



Geary County

4-H NEWS



A Newsletter for 4-H Families and Volunteers

May 2026

Note from Ag Agent, Kyler Langvardt

Hello, Geary County, 4-H families. It is with sincere appreciation for you all that I announce that my final day in the Geary County Extension Office will be Friday, May 8th. I will be transitioning to a role in the industry and will miss the opportunity to work with each of you on a regular basis. My time serving Geary County has truly been a blessing. Continuing the work of outstanding agents and staff who inspired my passion for agriculture and community, while also building new programs and partnerships, has been more meaningful than I could have imagined. I won't be going far away, so you may see me around the community, or volunteering at a future event or two. I greatly appreciate the things that each of you do to make Geary County 4-H possible, and look forward to cheering you on into the future! – Kyler

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to these 4-H members in the graduating class of 2026: **Clara Gfeller** (Lyon Creek), **Ethan Goodyear** (Humboldt), **Tava Gustafson** (Clarks Creek), **Morgan Nabus** (Humboldt), **Grady Oentrich** (Humboldt), **Blake Proietti** (Humboldt), **Grant Roeser** (Humboldt), **Kaitlyn Sohnrey** (Humboldt), **Charles Strauss** (Lyon Creek), and **William Strauss** (Lyon Creek). Thanks for all of your contributions to the Geary County 4-H program and best wishes in all your future plans!

Fair Auction Participation Requirement for 2026

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 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.

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 this year. This is an online fair management program that we will be using. Instructions on submitting pre-entries will be included with your fair book. 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.**

Sign Up to Receive 4-H Reminders

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

Kansas 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.

Youth Singing Opportunity at Freedom Fest

Junction City Freedom Fest is looking for local youth who love to sing and would like to perform a patriotic song on the big stage at Freedom Fest on July 1st. Visit www.freedomfestjc.com and find the patriotic sing page and fill out the form to sign up.

Junction City Community Workshop Focused on Outdoor Recreation

Youth and adults are invited to a community workshop focused on outdoor recreation to provide insight on how Junction City can: continue the revitalization of our historic downtown; position our community as the gateway to Milford Lake, the Kansas River, and the Flint Hills; and enhance connectivity with outdoor recreation assets to boost tourism and economic vitality and support small businesses. This event will be held May 27 and 28 is free and open to the public. The format will be interactive, engaging, and informative. Participants are encouraged to join for all or any part of the agenda as schedules allow. Visit https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=VwH-0-7buU-ROv_3Q8GT3IVAs9SYFSxJutcuAgTcOcdUQ1NYSkVVSU0tON0VCSDEwRkwyWEs4VkJVNS4u&route=shorturl to sign up and for more information.

Farm to Fashion Camp

This four-day camp exposes middle and high school students to the sheep and wool industries through a highly hands-on and interactive camp experience including spinning, dyeing, weaving, and fashion design. It will be held at K-State July 13-16. Cost is \$100 to register. Visit <https://www.hhs.k-state.edu/consumer-sciences/about/events/fs/farmtofashioncamp/> for more information.

Summer Fashion Institute

Discover your creative potential at the Summer Fashion Institute, where high school students explore the exciting world of fashion. Through hands-on activities in fashion design, illustration, and sewing, campers learn fundamental techniques while bringing their original designs to life. This event will be held at K-State June 8-11. Cost is \$100 to register. Visit <https://www.hhs.k-state.edu/consumer-sciences/about/events/fs/summerfashioninstitute/> for more information.

Fair Livestock Insurance	A fee of \$5 per head for market beef, market lambs, market hogs, and market goats will be required at the time of fair pre-entry to purchase livestock insurance. This insurance will cover livestock from the time you leave home for the fair until you return home or the livestock changes ownership. Please plan to pay this fee by the pre-entry deadline of June 26.
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/.
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. Contact the Extension Office for more information.
Kansas State Fair & Kansas Junior Livestock Show Nomination Deadlines	The state livestock nomination season is an online process. It is going to be <u>IMPERATIVE</u> for you to plan ahead this year. You will not be able to wait until the last minute and successfully complete the process. Nominations for 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 this deadline. 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.
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.

Horse Judging Camp

Calling all Youth Horse Judges! Do you want to enhance your evaluation and oral reasons skills? Then make sure to attend the KSU Youth Horse Judging Camp where you will work one-on-one with coaches and members of the KSU Intercollegiate Horse Judging Team. This event will be held June 22 at Kansas State University. Find more information at <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/judging-camps.html>.

K-State Vet Med ROCKS Summer Camps

Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine is giving youth an opportunity to experience veterinary medicine in a fun, hands-on and educational environment with current Vet Med students, veterinary faculty, and staff. July 27 will be for high school students, July 28 for middle school students, and July 29 for grades 3-5. Cost to attend is \$125, but scholarships are available by applying at https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cPfMp3XAgCCZ4MK. Visit <https://www.vet.k-state.edu/admissions/rocks/> for more information about the event.

Kansas 4-H Insect Spectacular

The Kansas 4-H Insect Spectacular, a two-day state-wide entomology workshop, will be held June 19-20 in Iola. The event is open to all youth and adult volunteers interested in 4-H entomology! A parent or legal guardian must attend with their 4-H'er. More information including registration is available online at <https://web.cvent.com/event/8a1c9e54-dde5-466a-9415-1854d8966139/register>. Registration deadline is May 25.

Fair Exhibits: Interior Design & Architecture vs. Woodworking vs. Visual Arts

Interior Design & Architecture includes refinished and repurposed wood projects (ex. – fixing an old wooden chair by making it sturdier, sanding, and refinishing it).

Woodworking is heavily judged on construction and finish. These projects should be something that is made from a plan. They are made of wood and normally have to be assembled, sanded, and have some type of finish applied (ex. – stain).

Visual Arts projects can be made of wood, but do not usually require woodworking tools to make (ex. – anything made from a pre-cut kit, a picture frame made of popsicle sticks).

CLOVER by 4-H

CLOVER is an online learning platform that empowers all young people to find their spark, featuring 190+ interactive activities for ages 5-18, along with gamification and augmented reality. What makes CLOVER especially powerful is that activities are infused with Positive Youth Development principles, and youth can earn pins, certificates, and rewards to validate their learning. Whether you're a 4-H member or parent, CLOVER has something valuable to offer. Activities range from coding to engineering to agriculture and animal science – there's truly something for every interest and learning style. Getting started is simple. Youth and families can create a free account at <http://4-h.org/clover> or download the CLOVER mobile app. Club leaders can also generate a CLOVER Code so members can connect with your group directly on the platform.

Families Needed to Host Japanese Delegates

Sumer is getting closer ... have you thought about hosting a Japan delegate this summer for something distinctly different than past summers? Kansas 4-H needs 12 Host Families for 7 girls and 5 boys ages 12 to 18 from Japan. Kansas families are needed to host delegates from July 23 – August 15. Any Kansas family with children aged 9-17, that is interested in hosting someone from another culture, may apply. A separate bed is required, but not necessarily a separate room from the host sibling. Delegates are 100 percent medically covered with 4-H insurance and bring their own spending money for souvenirs. The delegates can go on host family vacations, camping trips, or join their host sibling for summer camps and the county fair. The focus is everyday family life. Families may now apply on-line by visiting <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host>. There is a required application with references. In addition, there will be an in-home interview conducted as well as background checks conducted for all adults living in the household. If you have questions, please call any of the following: Pam Van Horn, pvanhorn@ksu.edu 785-826-8917; Susanne Hokett, skhokett@gmail.com 785-643-6511; Allison Lecklider, allisonlecklider@yahoo.com 785-822-5125; Deryl Waldren, dwaldren@ksu.edu 303-349-7403

May

- 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
- 25 Kansas 4-H Insect Spectacular registration due
- 27-28 Junction City Community Workshop Focused on Outdoor Recreation

June

- 1 Horse ID papers due to Extension Office by 5pm
- 1 4-H Council Meeting, 7pm @ 4-H/Senior Citizens Center
- 3-5 Discovery Days @ K-State
- 5 Deadline to order DNA envelopes for livestock nominations due June 15
- 8-11 Summer Fashion Institute at K-State
- 14 4-H Project Afternoon: Livestock (more details to come)
- 15 Commercial Heifer/Market Lamb/Commercial Ewe/Market Hog/
Commercial Breeding Gilt/All Meat Goat nomination deadline
- 19-20 Kansas 4-H Insect Spectacular, Iola
- 22 Horse Judging Camp at K-State
- 26 Fair pre-entries due through FairEntry by 11:59pm
- 26 \$5 per fair market animal for insurance due to Extension Office by 5pm

July

- 1 Youth singing opportunity at Freedom Fest
- 9 Fair Royalty Interviews, evening
- 13 Sewing & Fashion Revue Judging
- 13-16 Farm to Fashion Camp at K-State
- 16 4-H Public Revue, setup 8:30am, practice 5:30pm, event 7:00pm
- 17 4-H Dog Show, 6:30pm @ 4-H/Senior Citizens Center
- 18 Fairgrounds Cleanup and Setup, 9:00am
- 19-23 Geary County Free Fair
- 27-29 Vet Med ROCKS Summer Camp at K-State

Calendar of Events



K-State Extension

Geary County

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May 5, 2026

Summer is fast approaching – now is the time to begin working on those 4-H projects you haven't started yet. Don't put them off any longer! Also, don't forget to work on your record book and get it updated. Doing these things now will save time and stress when deadlines approach!

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

Ginger D. Kopfer
County Extension Agent



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