



Geary County

4-H NEWS



A Newsletter for 4-H Families and Volunteers

September 2026

State Fair Exhibits

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. 4-H members with exhibits pre-entered will be sent a reminder 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 22nd. 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 has been 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 29th from 8:30am to 7:00pm** and **September 30th from 8:00am to 5:00pm** 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 2026-27 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 4 through 10. Plan to participate in Geary County's National 4-H Week opportunities and 48 Hours of 4-H Service Weekend. Check out the details in the flyers included with this newsletter.

**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 24th 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 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, 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 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, 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.

State 4-H Dog Conference

Grab your leash and mark your calendars for October 17-18 as 4-H families from across the state gather at Rock Springs Ranch for the annual Kansas 4-H Dog Conference. This year's theme, "Stars, Stripes, and Wagging Tails" promises a weekend packed with learning, friendship, and tail-wagging fun. Participants will have the opportunity to explore exciting topics including agility, veterinary health, creating homemade agility obstacles, and hands-on crafts. A special keynote presentation from the Fort Leavenworth Hunt will showcase the training and hunting of foxhounds, offering a unique look at these remarkable working dogs. Youth can test their skills and knowledge through a variety of contests, including photography, quiz bowl, and presentations. Registration will be open soon 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 18th. 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 that you select will be able to help make decisions about the county 4-H program. The next council meeting will be October 5th 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 2026-2027 year are scheduled for February 1st and June 7th.

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: Colden Blockcolsky, Jared Kline, Kara McDonald, Kyla McDonald, Blake Proietti, Case Proietti, and Jacob Roeser
Livestock Judging: Colden Blockcolsky, Grant Slough, and Elena Svoboda
Special congratulations to Jacob Roeser who placed 8th in the Senior Division of the Horticulture Contest!

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.

Outbound Exchange Opportunities for 2027

Five international partners have agreed to host U.S. 4-H members for outbound exchanges in the summer of 2027. Opportunities are available for 12 to 18-year-old members through States' 4-H International Exchange. Destinations include Costa Rica, Japan, Norway, South Korea, and Taiwan. Check out <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/global-citizenship/> for more information. Applications will be open soon and 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 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. More information is available in the August Newsletter.

Junior Market Day at the Junction City Farmers Market

Junior Market day at the Junction City Farmers Market will be held Saturday, September 26th from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Youth ages 5 and older are encouraged to sell what they make, earn money, and learn business skills. Find the link to apply at <https://junctioncitymainstreet.org/>.

Fair Dates for 2027

Fair Board has chosen the dates of July 18-23, 2027 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 1st 4-H Council meeting.

4-H Officer Training

4-H Officer Training has been scheduled for **Sunday, November 8** starting at 3:00pm at the 4-H/Senior Citizens Center and will be finished by 4:15pm in time to set up for the 4-H Foundation Bingo/Soup Supper that evening. All club officers should mark this on their calendars and plan to attend.



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
- 18 4-H Dog Conference early bird registration deadline
- 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 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
- 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
- 17-18 4-H Dog Conference @ Rock Springs
- 20 Geary Community Foundation Match Day (support the Geary County 4-H Foundation <https://www.gearymatchday.com/>)
- 24 Achievement Celebration @ 4-H/Senior Citizens Center – setup 1pm, celebration 6:30pm

November

- 8 4-H Officer Training @ 4-H/Senior Citizens Center – 3:00pm
- 8 4-H Foundation Bingo/Soup Supper
- 21-22 Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, Rock Springs

December

- 7 4-H Project Meeting Evening, 6:30pm

Calendar of Events

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension - Geary County

K-State Extension

Geary County

119 E. 9th Street

Junction City, KS 66441

(785) 238-4161



September 1, 2026

As the 2025-26 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!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ginger D. Kopfer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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.



How can you participate in National 4-H Week?

- Get a yard sign at your September 4-H Club meeting or the Extension Office and proudly display it in your yard
- Monday - Go Green
 - join 4-H on the national level by wearing a green hat, clothing, face paint, etc. - anything green goes
- Wednesday - Proudly wear a 4-H shirt for 4-H Spirit Day
- Thursday - Thankful Thursday
 - join 4-H on the national level to help us shine a light on all the good that 4-H does
 - share your own story or celebrate someone who is making a difference like another 4-H member or volunteer on social media #geco4h #KS4H #National4HWeek
 - send a thank you note to a 4-H volunteer or someone else who has made a difference in your life through 4-H
- Think of your own way to help others learn about 4-H

**What is 48 Hours of 4-H?**

48 Hours of 4-H is a Kansas 4-H service challenge that was created as a way to challenge 4-H members to explore their service capabilities – “To Make the Best Better” in their communities, counties, and across the state.

When will it be held?

48 Hours of 4-H will be October 10-11, 2026

How can I participate?

The Geary County project will be painting panels in the beef barn at the fairgrounds

Saturday, October 10

9:00am

Donuts will be provided and we will enjoy music and having fun together while we paint!

How do I sign up?

To volunteer, contact the Extension Office at 785-238-4161 or email Ginger at gkopfer@ksu.edu by Monday, October 5th.

What if I can't participate in this option?

Projects can also be done as individuals, so choose a project on your own and complete it October 10 or 11. Make sure to register your project at www.Kansas4-H.org/484H. A list of ideas of things to do can also be found on this website in the 484H Guide.

Let's work together to make a difference in our community!

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