



Geary County

4-H NEWS



A Newsletter for 4-H Families and Volunteers

April 2026

Project Drop/Add Deadline

May 1 will be the last day you can drop or add projects for county fair. This means that if you do not add the project by that date, you will not be eligible to exhibit in that area at the fair. Sign in to your 4-HOnline account to see what projects you are enrolled in and to drop or add projects. As a reminder, the 4-HOnline website address is <https://v2.4honline.com>. A step-by-step guide to editing projects in 4HOnline is available at <https://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/index.html>. Contact the Extension Office if you have problems logging in or editing projects.

Fair Books

Fair books should be distributed at May 4-H club meetings. If you do not attend your club meeting, please call the Extension Office to arrange to pick up your book as soon as possible following your meeting. The book is also available on the web located at <http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/fair.html>. Pre-entries will be filled out through FairEntry again this year. This is an online fair management program that we will be using. Instructions on submitting pre-entries will be provided after May 1. Please read over the fair book carefully for complete rules and exhibit options. **Fair pre-entries are due through FairEntry by 11:59pm on June 26th.**

Fair Changes

In addition to the rule changes for fair listed in the March Newsletter, a few more are included below. These changes were either made at the February 4-H Council meeting or to stay in line with state fair rules.

- **Livestock** judges will rank 1-5 in overall market for each species
- AI modified images are not allowed in the **Photography** division
- Diorama class added to **Veterinary Science** division

4-H Overnight 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 GECOCAMP26 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, 2026. For more information about camp and to register, visit <https://www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org/>.

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is April 19-25, 2026. The purpose of this week is to recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers on all levels. Thank you to the many volunteers who make 4-H "work" for Geary County by sharing their time, effort, expertise, and more. Every 4-H member is challenged to call and/or write a volunteer and thank them for all they do for the 4-H program.

Thank You Christina & Traci!

Wednesday, April 22 (office professional's day) is the date designated this year to let Christina and Traci know how much we appreciate the work they do in the Extension Office. They work hard to keep the Geary County 4-H programming running smoothly and we are very appreciative!

Regional 4-H Club Day Results

Congratulations to the Geary County 4-H members who participated in Regional 4-H Club Day this year! Results can be found online at <https://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/index.html>.

4-H Discovery Days

Kansas 4-H Discovery Days will be held June 3-5 at Kansas State University. This event is open to all youth 13 to 18 years old by January 1, 2026. The Discovery Days fee is \$245 plus class fees, but Geary County 4-H members who were enrolled by January 1 and complete a scholarship request form that is available at the Extension Office or at <http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/forms.html> will only pay half of the fee. The Geary County 4-H Foundation will pay the other half. Delegates will have the opportunity to attend classes of their choosing and will participate in evening activities. Register online and get more information at <http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/discovery-days/index.html> before the classes that you want to take fill up! Registration deadline is May 8.

K-State Open House

K-State Open House will be held April 18 with family-friendly free entertainment, career exploration activities, and student research exhibits serving as highlights for the day. Find more information at <http://www.k-state.edu/openhouse>.

Insect Art Contest Opportunity

The K-State Extension Pesticide Safety and IPM Program is hosting its annual insect-themed art contest, open to all ages and skill levels. 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 through 3rd place in 5 different age categories. Full contest rules and details are available at <https://bit.ly/3NHuLEU>. Entries must be received or postmarked before April 15th.

Rock Springs Ranch Camp Beautification Day

You are invited to Camp Beautification Day at Rock Springs Ranch on Saturday, April 11th from 9:00am to 12:30pm. A variety of volunteer projects will be offered including indoor and outdoor from low-intensity to high-intensity. Find more information and sign up online at <https://rockspringsranch.org/>.

Rock Springs Ranch Open House

Rock Springs Ranch will host an open house on April 12 from 1:00-4:00pm. Families can visit Rock Springs to meet staff, tour camp, and get answers to questions. Tours will include the dining hall, cabins, activity center, pool, ropes course, horse barn, and more. Check out Rock Springs website (<https://www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org/upcoming-events/>) or Facebook page for more information.

Goat/Sheep/Swine Weigh-in	Weigh-in and tagging for goats, sheep, and swine will be held on May 19 from 5:30 to 7:00pm and May 21 from 6:30 to 8:00pm at the Fairgrounds. If you do not plan to attend weigh-in, ear tags can be picked up at the Extension Office. Goats, sheep, and swine must be tagged by May 22 and tag forms are due to the Extension Office by 5:00pm on May 22. Ear tags will cost \$3.00 each. If you plan to nominate livestock for state shows, you must attend weigh-in or make alternate arrangements for an extension agent to see the tag in the animal's ear in-person to meet state nomination requirements.
Bucket Calf ID Forms Due	Bucket Calf ID forms are due May 20 by 5:00pm in the Extension Office. Bucket Calf ID's are required in order to show your calf at the County Fair. Forms can be found online at https://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/forms.html. Forms are also available at the Extension Office and can be mailed on request.
Judging Contests and Spring Shows	Information about upcoming judging contests and spring shows can be found online at https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/spring-shows/springshows.html.
Identification of Horses for 4-H Shows	Kansas 4-H Horse ID papers are due June 1 by 5:00pm in the Extension Office. This is required in order to show your horse at the County Fair and State Fair. They may also be required for other 4-H horse shows. Forms can be found online at https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/item/horse-identification-certificate_P1039. Contact the Extension Office for more information.
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 2026. If you are interested in participating, please visit https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animal-science/horse/ and check out Horse Project FAQ's and other relevant information under the Helpful Links and Resources heading. Check this out now so you can start planning how you will qualify for the show in September.
Kansas State Fair & Kansas Junior Livestock Show Nomination Deadlines	The state livestock nomination process will be done online again this year. It is <u>IMPERATIVE</u> for those nominating livestock to plan ahead. You will not be able to wait until the last minute and successfully complete the process. Market Beef nominations will be due on May 1. All other species, which includes commercial heifers, market swine, commercial gilts, market lambs, commercial ewes, and ALL meat goats, will be due June 15. You will need to order nomination DNA envelopes at least 10 days ahead of these deadlines. You can find full details for the nomination process at https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/nominated-livestock/. Details on YQCA requirements are included on this site as well.
Fair Auction Participation Requirement for 2026	4-H members will be required to <u>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</u> to participate in the project/livestock auction held at the end of the fair in 2026. 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.

Livestock Judging Camp

Champions Livestock Judging Camp is an intense camp designed for 4-H and FFA members (ages 14-18) who are seriously interested in enhancing their livestock judging and oral communication skills. Prior livestock judging experience is necessary for this camp. Payton Dahmer, KSU Livestock Judging Coach, will conduct the training to be held at Kansas State University. Two sessions are available during June with each session limited in number of participants. More information is available at <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/judging-camps.html>.

Kansas State University Animal Sciences Leadership Academy (KASLA)

Applications are due by April 30 for KASLA. Hosted by the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and sponsored by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council Inc., the academy is an intensive four-day educational experience designed to enhance the leadership skills and animal science knowledge of students in grades 9-12. The program's itinerary will feature interactive workshops, tours, and mentor time with department faculty. KASLA will be held June 10-13, 2026. More details are available at <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/k-state-animal-science-leadership-academy/>.

City Clean-up

Celebrate Earth Day by volunteering for the annual city clean-up "Operation Clean Sweep" on Saturday, April 18 from 8:00am to noon. Volunteers should report to Spin City at 915 South Washington. RSVP to Cindy Sinklier at JCPD (785) 762-5912 ext. 3603 or cindy.sinklier@junctioncity-ks.gov.

Calendar of Events

April

- 4 Ag Tech Day @ Flickner Innovation Farm in Moundridge
- 11 Shutterbug Photography Event, Manhattan
- 11 Rock Springs Ranch Camp Beautification Day
- 12 Rock Springs Ranch Open House, 1-4pm
- 14 RSVP due for April 4-H Project Afternoon
- 14 Fair Judge's Training, Concordia
- 15 Insect Art Contest entry postmark deadline
- 18 K-State Open House, Manhattan and Salina
- 18 Junction City Clean-up
- 19-25 National Volunteer Week (thank a 4-H volunteer!)
- 26 4-H Project Afternoon (note date change & see flyer for details)
- 30 Animal Science Leadership Academy applications due

May

- 1 Ag Day
- 1 Project Drop/Add deadline
- 1 Deadline to register for overnight camp at Rock Springs to receive financial support from Geary County 4-H Foundation
- 1 Market Steers & Market Heifers KSF/KJLS nomination deadline
- 4 Fair Royalty applications due to Extension Office by 5pm
- 8 Discovery Days registration due
- 19 Market Goat/Sheep/Swine Weigh-in @ fairgrounds – 5:30-7pm
- 20 Bucket Calf ID forms due to Extension Office by 5pm
- 21 Market Goat/Sheep/Swine Weigh-in @ fairgrounds – 6:30-8pm
- 22 Market Goats/Sheep/Swine must be tagged/tag forms due to Extension Office



K-State Extension

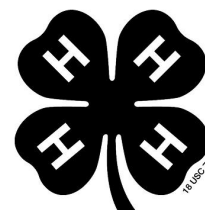
Geary County

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April 1, 2026

Check out this newsletter for lots of upcoming 4-H events, activities, and deadlines. Happy Spring!

Ginger D. Kopfer
County Extension Agent



This institution is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact Ginger Kopfer four weeks prior to the start of the event at gkopfer@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 is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

4-H PROJECT AFTERNOON

APR. 26
2:00PM -
4:15PM

4-H/SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

SESSION 1

CHOOSE BETWEEN:

Shopping in Style/Fashion Revue (led by
Chris Heldstab)
Robotics (led by Ginger)

SNACK BREAK

SESSION 2

CHOOSE BETWEEN:

Floriculture (led by Chuck & Jaye Otte)
Leadership (led by Ginger)

JOIN US FOR HANDS-ON PROJECT LEARNING, FELLOWSHIP,
AND FUN!

RSVP online at <https://tinyurl.com/ProjectAfternoonApril> (including which sessions you will attend) by Tuesday, April 14 at 5:00pm so that presenters can prepare.