K-STATE Research and Extension
Sedgwick County

4-H UPDATE

www.sedgwick.ksu.edu

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August 1	Youth Fair Premiums ready for pickup
August 16	State Horticulture Judging Contest, Manhattan Campus
August 21	Advisory Council Annual Meeting
Sept. 3	State Fair Entries due to office
Sept. 5-14	Kansas State Fair
Sept. 30	Record Books and Special Award applications due to the office
Oct. 1	New 4-H Year begins
Oct. 15	Club Financial Records due to the office

https://www.kansasstatefair.com/

From the Desk of..... Stephanie Hays

Dear 4-H Families:
As I reflect on the 2025 Sedgwick County Fair, I am overwhelmed with pride and gratitude. This year, 317 4-H youth brought their talents, hard work, and dedication to life through 2,328 outstanding entries. From livestock to leadership projects, the fairgrounds were filled with incredible displays of learning, growth, and achievement.

I want each of our youth to know just how proud I am of you. Whether this was your first fair or your last as a senior, you represented Sedgwick County 4-H with heart, determination, and excellence. Your courage to try something new, to finish strong, and to support your fellow 4-H'ers made this fair truly special.

To our incredible volunteers, club leaders, project leaders, and fair superintendents, thank you. Your time, energy, and love for 4-H made everything possible. Behind every successful exhibit and smiling 4-H'er was someone like you, quietly making sure things ran smoothly. I see your dedication, and I appreciate you more than words can say.

This fair was a shining example of what makes Sedgwick County 4-H so special: young people growing into leaders, families working together, and a community that shows up for one another.

Thank you for making this year's fair a huge success. I'm already excited about what we'll achieve next.

With gratitude,
Stephanie Hays
316-660 -0112
4-H Youth Development Agent
K-State Extension - Sedgwick County

Kansas State Fair
Static Entry Drop-Off Information

If you are submitting a static exhibit for the Kansas State Fair, please be aware of the following critical drop-off date and requirements. These deadlines ensure we can properly transport and register your exhibit for judging at the State Fair.

All static entries must be dropped off at the Sedgwick County Extension Office on the following day:

Wednesday, September 3rd | 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM

During drop-off, you will be required to complete additional State Fair paperwork, including entry tags and exhibit forms. This paperwork must be done at the time of drop-off, so please plan for a few extra minutes.

Important:
No late entries will be accepted after 7:00 PM on September 3rd. If you do not bring your exhibit during these designated times, it will not be transported to the Kansas State Fair.

Helpful Reminders:

- All exhibits must be State Fair eligible (received a purple ribbon at the county fair and meet project-specific requirements).
- Make sure your exhibit is labeled correctly and securely packaged for transport.
- If your exhibit is large, fragile, or unusually shaped, please notify the office in advance.
- Ask your club leader if you're unsure about your exhibit's eligibility or display guidelines.

This is an exciting opportunity to showcase your hard work on a statewide stage so don't miss out due to a missed deadline! Let us know if you have questions or need assistance preparing your exhibit.

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GROW 4-H

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Why We Fundraise and Volunteer for Grow 4-H

Our Advisory Council is hard at work preparing for the 4th Annual Grow 4-H Fundraiser and Carnival, and we need your help to make it a success! This initiative isn't just about raising money, it's about investing in the future of our youth, our program, and our entire 4-H community.

Every dollar raised helps support hands-on educational experiences, leadership development, scholarships, and updated project curriculum for our 4-H members. With 4-H reaching youth across Sedgwick County through clubs, school enrichment, and special interest programs, your support directly impacts hundreds of kids, especially those who might not otherwise have access to these opportunities.

The fundraiser has already begun and will run through October 17th, culminating in a fun-filled Grow 4-H Carnival on October 26th. The Carnival is more than an event, it's a celebration of community, learning and service.

Here's how you can help:

- Start thinking about who you will ask for a donation, family, businesses, or coworkers.
- Donate an experience-based prize--whether it's a lesson, tour, or hands-on activity, experiences are meaningful and memorable!
- Volunteer your time--we need many hands to make light the work before, during, and after the carnival.
- Encourage Junior Leaders to share their skills, we love seeing our youth lead and inspire others!

If you have suggestions, want to volunteer, or are ready to donate a prize or funds, please reach out. Together, we can GROW 4-H and open the door to endless possibilities for our youth!

Advisory Council News

Annual Advisory Council Meeting - Your Club's Voice Matters!

We invite all clubs to be represented at the upcoming Annual Advisory Council Meeting on Thursday, August 21st at 6:00 PM in the Bison Room at the Extension Office.

This meeting is one of the most important gatherings of the year—it sets the direction for our countywide 4-H programs, activities, and priorities for the coming year. Decisions made here impact funding, programming, volunteer support, training opportunities, and the overall experience we provide to our 4-H youth and families.

Why do we need club leaders present?

Having two leaders from each club ensures:

- Better communication and stronger collaboration. When more than one leader attends, your club has a clearer understanding of countywide plans and expectations.
- A broader perspective. Different leaders bring different insights, which helps make well-rounded decisions that benefit all clubs.
- Continuity. If one leader is unavailable in the future, the other is fully informed and can carry momentum forward.
- Shared leadership. It's easier to divide tasks and advocate for your club when responsibilities are shared and understood.

Please make every effort to attend and bring a fellow club leader with you. Your participation shows commitment to your members, strengthens our county's 4-H community, and ensures your club's needs and ideas are heard.

Let's work together to make 2025 our strongest year yet!

Kansas 4-H Sportfishing

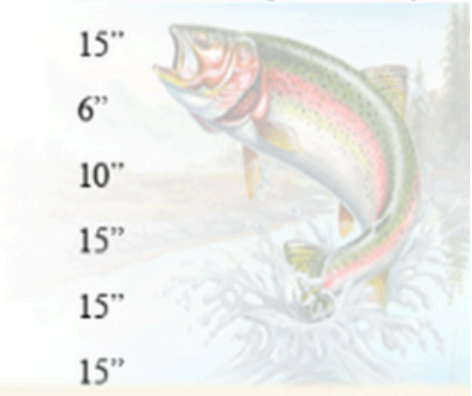
KANSAS 4-H SPORTFISHING TOURNAMENT
2025

The Kansas 4-H Sportfishing Tournament is open to all 4-H members. The contest runs throughout the year and ends September 15, 2025. Anglers can fish year-round but entries must be in by the deadline, fish caught after the deadline may be entered in the next contest. Participants can enter in any species/categories that they catch fish – go fishing and have fun!!!

One 4-H Angler of the Year will be named in each of the species/category listed below. These are fish commonly found in Kansas waters. Each Angler of the Year will receive a frameable certificate and a Wal-Mart gift card to hopefully be used for fishing equipment (one per individual). All participants that enter a certified entry will also receive Wal-Mart a gift card.

The following species will make up the contest:

Specie/Category	Minimum length for entry
Catfish (Channel, Flathead, or Blue Cat)	15"
Sunfish (Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Hybrid Sunfish)	6"
Crappie (Black or White)	10"
Black Bass (Largemouth or Smallmouth)	15"
Any Rough Fish (Carp, Drum, Buffalo, Grass Carp)	15"
Other Game Fish (Walleye, Saugeye, White Bass, Wiper, Striper, Trout)	15"



RULES:

1. Must be enrolled in 4-H but do not have to be in the Sportfishing Project.
2. To compete for Angler of the Year Award the entry must also be weighed and witnessed (digital hand scale is acceptable, no spring scales please.) Only one Angler of the Year award per individual will be awarded. If a participant is selected as first in a species/category their additional entries will not be considered in subsequent classes. We want to recognize as many participants as possible. Please use the **2025 entry form** but will accept other year forms if necessary.
3. Fish must be caught by a legal method as outlined in the current Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Fishing Regulations Summary. Fish can be caught anywhere in the state of Kansas.
4. YOUNG ANGLERS MUST CATCH THEIR OWN FISH! The past few years some very small/young anglers have caught some very big fish that would have required significant assistance from an adult. PLEASE PARENTS OR OTHER ADULTS, LET THE KIDS CATCH THEIR OWN FISH ALTHOUGH SOME HELP MAY BE REQUIRED.
5. Entries must be postmarked by September 15th or e-mailed/texted by that date. Winners will be announced around October 1, 2025. Every effort will be made to have the awards available to the counties/districts by their achievement awards program for presentation there or sent directly to the winners. I'll contact the county/district agent for their preference.
6. Entries are to be submitted to Tommie Berger 406 S. New York Ave. Sylvan Grove, KS 67481. bergkwf@wtciweb.com 785-524-6112

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 .....

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 particpate in leadership conferences and workshops.

The Teen Council has been on a roll these past few months, tackling big events like Style Revue and the Sedgwick County Fair—basically, if something fun and fabulous happened, they were probably behind it (or at least nearby with glitter or snacks).

First up: **Style Revue**. The theme was “Shimmer & Shine,” and shine it did! The council pulled off some seriously dazzling decorations—we’re talking sparkle levels that could be seen from space (okay, maybe just from the parking lot, but still impressive). Our 4-H’ers hit the runway modeling both handmade garments and stylish finds from their Shopping in Style projects. Let’s just say if there had been a fashion police, they would’ve been issuing citations for *too much fabulous*.

No sooner had the last sequin been packed away than it was time for the next big thing: **the county fair** out at the fairgrounds in Cheney. This year, the fair started a day earlier than the public expected, which gave our overachieving 4-H’ers a head start on Tuesday with their static exhibits. Did it go well? You bet. You could practically hear the ribbon printers overheating from all the success.

With this early start came a first for the Teen Council: **their very own concession stand**. Planned months in advance (because even popcorn needs a blueprint), the stand was up and running like a well-oiled fryer. Council members juggled working shifts and judging consultations like seasoned pros—multitasking that would make even a circus juggler jealous. Big shoutout to the families who donated items, manned the stand, and helped set up and tear down. You kept the judges and superintendents well-fed and probably mildly addicted to nachos.

And speaking of food—because when aren’t we?—**the Bake Sale** was also in full swing on Tuesday. It featured everything from mouthwatering cookies to jaw-dropping cakes that looked too good to eat (but let’s be honest, we ate them anyway). All proceeds went toward scholarships for local teens, so every bite of brownie was basically an investment in someone’s future. Thanks to all the talented bakers and generous buyers who made it such a sweet success

The Power of 4-H Record Books – Due September 30th !

It's that time of year.....Record Books, Pin Applications, and Award Forms are due soon! Be sure to check with your club leaders to find out your club's specific deadline in September. Completing your 4-H Record Book may seem like just another task, but it's one of the most valuable tools in your 4-H journey. These books allow you to reflect on what you've learned, track your progress, celebrate your accomplishments, and set new goals.

Here's why Record Books matter:

- Life Skills Development
  By working on your record book, you build essential skills such as organization, goal setting, time management, and clear communication—skills that will serve you well in school, work, and life.
- Scholarships and Awards
  A well-completed record book lays the foundation for local, state, and national 4-H awards and college scholarships. Many applications require details of your leadership, community service, and project work—all things you track in your book!
- Pin Applications & Recognition
  Your record book is required to apply for Membership Pins and to be considered for achievement awards. These recognitions help highlight your growth in leadership, citizenship, and project mastery.
- Career and College Preparation
  Learning how to track your accomplishments and write about your experiences gives you a head start on building resumes, portfolios, and college applications. Many former 4-H'ers say record keeping helped them stand out in job interviews and scholarship essays!
- A Personal Keepsake
  Your record book becomes a meaningful snapshot of your 4-H years, a record of growth, challenges, friendships, and success.

Don't wait until the last minute, start organizing your photos, leadership records, service projects, and project work now. If you need help or have questions, reach out to your club leader or contact the Extension Office.

Take pride in your work and give yourself the credit you deserve, submit a Record Book this year!

PROJECT RECORDS

1. **Project Record(s)**

Complete a separate record for each project you enrolled in and want to receive recognition for.

- Front Page/Personal Information is filled out
- Goals are clearly stated for the year
- Activities, learning experiences, and events are recorded
- Photos
- Project story/reflection is complete
- Record is neat, organized, and in your own words

2. **Pin Application (for members applying for a Membership Pin)**

Choose the appropriate level (e.g., Clover, Bronze, Silver, etc.).

- Use the correct pin application form
- Activities are filled in accurately
- Club leader has reviewed and signed
- Member and parent have signed
- Attach supporting documentation as needed (ex: talks, demonstrations, exhibits)

3. **County Award Applications**

Apply for individual awards like Key Award, Outstanding Record Book, or Project Awards.

- Select the award(s) you're applying for
- Complete any extra narrative or reflection pages required
- Ask for letters of recommendation if needed
- Include this packet behind your project records or in a separate folder

4. **Assembly & Submission**

- All pages are in a binder or folder (labeled with name & club)
- Each project has its own binder of folder
- Forms are printed one-sided (unless your club says otherwise)
- Double-checked for grammar and completeness
- Turned into club leader for their signature by your club's deadline in September

Tips for Success

✓ Start early—don't wait until the night before!
✓ Ask your club leader or Extension Office if you need help
✓ Make it personal—your voice matters!
✓ Celebrate your accomplishments, big and small

Club Spotlight

SHARE YOUR 4-H STORY!

We want to highlight the amazing things your club is doing each month—and we need your help to make it happen!

Every 4-H club has something special to share, whether it's a fun community service project, a unique meeting activity, a celebration of member achievements, or a behind-the-scenes look at project work. These stories are not only exciting—they inspire other members, families, and the wider community!

That's why we're inviting Club Reporters or any interested members to submit articles, photos, or updates to be featured in the monthly Sedgwick County 4-H Newsletter and on our Social Media pages.

Here's how to get started:

- Brainstorm article ideas at your next meeting
- Work with your officer team to write a short story or summary
- Include photos if you have them!
- Email it to the Extension Office by the 25th of each month for the next newsletter

Stories can be simple! Some ideas include:

- "What Our Club Did This Month"
- Highlights from a project meeting or tour
- Member shoutouts or achievements
- Community service efforts
- Club traditions or fun facts

Let's celebrate your club's hard work and creativity, your story deserves to be told!

If you need help getting started or want a sample article format, just reach out. I'm happy to help!

2024-2025 Calendar of Events

August 1 State Fair Entry Registrations due to the Extension Office
August 16 State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest, K-State Manhattan Campus
August 23-24 (Tentative) 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes, Manhattan

September 3 State Fair Entries due to the 4-H office, 8:00 am - 7:00 pm
September 4 State Fair Entry day for Static Exhibits, Hutchinson
September 5-14 Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson

October 18-19 State 4-H Dog Conference, Rock Springs
October 26 4-H Carnival, 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm, Extension Center

November 9 Project Award Ceremony, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, 4-H Hall, Extension Center

November 22-23 Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, Rock Springs
November 22-23 Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers Forum, Rock Springs

Change of Meeting Date:

Rescheduled Leaders Meeting – Now Set for September 25

I hope you're all enjoying a well-deserved break after a busy fair season. I wanted to give you a quick update regarding our upcoming Leaders Meeting.

Originally scheduled for September 4th, I realized that the 4th conflicts with Kansas State Fair project drop-off and judging, where many of us will already be at the fairgrounds. To ensure the best participation, I have rescheduled the meeting for Wednesday, September 25th.

To accommodate different schedules, the meeting will be offered as usual at three time slots:

- 5:00–6:00 PM
- 6:00–7:00 PM
- 7:00–8:00 PM

You may attend in person or join us via Google Meet. That said, I strongly encourage those who can attend in person to do so. We will have a variety of older curriculum materials available for clubs to take, as well as examples of the new curriculum being explored for future use. We will also have some door prizes that we have from Shop 4-H.

By that date, I also hope to have an update on the Cargill Grant, including how funds may be distributed and whether we'll be able to order updated curriculum sets for club-wide use.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to Sedgwick County 4-H. I look forward to connecting with you on September 25!

Thank you for all you do!!!

Remember I am just a phone call, email, or text away if you need anything.

Stephanie Hays M.Ed
4-H and Youth Development Agent
K-State Extension Sedgwick County

Support Their Spark - Why 4-H Donations Matter

Did you know that every dollar donated to 4-H helps grow the next generation of leaders, innovators, and changemakers, right here in Sedgwick County?

4-H is more than just a youth program. It's a hands-on learning experience that gives young people the opportunity to discover their passions, build life skills, and make a difference in their communities. Whether it's through livestock projects, science experiments, leadership roles, or public speaking,
4-H provides a place for every child to learn, grow, and thrive.

But we can't do it alone.
Your generous donations help cover the costs of updated curriculum, project supplies, educational workshops, event scholarships, and even fair entry support. This means more youth, especially those from underserved or rural areas, can participate in high-quality 4-H programming without financial barriers.

Give Where You're Passionate

You can choose to donate to any project area that speaks to you! Whether you love:

- Animals – support livestock education and animal science
- STEM – provide materials for robotics, rocketry, or coding
- Healthy Living – fund cooking, nutrition, and fitness workshops
- Leadership & Citizenship – help develop tomorrow's community leaders
- Creative Arts – support photography, woodworking, or fiber arts

There's a 4-H program for it—and your gift can help it grow.

How to Donate
Giving is simple, and you can donate any time throughout the year. Donations can be made as one-time gifts, recurring monthly support, or in honor of a loved one or former 4-H'er.
To make a donation, contact the Extension office at 316-660-0110 and ask for the 4-H department. All donations stay local and go directly to support Sedgwick County 4-H youth.
"It only takes one small act of generosity to spark a lifelong passion in a young person."
Thank you for believing in our youth. With your support, we can continue to grow 4-H opportunities for years to come.

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=3HKF5VD2MNZVL

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