

4-H Focus

NOVEMBER 2024



Welcome New 4-H Families

I would like to personally welcome each of our new 4-H families to Leavenworth County 4-H. We are excited that you have decided to join this wonderful program. 4-H was born in 1902 and ever since has strived to be the best youth development program possible. 4-H uses an experiential learning model to teach young people the life skills they need to be proactive forces within their communities.

I know joining a new organization can be overwhelming. I want you to know that you have a 4-H family that is here to help you. From your community leaders, parent volunteers, experienced 4-Hers to your Extension Staff, we are all here to assist you.

Please remember to check our website often and to read your newsletters for information on what is happening in Leavenworth County 4-H.

Welcome again! We are so happy you chose to join our 4-H family.

Warmly,
Sonya Murphy
4-H Youth Development Agent



If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Extension Office: (913)364-5700.

Leavenworth County
711 Marshall St.
Suite 101
Leavenworth, KS 66048

913-364-5700
leavenworth.ksu.edu

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Research and Extension

ksre.k-state.edu

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4-H Enrollment

Thank you to those 4-H families who have already enrolled for the 2024-25 4-H year. If you have not yet enrolled, please do so as soon as possible. 4-Hers should not be participating in 4-H events without being enrolled. **You will stop receiving 4-H emails after November 30th if you are not enrolled.**

* Please go to <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> to get started.

* If you are a returning family, use your log-in and password from last year. Do not create a new account.

* Remember to update family address, phone numbers and email addresses. The Extension Office uses this information on a regular basis to contact your family.

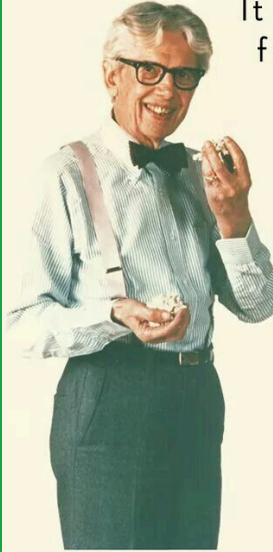
If the information is not correct, you may miss important information throughout the 4-H year.

* Reminder that 4-Hers will not be active until payment of the annual \$15 fee is received and processed by the State Office. We strongly encourage families to pay with a credit card instead of by check.

A check can significantly delay your enrollment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call at the office. We are here to help!!

"4-H is about building better citizens, teaching values and developing skills... It doesn't matter if you're from a farm environment or from a big city."



4-H worked for me and I've continued to work for it."

Orville Redenbacher
Indiana 4-H Alumnus
1983 Alumni Winner

4-H Volunteer Renewal

First, thank you to all those individuals who give their precious time to our 4-H program. Without you, this program would not be a success. I want to quickly remind you that each year volunteers need to renew their enrollment no different than 4-Hers. This starts with re-enrolling yourself in 4honline. If you are a new volunteer in our program we ask that you register just like you would for your 4-Her and choose the type of volunteer you intend to be. Choices include club volunteer, project volunteer, and program volunteer. Once you pick the type then you can specify more in detail how you will be volunteering. Please note that only if you will be working one-on-one with youth do you need to be a certified volunteer. Certified volunteers are required to not only fill out the volunteer enrollment on 4honline but also to complete a background check and volunteer training modules. Again this is only for those working one-on-one with youth. Most parent volunteers will only need to register and will not need to complete the certification steps.

Thank you for registering as a Leavenworth County 4-H Volunteer.

Calling all Leavenworth County 4-H Cloverbuds

Open to all 5 and 6 year olds enrolled in 4-H.

1st Meeting:
November 21, 2024
5:30 p.m.

**at the 4-H Building on the
Tonganoxie Fairgrounds.**
(This meeting is hosted by the
Reno Bobwhites 4-H Club)

At Countywide Cloverbud meetings,
you will....

- Meet other Cloverbuds
- Learn about 4-H
- Do an activity/craft
- Enjoy a snack
- Have FUN!!!



A parent or responsible party is requested to
attend the meeting with each Cloverbud.

**Contact the Extension Office at
(913) 364-5700 to register
or for more information**



Future Meetings(T):

January 2025
April 2025
June 2025

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 the extension office at, 913-364-5700 or sonyam@ksu.edu. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Calling all Cloverbuds

Kansas State Research and Extension and 4-H Youth Development offers an educational program specifically designed for youth ages 5 and 6 called Cloverbuds.

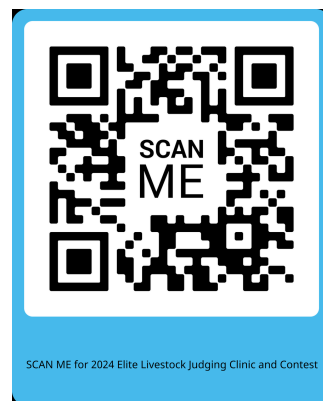
Children of this age have distinctive learning characteristics and developmental needs that are different from older youth who participate in 4-H. That is why the 4-H Cloverbuds program is designed with specific educational objectives and policies focused to benefit 5- and 6-year-old children.

4-H Cloverbuds may not participate in any competitive 4-H events, but they may showcase their exhibits at county fair and public events. 4-H Cloverbuds are allowed to showcase a pet from the approved list in accordance with 4-H Cloverbuds pet policies. 4-H Cloverbuds may not own and/or show *4-H* livestock.

Most of our community clubs in Leavenworth County have youth this age who are enrolled members of that club. Some clubs have separate activities for Cloverbud youth while others have them engage during their regular monthly meetings. Leavenworth County 4-H also offers a countywide Cloverbud meeting every quarter. If you are interested in learning more about the Cloverbud program to either enhance your club's program or start a program within your club, please reach out to the Leavenworth County Extension Office and we can connect you with many different resources including a guide specifically geared to Cloverbud volunteers.

The Elite Livestock Judging Clinic and Contest

The annual Livestock Judging Clinic and Contest sponsored by the Leavenworth County Livestock Committee is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th. Butler County Judging Team will once again join us for this event. New this year, K-State's Meat Science Department will be offering a meat identification training during the clinic and contest. This event is an all day event. It will start with a judging clinic and end with a livestock judging contest with awards. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks will be provided to all registered participants. Use the QR code to register.



CALLING ALL 4-H'ERS IN THE COUNTIES OF: ATCHISON, BROWN,
MEADOWLARK EXTENSION DISTRICT (JACKSON/JEFFERSON/NEMAHA),
DONIPHAN & LEAVENWORTH

JOIN THE 4-H JUDGING CONTEST

Regional 4-H Judging School/Contest

When: Saturday, December 14, 2024

Time: 9:00-Noon

Where: Blue Building

305 Main St., Effingham, KS

| (White) | |
|------------------|-----------|
| CONTESTANT | A 1-2-3-4 |
| Number 300 | B 1-2-4-3 |
| Chris Glover | C 1-3-2-4 |
| | D 1-3-4-2 |
| | E 1-4-2-3 |
| | F 1-4-3-2 |
| | G 2-1-3-4 |
| | H 2-1-4-3 |
| KANSAS | I 2-3-1-4 |
| 4-H JUDGING CARD | J 2-3-4-1 |
| | K 2-4-1-3 |
| | L 2-4-3-1 |
| | M 3-1-2-4 |
| Class No. | N 3-1-4-2 |
| | O 3-2-1-4 |
| Class Name | P 3-2-4-1 |
| | Q 3-4-1-2 |
| Steers | R 3-4-2-1 |
| | S 4-1-2-3 |
| | T 4-1-3-2 |
| | U 4-2-1-3 |
| | V 4-2-3-1 |
| | W 4-3-1-2 |
| | X 4-3-2-1 |
| SEASON SCORE | |

Open to all 4-H'ers in the above mentioned counties.

Come learn how the 4-H Judging Contest works!

- We will show you how to properly fill out the judging cards/papers, what to look for in a contest and go over the results right after.
- We will walk you through the following judging contest:
 - FCS (Family & Consumer Science)
 - Photography
 - Horticulture
- Register at https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d4NIRIHgSTMf50e or by using this QR code.



snacks
provided

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Prizes awarded to the top
contestants in each contest
and age division!

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact, Taylor Lee with Atchison Extension office two weeks prior to the start of the event (November 24) at 913-330-0050 or taylorlee@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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

Revisiting Becoming an Extension District with Wyandotte County

Back in 2009, Leavenworth and Wyandotte Counties started the process to become an Extension District. At that time, only the Wyandotte County Commissioners were willing to proceed with this model. So the idea was abandoned and both counties maintained their current structure.

Where are we now? Leavenworth County Extension has had a flat budget for the past four years, including fiscal year 2025. Without adequate funding to address increased costs, new programming is limited. County Commissioners have asked Extension staff to find solutions to solving their budget problems before the next budget cycle. In the summer of 2024, Wyandotte County Extension received a budget cut of \$59,500 (10%). Wyandotte County Extension has received questions from the Unified Government's Chief Financial Officer and some Executive Board members asking if forming a district would benefit our organization and help stabilize future funding. Both County Commissions chose to remain revenue-neutral for 2025. Extension staff have been encouraged to find suggestions for cost savings in the 2026 budget cycle. In an effort to explore budget solutions, the idea of forming an Extension District has been suggested. County extension councils receive funds from their respective counties based on their approved budget each year. Even though the actual amount each county receives is different in Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties, both are funded at a similar property tax or mill levy between .247 and .297 mills making the formation of a District much more appealing since no county would have to increase their tax rate.

Districting Facts: History: In 1991, the Kansas Extension District Law allowed local Extension Councils and county commissions to partner with one or more counties to form an Extension district. Once formed, the extension district becomes a taxing subdivision of the State of Kansas and has the power to contract, acquire, hold, and convey real and personal property. An extension district creates opportunities to structure an extension unit to serve the needs of the residents in those counties. This framework creates more efficient, relevant, effective, and sustainable programs. In the last 33 years, 59 Kansas counties have formed into 21 Extension Districts.

How does this affect 4-H in Leavenworth County: There will not be any changes to our 4-H program in Leavenworth County. In the future, there will be opportunity for collaboration with Wyandotte County on certain 4-H events. Leavenworth County Fair will remain the same. The Leavenworth County Fair Association is responsible for hosting our County Fair. There will not be any changes to our 4-H Fair Activities. The district will continue to provide staff to support the 4-H program.

Some observed differences that have been noted by many districts that have formed are as follows:

Effectiveness: District staff become more effective; Districting allows for agents to become specialized in program areas. Specializing, grant agents the ability to focus on specific program areas with additional resources and support from other staff members. It can also alleviate burnout and increase expertise on the subject matter. They experience less burnout and intentionally focus on expertise and subject matter.

Relevance: Districting helps Extension establish itself as a relevant resource for Kansas residents. We must ensure we are on the cutting edge in dealing with contemporary issues for the residents we serve. Residents expect more in-depth knowledge beyond the basics, and this framework allows for that specialty knowledge edge. Each County continues to have program development committees to help guide and shape programs to fit local community needs.

Efficiency: Merging operations can lead to financial efficiencies and free up more time for programming as both counties pool their resources.

Sustainability: Addressing the financial aspect of operations assures the sustainability of having K-State Research & Extension Programs in both counties. By establishing a taxing authority, the Extension District gains more flexibility to meet the needs of its personnel and operating needs and ensures continued programming.

Location: If a county becomes part of a district, the local office will not close. Decisions on locations or consolidation would have to come before the 8-member board and ultimately be approved by the voters. All districts (so far) have chosen to keep all their local county offices open.

Taxes: The eight members of the district governing body are representatives elected by county residents (four from each County). They, too, are taxpayers and good stewards of taxpayer money. K-State Extension Administration found that financial efficiencies allowed the mill levies to drop in several districts after the first couple of years of a district's existence.

Staffing: All staff will remain employed.

Residents can find these facts and more in-depth information on forming an Extension District at [ksre.ksu.edu/Extension Board Resources/Extension Districts](https://ksre.ksu.edu/Extension%20Board%20Resources/Extension%20Districts). As always, please feel free to contact the Extension Office or email me if you have concerns or questions. sonyam@ksu.edu

Record Books

Now is the time to start thinking about record books, pin applications and project report forms. The advantage to looking at these items now is so you can plan and tailor your experiences to help you when it is time to fill out these forms. You can choose topics for club talks and demonstrations that relate to the project(s) you plan to use for your report forms in 2025. You can also plan 4-H Club Day presentations around those projects. By looking at your pin application, you will know what events you should plan to attend or activities you should plan to do during the 4-H year. Planning now makes filling out these forms in September much easier. If you have questions about record books and project report forms, please contact the Extension Office.



Looking ahead to Leavenworth County Fair 2025

Important Dates to get on your calendar now:

2025 Leavenworth County Fair - July 29, 2025 - August 2, 2025

Market Beef Tagging and Weigh-in: Saturday, March 1, 2025 (Worksheets due at this time)

Small Animal Tagging: Sunday, May 4, 2025

Livestock Worksheet Deadline: Sunday, May 4, 2025

FairEntry Opens June 1, 2025 and Closes June 30, 2025

2026 CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS



Informational Meeting Expectations

- Overview of CWF
- Learn about fundraising goals
- Learn about 2 year commitment

CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS (CWF) IS A CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL (COUNCIL) FOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH. FOR FIVE WEEKS DURING THE SUMMER, DELEGATIONS OF 14-18 YEAR-OLDS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY ATTEND THIS WEEK LONG PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THIS PROGRAM GIVES PARTICIPANTS HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND PRACTICE SKILLS THAT PROMOTE “BETTER CITIZENS TODAY, BETTER LEADERS TOMORROW”. PARTICIPANTS LEARN BY ATTENDING WORKSHOPS, COMMITTEES, FIELD TRIPS, AND SOCIAL EVENTS.

Please attend the information meeting on Monday, November 18th at 7pm to learn more.

Meeting Location: Leavenworth Co Extension Office

SAVE THE DATE!



**Leavenworth County
4-H Council Presents**

**BREAKFAST WITH
THE GRINCH**

**December 15, 2024
9am - 12pm**



**Leavenworth County
Fairgrounds Administration
Building**



**\$7 ages 6+
\$3 ages 5 and under**

Upcoming News and Events

Shooting Sports Kick Off Meeting

Our kickoff meeting will be held Tuesday, November 12th at 6pm. This is not mandatory but we are going to try to get all of the admin stuff done. During this meeting we are going to go over the changes coming to the program, introduce the coaches, do the safety training and test, and time permitting get some shooting in. The safety training and test are required before any practicing.

I know 4H online has all of the disciplines listed but currently we are only able to offer BB, Air Rifle, and Air Pistol. We have set age minimums that are as followed BB - age 8 (max age of 15), Air Rifle – age 12, and Air Pistol – age 12. We generally like to have the youth do one season of BB before moving on to another discipline but every case is different and we can talk about those on a case-by-case basis. Per Kansas shooting sports committee all shooters must be 4h age 8 as of January 1 of the current year to participate in shooting sports.

Hope to see you on Tuesday, November 12th!

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.

- Bank Statements
- Budget (page 9)
- Yearly Summary of Club Finances (page 24)
- 4-H Club/Extension Affiliated Group Annual Financial Report (page 29)
- 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.

Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Attention Leaders

Organizational Report Forms are due to the Extension Office by November 15th. You can find this form on our website under 4-H Youth Development/Form and Resources/Organizational Report Form.

Leavenworth County
711 Marshall St.
Suite 101
Leavenworth, KS 66048



Kansas 4-H T-Shirts

There are 2 designs available this year and they can be ordered online through **December 1, 2024** and will be shipped before December 25, 2024.

<https://bit.ly/4HGROWN2024>

The link to the online order form is up on the Kansas 4-H Website under **News and Updates**. You can order either design on any color listed.

Group or club orders will help you minimize shipping fees.

Thanks for supporting this 4-H Youth Leadership Council Fundraiser and showing Kansas 4-H Pride!