

4-H Focus

SEPTEMBER 2026



2026 National 4-H Week Oct. 4th - 10th

National 4-H Week is an opportunity to highlight the remarkable 4-H youth in our communities and showcase the incredible experiences that 4-H offers young people. National 4-H Week will be held October 4-10, 2026. We encourage all clubs to find ways to promote and celebrate 4-H. A few ideas may include:



Monday, October 5th Wear Your 4-H Gear

Nothing says 4-H pride like a 4-H tee! Dress yourself (or the entire family – pets included!) in 4-H green and clover gear.

Thursday, October 8th Thankful Thursday

Local programs are always looking for resources to continue growing the programs. Help programs like the Flying Squirrels or Green Turtles (not real clubs, but maybe) thrive by making a donation that can help provide supplies to kids in the area.

Set Up Information Booths

If your local grocery or hardware store allows, set up a table to share information about your local 4-H program. You can display 4-H posters, hand out flyers, or showcase the work of local 4-Hers.



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

New 4-H Year Starts October 1st

4-H began in the early 1900s. Girls participated in canning clubs, and boys participated in corn and pig clubs. In 1914, Congress passed an act establishing Cooperative Extension and 4-H across the country. Corn, poultry and garden clubs existed in Kansas as early as 1905.

4-H has certainly changed since its early days. While we are proud of our rich history, we've expanded to include members from more than just rural backgrounds. We've evolved to meet the needs of today's youth, and develop learning experiences for boys and girls of all ages.

Why do we do 4-H? Why do we put time and effort into this program? Through this program kids build life skills by leading hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture and, civic engagement – helping them to grow confidence, independence, resilience, and compassion. 4-H empowers young people to be true leaders. True leaders are young people who have confidence; know how to work well with others; can endure through challenges; and will stick with a job until it gets done. In 4-H, we believe true leaders aren't born – they're grown.

4-H program's hands-on approach gives young people guidance, tools and encouragement, and then puts them in the driver's seat to make great things happen. Independent research proves the unparalleled impact of the 4-H experience. 4-Hers are four times more likely to give back to their communities and 2 times more likely to make healthier decisions.

In 4-H we believe:

- all young people have potential;
- developing young people who are empowered, confident, hard-working, determined, responsible and compassionate—seeing a world beyond themselves so that they have the life-long skills to succeed in college and career,
- ensuring access and equity for all,
- the power of America's leading public universities,
- the practice of positive youth development (PYD)* by creating positive learning experiences,
- caring and trusted adult mentors who cultivate positive relationships with youth,
- creating safe, diverse and inclusive environments, and meeting young people wherever they are.

So you are probably saying, yes Sonya, I know this already. This is why we are a part of this great program. This is where I need your help. ***First is make the decision early for your family to continue to be apart of this amazing program. Commit as a family and get enrolled once October 1st rolls around. Don't wait until November, December or even January. Get out there and get it done. Second, is spread the word.*** Talk to your friends in church, at school, or in line at the grocery store about this program. Invite a friend to come to a meeting with you. Invite a friend over to your house and show them your projects, talk about what you have learned and the skills you have gained. Help me spread the word about his program that has taught you and me so much. Everyone should have the opportunity to benefit from 4-H.

Remember October 1st. Mark it in your calendar!



LEAVENWORTH COUNTY 4-H



OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2026

6PM - 7:30PM

K-STATE EXTENSION OFFICE -
LEAVENWORTH CO.

711 MARSHALL ST. SUITE 101
LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048



EVERYONE
WELCOME!

Join Us



Meet local 4-H clubs and club representatives



Displays of 4-H projects, activities, and opportunities



Learn how 4-H helps youth growskills, confidence and leadership.



Raffles and fun giveaways



4-H Extension Staff available to answer questions and help with enrollment

JOIN THE ADVENTURE!
HEAD, HEART, HANDS, HEALTH

Cloverbuds (Pre 4-H): Ages 5-6
4-Her: Ages 7-18

Questions? Contact the
Leavenworth County Extension
Office at (913)364-5700

Your 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 the event contact Sonya Murphy two weeks prior to the start of the event at 913-365-5700 or sonyam@ksu.edu. 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
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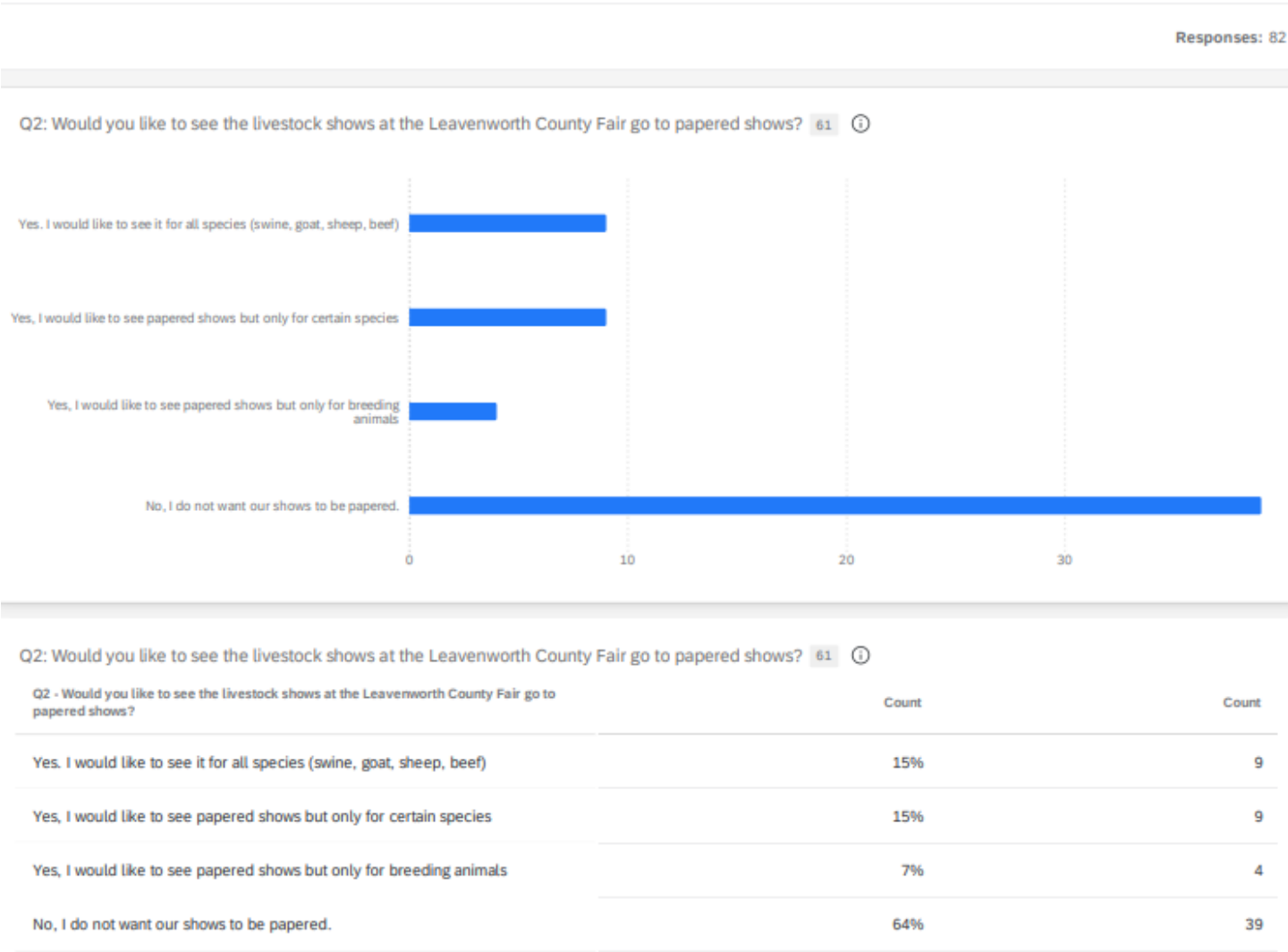
County Fair Livestock Rules Update

I would like to take a few minutes to thank all those who took a some time to fill out the survey regarding papered shows at our county fair. We had a great response rate. (62%). Below is the highlight of the results from that survey. After much discussion and after taking the survey results into consideration, the Leavenworth County Extension Executive Board has made the decision not to require papers for our livestock shows.

One other change to highlight, is there is no longer a minimum requirement to make an AOB class. Purebred animals will no longer be put into crossbred if there is not enough for an AOB class. They will remain in AOB.

We continue to work on reveiwing and discussing rules for our county 4-H projects.

Papered vs. not Papered Livestock Show / Page 1



Record Books and Project Report Forms

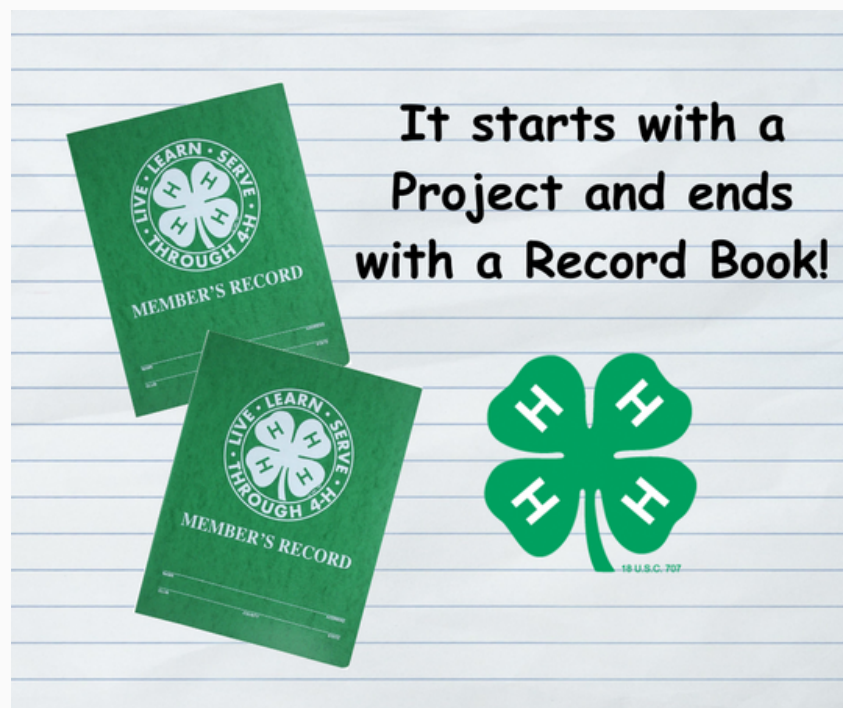
One of the true 4-H learning experiences is record keeping. This does take time, but 4-Hers learn important skills that will benefit them in the future. 4-Hers will keep a continuous record of their 4-H experiences and non-4-H experiences as long as they remain a 4-Her. All 4-H members are strongly encouraged to complete a 4-H Record Book or Member's Record each year as part of 4-H Membership. A record book/ member's record will be composed of a Completed Personal Page, a 4-H story, Permanent Record and photos (photos are optional but a nice addition).

Is this your first year doing a member's record? Make sure to talk to your leader or stop by the office and pick up a green members record folder to keep all your records in. Each 4-her receives one green folder free, compliments of Leavenworth County 4-H Council.

4-Hers are also encouraged to complete a Project Report Form for at least one of their projects for the year. The Project Report Form is a record of what the 4-Her did within a specific project. Project Report Forms including personal page, permanent record, and project forms by age are located on our web page: http://www.leavenworth.k-state.edu/4-h/forms_resources.html. Once forms are completed simply place them into a three pronged folder with a label on the outside. Labels are available at the Extension Office for no cost.

Record Books and Project Report Forms should all be submitted to your club leader by the due date as specified by your club leader. Each club will have a different deadline. **Your leaders will then submit these to the Extension Office by October 2, 2026.**

Still feeling a bit overwhelmed when it comes to 4-H record keeping. Please reach out to your club leaders or the Extension Office. We are here to help.



Membership Pins

Membership pins are designed to recognize youth for achieving that level of participation in the 4-H program. This is not a competitive process. All youth who complete an application and whose application is verified as complete will receive a recognition pin.

There are nine membership pins. Pins must be received in order but can be skipped. For example, if you are starting 4-H at an older age such as 13, we do not recommend you start at the bottom pin which is the membership pin. You will not make it through all 9 pins before you age out. We recommend you start at the highest pin you qualify for. One thing to remember is you can skip pins but you cannot go backwards and get those pins at a later date. You want to keep this in mind when deciding which pin to start with.

Application forms can be found on our web page: www.leavenworth.k-state.edu/4-h/awards_scholarships.html

All pin applications should be submitted to your club leader by the due date as specified by your club leader. Each club will have a different deadline. Your leaders will then submit these to the Extension Office by October 2, 2026. Pins will be awarded at our Annual Achievement Celebration in November.



Officer Books, Leadership Scholarships & Club Summary

Officer books are also eligible to be judged for awards, similar to project report forms. Officer books include: treasurers book, secretary book, historian book and reporters book. If you have questions about what the requirements are for each of these books, please contact the Extension Office. Officer books are due to the Extension office by October 2nd.

County Council awards leadership scholarships every year. Applications for this scholarship are located on our website. These applications are also due to the Extension Office by October 2nd.

Each club may chose to fill out a club summary. Seals are awarded based on each club summary. Club summary applications are located on our website. Club summaries are also due October 2nd.

Upcoming News and Events

Club Financial Reports are Due by November 15th

Each club who has a bank account is required to turn in a financial report each year. At minimum we need a completed treasurers book. It is required to include the following within your book.

1. Bank Statements
2. Budget (page 9)
3. Yearly Summary of Club Finances (page 24)
4. 4-H Club/Extension Affiliated Group Annual Financial Report (page 29)
5. Required signatures (page 30)

I want to remind everyone that this is a requirement and not optional. If you are a chartered club and have a bank account you need to complete these documents. Not completing these documents can and will affect your club charter.

We will be holding a breakout training during countywide officer training specifically for treasurers. In this training we will go over everything that is needed for your club financial report. I strongly encourage you to attend if you are a club treasurer. Training date coming soon.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

4-H Achievement Celebration

The 2026 Leavenworth County Achievement Celebration is scheduled for November 7th at the Tonganoxie Christian Church. More details will be coming soon.

All 4-Hers and their families are invited to attend. This event consists of a celebration meal sponsored by Leavenworth County 4-H Council and an awards ceremony. At the awards ceremony, 4-hers receive recognition for membership pins received (see Membership pins article in this newsletter) and project pin winners are announced. This is based on the Project Report Forms that are submitted for judging by October 2nd. Key Awards and Leadership Scholarships are also awarded during the awards ceremony.

Don't miss a chance to celebrate all the accomplishments our Leavenworth County 4-Hers have made this year.

Upcoming News and Events

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum and Kansas Volunteer Forum

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KYLEF) and Kansas Volunteer Forum (KVF) will be held on November 21st - 22nd, 2026 at Rock Springs Ranch outside Junction City, Kansas. This event is for youth ages 14-18, and also Adult Volunteers. This event will include speakers, workshops, and the election of the 2027 Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council. This is a fantastic learning opportunity for building leadership skills, collaborating with fellow 4-H members from across the state of Kansas, making memories and maybe even some lifelong friendships! You must be registered by October 15th, 2026 to attend. Keep an eye on your email for more information. While the 4-H'ers are having a great time with their peers at their event, there is also an opportunity for 4-H Adult Volunteers to have some fun of their own with their other 4-H leaders and volunteers. The Kansas Volunteer Forum (KVF) is designed to provide volunteers with tools and ideas to take back to their respective 4-H programs. KVF attendees will get to hear the Keynote Speaker with the KYLEF attendees. They will also have their own set of workshops. To end the first day there will be a silent auction and other activities in Leadership Lodge. This is great time for visiting with other KVF attendees about the day, sharing ideas and networking together. There will be nominations for officers for the 2027 KVF Planning Board. If you have any questions about either event, please contact the Extension Office.

4-H Dog Conference

Kansas 4-H Dog project members, their dogs, and families will convene October 17-18, at Rock Springs Ranch for a weekend of learning, fellowship, and fun at the 4-H Dog Conference. This year's theme of "Trails and Tails" will be a great fall treat to kick off the new 4-H year in the dog project. Conference sessions will include topics on dog care, training, and showing. Contests will include photography, quiz bowl, and presentations. Don't miss this opportunity for fun and fellowship with your dog and 4-H'ers from across the state! Early bird registration is due September 18th. Final deadline to register is September 25th.



Congratulations State Fair Participants

I would like to take a moment to congratulate all the 4-Her's who will be exhibiting at the 2026 Kansas State Fair. No matter what ribbon you received, you should be proud!

When results are ready, they will be posted for all static exhibits (building exhibits). You can access all state fair results at the below link. <https://fairentry.com/Fair/Results/21918>

As a reminder we will pick up all State Fair items that we dropped off on Monday, September 21st. We will need to sort and put ribbons on so they will be available for pick-up starting Wednesday, September 23rd. Please do not forget to pickup your items.



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