

Harvey County 4-H Happenings

The Informer

March & April 2026

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Research and Extension



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County

www.harvey.ksu.edu

I keep hearing that if we act like it is spring, the weather will follow suit. I sure hope that is the case because I am so ready for spring and summer this year!

4-H has had a busy late winter here. We went with six kids to Citizenship In Action, where they were able to talk to our representatives, tour the Capitol, and debate actual bills. This year's bill was the cell phones in school policy, which was really fun to see kids having civil discourse around this topic.

We also just completed beef weigh day, with 47 tagged, which is right on with last year's count, but we did have a few new families. It is nice to see projects growing! We also completed Multi-County Club Day a few weekends ago with more 4-Hers competing than last year. Again, it is always nice to see our numbers rising in the events we do.

Coming up, we have the Spring Beef Show at the end of the month, and many projects are starting to make plans for practices or get-togethers. Essentially, we are getting busy in our office with events and planning for summer events. Fair preparation is underway, with the book and event schedule coming out soon.

As usual, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out!



County Wide News

All Animal Projects

The 2026 Harvey County Fair will be here before you know! We have put together an all-in-one resource for all of our live species' projects. This link will have all the deadlines for Harvey County as well as the KSF and KJLS dates along with added resources. Go to the 2026 Dates to Know for Harvey County Animal Projects document on [Harvey County Free Fair | K-State | Kansas State University](#) page. We will update deadlines on this link as those dates come available. If there are changes we will push those out to you through multiple channels.



CIA - Citizenship In Action

This year we had 6 4-H youth from Harvey County attend Citizenship in Action. They all had a great time learning about the legislative process as they debated and voted on a mock bill on the Senate and House Floors at the Capitol in Topeka. The mock bill was concerning cell phones in schools. They also practiced their etiquette at a formal banquet, toured the Capitol, and witnessed the House of Representatives in action.



The Theme for the 2026 Harvey County Fair is:

**IT'S A SMALL TOWN SHOWDOWN
AT THE HARVEY COUNTY FREE FAIR**

Jaeann came up with the winning theme that was decided by the Harvey County 4-H Council.

2025-2026 Harvey County 4-H Calendar



October 1	2025-2026 Program Year Begins / 4-H Online Enrollment Opens
October 2	Taste of Newton Ambassador's New Year's Cookies Booth, Newton
October 5-11	National 4-H Week
October 11-12	48 Hours of 4-H Service Challenge
October 18	HVCO 4-H Recognition Night, Salem United Methodist Church
October 23	HVCO 4-H Council Meeting, 7 PM, Courthouse
November 1	Live Well, Lead Well/Engineering & Technology Workshop, Wichita
November 2	HVCO 4-H Leadership Lab, Sacred Heart Parish Center, Halstead
November 22-23	Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, Rock Springs Ranch
November 22-23	Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers Forum, Rock Springs Ranch
December 15	HVCO 4-H Ambassadors, 6 PM, Wal-Mart
December 15	HVCO 4-H Council Meeting, 6:30 PM, Courthouse
January 10-11	Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Orientation Retreat, Rock Springs Ranch
February 15-16	4-H Citizenship in Action, Topeka
February 21	Multi-County Club Day, Chisholm Middle School, Newton
February 21-22	4-H Horse Panorama, Rock Springs Ranch
February 26	HVCO 4-H Ambassadors, 6 PM
February 26	HVCO 4-H Council Meeting, 7 PM
February 28	HVCO Beef Weigh Day
March 26	HVCO 4-H Ambassadors, 6 PM
March 28	HVCO Spring Beef Show
April TBD	Shutterbug Photography Event, TBD
April 23	HVCO 4-H Ambassadors, 6 PM
April 23	HVCO 4-H Council Meeting, 7 PM
April 25	Spring into Volunteering, Salina
April 28-29	Youth Entrepreneurship Contest (YEC), Manhattan, KS
May 8	HVCO Sheep/Goat/Swine Tagging
May 28	HVCO 4-H Ambassadors, 6 PM
June 3-5	Discovery Days, Manhattan
June 19-20	Insect Spectacular, Yates Center
June 12-14	State 4-H Geology Field Trip, TBD
June 25	HVCO 4-H Council Meeting, 7 PM
June/July	4-H Camp, Rock Springs Ranch
June TBD	HVCO Rocket Launch
June/July TBD	HVCO Dog Show
July TBD	HVCO Style Review
July 22	HVCO 4-H Ambassadors, 6 PM
July 25	HVCO Horse Show
July 30 - August 3	HVCO Free Fair - 4-H & Open Class, Newton
August 15	State Horticulture Judging Contest, Manhattan
August 22-23	4-H Livestock Sweepstakes, Manhattan
August 27	HVCO 4-H Council, 7 PM
September 11-20	Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson
September 24	HVCO 4-H Ambassadors, 6 PM
September 30	2025/2026 Program Year Ends
October TBD	Record Books, Scholarship, End of Year Documents Due

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4-H Volunteer News

When you believe in the power of young people, it is important to stay up to date with theories, resources, policies, and much more. Staying up to date with the “hip” things these days takes a lot of work. Hopefully this part in the newsletter will help with keeping you up to date. ---Anne

4-H County Fair Judges Training

Are you interested in judging county fair exhibits or just learning more about the judging process as a project leader, parent, or Extension staff member? Join 4-H for a Fair Judges Training!

Two More Opportunities are Coming Up:

Wednesday, April 11th in Wakeeney (registration coming soon!)

Tuesday, April 14th in Concordia (register at [2026 Judge's Training In Concordia](#))

Judging 4-H Projects isn't just about ribbons—it's a youth development strategy. When done well, the evaluation process strengthens the very skills young people need to thrive in school, careers, and life. Learn how to conduct effective conference evaluations using recognized standards, with project-specific guidance. Complete information can be found at [4-H Youth Development | K-State | Kansas State University](#) under "Important Updates and Upcoming Events".

Thank You Volunteers!

National Volunteer Week is:
April 19– 25, 2026

Spring into Volunteering

The Association of Kansas 4-H Volunteers is hosting "Spring Into Volunteering" at the K-State Polytechnic Campus in Salina on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

Registration will begin at 9 AM, and the day will conclude at 3 PM. This is for anyone serving as a 4-H Volunteer or considering it! The goal is for volunteers to go home recharged, excited, and ready to try new things in their volunteer roles.

Online registration will be available soon, with a due date of April 15, 2026. Once registration opens, it will be shared through 4-H Online.

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4-H Parent Corner

Positive Youth Development

At the heart of 4-H is something called **Positive Youth Development (PYD)** — a simple idea with a big impact. In 4-H, we believe every young person has strengths, interests, and potential worth growing. Instead of focusing on what youth lack, we focus on what they can become. Through hands-on projects, leadership opportunities, and supportive adult mentors, 4-H members are encouraged to explore their “sparks” — the activities that excite and motivate them. Whether they’re showing livestock, leading a meeting, giving a presentation, or serving their community, youth are building confidence, responsibility, and real-world skills along the way.

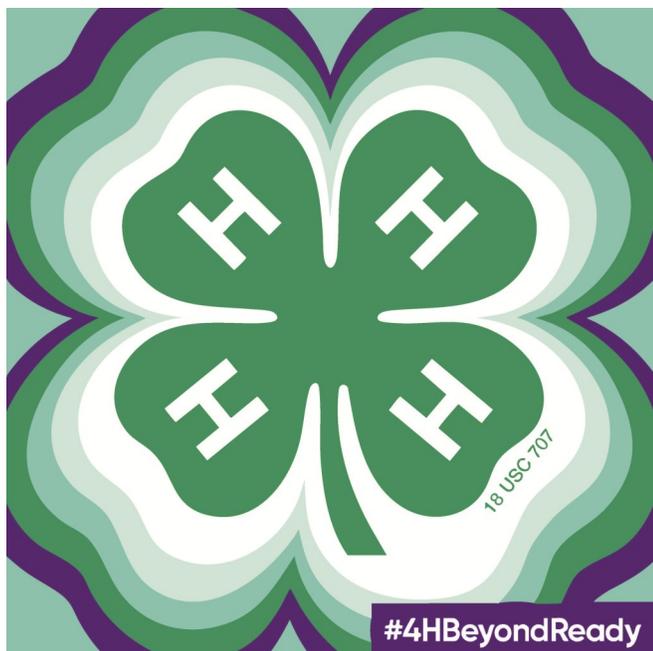
For parents, this means 4-H is about much more than ribbons and record books. It’s about creating a safe, encouraging environment where young people can try new things, learn from mistakes, and discover who they are. When youth are given meaningful roles and supportive guidance, they grow into capable leaders and caring community members. Your involvement — cheering them on, volunteering, or simply asking about their projects — plays a powerful role in that growth. Together, we’re helping young people build skills for today and confidence for tomorrow.



State & Other News

Kansas 4-H Events

To see a list and detail information about various Kansas 4-H Project-Based Events offered throughout the year go to [Project-Based Events](#).



ROCK SPRINGS RANCH

Sign up for camp at Rock Springs Ranch. Harvey County 4-H Youth use coupon code *HVCO4-H26* for \$100 toward camp from the Harvey County 4-H Development Fund. Go to [Rock Springs Ranch](#) for dates and to register.



Event Scholarship Opportunity

Attending a State 4-H event and want support paying for this event? Then apply for a Harvey County 4-H Development Fund Event Scholarship.

It is a simple two question process.

Turn it into the office once completed.

To find the application use this link:

[Records and Forms \(k-state.edu\)](#)

Ag Tech Day

April 4, 2026
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

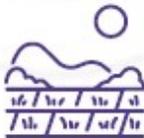
Flickner Innovation Farm
Moundridge, Kansas



Visit stations around the farm and learn about technologies to make a farm management plan.



Free and open to the public; activities are tailored for middle and high school students.



Come and go as you please; snacks provided!

Register by April 1 at <https://bit.ly/AgTechDay>

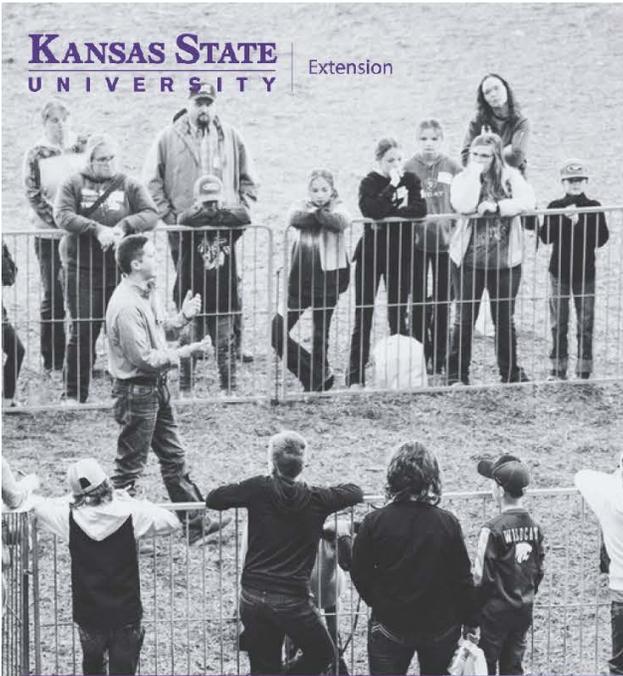
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2026 K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day



Date

4.11.2026

Manhattan, KS



Scan Me!



Registration

Due: 3.20.2026

Cost: \$20/person

<https://bit.ly/SheepJrProducer>

*All adults & youth must register to attend.

**Only those registered by 3/20/26 will receive a t-shirt.

***Late registration is \$30/person.



Questions

Lexie Hayes



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Program

Join us for the biennial K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Presentations will be provided by featured guests, as well as K-State faculty, staff, and students. This event will be an educational day of activities in which youth, parents, extension agents, ag teachers, and sheep project leaders can increase their knowledge of youth sheep project selection and management. A variety of topics will be shared, including an optional YQCA certification at the end of the day. All ages and skill levels are invited! Lunch and a t-shirt are included. The registration fee is \$20/person for those who sign up by March 20 or \$30/person for those who register after that date. Only those who register by the deadline will receive a t-shirt. This is a family event! Anyone attending, including both youth and adults, must register. There will be an optional tour of the sheep and meat goat center offered on Friday evening and Saturday after jr. day.

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 10

5:00-7:00PM Optional Tour of Sheep & Goat Center

Saturday, April 11

8:00AM Check-in

9:00AM Welcome

9:15AM Selection

10:00AM Nutrition

10:45AM Morning Breakout Sessions

-facilities & equipment, reproduction, project management purchase to show

NOON Lunch

1:00PM Health

1:45PM Afternoon Breakout Sessions

-wool, showmanship, clipping & grooming

3:45PM Dismissal

4:00PM Optional YQCA Class

4:00-6:00PM Optional Sheep & Goat Center Tour



K-State, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.



County Project Information

Beef Project	Spring Beef Show is Saturday, March 28, 2026 at the Harvey County Fair Grounds. Register at: 2026 Harvey County Spring Beef Show Showman
Dog Project Leaders: Amy Brown & Marcia Oden Email: h2oskii@hotmail.com	Dog project practice is most Tuesdays at 6 PM. Please reach out to Amy or Marcia for an exact schedule and details. Keep have fun working on tricks and obedience with your pup. An email was sent out, please reach out if you did not get it.
Horse Project Leaders: Scott & Kelly Harder Email: skharder90@gmail.com	If you are planning to be involved with the Horse Project this year, please be sure to sign up for the Horse Project in 4-H Online. An email was sent out, please reach out if you did not get it.
Rocketry Project Leaders: Doug Stucky & Scott Oden Email: dougstucky68@gmail.com	Now is a great time to get your model rockets to get started for the 4-H year. Remember, buy a kit that has balsa wood fins. Plastic fins are not allowed.
Shooting Sports Projects Leaders: Justin Schrag, David Becker, & Jason Pomeroy Email: harveycountyshootingsports@gmail.com	Shooting Sports is well underway with the Rifle Disciple, specifically BB Gun. Those participating should keep up with information by joining "Shooting Sports Air rifle/bb gun" on GroupMe with this link: https://groupme.com/join_group/106583767/TFunUX8X 
Other Projects	Keep an eye out on your emails! There will be project meetings starting up!

Upcoming 4-H Dates

March 1	4-H Day with Wildcat Women's Basketball
March 26, 6 PM	Ambassadors Meeting
March 28	Spring Beef Show
April 19-25	National Volunteer Week
April 23, 6 PM	Ambassadors Meeting, Extension Office
April 23, 7 PM	4-H Council Meeting, Extension Office
May 8	Small Animal Tagging - More details to come.
June 3-5	Discovery Days, Manhattan
July 30 - August 3	Harvey County Free Fair



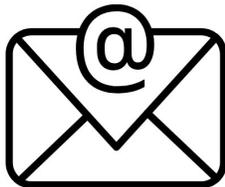
We have moved!

K-State Extension, Harvey County is now located at:
215 S Pine, Rm 309

CONNECT WITH US



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County 4-H



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