

Harvey County 4-H Happenings

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Research and Extension



Harvey
County

The Informer

November & December 2025

www.harvey.ksu.edu

We're moving into one of my favorite times of the year. There's something about the winter months — the snow, the cold, even the early darkness — that I truly enjoy. I know that might sound a little strange, but this quiet season always feels like the perfect time to slow down and refocus.

As the year winds down, it's also a great moment for goal planning. Whether you're a 4-H member thinking about next year's projects, a volunteer reflecting on what worked well, or a family setting new intentions together, winter offers the space to dream, plan, and prepare for what's ahead. As you start thinking about your goals, try using the **SMART** approach — setting goals that are **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound**. Instead of saying "I want to do better at my project next year," think about what that really means: "I want to complete all my record books on time," or "I'll give one project talk at a club meeting by April." Little by little, those specific steps make a big difference. Taking time now to plan and set clear goals will help you start the new year with purpose, direction, and confidence.

As we head into the colder months, let's take a moment to pause, celebrate our accomplishments, and look ahead to another great year of growth and learning together.



Anne
Pitts

Director & 4-H &
Human Development

316-284-6930

County Wide News



4-H Recognition Night
was held October 18th!
We had a great turnout
and loved being able to
recognize all of our
hardworking youth and
volunteers!



SAVE THE DATE:

Multi-County 4-H Club Day

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Chisholm Middle School, Newton

More information will be sent out later.

For now, start preparing your presentations.

Check out our website for resources and details:

[4-H Club Days](#)

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Parents & leaders are
encouraged to attend!

2025 4-H LEADERSHIP LAB

GROW, LEAD, THRIVE!

Free

What is a 4-H Teen Leader?

A 4-H teen leader is a young person who takes on a leadership role within a 4-H club or program, helping to plan activities, mentor younger members, and develop their leadership skills. Teen leaders are typically between the ages of 13 and 19.

Benefits:

- **Leadership Skills:** Officers gain key leadership training.
- **Club Basics:** Learn the core elements of running a club.
- **Parliamentary Law:** Master meeting procedures for smooth operations.
- **Parent Support:** Parents engage with thriving curriculum to help youth succeed.
- **Stronger Teams:** Build connections for a more cohesive club.



1:30–3:30 P.M.



November 2, 2025



**Sacred Heart Catholic
Church Parish Center**
419 Poplar St,
Halstead, KS 67056



**SCAN
ME!**



K-State Research and Extension 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 for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact (insert name) four weeks prior to the start of the event (insert deadline date) at (insert phone number and email). 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.

Committees

At this time, we are going to have 4 committees that are open to all 4-Hers, parents, and volunteers. We ask that you sign up here:

https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cMktPcblGG10MEC. The committees are Fair Awards, 4-H Recognition Night, Spring Beef Show, and End of the Year Awards Selection. You can be on as many as you want and each committee will meet and work on their respected committees. 4-H Council representatives will be on the committees as well and will report about the progress made during our 4-H Council meetings. This is something new, but I am very confident we will be successful with these committees.

The goal here, is to give ownership and responsibility to families and 4-Hers. To have a democratic process in planning events and making decisions. This is not my program but it is our program and I want to work with you to make it what we want it to be.

2025-2026

4-H COUNCIL SCHEDULE

October 23
December 15
February 26
April 23
June 25
August 27
October 22

Thursdays 7:00-8:00 PM

Location: TBD

More information will be emailed around 4-H Council meeting times.

For more information, contact:

Anne Pitts
aelpers@ksu.edu
316-284-6930

Harvey County 4-H Ambassador Program

Our 4-H Ambassador Program is designed for a select group of youth leaders who proudly represent Harvey County 4-H in the community. Ambassadors serve as the *face and voice* of 4-H, sharing their experiences and helping tell the 4-H story at county-wide events, programs, and outreach activities.

Ambassadors work closely with community stakeholders, younger members, and volunteers to promote leadership, service, and the positive impact of 4-H. This role offers valuable opportunities to build public speaking skills, develop leadership abilities, and make a difference in the community.

Youth ages **13 and older** are eligible to apply. Ambassadors meet monthly to plan activities, prepare for events, and strengthen their leadership skills.

Interested in joining? Enroll in the "project" in 4-H Online when enrolling in 4-H in October and review the [roles and responsibilities](#) of becoming a Harvey County 4-H Ambassador. Ambassadors will need to have that document signed and on file in the office.

2025-2026 4-H ENROLLMENT IS OPEN

ENROLL FOR THE 2025-2026 4-H YEAR ONLINE AT:

[Sign In \(4honline.com\)](https://4honline.com)

Kansas 4-H Projects

Animal Science

Beef
Dairy Cattle
Dairy Goats
Dog
Horse
Meat Goats
Pets
Poultry
Rabbits
Sheep
Swine
Veterinary Science

Communication & Expressive Arts

Communications
Interior Design & Architecture
Performing Arts
Photography
Visual Arts

Engineering & Technology

Aerospace/Rocketry
Ag Mechanics Welding
Astronomy
Building Block Engineering
Computer Science
Electric & Renewable Energy
Robotics
Small Engines
Uncrewed Aircraft Systems
Woodworking

Family & Consumer Sciences

Family Studies
Fiber Arts (includes 9 projects)
Foods & Nutrition
Health & Wellness
Sewing & Textile Design
Shopping in Style

Leadership & Personal Development

Civic Engagement
Entrepreneurship
Leadership
Reading Adventures
Self-Determined

Natural Resources

Environmental Science
Geology
Shooting Sports (includes 10 projects)
Wildlife

Plant Sciences

Agronomy
Entomology
Forestry
Horticulture & Landscape Design



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Moving Fall of 2025!

Follow us on Facebook or sign
up for our monthly email
newsletter for exact dates!

215 South Pine Street, Newton

Phone: 316-284-6930
harvey.k-state.edu
PO Box 583, Newton KS



Our new home will be on
the third floor of the Pine
Street Building, above the
Harvey County Health
Department. Come see us!

We're Moving

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
March TBD	HVCO Beef Weigh Day
March TBD	HVCO Beef Clinic
March TBD	HVCO Spring Beef Show
March 26	HVCO 4-H Ambassadors, 6 PM
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

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

STEM Programs for Club Meetings

We have 3 cool STEM programs available for Marcia to bring to your club meetings (or with a small bit of training, you can check them out and lead them yourself). Each of these activities have several different activities that can be used multiple time. Get in contact with Marcia (email marciajo@ksu.edu or office phone 316-284-6930) to schedule one of these fun programs.

Dash Robots by Wonder Workshop – Read. Set. Dash. STEM with coding, programming, and robotics! We will learn and work with programming and coding to complete various courses and tasks with Dash. Dash is a quirky little robot with many surprising talents. We have 12 Dash Robots along with tablets for youth to work to complete challenges. This can be turned into a competition between teams.

Squishy Circuits – Youth can learn about electric circuits by bringing play-dough creations to life! Youth can learn circuit basics and watch creations light up, beep, spin, and more by adding components (LEDs, buzzers, motors and fans, and switches) to the circuits.

BrickLAB by PCS Edventures! – This program is a hands-on activity that encourages youth to use creative and innovative thinking in topics related to Science, Math, Social Studies, and Literacy. They will engage in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities by playing with interlocking bricks. Problem-solving, critical thinking, and teamwork will be put into practice as creations are made with the BrickLAB interlocking bricks (Lego-type bricks).

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Volunteers for 4-H need to register on 4-H Online.

Previously screened 4-H Volunteers are required to renew on 4-H Online each year.

If you have any questions, please email Marcia at marciajo@ksu.edu.

To register or renew go to: [Sign In \(4honline.com\)](https://4honline.com)

To find volunteer resources go to: [Leaders and Volunteers](#)

*Please register by December 31



4-H Parent Corner

Goal Writing the SMART Way

Writing goals can be very useful for many things. Goals help individuals and groups stay on track and make progress. In the 4-H world goals are needed for project records. It is good to write 4-H project goals at the beginning of the 4-H year. SMART Goals make goal writing easier. SMART Goals are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound. Using these principles to set goals helps increase the likelihood that the goals will be achieved successfully. The chart below describes each principle and outlines questions to ask to ensure a goal is SMART.

S	Specific	Define what you expect Provide details	What action steps will be taken? Who will do what?
M	Measurable	Define how you will measure success Quantify your desired result	What data will we measure?
A	Attainable	Make sure you have the resources, time, and people you need Identify obstacles that are beyond your control	Is this goal possible in our current situation?
R	Relevant	Identify if this goal will help you reach a larger overarching goal Consider if this goal aligns with your mission, vision, or values.	Does this goal help me achieve my larger goals/align with my values?
T	Time-bound	Detail a timeline for action items to be completed	When does this goal need to be met by?

The following 2 pages can be used to help 4-H youth write their 4-H project goals



Setting 4-H Project Goals

Name: _____ Club: _____ Year: _____

Now that you have selected your 4-H projects for the year, it is important to plan out what you would like to learn and accomplish. What new skills would you like to gain? Who is going to help you along the way? Setting measurable goals will help guide you through positive 4-H project learning experiences.

WHAT IS A GOAL?

A GOAL is . . . Deciding what you want to do and learn in a 4-H project.
A road map. It helps you get where you want to go.

Your goals should have three parts that will allow you to measure and check your progress. The three parts of a good goal, include:

1. ACTION — How are you going to do something.

2. RESULT — What are you going to do. Be specific!

3. TIMETABLE — When are you going to do it.

This worksheet is designed to help you set your 4-H project goals. Below are some examples of well-written goals:

Action	Result	Timetable	Who Will Help Me
I want to learn	about my bucket calf's nutritional needs	before county weigh-in.	Dad
I want to make	three nutritious snacks for the nursing home residents	by our June club meeting.	my project leader
I want to learn	about the aerodynamics of my rocket	before the spring launch.	Mom
I want to lead	a horse project meeting	by February.	my extension agent
I want to keep	accurate records of my photography project experiences and expenses	monthly.	my project leader & parents

CONTROL TEST: Do your goals pass the control test? Do you have control over all parts of what happens? If you can answer "yes," then you are ready to begin record keeping. For example, "I want to win grand champion with my cookies at the county fair," does not pass the control test. A 4-H member doesn't have control over ribbon placing.

Now it is your turn. Practice writing three goals that you would like to accomplish this 4-H year. If you need help, ask an adult to assist.

Action	Result	Timetable	Who Will Help Me
I want to . . .			
I want to . . .			
I want to . . .			

Time to begin. In the spaces provided on the next page, set your goals for each project you are enrolled in this year. Attach additional pages as necessary.

Please keep in mind that younger 4-H members will have fewer, less complex goals than older, more advanced 4-H members. A good rule of thumb is three to five goals per project for ages 7 to 10, four to eight goals per project for ages 11 to 13, and seven to 12 goals per project for ages 14 to 18.

PROJECT: _____ **4-H Member Age:** _____ **Years in Project:** _____

	Action, Timetable, Result	Who Will Help Me
Goal #1		
Goal #2		
Goal #3		
Goal #4		
Goal #5		

PROJECT: _____ **4-H Member Age:** _____ **Years in Project:** _____

	Action, Timetable, Result	Who Will Help Me
Goal #1		
Goal #2		
Goal #3		
Goal #4		
Goal #5		

PROJECT: _____ **4-H Member Age:** _____ **Years in Project:** _____

	Action, Timetable, Result	Who Will Help Me
Goal #1		
Goal #2		
Goal #3		
Goal #4		
Goal #5		

PROJECT: _____ **4-H Member Age:** _____ **Years in Project:** _____

	Action, Timetable, Result	Who Will Help Me
Goal #1		
Goal #2		
Goal #3		
Goal #4		
Goal #5		

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

4H1100

October 2018

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State & Other News

NEW Deadline Alert for Kansas 4-H Scholarships!

The deadline for the Kansas 4-H Scholarships is Monday, January 5, 2026. This is for current graduating high school seniors (and current college students and graduate students). Fill out 1 application for all available scholarships.

Selections will be completed early enough for seniors to share scholarship results with their high schools, so you can be recognized for all your accomplishments.

The scholarship application is now live on the Kansas 4-H website — don't wait, start yours today!

Information and application can be found at:
<https://kansas4h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html>

ROCK SPRINGS RANCH

Start thinking about signing up for camp at Rock Springs Ranch.

Go to [Rock Springs Ranch](#) for details.



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](#).

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 \(k-state.edu\)](#)

Save the Date

2026 K-STATE JUNIOR PRODUCER DAYS



The 2026 K-State Junior Producer Days are one-day, educational events for families to learn about the selection and management of youth livestock projects. Registration information will be released soon and will be posted on the [junior producer days page](#) of youth livestock program website, which is under the events tab.

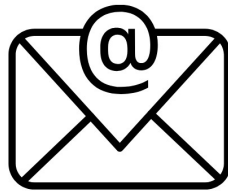
Upcoming 4-H Dates

November 2, 1:30 - 3:30 PM	Leadership Lab at Sacred Heart Parish Center, Halstead
November 22-23	KS Youth Leadership Forum & KS Association of 4-H Volunteers Forum, Rock Springs Ranch
December 15, 6 PM	Ambassadors Service Project & Meeting, Wal-Mart
December 15, 6:30 PM	4-H Council Meeting & Dinner, Basement of the Courthouse
February 15-16	KS 4-H Citizenship in Action, Topeka
February 21	Multi-County Club Day, Chisolm Middle School, Newton
May 8	Small Animal Tagging - More details to come.
July 30 - August 3	Harvey County Free Fair - 4-H & Open Class

CONNECT WITH US



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County 4-H



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