



K-STATE
Research and Extension

Sedgwick County

4-H UPDATE

www.sedgwick.ksu.edu

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UPCOMING EVENTS

November 9, 2025	Project & Achievement Award Ceremony, Extension Office, 4-H Hall
November 22-23, 2025	KYLF, Rock Springs Ranch
November 22-23, 2025	Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers, Rock Springs Ranch
January 5, 2026	Kansas 4-H Scholarship Applications Due
January 8, 2026	YQCA training, 7:00 pm, Extension Office
January 9, 2026	Record Books back to the office for those going on to Regionals
January 23, 2026	4-H Day Entries Due
February 7, 2026	4-H Day, Stone Creek Elementary, Derby
March 15, 2026	County Scholarship Applications Due to office

KANSAS STATE
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Extension



From the Desk of..... Stephanie Hays



Dear 4-H Families:

As the leaves turn and we gather for fall celebrations and gratitude, I am filled with pride and appreciation for our Sedgwick County 4-H family. What an incredible year we have shared — full of growth, learning, service, and countless moments that remind us why 4-H makes such a meaningful impact on young people and our community.

November always marks a special transition. We honor the hard work and achievements of the past year, and we look forward with enthusiasm to the new year ahead. With new projects, new leaders emerging, and new youth stepping forward to Make the Best Better, there is so much to be excited about!

As we begin the new 4-H year:

I am excited to see new sparks ignite as youth discover projects they love.

I am energized by the leadership and service already taking shape with club officers installed and community projects planned.

I am grateful for the dedication of our volunteers, parents, and supporters, who bring the mission of positive youth development to life every single day.

I am focused on expanding opportunities for youth across our county — building partnerships, strengthening school enrichment, and creating new pathways to leadership.

To everyone who played a part in our successes this past year — thank you. You are helping shape tomorrow's leaders, problem solvers, and community builders. Sedgwick County 4-H continues to thrive because of your commitment, your passion, and your belief in our youth.

Let's step into this new year with excitement, creativity, and the confidence that we are building something truly special together. I cannot wait to see what we accomplish next!

Wishing you a season of gratitude, joy, and inspiration.

See you soon — and let's get ready for another amazing 4-H year!

With all my appreciation!!

Steph

Stephanie Hays, Extension 4-H Agent

Sedgwick County

316.660.0112

sahays@ksu.edu

Thank You, Sedgwick County 4-H Carnival Participants!

A heartfelt thank you to every 4-H club, family, volunteer, and supporter who helped make the Sedgwick County 4-H Carnival a tremendous success! Your creativity, teamwork, and enthusiasm filled the room with excitement and showcased the true spirit of 4-H. From hosting booths and donating items to cheering on our youth and sharing in the fun — you made this event unforgettable.

Your efforts not only created a day full of laughter and learning but also raised important funds that support meaningful youth programs across our county. Club totals and full financial information will be shared in our next newsletter following the Advisory Board Meeting, and we are excited to celebrate those results with you!

On a personal note... I certainly enjoyed my five trips to the River City Kids Jail Cell — although I remain convinced, I was set up! 😊 Thank you for keeping the fun and friendly mischief alive; the laughter and positive energy made the day even more special.

Sedgwick County 4-H continues to thrive because of your commitment and passion. Thank you for helping us “Make the Best Better”. We couldn’t do it without you!





QUEEN



Fun & Games

GREAT FOOD.
GREAT TIME.



A Huge THANK YOU to Our Sedgwick County 4-H Record Book Champions!

What an incredible year it has been for Sedgwick County 4-H! I want to extend a huge and heartfelt thank you to every youth member, leader, and family who worked to complete record books for the 2024–2025 project year. Your dedication, effort, and commitment to documenting your growth and accomplishments truly represent the heart of 4-H learning.

Last year we had 79 record books submitted. This year, our county soared to 127 completed record books! That is tremendous growth and an amazing reflection of the hard work taking place across our clubs and project groups. Many of these books were not only thorough and thoughtful — they were truly outstanding, demonstrating project mastery, leadership, community service, and personal growth.

Record books tell the story of each member's 4-H journey, and your stories this year were inspiring, creative, and full of learning and leadership. Whether you completed your very first book or continued to refine your record-keeping skills, we are incredibly proud of you.

Challenge for 2025–2026

Let's keep the momentum going! I am challenging every 4-H member in Sedgwick County to complete at least one record book for the 2025–2026 project year. You can complete a book for just one project, or you can go big and complete books for all of your projects — both options are celebrated and supported!

Support & Resources

To help you succeed, I will be posting a step-by-step instructional video on the Sedgwick County 4-H website that walks you through the entire record book process. In addition, I am always happy to visit clubs to provide a record book workshop or demonstration. If your club would like a hands-on session, please reach out, I would love to help!

Record books are more than paperwork — they build life skills like organization, communication, reflection, and goal-setting. They help youth recognize and celebrate their own growth while preparing them for scholarships, awards, leadership roles, and future success.

Thank you again, Sedgwick County 4-H members and supporters, for your incredible work. Let's make next year even bigger and better. Together, we are Making the Best Better — one record book at a time!



STATE PROJECT WINNER

We are thrilled to announce that Genevieve Crouch of K-State Research & Extension Sedgwick County has earned top honors in the Kansas 4-H State Project Awards for her work in the Geology project area. Through this achievement, she has earned eligibility to attend the national level event, National 4-H Congress, set for November 28–December 2.

Record Book & Project Achievement

Genevieve's journey began at the county and regional levels: she compiled her 4-H project record book, documented her learning in geology, and fulfilled leadership and service components required by the Kansas 4-H Youth Development program. Officials emphasized that state award winners demonstrate not only project skill but also leadership, organization, and civic-engagement growth.

At the state-level evaluation, only one winner is selected per project category in the senior division (ages 14-18), after thorough evaluation of report forms, progress summaries, and impact. Genevieve secured the State Geology award for Kansas.

What Record Book Recognition Means

This honor is a strong affirmation of Genevieve's dedication to her project work, her growth as a youth leader, and her contributions to 4-H in Sedgwick County. Congratulations are due to her, her club, her family, her mentors, and the Extension team who supported her.

From Nov 28 to Dec 2, Genevieve will join a select delegation of youth across the United States for the National 4-H Congress. This event brings together youth leaders, workshops, service-learning projects, national speakers, and peer networking opportunities. While specific agenda details for her trip may still be finalized, participants typically engage in:

- Project demonstrations and peer-sharing sessions
- Service learning and civic engagement activities
- Recognition events and award celebrations
- Inspiring keynote addresses and leadership training
- Cultural and social activities to connect across states

We in Sedgwick County couldn't be any more proud of Genevieve's accomplishment. It illustrates the tremendous opportunity 4-H offers: not just project work, but growth of leadership, service, and personal development. Her success shines bright lights on our 4-H youth, club leaders, volunteers, and extension professionals.

To Genevieve: Thank you for your hard work, commitment, and the example you set for younger members. We are excited to follow your journey to the National 4-H Congress and celebrate your achievements along the way.

Re-ignite YOUR Why

Submitted by Sarah E. Maass

In the day-to-day of planning programs, mentoring youth, working with volunteers, and juggling all the logistics, it's easy to focus on the what and forget the why. But in 4-H, our work is rooted in something deeper—something transformational.

You are not just preparing youth for the future. You are helping them be Beyond Ready for all the things they will experience throughout life. Every time you guide a young person through a challenge, encourage them to lead, or help them find their voice, you're doing more than teaching skills. You're cultivating confidence, resilience, and purpose. You're helping them thrive—not just in the next step, but in every step after.

Beyond Ready is more than a mindset. It's a movement. And our 4-H professionals and volunteers are at the heart of it. You model what it means to lead with intention, to serve with heart, and to grow through change. You show youth that readiness isn't just about being prepared—it's about being empowered.

So today, take a breath. Reflect on the lives you've touched. Reconnect with your purpose. And remember:

You are a mentor. A guide. A catalyst for growth.

The world needs more leaders who are helping youth be Beyond Ready. And it starts with you.

VETERAN'S DAY - NOVEMBER 11 - EXTENSION OFFICE CLOSED





Horse judging Contest

The 4-H Horse Judging Contest provides youth an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of equine-related subject matter, including structure and movement, in a competitive setting. This contest will provide an educational experience for all participants.

What: 2026 Kansas State 4-H Horse Judging Contest

- Cost: Early bird (by January 2, 2026)- \$25; Late (by January 9, 2026)- \$30

When: January 23, 2026

- Check-in: 7:45 a.m.
- Rules meeting: 8:15 a.m.
- Contest begins: 8:30 a.m.

Where: Equifest of Kansas; Stormont Vail Events Center; Topeka, KS

Who: The contest awards are available to all Kansas 4-H members 9-18.

- An open contest is also available through KQHA.

2026 Horse judging Contest Rules

TEEN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

For more information contact:

Lori Holt

316-660-0111

llholt@ksu.edu

Sedgwick County Extension Office



**Sedgwick County
4-H invites you to**

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**JOIN THE 4-H
TEEN COUNCIL**

*Meeting Times
4th Monday night of every
month
7:00 p.m.
Extension Office*

Open to any Sedgwick County 4-H Youth ages 13 and over.

Sedgwick County 4-H Teen Council provides an opportunity to work within your community with younger 4-Hers, participate in community service projects, get to know 4-H Teens from other county clubs and participate in leadership conferences and workshops.

The Sedgwick County Teen Council had a meeting after the 4-H Carnival on Sunday Oct. 26. They elected new officers. Mekenzie Wyant is the new president, Aria Baalman is Vice President, Nathan Turner is the Secretary, Aubrey Green is the treasurer, Genevieve Crouch is the Reporter, and Brenden Crouch is the Recreation Leader.

Teen Council ran a concession stand at the carnival on October 26, where they raised over \$500. They served hamburgers, hotdogs, chili, and nachos. They sold out of the chili cheese Frito pies. A great time was had by all.

On November 9th the Sedgwick County 4-H Awards Ceremony will be held at the Extension Office with a total of attendees bringing over 200. This is a wonderful opportunity to congratulate and celebrate all of the hard working 4-H'ers. Many of our 4-H'ers have spent endless hours preparing their projects and it is now time to recognize them.

The Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KYLF) is planned for November 21-23, 2025 at Rock Springs 4-H Center. KYLF is for youth ages 14-18 years of age. KYLF will feature leadership workshops, Youth Council Elections, and opportunities to learn and have fun. We have six youth traveling to Rock Spring for the wonderful experience.

Teen Council helped with the Murfin Oil food drive. The food has been delivered to the Union Rescue Mission for the families to have for Thanksgiving. A huge "thank you" goes out to all who provided food.

Reporter, Genevieve Crouch

Let's Make a Difference



Murfin Oil, Inc says thank you to all that made it possible to help 58 families through the Union Rescue Mission

Thank You for Your Generosity
Together, we make a difference!



OUR 4-H FAMILIES MAKE
US PROUD!





2025-2026 Calendar of Events



2025

November 9 Achievement & Project Award Ceremony, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, 4-H Hall
November 22-23 Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, Rock Springs
November 22-23 Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers Forum, Rock Springs
November 28 - Dec 1 National 4-H Congress

2026

January 5 Kansas 4-H Scholarship Applications Due
January 9 Record Books back to the office
January 10-11 Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Orientation Retreat, Rock Springs
January 16 SE Region 4-H Project Record Book Judging, Fredonia
January 23 State 4-H Horse Judging, Topeka
January 23 4-H Day Entries due, register online
January 30 February 1 4-H Dog Judge and Leader Training, Salina

February 7 4-H Day, 8:30 am, Stone Creek Elementary, Derby
February 15-16 4-H Citizenship in Action, Topeka
February 21-22 4-H Horse Panorama, Rock Springs Ranch

March 7 **Junior Beef Producer Day** Saturday, March 7, Bilbery Family Events Center, Manhattan
Registration deadline: TBA
March 15 County Scholarship Applications Due to office

April TBD Shutterbug Event
April TBD National 4-H Conference
April 11 **Junior Sheep Producer Day** Saturday, April 11, Bilbery Family Events Center, Manhattan
Registration deadline: TBA
April 18 Spring State Shooting Sports Match - BB, Air Rifle, Air Pistol, at Great Bend
April 25 Spring into Volunteering
April 28-29 Youth Entrepreneurship Contest (YEC) Manhattan

June 3-5 Discover Days, Manhattan

June 19-20 Insect Spectacular, Yates Center
June 12-14 State 4-H Geology Field Trip (TBA)
June/July 4-H Camp. Rock Springs Ranch

August 1 State 4-H Horse Show Entries due
August 4 4-H Wheat Expo, El Dorado
August 15 State Horticulture Judging Contest
August 22-23 (tentative) 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes, Manhattan

September 5 State 4-H Dog show
September 11-20 Kansas State Fair
September 26 State Archery Match

October 3 State Small Bore/Muzzle Loading Match
October 11 State Hunting Skills Match
October 17-18 4-H Dog Conference
October 18 State Shotgun Match

November 21-22 Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, Rock Springs Ranch
November 21-22 Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers Forum, Rock Springs Ranch

2027

January 8-10 Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Orientation Retreat, Rock Springs Ranch

June 9-11 Discover Days, Manhattan

HAPPY
Thanksgiving



CLUB NEWS

The Ninnescah Valley Club celebrated 4-H by having a window display during Clearwater's Homecoming week and 4-H week. We also collected items for the church's pantry, where we hold our meetings at. Our goal is to continue helping the community in hopes for the continued support for our club.





4-H Day

FEBRUARY 7, 2026



JOIN THE FUN!

Give a Demonstration or
Illustrated Talk
Reading
Piano Solo/Instrumental Solo
Public Speaking
Model Meeting
Skit/Dance

Upcoming Event

4-H Day
February 7, 2026

Where:

Stone Creek Elementary
3012 Triple Creek Dr.
Derby, KS 67037

We hope you will
participate!

Groups:

<https://tinyurl.com/4c4petzr>

Junior Entries:

<https://tinyurl.com/ykfww2ek>

Intermediate Entries:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdncvffm>

Senior Entries:

<https://tinyurl.com/ye2ybr4p>

For more information:
4-H Office (316) 660-115





YQCA CERTIFICATE IS MANDATORY FOR SEDGWICK COUNTY YOUTH TO SHOW AT SEDGWICK COUNTY FAIR

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21. The program is designed to provide a minimum 60 minutes of education each year.

YQCA is the result of a collaborative effort between states that have previously offered multi-species youth livestock quality assurance programs, the National Pork Board's Youth PQA Plus program and representatives from other national livestock groups.

- **Food Safety**

YQCA is designed as an annual education and certification program focused on food safety, animal well-being and character awareness for youth ages 8 to 21 producing and/or showing pigs, beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, rabbits, and poultry.

- **Animal Well Being**

The program has been designed by extension specialists and national livestock program managers to ensure it is accurate, current and relevant to the needs of the animal industry and shows and is appropriate for youth.

- **Character Development**

YQCA is accepted at a number of shows across the United States.

I am offering 5 teacher led courses for any individual who would like to participate in person. Dates below to sign up go to this link. <https://yqcaprogram.org/> choose your age group and instructor led.\$3.00 a youth

**** Remember to enroll and take the pre-test before coming to class.**

If you want to take the Online version go the same site. <https://yqcaprogram.org> choose your age group and online version. \$12.00 a youth.

Please go to their help section for any questions for enrollment.

<https://yqcaprogram.org/local/help-desk.php>

Meeting Dates: January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, and May 7. All meetings will begin at 7:00 pm here at the Extension Office.

Livestock/Meats Judging Clinic and Contest

Elite Livestock/Meats Judging Clinic and Contest 2025

Date : Saturday December 6, 2025

Registration ends Nov. 21st .

Meats Identification Registration: Starts @7:00 AM CST

Livestock Clinic Registration: Starts @8:00 AM CST

Please see our Facebook page for complete schedule

* Awards & Dinner @ 5:00 PM CST (approx. depending on contest conclusion) *

*** New this year meats identification training and contest hosted by KSU Meats Science Dept. ****

Registration Fee for Meats Identification Training and Contest ONLY \$10

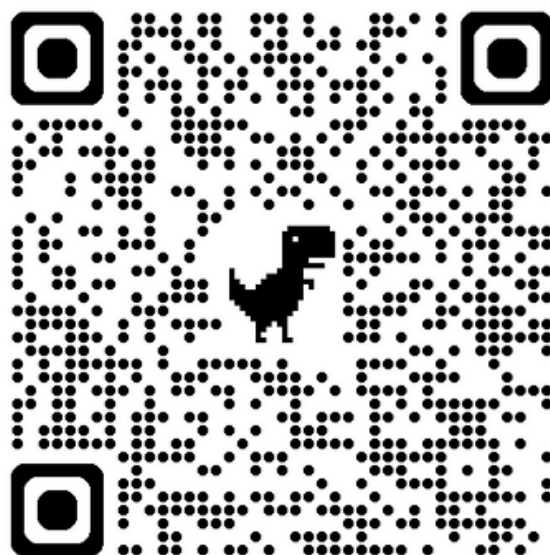
Registration Fee for Livestock Judging Clinic and Meats Identification Training : \$55 per individual

Registration Fee for Livestock Judging Clinic: \$50 per individual

Breakfast, Snacks, Lunch, Dinner, included with Livestock Judging Clinic fee.

Extra Meal Tickets are available for \$5 lunch or \$15 dinner

Questions? Call/Text 913-683-4277 or email lv.livestock.commitee@gmail.com





K-STATE

Research and Extension

Stephanie Hays

4-H Agent

Sedgwick County Extension

7001 W. 21st St. N.

Wichita, KS 67205

Phone: (316) 660-0112

Email: sahays@ksu.edu

Lori Holt

4-H Program Manager

Sedgwick County Extension

7001 W. 21st St. N.

Wichita, KS 67205

Phone: (316) 660-0111

Email: llholt@ksu.edu

Cathy Jones

4-H Program Assistant

Sedgwick County Extension

7001 W. 21st St. N.

Wichita, KS 67205

Phone: (316) 660-0113

Email: cpjones@ksu.edu

Barbara Wingfield

4-H Office Professional

Sedgwick County Extension

7001 W. 21st St. N.

Wichita, KS 67205

Phone: (316) 660-0115

Email: bwingfie@ksu.edu