

Harvey County 4-H Happenings

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The Informer

September & October 2026

www.harvey.ksu.edu

I want to start with a heartfelt thank you to our parents, volunteers, and supporters who helped make the fair possible. From getting kids where they needed to be, keeping schedules moving, helping with projects, volunteering behind the scenes, and stepping in wherever needed — it truly takes a team. Harvey County 4-H is fortunate to have so many people willing to give their time and talents to our youth.

Congratulations to all the kids who put in the hard work. It does not go unnoticed. Every ribbon, every award was well deserved and then having the courage to stand before a judge and show off all the hard work you have put into that project is a huge accomplishment in itself. Great job!

County Fair will always hold a special place in my heart. I love seeing the projects our 4-H'ers have worked so hard on, hearing them talk about the things they are passionate about, and watching families, volunteers, and community members come together. Every year, fair is a great reminder of what makes 4-H so special — and it leaves me excited for what the next year will bring!

Now these next two months are some of our busiest if you can believe it. We wrap up the 4-H year with the end of year paperwork, record books, and awards. Then we get ready for the 4-H New Year in October with National 4-H Week and all sorts of new programming.

We are excited about the winter months as we are planning programs and have ideas brewing in our brains. Be on the look out for new things coming. Make sure you enroll in 4-H Online this fall/winter so you don't miss out and you follow us on social media.

Thank you again to everyone who helped to make the Harvey County Fair a success and more importantly to everyone who continues to make Harvey County 4-H such a strong and supportive community!



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County Wide News

Congratulations Harvey County 4-H Horticulture Judging Team

Kyler, Shaley, & Rylen

Team Placing 2nd Overall

Individual Placings:

Rylen - 2nd, Kyler - 4th, Shaley - 6th

They represented Harvey County 4-H at the 2026



4-H Recognition Night

Please Join Us:

November 14, 2026

4:30 PM

Harvey County Pine Street Building, 1st Floor Meeting Room, 215 S Pine, Newton, KS

Appetizers Served

All 4-H Members, Families, Sponsors, & Supporters are Welcome

This is a time to show appreciation to 4-H supporters & sponsors and to celebrate 4-H achievements!

Please RSVP Here:

[2026 Harvey County 4-H Recognition Night – Fill out form](#)

HARVEY COUNTY 4-H AWARDS

In preparation for our annual 4-H Recognition Night, all Project Record Books, pin applications, and other award applications are due in the Extension Office no later than **October 9, 2026**. Please respect the due dates that your Club Leaders have set up.

The applications, forms, and instructions are available on our website:

<https://www.harvey.k-state.edu/4-h/record-keeping-and-awards/>

Project Record Books

Harvey County uses the Record Books to select County Champions in 4-H projects. Project Record Keeping may be recorded through ZBOOKS online or on the Form Fillable PDFs. All Project Record documents need to be printed and compiled in a 3-prong folder or appropriate sized binder.

Member Achievement Pins

Kansas 4-H Member Achievement pins are designed to recognize 4-H members as they reach milestones throughout their 4-H journey. The pins are awarded in a series: Membership, Bronze, Clover, Emerald, Silver, Silver Guard, Leadership, Gold, and Gold Guard. Member Achievement Pins are different than project pins and recognize a 4-H'er for overall 4-H growth and involvement. 4-H members should turn these applications into their Club Leader along with their record book.

Outstanding 4-H'er Award

This award recognizes Harvey County 4-H members who have demonstrated leadership and dedication to the Harvey County 4-H program. \$50 awards are given out. 4-H members may only receive this award once in each age group. This form can be completed by Club Leaders, Volunteers, 4-H Members or by self-nomination. Nominees must fit into the 2 age groups; 13-15 and 16+ and actively enrolled in Harvey County 4-H. 4-H'ers who have already been given this award are not eligible to reapply in the same age group.

Harvey County Volunteer of the Year

This award recognizes a Harvey County 4-H volunteer who demonstrate exceptional service to Harvey County 4-H. Harvey County 4-H will continue with nominating the winner for The Kansas 4-H Salute to Excellence Award.

4-H Club Seals

A seal is awarded to a 4-H Club each participation year that requirements are met. The seals are white, red, blue, and purple. Your 4-H Club may try for any seal without regard to the seals previously received. Please turn in all other end of the year documents at this time as well

Development Fund College Student Scholarship

This scholarship application is intended for students who have been active Harvey County 4-H members who graduated May of 2026 and are enrolled as full-time post-secondary students in the Fall 2026.



Harvey County 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes Team

Sarah, Madison, Wendy, Torbin, Taysley,
Miranda, Harper, Cooper

10th Place Overall

Intermediate Meats Judging Team - 6th Place

Livestock Judging Team - 8th Place

They represented Harvey County 4-H at the 2026 Livestock

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.

The 1st meeting will be Thursday, September 24 at 6 PM in the Harvey County Extension Office.

HARVEY COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

Thursdays 7:00-8:00 PM

Location: Harvey County Extension Office

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

For more information, contact:

Anne Pitts

aelpers@ksu.edu

316-284-6930

2026-2027 SCHEDULE

October 22

December TBD

February 25

April 22

June 24

August 26

October 28

2026-2027 4-H ENROLLMENT STARTS OCTOBER 1

ENROLL FOR THE 2026-2027 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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Happy 4-H New Year!

The 4-H Year begins every October. It is time to re-enroll and is also time to select 4-H projects to participate in. Learn more about enrollment and local projects at [Enrolling in 4H | K-State | Kansas State University](#)

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

As a reminder, there are no deadlines to enroll, but enrolling and selecting projects you are interested in by the end of December means you won't miss out on important communication concerning projects or tagging deadlines. Enrolling and submitting payment by May means you won't risk the ability to show in the County Fair.

48 Hours of 4-H

48 Hours of 4-H is perfect time for 4-H youth, clubs, volunteers, and families to give back to the community. October 10-11 is this year's 48 Hours of 4-H. Plan and do some community service (big or small) as a club, family, or individual. Enter and record your plan and service hours at: [48 Hours of 4-H](#). Let's see how many hours Harvey County 4-H can give back to the community!

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**48 Hours
of 4-H**

A weekend of service. A lifetime of impact.

Harvey County 4-H Shooting Sports

2025-26 Season Recap and 2026-27 Updates

New this Fall: Shotgun!

Shotgun practice will be held Mondays, 6:00–7:30 PM, at David Becker's residence, 5700 W US Highway 50, starting September 21. For more information, contact David at (785)224-0608.

BB Gun and Air Rifle

It's been a great year on the range! From our first practice on November 10 through our final session on March 23, the program ran 13 practices and saw 50 different 4-H'ers, parents, and volunteers come through the doors.

Practices built skills step by step — first-shot fundamentals and range safety in November, natural point of aim, sight alignment, and kneeling position work through the winter, and multi-position shooting and competition prep heading into spring.

A huge thank-you to our coaches and range officers — Jason Pomeroy, David Becker, and Justin Schrag — who ran range rules and commands nearly every week. Congratulations also to Jacob Bruning, who became a certified Rifle instructor this year. And a shout-out to the parent volunteers who jumped in to assist and got hands-on with their shooters at practices.

2026 BB Gun and Air Rifle Competitors

Logan (BB Gun), Jack (BB Gun), Bryce (BB Gun), Cara (Air Rifle), Logan (BB Gun)

Archery

We also ran Archery training over the summer, with 10 4-H'ers participating. Congratulations to Rylen, who qualified for the State match — a great showing for the discipline!

Celebrating Commitment and Focus

The coaching staff wants to recognize Logan for his outstanding commitment this year. Logan attended every rifle practice, competed in two competitions, and presented a static display on what he learned this year at the County Fair. Way to go, Logan — your efforts were noticed!

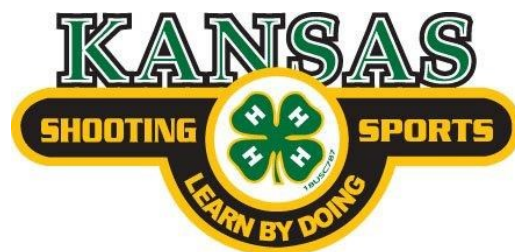
Looking Ahead to 2026-27

Harvey County will be expanding our disciplines to include **BB Gun, Air Rifle, Air Pistol, Archery, Shotgun, and Hunting Skills**. Hunting Skills is a brand-new offering — Cody Abney and Jason Pomeroy will attend certification training this October and plan to run hands-on events alongside Rifle through the winter and spring.

We're actively recruiting dedicated parents and community members who want to help instill safe firearms handling, discipline, focus, and a lifelong love of shooting. We need more certified trainers. Any parent can register as a 4-H volunteer to assist our instructors at practices.

Join us for a Parent/4-H'er Information Night on **October 21 at 7:00 PM** at the 1st Floor Meeting Room of the Pine Street Building (215 S Pine) to kick off the 2026-27 season. Questions can be directed to the Harvey County Shooting Sports coaches at harveycountyshootingsports@gmail.com.

Want to learn more about each discipline? Visit the Kansas 4-H Shooting Sports page: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/natural-resources/shooting-sports/>





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

Kansas 4-H Online Resources

Club leaders and project leaders, there are many resources available to you to help you make your clubs and projects great. One of those places to find resources and link to other resources is:

[4-H Youth Development](#) | [K-State](#) | [Kansas State University](#). Once you are there start going through all the information that is available to you in the different tabs across the top. Go explore, the descriptions below just a general idea of what you can find. If you need help searching for something, let Marcia know.

About 4-H: This is full of general 4-H and Kansas 4-H information.

4-H Projects: This has the 7 project categories and then the specific projects with more information for each.

Educational Experiences: This has all the information about state and national 4-H events and opportunities.

Volunteer: This is all the information about volunteers and volunteering.

4-H Clover Classroom: This is full of project challenges useful to introduce or explore different projects.

4-H Club Corner: This has tools and resources to help clubs and officers.

Resources: This is full of links to resources all in one spot (several of these are also linked under the other tabs).

Kansas 4-H Volunteer Forum

The Kansas 4-H Volunteer Forum will be November 21-22, 2026 at Rock Springs Ranch 4-H Center. This is an opportunity for 4-H volunteers and staff from around Kansas to learn and network. For more information, visit the website below. The registration link will be available soon.

[Kansas Volunteer Leader Forum](#)

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 Anne at aelpers@ksu.edu.

To register or renew go to:

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

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4-H Parent Corner

Did You Know?

Did you know that by having your kids in 4-H they already have a leg up on others who are not in 4-H? Did you know that by having your kids in 4-H they are going to learn skills that others who are not in the program won't? And did you know that by having your kid in 4-H that they are more likely to grow up and be beyond ready for the world than others who are not?

By being in 4-H, you are already helping to set your kid(s) up for success, which, I would guess, is what we all want for our kids, is to live happy, healthy, and successful lives as adults. 4-H helps kids find their sparks, build real world skills, become resilient, adaptable, and lifelong learners; all in this space, a place that allows them the chance to try or experiment and fail, and get up and try again. Almost like there is a safety net there to allow them this chance to try new things and see how it works. To grow and learn.



Through lots and lots of research, that goes back many years; 4-H time and time again says that kids are 2x more likely to have the goal of being a leader, 3x more likely to participate in community service, and 2x more likely to report living life with intentionality and purpose. I will say that again. They are more likely to like life with intentionality and purpose. Wow. When I sit with other organizations and professionals who work with youth, a big conversation we have is how do we instill purpose in our young people. Well, right there, the research shows 4-H is doing it.

You see, 4-H has this magical piece to it that other youth organizations don't have. Yes other youth organizations are great, and provide great programming, but they don't do what 4-H does. We have four main components that others do not have. We have club meetings that have Belonging, Sparks, Engagement, and Engagement. And when all four are doing their thing, that is when the magic happens. Youth are able to thrive and do amazing things.

So as we begin this next season of 4-H, bring a friend, your neighbor, whomever to that next club meeting. Show them what it is all about. Make sure to check in on them because we know 4-H has it's own culture and lingo and it can be hard to get started when you have no idea what it is about. But let's show others what the magic is all about.

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State & Other News



Kansas State Fair
September
11– 20

*Registered static projects are due in the
Extension Office September 9.*

**Instead of premiums, 4-H youth with reg-
istered entries get 2 gate tickets to the
2026 Kansas State Fair. Come to the Ex-
tension Office to pick up.**

Event Scholarship Opportunity

Attending a Sate 4-H event and want support paying for this
event?

Then apply for a Harvey County 4-H Development Fund
Event Scholarship.

To find the application, go to the link below.

It is a simple two question process.

Turn it into the office once completed.

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KYLF)

The Kansas Youth Leadership Forum will be held No-
vember 21-22, 2026 at Rock Springs 4-H Center. KYLF is
for youth ages 14-18 before January 1, 2027. KYLF will
feature leadership workshops, Youth Council Elections,
and opportunities to learn and have fun. For more in-
formation, visit the website below. The deadline to
register is Thursday, October 15, 2026 by 11:59 PM.
The registration link will be available soon.

[Kansas Youth Leadership Forum | Conferences and
Events | Events and Activities | Kansas 4-H Youth Devel-
opment](#)

Kansas 4-H Events

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



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Upcoming 4-H Dates

September 11-20	Kansas State Fair
September 24, 6 PM	Ambassadors, Harvey County Extension Office
October 1	Enrollment Opens
October 15	Taste of Newton - 4-H New Years Cookies Booth
October 4-10	National 4-H Week
October 5	Go Green Monday - wear green to show 4-H spirit
October 8	Thankful Thursday - share stories of 4-H impact and community
October 9	All Pin Applications, Scholarship Applications, Club Information, Record Books, Outstanding 4-H'er Applications Due!
October 10-11	48 Hours of 4-H Service Challenge
October 21, 7 PM	Shooting Sports Information, 1st Floor Meeting Room, Pine Street Building
October 22, 6 PM	Ambassadors, Harvey County Extension Office
October 22, 7 PM	4-H Council Meeting, Harvey County Extension Office
November 14	Recognition Event
November 22-23	Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, Rock Springs Ranch
November 22-23	Kansas 4-H Volunteer Forum, Rock Springs Ranch
February 7-8	Citizenship In Action, Topeka

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