Segwick County 4-H UPDATE

November, 2026

Grow 4-H Success

Thank you to everyone for making Grow 4-H a success.
A total of $10,053 was collected by our members. Congratulations to Zoe Crouch and Tagert St. John being the top collectors and getting first choice of baskets. The Achievers were the top fundraising club with over $2500 collected. Valley Victors was close behind with just over $2000 earned.
After fees and distributions to the clubs, the Advisory Council netted a total of $7,229.05 that will be used for awards, scholarships and trips. Thanks to Bobbie Kroetch and Julie Reilly for running Grow 4-H at the carnival. Thanks to Chris Baalmann for being the "Voice of 4-H" the night of the carnival. AND a HUGE thanks to Rebecca Snell for leading and organizing this massive fundraiser!

Club checks from raffle donations and ticket collections will be in your envelope at Awards Ceremony. Please cash as soon as possible.

Reminder to all 4-H members: Write thank you notes if you received a prize. Contact Rebecca Snell if you have questions.

Thanks to Delano 4-H Club and Valley Victors 4-H Club for creating window displays for National 4-H Week. Awesome job, 4-H members!





Kansas State University | Extension Sedgwick County

www.sedgwick.ksu.edu/

More Good News

Making a Difference



Teaming with Murfin, Inc and several other partners, Sedgwick County 4-H is making a difference for Union Rescue Mission. Over the past three years, 6,929 pounds of food have been donated. This year alone, 3,520 pounds were donated. Thank you for your generosity!







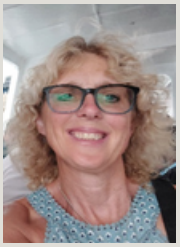


Horse Judging

Four young 4-H Members attended the 2026 Ellsworth FFA Horse Invitational. This was their first year judging and they placed second in the junior division. Congratulations to Reata, Wyatt, Tagert and Eliana! Way to represent Sedgwick County!



From the Desk of.....
Stephanie Hays



November: A Season of Gratitude and Giving

4-H Teaches Us to Be Thankful, and to Be a Blessing to Others

As November approaches and we begin to reflect on all the things we are thankful for, I am reminded of just how much 4-H gives to each of us. While we often talk about projects, ribbons, awards, and accomplishments, I believe the greatest gifts of 4-H are not things we can hold in our hands. They are the friendships we build, the lessons we learn, the people who believe in us, and the opportunities we have to make a difference in someone else's life.

4-H teaches us that gratitude is more than simply saying "thank you." It is recognizing the blessings in our lives and finding ways to share those blessings with others. Think about the people who make your 4-H experience possible. The parents who drive you to meetings, the volunteers who give countless hours teaching you new skills, the leaders who encourage you when something seems difficult, the judges who help you grow, and the friends who cheer you on. Each of these individuals gives something incredibly valuable, their time, knowledge, encouragement, and love.

Have you taken a moment to thank them?

One of my favorite things about 4-H is that it teaches young people to look beyond themselves. Our pledge reminds us to use our Hands for larger service, and I cannot think of a better time than Thanksgiving to put those words into action.

This month, I would like to challenge every Sedgwick County 4-H member, family, and volunteer to find a way to be a blessing to someone else.

I would also like to challenge each of our 4-H clubs to think about how they can make a difference in their communities this holiday season. Look around and ask, "Who needs our help? What challenges are people facing? How can our club use our heads, hearts, hands, and health to make someone's life a little better?"

The true measure of our success in 4-H is not how many ribbons we earn, but how many lives we touch along the way.

As your 4-H Agent, I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to work alongside such wonderful youth, families, and volunteers. I am thankful for the young people who challenge themselves to learn something new, for the parents who support their dreams, and for the volunteers who give so generously of themselves. Most of all, I am thankful that 4-H gives us the opportunity to help young people become caring, compassionate leaders who understand the importance of serving others.

As you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, I hope you take time to count your blessings. But I also hope you remember something even more important:

Don't just be thankful for the blessings in your life. Go out and BE a blessing in someone else's life. Imagine the difference we could make if every Sedgwick County 4-H member performed just one extra act of kindness this November. Together, we could create hundreds of moments of encouragement, generosity, and joy throughout our communities.

That is what 4-H is truly about, making the best better, not just for ourselves, but for everyone around us. Wishing all of our Sedgwick County 4-H families a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with gratitude, kindness, and love.

With a grateful heart,

Steph

4-H Youth Development Agent
K-State Research and Extension, Sedgwick County

Beyond Ready



Don't forget Awards Ceremony!

Sunday, November 8, 2026

2:00-4:00

4-H Hall

Bring a dessert to share!

2026-2027 Calendar of Events

Nov. 11	Veterans Day--Office closed
Nov. 14	Project Fair, Extension Education Center, 9-noon (more information below)
Nov. 21-22	Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, Rock Springs
Nov. 21-22	Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers Forum, Rock Springs
Nov. 23	Teen Council Meeting
Dec. 1	Deadline for returning members to enroll for new 4-H year
Dec. 24-31	Office closed for Christmas Break
2027	
Jan. 1-3	Office closed for Christmas Break
Jan. 4	Kansas 4-H Scholarship Applications Due (see article)
Jan. 12	Record Books going to regional screening due at the office
Jan. 27-29	Stephanie, Lori and Susie out of office for Program Rally
Jan. 30-Feb. 1	4-H Dog Judge and Leader Training, Salina
Feb. 6	4-H Day, Stonecreek Elementary, 3012 Triple Creek Drive, Derby, KS
Feb. 7-8	Kansas 4-H Citizenship in Action, Topeka (new date this year due to Super Bowl)
Feb. 20	Sedgwick County 4-H Shooting Sports Match, Extension Education Center
Feb. 20-21	Horse Panorama, Manhattan
March 1	Deadline for all new members to enroll in 4-H
April 17	Kansas 4-H Shooting Sports Spring Match, Great Bend
April 20-21	State Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC), Manhattan
May 1	Drop/Add Deadline for projects
May 1	Ownership Deadline for Livestock, Rabbits and Poultry
June 9-11	Discovery Days, Manhattan
June 18-19	Insect Spectacular, Wichita
July 7-10	Sedgwick County Fair
Sept. 4	State 4-H Dog Show
Sept. 9-19	State Fair, Hutchinson, KS

SEDGWICK COUNTY

4-H Project Fair

Come explore 4-H and all the different projects!!!

NOVEMBER 14TH
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

SEDGWICK COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
7001 W. 21ST STREET NORTH
WICHITA, KS, 67205

Open to everyone!!!



- LEADERSHIP - CITIZENSHIP - LIFE SKILLS - STEM - AG -

This is a great time to invite your friends to see what 4-H is all about! Share your love of 4-H with others!

A Note from the Foods Superintendents!

Are you interested?

Feedback is needed to determine interest in meeting to taste and share foods that are great for lifelong food skill development, but are not eligible for the county fair. Some ideas include learning about making casseroles, charcuterie boards, soups, family dinners, etc. This would include potluck gatherings to sample other 4-Her's creations!

Click the link (https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/pyG1gBztBS) to let us know your interest and availability!

Thanks, Martina and Kandace, for this new monthly column.



Kansas 4-H Scholarships

The Kansas 4-H Scholarship program is open to graduating high school seniors, current college students, and graduate students who have been part of the 4-H experience. Each scholarship has its own criteria, and you may qualify for several. You will only need to fill out one application to be considered for all available scholarships.

See the website for more information: https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html. **DEADLINE TO APPLY: JANUARY 4, 2027. An email is being sent to all high school seniors, college student and almuni next week!**



Hospice Gown Event

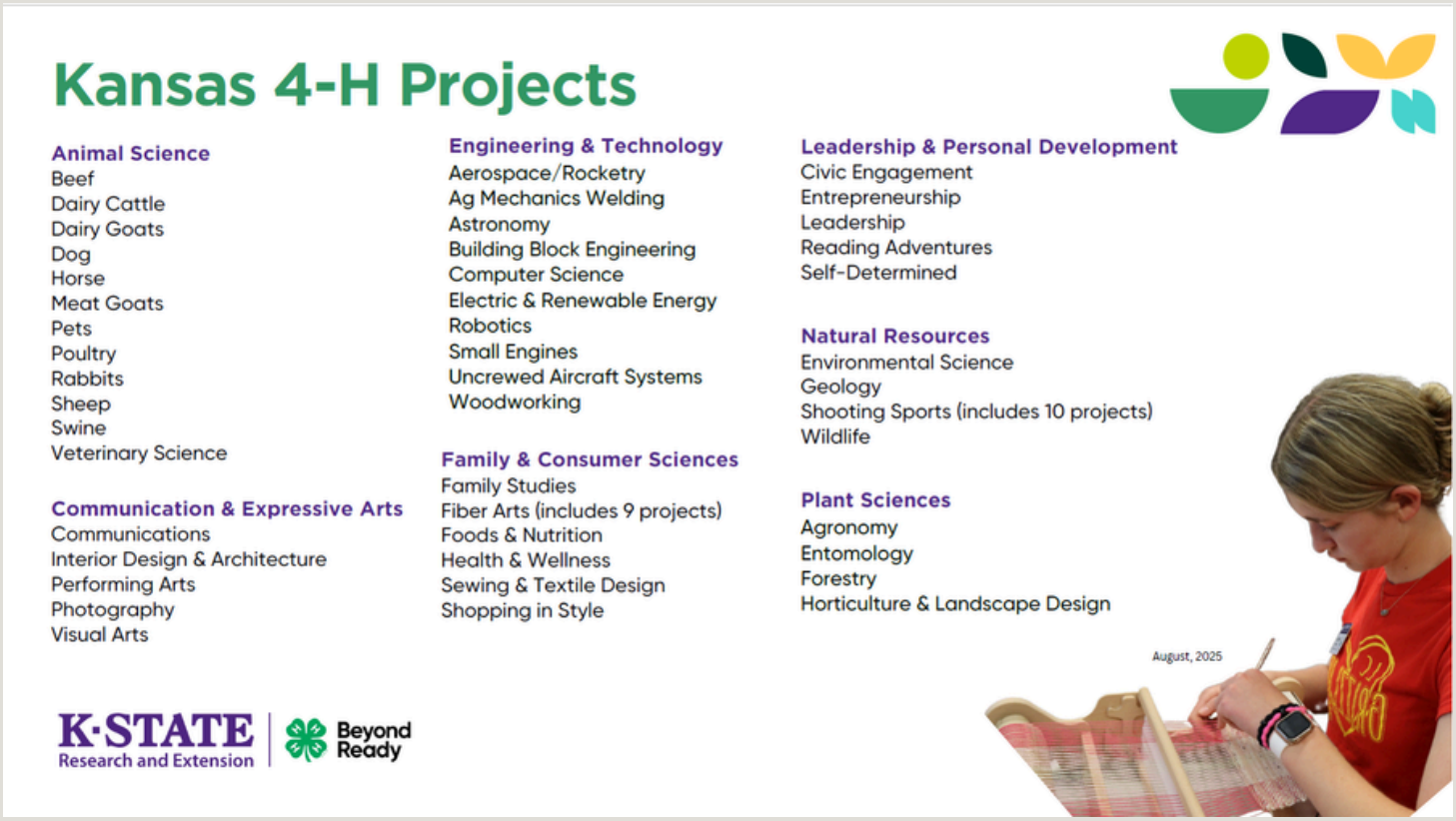
Around 25 4-H members and parents had the privilege of working along side of volunteers and members of the Sewing Guild to prepare and sew hospice gowns for Harry Hynes Hospice. Many 4-Her's received amazing door prizes. We had a great lunch and spent time sharing sewing stories. It is a wonderful opportunity to be a part of a great service project to our community. Save the date for next year (September 25, 2027) and be a part of this great experience.

4-H Enrollment for the New Year

It's time to enroll in the new 4-H year! ALL returning 4-H members and volunteers must enroll in 4-H Online before December 1, 2026 in order to participate in county, regional, and state competitions. If you have not done so, please complete your enrollment as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please reach out to us to help you.

The final drop/add deadline for project selection is May 1, 2027.

New members must enroll by March 1, 2027.



Access the project selection guide here: https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/download/4-h-project-selection-guide_4H1065



Z-Books: Important Information

While record books are still fresh in everyone's minds, we want to share some changes for next year. The state 4-H office will no longer offer the fillable PDF forms for Project Reports. They must be completed using Z-Books.

We will be featuring articles each month in how to use this online tool.

This month, we want you to set up your online Z-Books Account (if you haven't already) using this video to guide you: https://youtu.be/zS0VyD9ezZ4?si=u5gjS9it_ttFsNUA, then create one record form for one project: https://youtu.be/1hGx1bqVrRA?si=F2Uur2Fa3JTohJtw. Make some goals for that project.

You are off to a great start!

Choosing Your 4-H Projects

One of the best parts of 4-H is choosing projects that match your interests! Whether you enjoy animals, photography, cooking, woodworking, gardening, robotics, or something else entirely, there is a 4-H project for you. Projects give members the chance to explore new interests, build skills, and discover talents through hands-on learning. With more than 35 project areas to choose from, there are plenty of opportunities to try something new or build on skills you've already learned.

When choosing projects, think about what you enjoy, what you want to learn, and how much time you have. Some projects may need extra space, equipment, or supplies. New members may want to start with one or two projects. Returning members might enjoy trying something new. Remember, the goal is to learn and grow through your experiences in 4-H.

If you haven't enrolled for the new 4-H year, please do so now! Try to choose your projects during enrollment so leaders can plan meetings and activities. The final deadline to add or drop projects is May 1st, so you have several months to explore your interests and make changes if needed. Take a look at the 4-H Project Selection Guide for ideas, and don't hesitate to contact the Extension Office if you have questions or need help choosing projects.

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

GroupMe: Parents and youth 13 and older, join the GroupMe to keep informed of all Teen Council events: https://groupme.com/join_group/117906090/wreu17Gr

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-Her's, participate in community service projects, get to know 4-H Teens from other county clubs, and particpate in leadership conferences and workshops.

November News

Meeting

November meeting will be held on November 23 at 7:00 PM at the Extension Office. We will be getting prepared for our November and December service projects.

November Service Project

On November 24, we will be painting the stage in 4-H Hall. Come in your painting clothes at 10 AM until finished. Lunch provided. Many hands will make it go quick!

Reporter Report

The Sedgwick County Teen Council met after the 4-H Carnival on Sunday October 11th, 2026. At the carnival they ran the concession stand, their club booths, and stuck around helping with carnival clean up after it was over. The meeting consisted of officer elections and recap of previously discussed service projects and leadership opportunities. New officers were voted on and installed into their new positions. The new slate of officers was accepted. They are: President- Genevieve Crouch, Vice President- Nathan Turner, Secretary- Aria Baalmaan, Treasurer- Mekenzie Wyant, and lastly Recreation Leaders- Ella Swingle, Brenden Crouch and Matthias Baalmaan. On November 24th, at 10 AM, the teens will gather to work on touching up and repainting the front of the stage in 4-H Hall. Wreaths Across America will be the service project for December. Once a year in December citizens gather with the Wreaths Across America organization to honor veterans who are laid to rest in local cemeteries by laying a wreath on their grave. It's a nice way to honor their sacrifices for our nation during the Christmas break. The council discussed their roles in the upcoming awards ceremony in November. KYLF is coming up and several teens from Sedgwick County will be attending. Stephanie Hays and Lori Holt are scheduled to teach a class. It will be a fun weekend of leadership learning and development at Rock Springs Ranch. The meeting concluded with a game of mafia.
-Geneviève Crouch, Reporter

Coming Soon:
4-H Days

Saturday, February 6, 2027
Stone Creek Elementary School
3012 Triple Creek Drive
Derby, KS



Opportunities for individual, group and club participation.

One form to register to participate and volunteer (deadline to register Jan. 24): bit.ly/4A471UY

Resources: https://www.sedgwick.k-state.edu/4-h-youth/events/4h_day/

Types of Presentations:

Project Talk (a short talk for youger members about a project):

- Tells about a 4-H project
- Is for members 11 years old and younger
- Does not require visuals

Demonstration (Shows how to do something; may be individual or a team of two)

- Is to teach by showing how
- Involves making or doing something (often has a finished product)
- Is for all ages

Illustrated Talk (teaches by telling instead of showing):

- Shows a finished product instead of making the product
- Uses pictures, charts, models, equipment and other types of visual aids
- Is for all ages

Public Speaking (promoting or presenting an issue through a persuasive, entertaining, informational or inspiring speech)

- Is for 4-H members 14 years and older
- Questions are optional
- Lasts 5-15 minutes

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.

Stephanie is offering 5 teacher led courses for any individual who would like to participate in person. To sign up go to this link: https://yqcaprogram.org/ , choose your age group and instructor led. Cost is $3.00 per youth. See dates offered below.

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

If you want to take the Online version go to the same site. 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

Dates for Sedgwick County Training: Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 9, April 13, and May 11.

All classes are at 7:00 PM in the Cox Room (enter by the flagpole).

Junior Producer Days

K-State will be hosting two junior producer days in March of 2027 at the Bilbrey Family Event Center in Manhattan. Each year, they host two events, rotating the species between odd and even years. Since next year is an odd year, swine and meat goat will be the focus.

The junior producer days are one-day (Saturday) educational events for families to learn about the selection and management of a specific species. Youth, parents, volunteers, and extension agents are invited to attend and learn about a variety of topics related to the project. Sessions typically include selection, nutrition, meat science, health, fitting and grooming, daily care, and showmanship, plus a few topics that are specific or unique to a particular specie. Presenters include K-State faculty, staff, students, former exhibitors, and invited guest speakers. T-shirts are provided to participants who sign up before the deadline published on the registration materials. Everyone who plans to attend, including youth and adults, will need to register.

K-State Junior Swine Producer Day – March 6

K-State Junior Meat Goat Producer Day – March 20

Please watch for more details, including the flyer, schedule, and registration link, which will be released in the coming weeks! This information will also be posted on the Kansas State Youth Livestock Program Facebook page and website.



We are here to serve you. Call, email or come visit if you need anything!



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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 the Sedgwick County Extension four weeks prior to the start of the event at 316-660-0115. 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.

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