NEW 4-H MEMBERS!

It’s an exciting time as we have new members to welcome in each of our 4-H clubs across the county. Please be sure to extend a warm welcome to each of these new members and their families.

CLOVERLEAF:
Wyatt Coyle
Alvaro Espino
Gavin Greene

CORN VALLEY
Paisely Byer
Reagan Ferguson
Ivan Kerschenske
Blakelyn Sandoval
Jessica Schrug
Lucas Soria

JOLLY WORKERS
DJ Barney
Kenyon Barney
Kolson Foote
Valerie Haney
Toby Kessler
Addie McAlister

NEW 4-H PARENT MEETING: If your family is new to the 4-H program, we have scheduled a meeting on Thursday, January 30 at 7pm at the Extension Office meeting room in St. John to get acquainted with you. We will go over the 4-H year, upcoming events, and handout new member packets. This is an introductory meeting with the Extension Agents. Please give us a call at 549-3502 or email us at barbr@ksu.edu to let us know if you plan to attend.

Welcome, Barb!

If you’ve recently stopped by the Extension Office, you know we have a new staff member. We are excited to announce that we have hired Barb Roth to be our new Office Professional.

Barb, her husband, Chris and mom, Marilyn recently moved to St. John in July from Colorado Springs.

Barb’s first official day was October 10th! Congratulations Barb, and welcome to the team!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JANUARY 15
Citizenship in Action Registration Deadline, Pg 3
Horse Panorama Registration Deadline, Pg 13

JANUARY 30
New 4-H Parent Meeting, Extension Office, Pg 1

JANUARY 24-26
Horse Panorama, Rock Springs, Pg 13

FEBRUARY-
Booster Ad Packets will be ready for 4-H Members

FEBRUARY 16-17
Citizenship in Action, Topeka, Pg 3

FEBRUARY 21
County Club Day Entries Due, Pg 4

FEBRUARY 22
Market Beef Tagging, Seibert Feedlot, Pg 5

FEBRUARY 29
Junior Beef Producer Day, K-State Weber Arena, Pg 4

MARCH 6
State Horse Judging, Salina, Pg 11

MARCH 7
County Club Day, St. John High School, Pg 4

MARCH 13
Regional 4-H Club Day, Great Bend, Pg 4

MARCH 14
Junior Sheep Producer Day, K-State Weber Hall, Pg 7

MARCH 27
Shooting Sports Instructor Training at Rock Springs Ranch. We are in desperate need of more instructors—please consider!

APRIL
Booster Ads Due

APRIL 15
Discovery Day Registration Deadline, Pg 8

MAY
Last Day to ADD / DROP 4-H Projects

MAY 15
Campference Registration Deadline, Pg 9

MAY 27-29
Discovery Days, K-State campus, Pg 8

JUNE 13-16
4-H Camp, Rock Springs, Pg 9

JUNE 22-25
Campference, Rock Springs, Pg 9

JULY 15-18
Stafford County Fair
Premium Auction Eligibility Requirements, Pg 12

AUGUST 22-23
Livestock Sweepstakes, Manhattan

SEPTEMBER 11-20
Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson

Join the Meats Judging Team

Want to learn how to identify cuts of beef, pork and lamb? The meats judging team is an opportunity to expand a 4-Her's interest in the livestock projects, foods/nutrition and consumer education projects area. Open to all Stafford County 4-Hers ages 9 -18 (as of Jan. 1).

The team normally practices about 5-10 times a year, and participates in 1-2 contests per year.
CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION

Would you like to have more influence in laws and rules that affect your life? Then you’ll want to go to Kansas 4-H Citizenship in Action! This two-day event sponsored by the State 4-H Youth Leadership Council will be held Sunday, February 16 through Monday, February 17 at the State Capitol in Topeka. The cost to attend is $200.

If you are a Stafford County 4-H member, the 4-H Council pays 1/3 of your registration cost, so your cost would be $140.

Youth who are 13 to 19-years-old by January 1st of the current year are eligible to attend.

The purpose of the event is for Kansas youth to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in their local communities. The legislative visit will not only familiarize you with the capitol building, but will also show them how they can affect the legislative process.

To Register visit:
http://www.cvent.com/events/2020-kansas-4-h-citizenship-in-action/event-summary-e489dce054744fb693b2c83cac59471e.aspx

Registration closes January 15th

Need Leadership Experiences for Your Pin Application?

4-H is all about learning while you are younger, but as you get older, turning around and teaching what you’ve learned to others is part of leadership. For 4-H members who are 8th grade and up, it’s your time to start teaching others! Pin applications, KAP’s and numerous other scholarship applications will be wanting to know—how did you help others? What did you organize? Have you ever planned or taught anything? Community Service is also something to consider—what did you actually do—how did you help your community? How effective was your service?

We would encourage you to read over your pin application for 2020, RIGHT NOW! You will need to plan your year accordingly to meet your pin requirements. Planning ahead will also help you be better organized for the 4-H year.

- Consider helping younger 4-H members with their 4-H project or KAP—be a mentor through the year. All new members need someone to look up to, you could be that person!
- Become a Jr. Project Leader. Work with a project leader to plan and organize project meetings. This is your chance to give input and implement things you think might be cool.
- Working as a Jr. Superintendent at the County Fair—this is an important first step in the leadership project. Jr. Superintendents are there to help adults and learn the ropes.
- Working on ways to educate the public about your project. Help your community understand the lessons you are trying to teach!
- Attend State 4-H Events—meet new people!
- Teach a class at Discovery Days—it doesn’t have to be about a 4-H project, it can be about anything you enjoy doing.
- Make short videos to demonstrate a skill you’ve learned. You’d be amazed at what people don’t know—videos less than 2 minutes are what people tend to watch and they would be amazed by some of your experiences!
- Create, plan and organize a project workshop.
- Remember:
  Leadership = teaching others

2020 Kansas State 4-H and Equifest Judging Contest

When: March 6, 2020
Where: Salina, KS
Who: 4-H members 9-18 years (by Jan 1, 2020)
Registration Deadline: February 15, 2020
County Club Day
Saturday, March 7, 2020 | St. John High School

Speaking skillfully before an audience is one of the hallmarks that Kansas 4-H members have been successfully doing for over 100 years. Kansas youth through 4-H have learned the skills necessary to get up before an audience and eloquently speak. 4-H has helped youth learn the skills necessary to clearly organize and present thoughts and ideas through project talks, demonstrations, illustrated talks and public speaking presentations.

If you need any help putting together a demonstration, project talk, reading etc., please let Amy or Amanda know—we would be happy to help. Remember that the Extension Office has a mirrored demonstration table that you may use—it helps the audience see what you are demonstrating. If you are interested in using this, just let the Extension Office know.

We also have 4-H communication fact sheets here in the office and online at www.stafford.ksu.edu:

- 4-H Presentation Overview
- 4-H Project Talks
- 4-H Demonstrations
- 4-H Illustrated Talks
- 4-H Demonstrated & Illustrated Talks Planning
- 4-H Public Speaking
- Effective Presentation Tips
- Preparing and Using Visual Aids
- Presentation Brainstorming Activity

The County Club Day registration form is due to the Extension Office by Friday, February 21. Leaders will need to turn in a separate form for their model meeting or group activity.

If a 4-H member receives a Top Blue on their talk/demo/music performance etc., they have the opportunity to attend Regional Club Day in Great Bend, Friday, March 13. Families will need to let Amy or Amanda know ASAP if they intend to go on to regionals. If the Top Blue placing chooses not go on, the alternate top blue will be given the chance.

4-H Members, 8th Grade to Senior—Make sure you sign up for ARI at County Club Day!
Applications, Resume, and Interview (ARI for short!)

As 4-H members get older, many of them will apply for jobs, leadership opportunities and scholarships. ARI is a great way to get those skills into tip top shape!

Applications, Resume, and Interview (ARI) is a mock interview process that will give teens (13 and older) an opportunity to apply for a “job.” Participants will need to complete the sample application and create a resume. The interview will take place at County Club Day.

There will be a deadline set for the hand written application and resume to be handed in. The “job” options that are available to apply for will be announced, and the same judge that has looked at your application and resume will interview you. Each participant will have 10 minutes to complete the interview.

We cannot begin to tell you what a valuable experience this will be for you! Once you have experienced ARI, you will have truly gained a life skill you will use for many years to come. Engaging in a mock interview will allow you to experience what the process is like in real life. If you are intimidated about putting together a simple resume—give us a call. We have helped numerous kids throughout the years do this and we would like to help you!
**Kansas Junior Beef Producer Day**

The Kansas Junior Beef Producer Day is scheduled for **Saturday, February 29**, in Weber Arena on the Kansas State University campus. This event will be a fun-filled, educational day of activities in which youth, parents, beef project leaders, and extension agents can broaden their knowledge of youth beef projects. Presentations and demonstrations by K-State faculty, staff, K-State livestock judging team members, and guest speakers will cover topics such as selection, nutrition, meat science, reproduction, health, grooming, and showmanship. An optional YQCA certification session will be offered at the end of the day. A complimentary lunch and t-shirt (early registrations) will be provided. Cost is $15/person by February 7 or $20/person after February 7. (Registrations received after February 7 cannot be guaranteed a t-shirt.)


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**Kansas Junior Sheep Producer Day**

The Kansas Junior Sheep Producer Day will take place on **Saturday, March 14**, in Weber Hall on the Kansas State University campus. Presentations and demonstrations will be provided by featured guests, as well as K-State faculty, staff, and students. This event will be a fun-filled, educational day of activities in which youth, parents, extension agents, and sheep project leaders can increase their knowledge of youth sheep project selection and management. Topics include market and breeding project selection, nutrition and feeding, facilities, health, developing a starter flock, wool, clipping and grooming, showmanship, and youth livestock quality assurance training. This event is designed for all ages and skill levels. A complimentary lunch will be served and all participants who register by the deadline will receive a t-shirt. Cost is $15/person by **February 21** or $20/person after February 21.


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**Livestock Tagging**

Plan on showing a Market Animal or Bucket Calf at the Fair? All market beef, bucket calves, meat goats, sheep, and swine must be tagged to exhibit in the Stafford County Fair. During tagging, a numbered ear tag is put in the animal's ear to prove the exhibitor has owned the animal the minimal period required for the show. The deadlines for tagging are as follows:

**Market Beef**—Weigh-in and tagging are scheduled for **Saturday February 22, 2020** from 8:30 to 10AM at Gary & Nina Seibert’s feedlot. If for some reason this will not work for you, please call the Extension Office at 620-549-3502.

**Bucket Calf, Market Sheep, Meat Goats, and Swine**—All need to be tagged by **May 1st**. These animals will be tagged on your farm. Please call the Extension Office to set up an appointment with Amanda to tag your animals.

*No animals will be tagged after the deadline unless prior arrangements have been made.*
**Highlights:**
Are You Ready for Discovery Days? Mark your calendar for **May 27-May 29, 2020**! D-Days takes place in Manhattan on the K-State campus and offers classes and tours about 4-H projects, careers, hobbies, community service and more! You can also share your talents in the Talent Show. Are you ready to dance? Are you ready for some Call Hall ice cream? Are you ready for some great speakers and Discovery Days Night Live and all the other possibilities in your future? Registration is open NOW!

**Who Should Register:**
Discovery Days are open to all youth who are 13 to 18-years-old by **January 1, 2020**. 4-H membership prior to Discovery Days is not required.

**Chaperones:**
All adults have responsibilities throughout the conference. A designated adult chaperone is required for every 15 delegates. Chaperones must be at least 21 years of age and must be VIP registered at their local Extension Office.

**Cost:**
In the past, cost to attend is around $200 plus class fees (usually $5-$10, if any). The fee for 2020 has not been set yet. **Stafford County 4-H Council will offer the normal 1/3 discount for 4-H members attending.**

There is also a $100 scholarship you can apply for through the State 4-H Office. If this is something that interests you, this scholarship form is available at [www.kansas4h.org](http://www.kansas4h.org) under Event & Activities, then click General State Events & Activities, then click Discovery Days. Information will be located in the right hand column. If you cannot find the form, please let Amy or Amanda know and we can email the form to you. All information is confidential.

**Registration:**
Please refer to your local Extension Office for payment and registration deadlines. A registration worksheet is available to help you prepare for entering your registration online. If you can’t get access to a computer at home, through school, or at a library, please work with your Extension Office to enter your registration. **Registration opens on March 1, 2020 on-line on at [http://www.kansas4-h.org/events/index.html](http://www.kansas4-h.org/events/index.html).** Registration closes and payment is due in your Extension Office no later than April 15, 2020. All on-line registrations are contingent upon your Extension Agent’s approval, payment of fees by April 15 and having a complete Kansas 4-H Participation Form on file.

Classes are filled on-line on a first come-first serve basis so don’t wait until the April 15 deadline to register. If a class has to be cancelled, you will be contacted to select an alternate class.

**Attire:**
Dress for Discovery Days is casual, but not grubby. As at all 4-H events, offensive or inappropriate clothing will not be allowed. See “Delegate Guidelines” for additional information.

**Web Site:** For more information and to register, go to: [http://www.Kansas4-H.org](http://www.Kansas4-H.org)
4-H Camp Experiences

Check out these great camp opportunities

4-H Camp at Rock Springs
If you have a 4-H member between the ages of 7 & 12, consider sending them to 4-H Camp! 4-H Camp dates for 2020 are June 13-16. If your 4-H member is 14 & up—they should consider being a 4-H camp counselor! When you’re a counselor, camp fees are paid completely by the 4-H Council, and being a counselor looks great on job or scholarship applications!

Camping creates memories of fun-filled days and is often looked at as the best time of the summer. Attending summer camp can be a time for experiencing natures and the outdoors, making new friends and learning life skills. Summer camp is more than just a vacation. Campers learn self confidence, cooperation with others, and how to live in different communities. Camping teaches life lessons that just happen to have great memories!

We will have enrollment forms soon and will send those out to you via email, or you may stop by the Extension Office to pick up a form. The deadline to enroll is May 1.

NOTE: 4-H Council pays 1/3 of the cost for 4-H members to attend camp, and is free for those who volunteer to be a camp counselor.

4-H Campference
4-H Campference is for youth ages 12-14 (before January 1, 2020), and will be held June 22-25 at Rock Springs 4-H Center. Participants will experience the feel of a conference, while enjoying the ‘camp’ activities Rock Springs 4-H Center has to offer. This is a great transitional opportunity, as these tweens go from being a camper to attending educational conferences. 4-H Campference will feature workshops about opportunities in the 4-H program and how to better interact with others. Participants will meet other youth from around the state of Kansas.

Registration and detailed information will be on the State 4-H website in March. Register early as the space will fill on a first come basis, and Campference has been full the last 6 years! Register online by May 15 (or earlier as it will close when it is full) and payment must be in the Stafford County Extension Office by May 15.

YOUTH COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS

Youth Community Perceptions is a division of our Kansas Pride Program and can help youth learn how to identify needs and opportunities that exist for your community's future, and work with community leaders to make a difference! This is an opportunity to view your community through a looking glass and see what improvements you would like to see made in your town—then organize a project and get it done. Both leadership and citizenship skills will be used—AND—it looks good on scholarship applications! (hint, hint). Contact the Extension Office for more information.
If you are 15 years or older and would like to experience a true leadership opportunity—you might consider being a camp counselor.

We ask that you contact the Extension Office for an application and then counselors will be selected by the Heart of Kansas counselor committee.

Counselors will leave for camp on June 12th to attend camp counselor training at Rock Springs. Campers will arrive June 13th. More than likely, there will be two camp counselors per group of kids. We call this “two deep leadership” so campers have more supervision and counselors can share responsibilities.

4-H Council pays the entire camp fee for camp counselors. If this is something that interests you—email or call Amy or Amanda.

2020 County Fair Theme

County Fair T-Shirt Design Contest

It’s time to get creative! The Design Contest for the 2020 Stafford County Fair T-Shirt Designs will be displayed and voted on at County Club Day on March 7. The contest has changed a little bit from years past. This year, the Fair Board has decided to provide a theme, and have asked that the 4-Her’s design the t-shirt around this theme. The 2020 Stafford County Fair Theme will be announced shortly. A email update will be sent soon.

Rules for the T-Shirt Design Contest are as follows:
1. No copyrighted material may be used, except for the 4-H Clover.
2. The design must incorporate the 4-H Clover, but the design concept does not have to center around 4-H.
3. The design should be centered around the 2020 Fair Theme, yet versatile enough to encompass both the Stafford County Fair and Stafford County 4-H.
4. The winning design will be sent to a design department to be refined and put into computer form so the Extension Office and Fair Board can then use the design for multiple advertising purposes. (Newspaper, Booster Ads, Fair Book Cover, etc.)
5. The winner of the T-Shirt design contest will receive a $15.00 prize and bragging rights!

Important:
All t-shirt designs must be turned into the Extension Office by 5:00 PM on Thursday March 5th. All t-shirt designs will be checked for copyright infringement and design criteria approval.
COUNTY FAIR 2020 T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Use this template to come up with some fun ideas! Designs can be hand drawn or computer generated. Voting will take place at County Club Day.
The Stafford County Extension Office and the Stafford County Fair Association have implemented the following Premium Auction Requirements in order for 4-H members to be eligible to sell a market animal or food item at the 2020 Stafford County Fair.

**Purpose of the Requirements:** To ensure that each 4-H member has interaction and exposure to the true, educational purpose of the 4-H program. When selling livestock or food items, 4-H members need to understand the importance of proper care of livestock, raising quality products that will enter the food system and the food safety aspects of the process. By installing these pre-requisite responsibilities, we can assure that those participating in the premium auction have attended regular club meetings and an educational event to increase their knowledge in their selected 4-H project.

**Why YQCA?** YQCA certification is designed to be useful and help prepare you for your show, but also prepare you as a young producer in animal agriculture industry. That’s why the program includes information on multiple species even though you may only be raising one or two—we hope you see that by raising animals you are part of a larger community that relies on the good faith of everyone doing their part. Also, we hope this training continues to spark your interest in animal agriculture so that you consider pursuing a career in the industry or becoming an entrepreneur and continuing to raise animals to meet the demands of a growing world.

**Why Food Safety Training?** Foodborne illness impacts consumer health, a business owners/employee reputation, a business’ profitability, and in some cases, their complete viability. The CDC estimates that there are as many as 47 million cases of foodborne illness in the U.S. each year, and the key to understanding the need for proper Food Safety Training is to recognize that food safety decisions are made (or not made) at every point of the food service process from construction of the building, right up to the daily operations that include cooking and cleaning. This includes good personal hygiene for food handlers, time & temp controls to protect food, preventing cross contamination, proper cleaning/sanitizing methods, safe food preparation, proper storage of food, safe methods of thawing, cooking, cooling and reheating food, and pest control. Wouldn’t your want your food prepared by someone with food training?

The Stafford County Premium Auction Requirements are as follows:

- Stafford County 4-H members are required to attend at least **five (5)** regular club meetings between August and July of the current 4-H year.

- Livestock members are required to attend a *Youth for the Quality Care of Animals* (YQCA) meeting each year of eligibility. YQCA is a national multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21 with a focus on three core pillars—food safety, animal well-being, and character development. Species include Pigs, Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Market Rabbits, and Poultry.

- Foods & Nutrition project members will be required to attend a *Food Safety Training* (FST), similar to ServSafe, to ensure proper food preparation and handling of food products being sold to the public.

- Both YQCA and Food Safety Training will cover new material this year. It will not be a repeat from last year. The goal is to provide continuing education in both areas.

⇒ **It is the 4-H member’s responsibility to attend the meetings and trainings.**

⇒ **Multiple dates will be set for these trainings to accommodate conflicts in schedules.**

⇒ **Premium Auction Eligibility Forms will be included in the Enrollment Packets and are attached with this newsletter.**

⇒ **Completed & signed forms are DUE to the Extension Office by June 19th in order to participate in the Premium Auction.**
Spring Livestock Shows & Livestock Auctions

If you are interested in finding livestock animals to show through the spring and summer, the Extension Office gets several notifications of auctions and livestock sales going on this time of year. Please give the office a call if you need information.

Also, there are several spring livestock shows in our area and throughout the State of Kansas that take place this spring. This is a great opportunity for your 4-H’er and their animal to get in some practice before the county fair! Click HERE for a list of upcoming spring shows. Attached are the notices for the spring shows that we have already received. As we get more, we will pass them along.

Showing Livestock at Kansas State Fair or Kansas Junior Livestock Show?

Are you planning on exhibiting livestock at the Kansas State Fair or Kansas Junior Livestock Show? If so, there are a few extra things you need to do! Depending on which show you attend, there are specific nomination dates and requirements for each species. Please contact Amanda for a full list of entry requirements and deadline dates!
4-H Families:

As usual, for this time of year—4-H activities are beginning to pop up everywhere we look! Many are mentioned in this newsletter—be sure to look over “Calendar Dates” listed on page 2 for specific deadlines and events. Get them on your calendar now before it fills up!

County Club Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th. 1st year 4-H members can give a show n tell talk about anything their heart desires. Members can give demonstrations, project talks, give a reading, perform a dance, piano solo or instrumental solo. It’s a great learning experience for all 4-H members!

Now is a great time to work with your 4-H member on setting goals for each project they are enrolled in. Setting goals is a life skill that will stick with each 4-H member for a lifetime, so this is where we begin. Have your 4-H member think about what they want to learn or accomplish in each project area. Do they want to learn how to feed the proper ration, or how to fly a drone, learn the rules of photography or how to hand build a ceramics project? Learning is the basis of all 4-H projects!

Stafford County will be piloting a new record book program for both Juniors (ages 7-9) and Intermediates (ages 10-13) for 2020 and we think your really going to like it! We will be holding a few meetings through the year to get everyone started in the right direction. Stay tuned for more information on this!

Member packets will be handed out at your club’s February meeting. This will have copies of your enrollment form, record book pages, a family handbook and project materials. NEW FAMILIES—be sure to sign up for the NEW 4-H PARENT meeting the evening of January 30, 2020 by calling the Extension Office or emailing Amy or Amanda. We will meet at the Extension Office in St. John at 7:00 pm. If you cannot be at the meeting, please contact the Extension Office and we will set up another time to meet.

Please feel free to call us with any questions you may have!

Amy Collins
Extension Agent
FCS & 4-H Youth Development
acollins@ksu.edu

Amanda Staub
Extension Agent
Ag & 4-H Youth Development
ajstaub@ksu.edu

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