS

Location:

Midwest Dream Car Museum
3007 Anderson Avenue, Manhattan, Ks.
<https://midwestdreamcarcollection.org/>

Who should register:

Open to 4-H members enrolled in the photography project who are interested in learning new skills and photography techniques! Youth must be accompanied with an adult.

To register:

<https://cvent.me/027Zb9>

Registration Fee:

\$25 per 4-H member



Schedule:

Check in begins: 8:30 am
Orientation: 9:20 - 9:45
Session 1: 9:50 - 10:20
Session 2: 10:25-10:55
Session 3: 11:00 to 11:30
Session 4: 11:35 to 12:00

Event Workshops:

- How-to: Car detail photography
- Basic Camera Operation
- Colored glass & marbles
- Photo Composition
- How to properly mount a photo
- Black & White Photography
- Kaleidoscopes
- Bits & Pieces



Accommodations:

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Amy Collins by April 29 at 785-532-8300. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

How Shutterbugs works:

Once you arrive, we will get you checked in, have a short orientation to explain photography rules/changes for 2026 and where workshops are located for the day. There will be a variety of workshops to attend. 4-H members will need to pick their top four workshops in which they would like to participate. They will not be able to attend all 8 workshops with the time allotted, so pick workshops to fit your learning needs.

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Livestock Spring Show Season

Nothing says spring like the start of spring show season. Spring shows are a great way to get a little practice in before the fair season is here. Success during spring show season may sometimes be as simple as just getting your animal into the show ring and having it under control so that it doesn't get away from you. Small accomplishments lead up to bigger and better successes. It also gives your animals a chance to experience people, noises, loading and unloading from the trailer and everything else that goes with being away from the farm.

Please keep in mind that animals who usually show at spring shows are young. Biosecurity should be on your minds all year long but especially during spring livestock shows. Do your research and talk to your vet to get the best plan to help keep your animals healthy. Remember that you wouldn't want another family to bring their animals to a spring show if they were sick, so please show them the same courtesy. Continuing to be good stewards of production agriculture means you make good decisions when it comes to your animals.

Spring shows are advertised in many places. Facebook and other social media outlets have become very popular over the last few years as a great avenue to advertise spring shows. The youth livestock page on our State Extension website is also another great resource for locating upcoming spring shows.

We have two spring clinics/shows coming up in Leavenworth County. BIA will host their annual Beef Show at the Leavenworth County Fairgrounds on March 21, 2026. The Leavenworth County Livestock Committee will be hosting their annual spring livestock show at the Leavenworth County Fairgrounds on May 16th and 17th, 2026. Contact the Leavenworth County Livestock Committee and the BIA for registration information for their shows.



JOIN THE WALKING CHALLENGE

WALK KANSAS

AN 8-WEEK HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHALLENGE!

March 22 - May 16, 2026

Gather a team of coworkers, friends, family, neighbors - hit the (virtual) trail and make Kansas your walking adventure!

Register online at WalkKansas.org or contact your local K-State Extension office for more information.

Registration open March 1 - 31!

Cost: \$10/person

Youth 17 years old and under can participate for FREE! Contact Anita GrandPre, FCS Agent for more information.



Kansas State University
Extension

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Upcoming Summer Events - Save the Date!!

4-H Discovery Days

We would like to invite youth to K-State to develop college and career readiness skills which prepare participants academically and socially for a successful transition to college and life as an adult through our educational sessions during 2026 4-H Discovery Days. We have numerous campus partners that will be offering sessions. These sessions will open the door to possibilities for youth to learn new ideas, techniques, and skills they can use personally and in their 4-H clubs, groups, and communities. Youth will stay in the dorms, meet new friends from all over the state and make their way throughout campus to different classes and activities. Discovery Days will be held June 3rd - 5th and is open to youth 4-H age 13-18. More information regarding cost and registration will be coming soon.



Leavenworth County 4-H Camp Out

Youth Leaders will be hosting an overnight camp at the Leavenworth County Fairgrounds. This will replace the traditional Leadership Day Camp that Youth Leaders have hosted. The camp will take place June 17th - 18th. The camp is open to 4-hers 7-12 years of age (4-H age). During camp, campers will have the opportunity for some project learning, fun and games, enjoy a campfire, swim at the Tonganoxie pool and much more. More information and registration details coming soon.



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4-H'ers are...



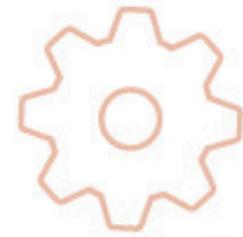
4X

more likely to
give back to their
communities



2X

more likely to make
healthier choices



2X

more likely to
participate in
STEM activities

Multiply your impact!

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