



# Geary County

## 4-H NEWS



*A Newsletter for 4-H Families and Volunteers*

*January 2024*

### **Geary County 4-H Club Day**

4-H Club Day will be held **February 17** at the First Presbyterian Church in Junction City. Pre-entry forms and event descriptions were included with the December newsletter and are also available online at <http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/>. Entry forms are due to the Extension Office or online at <http://tinyurl.com/4HDay2024> by **January 29** at 5:00pm. Kansas 4-H Communication Fact Sheets and event score sheets are available at <http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/resources.html> and may be helpful to you as you prepare for 4-H Day.

### **4-H Day Room Monitors Needed**

Room monitors are needed for Geary County 4-H Day on February 17. Please call the Extension Office at 785-238-4161, email Ginger at [gkopfer@ksu.edu](mailto:gkopfer@ksu.edu), or mark the appropriate box on your entry form to volunteer.

### **Post-Secondary Education Scholarships**

Applications for county 4-H scholarships are due by March 1 and will be submitted online. The link for the county scholarship application and information can be found online at <http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/forms.html>. The County scholarships that are available this year will be the Paul and Clara Gwin Scholarship, the Ralph Dietrich Scholarship, two Ray and Nellie Smith 4-H Scholarships, the Flint Hills Preservation Coalition Scholarship, and three Geary County 4-H Foundation Scholarships (new this year). Applications for state 4-H scholarships are due by March 1 and will be submitted online. The state 4-H website (<https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html>) has a link to the online application and more information.

### **4-H Citizenship in Action Conference**

Would you like to have more influence in laws and rules that affect your life? Then you'll want to attend Kansas 4-H Citizenship in Action! This two-day event will be held Sunday, February 18 through Monday, February 19 in Topeka. All youth who are at least 13 years old are eligible to attend. The purpose of this event is for Kansas 4-H members to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in their communities. Registration and further information is available at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/citizenship-in-action/index.html>. Registration deadline is January 26, but registration will be limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis, so get registered TODAY!

## **4-H Camp Deadline for Financial Support**

The deadline to sign up for 4-H camp at Rock Springs and receive financial support in the amount of \$225 from the Geary County 4-H Foundation is May 1. Use the discount code GECOCAMP24 when you register to have these funds applied to your account. The code will need to be added for each camper's registration. In order to be eligible for this financial support, 4-H members must have been enrolled in 4HOnline by January 1, 2024. For more information about camp and to register, visit <https://www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org/>.

## **4-H Judging Contest Guide**

A guide to 4-H judging contests can be found online at [http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/judging\\_contest\\_guide.html](http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/judging_contest_guide.html). The guide includes information about what to expect during judging contests. The guide and the website include links to resources to help 4-H members prepare for the contests. Now would be a great time to check out this website since judging contests are held during 4-H Day each year.

## **Geary County Extension Website**

Check out the Geary County Extension website at <http://www.geary.ksu.edu>. Pay special attention to the 4-H section which includes newsletters, a calendar of events, a forms section, and a resources page that should be especially helpful.

## **Rural Address Signs**

Reflective rural address signs are still available at the Extension Office. Proceeds benefit the 4-H program. Contact us to get your sign today!

## **Judging Contests and Spring Shows**

Information about upcoming judging contests and spring shows can be found online at [http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/shows\\_judging%20contests.html](http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/shows_judging%20contests.html).

## **Beef Weigh-in**

Weigh-in is scheduled for Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 3:00pm. We will be weighing and tagging beef cattle. More information will be shared with project members as the date gets closer.

## **Qualifying for the State Fair 4-H Horse Show**

The procedure to qualify to participate in the State Fair 4-H Horse Show will continue for 2024. If you are interested in participating, please visit <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animal-science/horse/HorseChangesPublic9.8.pdf> to read all of the details. Check this out now so you can start planning how you will qualify for the show in September.

## **Upcoming Youth Livestock Events at K-State**

The K-State Youth Livestock Program has some exciting events planned for the upcoming months. Mark them on your calendar now and plan to attend!

Junior Beef Producer Day – March 2 (register by February 12)

Junior Sheep Producer Day – March 16 (register by February 26)

More information on these events is available online at <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/ks-jr-producer/index.html> or at the Extension Office. The K-State Youth Livestock Program has Twitter and Facebook accounts to keep everyone updated on information and deadlines. Go to the webpage listed above to find links to these accounts.

**Sign Up to Receive 4-H Reminders**

The Extension Office is using the Remind program to send 4-H-related reminders to 4-H families. To sign up to receive reminders, go to <https://www.remind.com/join/geco4h>.

**Volunteer Screening**

Any Club Leaders, Project Leaders, and other adult volunteers in direct contact with youth will need to fill out a profile in 4HOnline and complete training if they haven't done so. Information about creating or updating a profile in 4HOnline and the required training offered through 4HOnline is available at <http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/forms.html>. Thank you for helping to make sure Geary County 4-H members have a safe 4-H experience.

**4-H Project Meeting Evening Presenters Needed**

Would you like to share your knowledge with 4-H members in Geary County? We are seeking teens and adults who would like to present one of the remaining 4-H Project Meeting Evenings this year. Available dates are March 4<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, and May 6<sup>th</sup>. Meetings usually start at 6:30pm, last about an hour, and include sharing of information and hands-on activities. Contact Ginger at 785-238-4161 or [gkopfer@ksu.edu](mailto:gkopfer@ksu.edu) if you are interested.

**Sale Committee Volunteers Needed**

Club leaders are, or will soon be, searching for adult and youth volunteers to serve on the fair sale committee. Sale committee members represent their club to help make sale-related recommendations to the Fair Board. Contact your club leader to volunteer.

**Updated Fair Auction Participation Requirement for 2024**

4-H members will be required to attend in-person at least 4 regular monthly meetings of the 4-H club in which they are enrolled between October 1 and June 30 to participate in the project/livestock auction held at the end of the fair in 2024. Official record of meetings attended will be the club secretary's book. This requirement does not limit fair participation, only participation in the auction. Plan ahead now to make sure youth meet the requirement if they want to participate in the auction

**Invitation to Participate in Chisholm Trail District - Dickinson County 4-H Basketball Tournament**

This event will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the District Gymnasium in Chapman. Entry fee is \$10 per team. The tournament is an annual tradition in Dickinson County. Geary County 4-H clubs are invited to participate. Registration is due online at <https://tinyurl.com/BBallRosters> by February 15. More information has been given to each club in club boxes and is also available at the Extension Office. Questions can be addressed to the Chisholm Trail District – Dickinson County Office at 785-263-2001.

**Applications Being Accepted for 2024-25 Academic Year Exchange Hosts**

Applications from teens for 2024-2025 Academic Year Exchanges with Japan and South Korea should be arriving this month. Kansas families who would like to host should contact Jennifer Pfortmiller at [jdunn@ksu.edu](mailto:jdunn@ksu.edu) for an application and information about the programs. Students arrive in August and are placed with one family for the school year, while attending a public high school. Families are expected to provide three meals a day, lodging with their own bed, and transportation.

## Apply Now for Hosting Exchange Participants this Summer

If your family is interested in hosting an exchange participant this summer, visit <http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/global-citizenship/index.html>. Exchange participants are expected from multiple countries. Interested families should apply now for the full array of options. The exchanges have summer hosting periods of 3 to 4 weeks between June and September.

### January

- 13 4-H Day with Wildcat Women's Basketball
- 15 Holiday, Extension Office closed
- 26 Citizenship in Action registration deadline
- 26-28 Dog Judge's Training & Re-Certification, Tonganoxie
- 27 Kansas 4-H Horse Panorama
- 29 4-H Day entries due to Extension Office or online by 5pm
- 31 4-H Horse Show date survey due (sent via email to 4-H families with youth enrolled in the horse project)

### February

- 5 4-H Council Meeting @ 4-H Building – 7pm
- 12 Junior Beef Producer Day registration deadline
- 17 4-H Day @ JC 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church
- 18-19 Citizenship in Action Conference, Topeka
- 19 Holiday, Extension Office closed
- 26 Junior Sheep Producer Day registration deadline

### March

- 1 Geary County and Kansas 4-H Scholarship Applications due
- 2 Junior Beef Producer Day @ K-State
- 4 4-H Project Meeting Evening
- 16 Junior Sheep Producer Day @ K-State
- 17 Beef Weigh-in, 2 to 3pm
- 23 Regional 4-H Day, Clay Center High School

### April

- 1 4-H Project Meeting Evening
- 21-27 National Volunteer Week

### May

- 1 Project Drop/Add Deadline
- 1 Camp registration deadline to receive 4-H Foundation financial support
- 6 4-H Project Meeting Evening
- 10 Ag Day
- 20 Bucket Calf ID's Due to Extension Office by 5pm
- 27 Holiday, Extension Office closed

### Important Future Dates

- June 3 Horse ID deadline
- June 3 4-H Council Meeting, 7pm @ 4-H/Senior Citizens Center
- June 5-7 4-H Discovery Days
- June 28 Fair pre-entries due
- July 21-25 Geary County Free Fair

## Calendar of Events

**I love 4<sup>♣</sup>H**

## 4-H Day Presentation Hints

### Tips on Appearance and Talking

- Dress appropriately and comfortably. Be well groomed.
- Stand on both feet instead of rocking back and forth or leaning on the table.
- Be friendly – SMILE!
- Show interest and enthusiasm in what you are doing.
- Look at the audience. This is a “must” in keeping attention.
- Talk loud enough to be easily heard.
- Don’t talk too fast.

### Tips to Combat Nervousness

- Be well prepared – making a list of needed items will help you not to forget anything
- Arrive early
- Yawn to relax your throat
- Breathe deeply, evenly, and slowly for several minutes
- Be yourself
- Remember that the audience wants you to succeed

### Visual Aid Tips

- *Size*

Make letters big enough to be read. Consider letter width as well as height. Here are some suggested letter sizes in relation to distance.

| <u>Distance from viewer</u> | <u>Minimum size</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 3 feet                      | ¼”                  |
| 8 feet                      | ½”                  |
| 15 feet                     | 1”                  |

If you make posters, be sure the poster is able to stand by itself on the easel. Many times the poster board is hard to view when it is bent.

- *Color*

Color makes a difference, both in attractiveness and readability. Visuals in two colors are easier to read than multi-colored ones. Avoid multi-colored letters and words. Here are some suggestions for colors.

| <u>Use:</u>     | <u>Don’t Use:</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| black on yellow | white on red      |
| green on white  | white on orange   |
| blue on white   | white on black    |
| black on white  | red on yellow     |
| yellow on black | green on red      |
| white on blue   | red on green      |

- *Subject*

Don’t attempt to say too much with visuals. State the main idea and support it with a limited number of points. An outline form works well.

- *Lettering*

Use upper case and lower case letters. Avoid using all capitals because they make the visuals harder to read. Avoid script and other fancy letters. Instead, use neat, well-spaced block letters. If making a poster, use a pencil to design your poster then fill in with magic markers, crayons, etc. Try using a straight edge to lightly rule the poster board before making letters to keep them straight.

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension



Geary  
County

**K-State Research and Extension**

**Geary County**

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January 12, 2024

Welcome to 2024! The start of a new year is a great time to make goals, including general goals for 4-H and goals for your 4-H projects. It is a proven fact that if you write down your goals, you are more likely to achieve them, so get out those project report forms and complete Section 1 right away.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ginger D. Kopfer".

Ginger D. Kopfer  
County Extension Agent



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 Ginger Kopfer two weeks prior to the start of the event at [gtkopfer@ksu.edu](mailto:gtkopfer@ksu.edu) or 785-238-4161. 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**

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