



Geary County

4-H NEWS



A Newsletter for 4-H Families and Volunteers

September 2025

State Fair Exhibits

If you are sending exhibits to state fair, you need to have the exhibit to the Extension Office by **Wednesday, September 3rd at 5:00pm**. If it is a food or produce item, you can deliver it from 7:00am to 7:30am on Thursday, September 4th. 4-H members with exhibits pre-entered were sent an email with additional information. State fair rules, information, forms, and a link for non-livestock results can be found online at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/fairs/kansas-state-fair/index.html>. 4-H livestock results can be found on the Kansas State Fair website at <https://www.kansasstatefair.com/>. Exhibits can be picked up at the Extension Office any time after 8:00am on Tuesday, September 16th. We appreciate having exhibits picked up soon after the end of the fair. Contact the Extension Office if you have questions.

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 Screening

Geary County will be in charge of screening our own records this year. Screening will be held **September 30th from 8:30am to 7:00pm** at the Extension Office. Each club is responsible for providing at least 4 adults to screen records. Older 4-H members are also welcome to judge. No parent will be allowed to screen records for their own child. Please think about participating in this great learning experience that will help you to gain new ideas. You don't have to be a record book "expert" to participate.

4-H Enrollment

Required online enrollment for 4-H members is continuing for the 2025-26 4-H year. The system is currently shut down to prepare for enrollment but is expected to reopen on October 1st. More information on how to re-enroll online will be sent out via email at the beginning of October.

Kansas 4-H Program Fee

Just a reminder that Kansas 4-H will continue to charge a \$15 fee per 4-H member (not including Cloverbuds) per year. Fortunately, the Geary County 4-H Foundation Board of Directors has agreed to pay this fee for all Geary County 4-H members at this time. Pay special attention to instructions that will be sent out with enrollment information on how to complete the payment portions of enrollment. If you pay the fee by credit card or check, you will not be reimbursed.

**National 4-H Week/48
Hours of 4-H**

Don't forget National 4-H Week, October 5 through 11. Plan to participate in Geary County's National 4-H Week opportunities and 48 Hours of 4-H Service Weekend. Plans are still being finalized, but look for an email by mid-September with all the details.

**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.

**Achievement
Celebration**

The Achievement Celebration has been set for the evening of Saturday, October 25th at the 4-H/Senior Citizens Center. Setup will be held at 1:00pm (all help is greatly appreciated). The celebration will begin at 6:30pm (we are starting a little later this year) with a potluck supper. Each family is asked to bring a main dish AND side dish or dessert. Table service and drinks will be provided. Hope to see you there to celebrate the end of another great 4-H year!

**Club Summary
Deadline**

Club summaries are due by 5:00pm on October 1st to the Extension Office. No late summaries will be accepted.

**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!

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!

**Kansas Youth
Leadership Forum**

The Kansas Youth Leadership Forum is an exciting event for youth 14-18 years old as of January 1, 2026. This event will be held at Rock Springs, November 22-23. 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 soon 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, 2026 are eligible to apply. Contact the Extension Office for further information.

National 4-H Conference

Applications are available for the 2026 National 4-H Conference to be held in the spring. Delegates must be 15 to 18 years old as of January 1, 2026. 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.

State 4-H Dog Conference

The Kansas 4-H Dog Conference is an opportunity for 4-H Dog project members, their families and volunteers to gather, learn, network, and increase their skills at Rock Springs Ranch. This year's conference, "Trails and Tails" will be held October 18-19. Conference sessions include Weaving Trails of Adventure (making paracord leashes), searching with K-9 Kreed, dog photography, and dog safety on the trails. 4-H members have the opportunity to participate in public speaking, photography, and quiz bowl contests. Registration is currently open and complete conference information is available at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/dog/dog-conference/>. Early bird registration is due September 19th. Cost is \$170 for full-time participants and \$100 for Sunday only. The Geary County 4-H Foundation will pay half of the fee for Geary County 4-H members who complete a scholarship request form that is available at the Extension Office or online at <http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/forms.html>.

4-H Council

Each club needs to select 2 youth and 2 adults as 4-H Council Representatives. The youth and adults who you select will be able to help make decisions about the county 4-H program. The next council meeting will be October 6th 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 tentative meeting agenda can be found online at <https://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/resources.html>. The other meetings for the 2025-2026 year are scheduled for February 2nd and June 1st.

Judging Team Participants

Congratulations to the following Geary County 4-H members who participated in the Horticulture and Livestock Judging Contests at K-State in August.
Horticulture Judging: Ray Boller, Cade McCallum, Kara McDonald, Shevy Olson, Blake Proietti, Case Proietti, Jacob Roeser, and Elisabeth Smith
Livestock Judging: Ethan Goodyear, Olivia Kline, Grant Slough, and Charles Strauss

Special congratulations to Shevy Olson who placed 7th in the Senior Horticulture Judging Contest and the Senior Team of Shevy Olson, Blake Proietti, Jacob Roeser, and Elisabeth Smith who placed 3rd overall.

Animals in the 4-H/Senior Citizens Center

Just a reminder that the 4-H/Senior Citizens Building Committee has made the decision that no animals will be allowed in the kitchen or dining room at the building and animals will be allowed in the rest of the building by permission only. Please contact the Extension Office if you need to get permission for animals to be allowed in the building (permission has already been given for 4-H Dog project meetings). We ask that all 4-H families follow this policy.

Kansas 4-H Project Partnership Teams

For over a century, Kansas 4-H has been deeply rooted in volunteer and teen leader involvement. As we get ready to begin the new 4-H year in a few weeks, members are being recruited for the 2026 4-H Project Partnership Teams (PPT). The role of PPT's is to provide guidance and leadership in the development of a project subject matter or program, including conducting and managing major state events or educational experiences of the Kansas 4-H program. Applications are due September 15th. Find more information online at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/volunteers/projectpartnershipteams/>.

Outbound Exchange Opportunities for 2026

Five international partners have agreed to host U.S. 4-H members for outbound exchanges in the summer of 2026. There are opportunities for 12 to 18-year-old members through States' 4-H International Exchange. Destinations include Costa Rica, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and Argentina. Check out <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/global-citizenship/> for more information. Applications are due November 1st. Contact Mary Kay Munson for more information at mkm2@ksu.edu or 785-375-3189.

Standards for Participation in Kansas FFA and 4-H Youth Development Educational Opportunities

The purpose of the standards outlined below are to assist in determining eligible participation in FFA and/or 4-H Youth Development learning experiences. Both 4-H and Agriculture Education/FFA promote teaching youth life skills. Each program exists to maximize the participants' knowledge of agriculture and its value to our communities while educating the young people to become productive citizens. Eligible youth may participate in both 4-H and FFA but should avoid duplication. The following standards of participation are used in delivering the 4-H and FFA programs in Kansas.

1. Agriculture Education teachers, FFA Advisors, Extension staff and local volunteers are encouraged to cooperate in sharing information and resources to provide educational opportunities for youth.

2. When young people are members of both 4-H and FFA, they must plan and manage separate projects, and/or supervised agriculture experiences (SAE) programs.

3. FFA and 4-H members may enroll in the same area of experience in 4-H and FFA, however; participants cannot identify, nominate, manage, keep records on, or exhibit the same plants, animals, etc. in both organizations. Members must designate exhibits as either FFA or 4-H at weigh-in, registration or similar deadline.

4. Members may participate in judging contests and related events in FFA and 4-H but cannot represent both organizations at a contest, show or event at the same time.

5. When 4-H and FFA are conducting collaborating activities, both the 4-H and FFA organizations must be represented through emblems and information on all signs, print materials and awards.

6. Collaborating FFA and 4-H activities or events are obligated to have supervision representation from both organizations.

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 19th. Interviews will be held the evening of September 29th. This is a wonderful opportunity for older 4-H members to take a great leadership role. More information is available in the August Newsletter.

Fair Dates for 2026

Fair Board has chosen the dates of July 19-23, 2026 for the Geary County Free Fair. Mark this on your calendars now! A full schedule of 4-H events and judging will be available after the February 2nd 4-H Council meeting.

4-H Officer Training

4-H Officer Training will be held on Sunday, November 9th at the 4-H/Senior Citizens Center prior to setup for the 4-H Foundation Bingo/Soup Supper event. Details are still pending, but put this date on your calendar and plan to attend!



September

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

- 3 State Fair exhibits due to Extension Office by 5pm
- 4 State Fair food and produce exhibits may be brought to Extension Office from 7-7:30am
- 4-5 Judging of 4-H State Fair Indoor Exhibits
- 5-14 Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson
- 7 State 4-H Photography Judging Contest at State Fair
- 16 State Fair Exhibits can be picked up at Extension Office after 8am
- 19 Ambassador Applications due by 5pm
- 19 4-H Dog Conference early bird registration deadline
- 29 Ambassador Interviews, evening
- 30 Record Book Judging @ Extension Office, 8:30am-7:00pm

October

- 1 4HOnline Enrollment system open
- 1 Club Summaries due by 5pm
- 1 Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Applications due
- 1 National 4-H Conference Applications due
- 3-5 Kansas Junior Livestock Show, Hutchinson
- 5-11 National 4-H Week
- 6 4-H Council Meeting @ 4-H/Senior Citizens Center – 7pm
- 11-12 48 Hours of 4-H Service Weekend
- 15 KYLF Registration deadline
- 18-19 4-H Dog Conference @ Rock Springs
- 21 Geary Community Foundation Match Day (support the Geary County 4-H Foundation <https://www.gearymatchday.com/>)
- 25 Achievement Celebration @ 4-H/Senior Citizens Center – setup 1pm, celebration 6:30pm

November

- 9 4-H Officer Training @ 4-H/Senior Citizens Center (time TBD)
- 9 4-H Foundation Bingo/Soup Supper
- 22-23 Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, Rock Springs

December

- 1 4-H Project Meeting Evening, 6:30pm

Calendar of Events



K-State Research and Extension

Geary County

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September 2, 2025

As the 2024-25 4-H year comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone who volunteered throughout the year. Without volunteers, 4-H would not be possible. We are very fortunate in Geary County to have so many people who care about 4-H and 4-H members!

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. Language access requests and 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 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 Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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