

THE 4-H NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2025

A Minute with Madeline

Beyond
Ready



Butler County 4-H: A Year of Growth, Leadership, and Being “Beyond Ready”

As we close out another remarkable year, the story of Butler County 4-H shines brighter than ever! The achievements of our youth tell a powerful story of growth, dedication, and possibility—one that truly embodies what it means to be *Beyond Ready*.

Over the past year, more than **270 youth** participated as active 4-H members in community clubs across the county, engaging in hands-on learning through projects, leadership roles, and service. In addition, more than **1,200 young people** experienced 4-H through school enrichment programs, classroom lessons, and camps. Whether they were experimenting with science in a classroom, exploring nature at Rock Springs Ranch, or practicing leadership in their clubs, these youth had meaningful opportunities to discover their spark and build confidence.

Our members explored over **40 different project areas**, ranging from livestock, photography, and shooting sports to robotics, foods, and visual arts. Participation in leadership and STEM-related projects reached new highs, reflecting a growing excitement for innovation and creative problem-solving.

Butler County youth also made an impressive mark beyond our local borders. At the Kansas State Fair, dozens of our members earned purple ribbons, special awards, and top placings across multiple project areas. Our livestock and judging teams represented the county with pride, while photography, foods, and arts exhibits showcased not only talent but countless hours of hard work and personal growth.



A Minute with Madeline

Butler County 4-H: A Year of Growth, Leadership, and Being “Beyond Ready” Cont.

Community service remained a defining theme of the year. Local 4-H clubs contributed over 100 hours of service, supporting food pantries, collecting items for families in need, writing cards to veterans, and enhancing public spaces. Each project—whether big or small—demonstrated the compassion and commitment that lie at the heart of 4-H.

Summer experiences added another layer of growth and adventure. Many youth attended Rock Springs Ranch, where they developed teamwork, independence, and leadership skills. For some, it was their first camp experience, and they returned home with new friendships, new confidence, and a deeper understanding of their own potential.

None of this work would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, parents, and club leaders. Their guidance, encouragement, and willingness to show up—whether teaching a new skill, offering advice, or simply providing snacks—create an environment where youth feel supported, challenged, and inspired.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue expanding opportunities through new school partnerships, innovative project offerings, and programs that help young people build strong leadership and service skills. Our members are not only ready for the road ahead—they are *Beyond Ready* to shape their communities and their futures.

As we step into the holiday season, we are grateful for every youth, family, and volunteer who makes 4-H such a vibrant and meaningful part of Butler County. May your holidays be filled with warmth, rest, and the joy of knowing that together, we are building something truly special. Here's to a bright and inspiring new year for all!

Beyond Ready

Building a ready generation in a world of change.

For our youth the road ahead may be challenging, yet 4-H members are succeeding!

- 3x** more likely to participate in community service.
- 2x** more likely to report living a life with purpose.
- 2x** more likely to have a goal of being a leader

It's the start of a new 4-H year. Interested in joining a 4-H Club? Contact your local extension office today!

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Beyond Ready







2024-2025

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



9 COMMUNITY CLUBS

Benton Busy Bees, Cassoday Boosters, El Dorado Trailblazers, Flinthills, Hickory Helpers, Lily Lake, North Butler, Purple Heart, Towanda Rustlers

1 *NEW* PROJECT CLUB

Butler's 4-H Top Shots - Shooting Sports

262

Enrolled 4-H members (ages 7-18)

20

Cloverbuds (non-competitive for ages 5 & 6)

76

Adult volunteers

1,708

Direct teaching contacts with youth

68

Programs and activities

100+

Hours of community service by 4-H members

120,000+

Indirect educational contacts

2,355

Exhibits by 4-H members at the Butler County Fair



LEADER'S LOUNGE

December Check-Up

- Plan a Holiday gathering or community service project.
- Take time to relax!
- Encourage 4-H'ers to invite their friends to attend a meeting & join 4-H!
- Ask your 4-H parents to encourage others to get involved.

Review

- Read the 4-H Newsletter and mark important dates on the calendar
- Review highlights from the 4-H Newsletter at your club meeting

Promote/Recruit

- Extension Office Christmas Donation Drive
- CIA in February
- Beef Weigh-In and Tagging in February
- YQCA
- 4-H Day March 1st

To-Do

- Notify Project Leaders of their specific responsibilities.
- Encourage Project Leaders to conduct project meetings throughout the year.
- Check Club mailbox at the Extension Office.
- Distribute copies of club program, calendar, or club notebooks.
- Identify and schedule meeting with Community Service Committee.
- Plan holiday celebration.
- Begin discussion of 4-H Day plans.
- Encourage 4-H'ers to explore new project areas.
- Remind families to "Subscribe" to the 4-H Online broadcast messages. This is where all newsletters and important information is sent out to families!
- Remind volunteers and 4-H'ers to enroll/re-enroll in 4-H Online for the new 4-H year. by February 1st.
- Check Club's progress towards goals
- Check out the Kansas 4-H Club Resources page [HERE](#)

Remember

- Work with your co-leader!
- Remind 4-H Families & Volunteers to get enrolled for the new 4-H year!
- Make it a fun and rewarding year!

If your Club is planning to have a bake sale, fundraiser, make t-shirts, etc., please contact our office prior to doing so!



IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

December

- November 28-December 2: National 4-H Congress - Atlanta, GA
- December 2: Introduction to Poultry Judging Webinar
- December 12: Christmas Donation Drive Drop Off by 11:30 a.m.
- December 25-January 2: Extension Office Closed

January

- January 1-2: New Year's - Extension Office Closed
- January 5: Kansas 4-H Scholarship Applications Due
- January 8: Shootins Sports Basic Archery Class - Required for all 1st Year Project Members
- January 9: Club Quarterly Report Due
- January 10-11: Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council Orientation Retreat - Rock Springs
- January 13: 4-H Council Meeting
- January 13: Shooting Sports Basic Rifle/Pistol Class - Required for all 1st Year Project Members
- January 23: State 4-H Horse Judging Contest - EquiFest, Topeka
- January 31-February 1: Dog Judges Certification and Leader Training - Salina
- January TBA: YQCA Training

February

- February 1: Volunteer Registration Deadline
- February 10: 4-H Council Meeting
- February 13: Jr. Beef Producer Day Registration Deadline
- February 15-16: Citizenship in Action - Topeka
- February 21-22: Horse Panorama - Rock Springs
- February TBA: YQCA
- February TBA: Beef Weigh-In and Tagging

***See the full 2025-2026
Calendar [HERE](#)***





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Butler County



2025 CHRISTMAS DRIVE

winter wear & school supplies

K-State Extension – Butler County is partnering with a local school district to provide new winter clothing—coats, scarves, hats, and gloves—as well as essential school supplies to support the youth of Butler County.

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED UNTIL

12 DEC . 11:30 AM .

K-STATE EXTENSION - BUTLER COUNTY, 206 N. GRIFFITH, EL DORADO

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APPLY FOR
THE KANSAS
4-H YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
COUNCIL
TODAY



K-STATE
Research and Extension
Youth Leadership Council



The Kansas 4-H Youth Council and National 4-H Conference Applications are open! Any Kansas 4-H member between the ages of 14 and 18 before January 1, 2026, may apply as a Council Rep, and those 15-18 before January 1, 2026, may apply for National 4-H Conference.

Learn more here: https://kansas4h.org/educational-experiences/teen-leadership-opportunities/youth-leadership-council/?fbclid=IwY2xjawLH9M1leHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETF1ZlJwRXdlVTf2UVJWeUZfAR5uf41Q-kwebxLzGr_nSG_W5xeOfntCrLowQJ-yorsuEUeOP4QAxbWI55BIUQ_aem_r7FumxMWcRycwmKfJLUwnA .

4-H Scholarship Opportunities

Did you know that the Butler County 4-H Council has event scholarships available to all Butler County 4-H members?!

Scholarship Requirements:

- Any current 4-H member (includes Coverbuds) is eligible to apply for a scholarship.
- 4-H'ers are limited to 2 event scholarships per 4-H year.
- Completed forms are to be submitted to the Butler County Extension Office with event payment prior to event registration deadline.



Scholarship Details:

- If you did not submit a KAP and pin application or did not receive a pin within the past year for a \$100 scholarship
- Submitted a KAP and received a pin within the past year for a \$200 scholarship. Those that have already received their 10-year pin are exempt from pin requirement.

You can find the scholarship application here:

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/Scholarships.html>

You can find more Kansas 4-H State Event Opportunities here:

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/index.html>

4-H Scholarship Update

E.W. Nath

4-H Foundation Scholarship

The E.W. Nath 4-H Foundation Scholarship can now be used towards trade schools, professional programs, or technical degree programs. This scholarship is no longer limited to a two- or four-year college or university.



State Events

4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE WEBINAR INTRODUCTION TO POULTRY JUDGING CONTESTS

Presented by Dr. Scott Beyer, KSU
Department of Animal Science and
Industry

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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Beyond
Ready



Join us Tuesday, December 2 at 7:00pm for the Kansas 4-H Animal Science Webinar: Introduction to Poultry Judging. KSU Department of Animal Science and Industry Professor Dr. Scott Beyer will share the basics of participating in poultry judging contests, how to participate and the contest format. This webinar will introduce beginners to a new project opportunity. Register by noon December 2 to receive the link to join.

<https://ksu.zoom.us/meeting/register/STBGzDM7QgS1sDSZgil7zA>

Kansas 4-H and the Kansas Quarter Horse Youth Association are partnering to bring you the Kansas State 4-H Horse Judging Contest in conjunction with EquiFest of Kansas January 23, 2026 in Topeka. Registration is open and complete contest information can be found at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/.../pro.../contests/horse-judging/>

STATE 4-H HORSE JUDGING CONTEST



REGISTER
TODAY



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Dog Judge and Volunteer Training

We're looking for great adults and teens to take part in Kansas 4-H Dog Judges and Leaders for 4-H Dog Judge Certification and Leader Training. This two-day learning opportunity will train judges for Kansas 4-H Dog Shows, recertify current judges, and teach volunteers and teens about the judging and scoring process for Kansas 4-H Dog Shows. The certification will take place January 31-February 1, 2026 in Salina, KS at the Saline County Fairgrounds, 4-H Building.

Registration is open and information can be found at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/trainings/dog-leader/>. Beginning in 2026, Dog Judge Training and Leader Certification will be offered every other year in even-numbered years. Judges who were certified in 2021 or 2022 should plan to recertify in 2026. Questions about certification can be emailed to klordyke@ksu.edu.

REGISTER TODAY

DOG JUDGE AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING

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2026 K-STATE JUNIOR BEEF PRODUCER DAY

Program

Join us on March 7, 2026, for the biennial K-State Junior Beef Producer Day! This event is a fun-filled educational day for youth, parents, beef project leaders, ag teachers, and extension agents to expand their knowledge of youth beef projects. Presentations by K-State faculty, staff, K-State livestock judging team members, students, and guest speakers will cover topics that may include selection, nutrition, daily care, meat science, reproduction, health, grooming, and showmanship. An optional YQCA certification class will be offered at the end of the day. A complimentary lunch and t-shirt will also be provided for those who register by the deadline. The registration fee is \$20 per person for those who sign up by February 13. The fee will increase to \$30 per person for those who register after the deadline. Only those who register by February 13 will receive a t-shirt. This is a family event! Anyone attending the event must register, including youth and adults.

Registration

Deadline: February 13

Fee: \$20/person

Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/BeefJrProducer>

Late Registration: \$30/person (after February 13)

*All attendees must register, including youth & adults.

**Late registrants will not receive a t-shirt.



Scan Me!

Tentative Schedule

8:00AM	Check-in
9:00AM	Welcome
9:15AM	Project Selection
10:00AM	Morning Breakout Sessions -Nutrition, Meat Science, Daily Care, Grooming & Fitting
Noon	Lunch
1:00PM	Afternoon Breakout Sessions -Health, Reproduction, Showmanship
3:15PM	Dismissal
3:30PM	Optional YQCA Class

Registration Due
February 13

Questions?

Lexie Hayes

📞 785.532.1264 ✉️ adhayes@ksu.edu



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.

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

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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



785.532.1264



adhayes@ksu.edu

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

BEGINNING RANCHER SERIES

November 18th, 2025

December 9th, 2025

Light Dinner Served at 6:00 p.m.
Program 6:30-8:30 p.m.

November 18th

Guest Speaker: Jason Warner,
K-State Extension Cow-Calf Specialist
Topic: Body Condition Scoring &
Vaccine Storage

December 9th

Guest Speaker: Jaymelynn Farney,
K-State Beef Systems Extension Specialist
Topic: Land Use, Stocking Rate, &
Plant Identification

Butler County Community/4-H Building
200 N. Griffith
El Dorado, KS

Register
Today!

<https://forms.gle/2D18uAjC2iwfGLke6>



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LUNCH & LEARN

Bring your lunch and join Horticulture Agent, Calla Edwards, over the lunch hour during our monthly Lunch & Learn Program. This will be held over the lunch hour and will cover a variety of horticulture topics.

December 10th
12:15-12:45 p.m.

Andover Public Library
1511 E Central Ave
Andover, KS

December Topic:

Attracting Birds to Your Backyard

Many people enjoy the excitement of birds routinely visiting their yard. Providing food and water is a great start to attracting backyard birds, but what types of food and habitat are going to attract the most birds and make them feel safest? Join us to learn more about what types of food attract the birds, what feeders to use, and what type of cover will keep birds hanging around all winter long.

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Coffee Mugs Now Available!

Get yours today at the K-State Research and
Extension - Butler County Office
206 North Griffith, Suite A
El Dorado, KS 67042



\$10.00 Each

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K-STATE GARDEN HOUR

Gifts for Gardeners

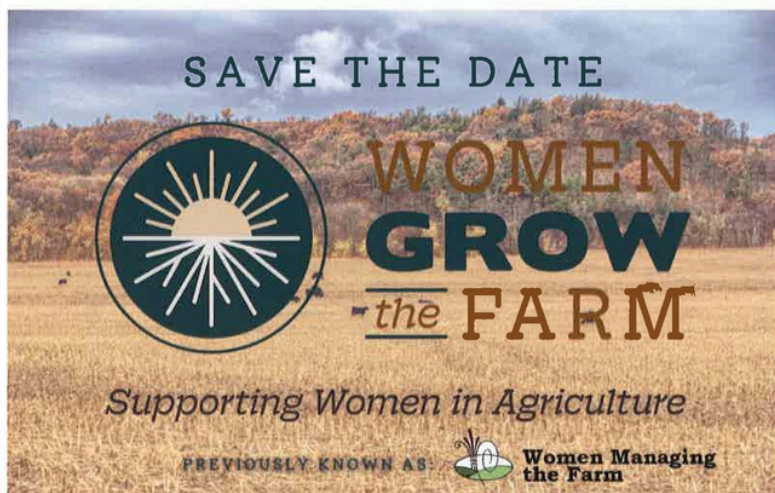
Wednesday, December 3rd 12:00PM -1:00PM CST

Finding the perfect holiday gift for gardeners can be a challenging task. These passionate individuals often spend their time outdoors and typically have an extensive collection of tools and supplies already. To assist you in your gift-giving endeavors, Calla Edwards, the Horticulture Agent for Butler County, conducted a survey among Master Gardeners and gardening enthusiasts. This survey revealed their favorite tools, supplies, and plants, providing you with a wealth of ideas for the gardener in your life. Join Calla for a fun webinar this holiday season!



Register Here!

Please register for this free Zoom Webinar at:
ksre-learn.com/KStateGardenHour



MANHATTAN, KS | FEBRUARY 12TH & 13TH



Women don't just manage the farm—we grow it.

Join us **February 12–13, 2026** in **Manhattan, KS** at the Hilton Garden Inn for the Women Grow the Farm Conference.

Two days of keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and powerful connections with women shaping the future of agriculture.



Use this QR Code to learn more
and register to secure your spot!

womengrowthefarm.com

HPAI:

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, is a rapidly spreading viral disease that can infect many types of birds. Avian influenza, often called avian flu or bird flu, can be common, but some strains are highly pathogenic, which means they are more deadly. Introduced by migrating wild birds, HPAI can spread through spring migration and affect **all** domestic poultry — small and backyard flocks as well as commercial industries.

Poultry with HPAI **do not** survive the illness. Vaccines for HPAI are not readily available.

Signs of Avian Influenza

- Coughing and sneezing
- Difficulty breathing
- Extreme depression
- Lack of energy
- Decrease in feed or water intake
- Swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, wattle and legs
- Decrease in egg production
- Sudden unexplained death

Biosecurity is your best option to prevent HPAI from entering your small or backyard poultry flock.

Here is what you can do:

Protect Your Small Flock from Avian Influenza

1

Avoid attracting wild birds and waterfowl to your home or farm. Song birds, sparrows, starlings, etc. are **low risk**.



2

Limit or **halt** travel with your birds to sales, shows and swaps.

Ensure you have clean hands, clothes, and footwear before handling your birds if you attend events. **Do not** allow others to handle your birds.



3

Limit your birds' visitors.

If someone must visit your birds: discuss where they have been. Have them wash their hands and wear clean clothes and footwear.



Call your veterinarian if your flock shows signs of influenza or you suspect exposure. No veterinarian? Call the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Health at 785-564-6601.