



Geary County

4-H NEWS



A Newsletter for 4-H Families and Volunteers

August 2026

Fair Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the 2026 Geary County Free Fair. The fair would not be possible without 4-Hers, parents, and volunteers to help out. Extra thanks to all of the hard-working superintendents and assistants!

If you are sending exhibits to state fair, you need to have the exhibit to the Extension Office by **Wednesday, September 9th at 5:00pm**. If it is a food or produce item, you can deliver it from 7:00am to 7:30am on Thursday, September 10th. The entry cards will be in the office and already filled out for you. The following projects have special requirements or forms that the 4-H member will need to fill out and/or sign at the Extension Office.

Dog: 4-H Dog Show Immunization Record must be completed and presented to veterinarian at health check on the day of show; Show will be September 5 at the Expo Center on the Kansas State Fairgrounds

Entomology: Photo release form

Fiber Arts: Clothing label on each item; Should include an index card no larger than 4" x 6" to give the judge any information on what parts of the exhibit they made, processes used, fiber content, and whether it is from a kit or original design; For quilted items, indicate who did the quilting and binding

Foods/Food Preservation: Recipe (preservation recipes must include exhibitor name, recipe source, date of publication and altitude where processed, if using Mrs. Wage's or Ball mixes indicate the date the mix was purchased); Food or Food Preservation Label; Can include a 3" x 5" index card to give the judge any information which the exhibitor thinks would be helpful; Gift Baskets – answer these questions on a piece of paper: What is the intended use?, What food safety precautions were taken during and after preparation?

Photography: Exhibit Form; Project Release Form; No writing on back of photo mount

Sewing: Sewing label on each item; Can include an index card or photo, no larger than 4" x 6" to give the judge any information which the exhibitor thinks would be helpful (recycled sewing entries must have a card describing the recycled materials and how they were used in the item); To be considered for the wool award, attach a statement with the percentage of wool and to be considered for the wool award

Shooting Sports: Name, county, age and year in project should be on the front of the exhibit

Visual Arts: Exhibit Release Form; Questions answered on judging score sheet

Woodworking: Plans

Exhibits can be picked up at the Extension Office any time after 8:00am on Tuesday, September 22nd. We appreciate having exhibits picked up soon after the end of the fair.

State Fair Exhibits

Kansas State Fair Information	Visit the Kansas State Fair website at http://www.kansasstatefair.com to check out the schedule of events, get maps, and see 4-H livestock results. You can find the fair book and link for non-livestock results at http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/fairs/kansas-state-fair/index.html . You are responsible for knowing the rules and requirements for your exhibit area which can be found in the fair book on the Kansas 4-H website. You can also get pages of the book at the Extension Office.
Yard Signs for National 4-H Week	Yard signs for National 4-H Week will be made available at September 4-H Club meetings. Signs will also be available to be picked up at the Extension Office. Size of signs is 24 inches by 18 inches and they will come with a metal holder to stake the sign into the ground. Plan to get one at your club meeting or the Extension Office and promote 4-H during this special week! We ask that signs are returned to October club meetings or to the Extension Office so we can use them in future years.
4-H Council	Each club needs to select 2 youth and 2 adults as 4-H Council Representatives. The youth and adults that you select will be able to help make decisions about the county 4-H program. The next council meeting will be October 5 th at 7:00pm at the 4-H/Senior Citizens Center. We will be reviewing the fair, electing officers, and assigning committees for the coming year. The other meetings for the 2026-2027 year are scheduled for February 1 st and June 7 th .
National 4-H Week	Don't forget National 4-H Week, October 4 th through 10 th . Now is the time to start thinking about how you and your club would like to celebrate.
Achievement Celebration	The Achievement Celebration has been set for the evening of Saturday, October 24 th . Please put this date on your calendar and look for further details in upcoming newsletters.
Club Summary Due Date	Club summaries are due by 5:00pm on October 1 st to the Extension Office. No late summaries will be accepted.
Record Books & Award Applications due	Record Books, Key Award Applications, I Dare You Award Applications, and Achievement Pin Applications are due to club leaders in September. Check with your club to find out the deadline. The county deadline will be communicated to club leaders so they can turn in items by that time.
Record Book Incentive	Four \$25 gift cards sponsored by the Geary County 4-H Foundation will be drawn at 4-H Achievement Celebration on October 24 th from all youth who turn in a completed record book (personal page, permanent record, and Project Report Forms for all projects). You must be present at Achievement Celebration to win.

Record Book Forms

Don't forget that we are using 4-H Project Report Forms again this year. Age divisions for these records are 7 to 9, 10 to 13, and 14 and older. There is a different Project Report Form for each age division for animal projects and for general (non-animal) projects. For the Dog project and the Pet project (including Cat), use the general project report form. For all other animal projects, use the animal report form.

Options for completing your record book:

1 - Form-fillable versions are available on the Kansas 4-H website at

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/LocalRecordKeeping.html>.

2 - Online ZBooks software

The Permanent Record is included in ZBooks. If you choose to keep records with ZBooks for the first time this year, you will start the permanent record with the current year and simply attach it to your previous document after printing. Visit <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/ZBooks.html> for access to ZBooks and helpful tutorials. This software works on all platforms. In ZBooks, pictures can be entered in landscape or portrait format. At the end of the year, you will print your Project Report Forms and Permanent Record and submit them just like you would in previous years. If you want to try ZBooks, click on the link above and create a family account and then profiles for each of your 4-H members. If you have questions or problems while using the program, they have a wonderful live chat feature that you can use.

3 - Hard copies of record forms and award applications are available at the Extension Office. Award forms can also be found online at <http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/forms.html>.

4-H Pictures Needed

Pictures are needed for a slide show showcasing the 4-H year at the Achievement Celebration. Pictures can be sent to, or dropped off at, the Extension Office or sent via email to gkopfer@ksu.edu before October 1st. We would like all 4-H clubs to be represented in the pictures. So, look through your 4-H photos and pick some out right away!

County-wide Project Leaders Needed

Do you have an interest or talent that you would like to share with 4-H members across the county during the next 4-H year? If so, please volunteer your time as a county-wide project leader by calling the Extension Office on or before October 1st. Let's all work together to make finding leaders easier for each club!

Fair Judging Contest Results

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Horticulture, Livestock, and Photography Judging Contests at the fair. Contest results can be found online at <https://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/fair.html>.



Beyond Ready



4-H Ambassadors Wanted

Ambassador applications are available at the Extension Office or online at <http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/forms.html> and are due by 5:00pm on September 25th. Interviews will be held the evening of October 13th. This is a wonderful opportunity for older 4-H members to take a great leadership role. Duties include:

- Promote the Geary County 4-H program
- Organize and facilitate promotional events
- Plan and sponsor events and activities

Requirements:

- 12-13 years old by January 1, 2027 for Junior Ambassadors
- 14 years old or older by January 1, 2027 for Senior Ambassadors
- 4-H member for at least 2 years
- Complete an application and interview process
- Letter of recommendation from a 4-H Club Leader
- Commit to at least a two-year term
- Completed Record Book
- Enrolled in Leadership Project
- Willingness to meet new people and promote new ideas
- Good human relation and communication skills
- Enthusiasm for 4-H!

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum

The Kansas Youth Leadership Forum is an exciting event for youth 14-18 years old as of January 1, 2027. This event will be held at Rock Springs, November 21-22. Highlights of the forum will be inspirational speakers, workshops, and meeting new people. Contact the Extension Office or visit <http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/kansas-youth-leadership-forum/index.html> for more information and to register online. Registration will be open in August and is due October 15th.

Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council

Applications are available for the Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council and are due October 1st. Council members plan and conduct the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, Citizenship in Action, and other events along with other duties. 4-H members 14 to 18 years old as of January 1, 2027 are eligible to apply. Contact the Extension Office for further information.

National 4-H Conference

Applications are available for the 2027 National 4-H Conference to be held in the spring. Delegates must be 15 to 18 years old as of January 1, 2027. The National 4-H Conference is a working conference in which youth and adults assist in the development of recommendations to help guide 4-H Youth Development Programs nationally and in their communities. Up to six Kansas youth may be selected as delegates via an application and interview. Applications are due online by October 1st. Contact the Extension Office for further information.

Calendar of Events

August

- 4 Kansas State Wheat Expo, El Dorado
- 15 State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest, Manhattan
- 22 State 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes Contest, Manhattan

September

Record Books & Award Applications due – check with your 4-H Club for exact date

- 9 State Fair exhibits due to Extension Office by 5pm
- 10 State Fair food and produce exhibits may be brought to Extension Office from 7-7:30am
- 10-11 Judging of 4-H State Fair Indoor Exhibits
- 11-20 Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson
- 13 State 4-H Photography Judging Contest at State Fair
- 22 State Fair Exhibits can be picked up at Extension Office after 8am
- 25 Ambassador Applications due by 5pm
- 29 Record Book Judging @ Extension Office, 8:30am-7:00pm
- 30 Record Book Judging @ Extension Office, 8:00am-5:00pm

October

- 1 Club Summaries due by 5pm
- 1 Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Applications due
- 1 National 4-H Conference Applications due
- 2-4 Kansas Junior Livestock Show, Hutchinson
- 4-10 National 4-H Week
- 5 4-H Council Meeting @ 4-H/Senior Citizens Center – 7pm
- 10-11 48 Hours of 4-H Service Weekend
- 13 Ambassador Interviews, evening
- 15 KYLF Registration deadline
- 24 Achievement Celebration

November

- 8 4-H Foundation Bingo/Soup Supper
- 21-22 Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, Rock Springs



Fair Lost & Found

The following items were found at the fair and are available to be claimed at the Extension Office until the end of September when they will be disposed of:

- Dr. Brown's glass baby bottle
- AgriGold black and white ball cap
- Back Roads Apparel brown and black jacket, size M

**Achievement
Celebration Special
Awards**

Following is some information related to 4-H awards that are given at Achievement Celebration. Hopefully this will answer some questions and encourage 4-H members to apply or nominate someone for these awards.

Outstanding Record Book Awards – Awards are given for the top two record books in each age category (7 to 9, 10 to 13, 14 and older). Record books are nominated by club leaders and are judged by volunteers.

Rob Smith Citizenship Award – This award was created in honor of Geary County 4-H member Rob Smith. Anyone 12 and under can apply by marking the box on your award summary form and turning in all of your 4-H records from the current year and past years. The record books are judged by chosen representatives of Jerry & Marlene Smith.

Outstanding 4-H Member – Club leaders can nominate 4-H members who are 14 and older for this recognition. Record books from these members are judged by volunteers and 4-H club leaders are also given the chance to rank the candidates.

Outstanding 4-H Project Leader – 4-H Council votes on a 4-H project leader to win this award each year. If you have someone you would like to see recognized, tell your 4-H Council representatives.

4-H Family of the Year – 4-H Council votes on a 4-H family to win this award each year. If you have someone you would like to see recognized, tell your 4-H Council representatives.

4-H Appreciation Award – 4-H Council votes on an individual, couple, or business to win this award each year. If you have someone you would like to see recognized, tell your 4-H Council representatives.

I Dare You Award – The award is sponsored by the American Youth Foundation and can be given to two 4-H members each year. Applicants must have completed their sophomore year of high school. To apply, fill out the application and mark the appropriate box on your award summary form. Applications are available on the Geary County 4-H website and at the Extension Office.

Apply Today!

How to Assemble Your Record Book

Record Book contents should be placed in this order.

1. The **Personal Information Page**

List projects in alphabetical order

A current picture is a must

Picture does not need to be as big as the space allowed, attach picture to another piece of paper that will cover the space

Signatures are very important

2. **General 4-H Pictures**

Maximum of three pages of photos

One side of paper

Printed on the page or attached to paper (if attached to paper, it is strongly recommended that rubber cement, spray adhesive, or double stick tape is used to attach pictures to the paper and that paper is substantial enough to support the pictures, but flexible enough for the pages to turn easily)

Should have captions

Should show action

No plastic sleeves

3. A copy of your Kansas 4-H **Permanent Record**. (the Permanent Record should be continually updated from year to year and the record for your entire 4-H career should be included)

4. The **Kansas 4-H Project Report Form** for each project.

Each project should be separated with divider tabs

Should be in alphabetical order as listed on Personal Page

Include pictures as indicated on the form (follow guidelines for General 4-H Pictures)

Project manuals or ribbons should not be included

Past year's records should not be included

Use tabs for each part of the record, including a tab for each Project Report Form

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August 4, 2026

Congratulations to everyone on all of your accomplishments at the 2026 Geary County Free Fair! Plan to finish the year off right by completing and submitting your record book and award applications to your club leaders in a timely manner.

Ginger D. Kopfer
County Extension Agent

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