

THE BUTLER COUNTY

4-H NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026



Beyond Ready



A MINUTE WITH MADELINE

Ribbons Fade, Skills Last

As fair season arrives, it is easy to focus on ribbons, placings, and awards. While recognition for hard work is exciting, the true value of 4-H goes far beyond what hangs on a banner or sits on a shelf. Years from now, most members will not remember every ribbon they earned. What they will remember are the skills they developed along the way.

The livestock exhibitor who wakes up early every morning learns responsibility and commitment. The member who will participate in conference judging learns how to communicate effectively and confidently speak with adults. The youth who experiences disappointment after not placing where they hoped learns resilience and perseverance. The member who serves as a club officer will develop leadership skills that will benefit them throughout their life.

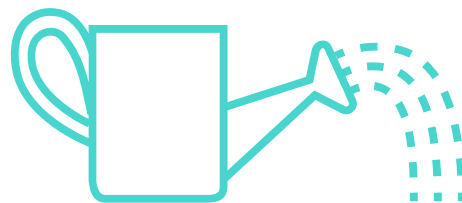
These experiences help prepare young people for their future. Employers, colleges, and communities value individuals who can communicate, solve problems, work with others, and adapt to challenges. These are the very skills that 4-H helps young people develop every day.

As we prepare to celebrate our members' accomplishments at the Butler County Fair, let us remember that success is not measured solely by ribbons and trophies. Success is measured by growth, learning, and the confidence gained through trying something new.

Blue ribbons may fade over time, but the skills, friendships, and memories built through 4-H last a lifetime. Those experiences help ensure our young people are not only ready for the next project or competition, they are Beyond Ready for whatever comes next.

LEADERS

LOUNGE



JULY CHECK-UP

- 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
- 4-H/FFA Division Rules for the Butler County Fair

PROMOTE/RECRUIT

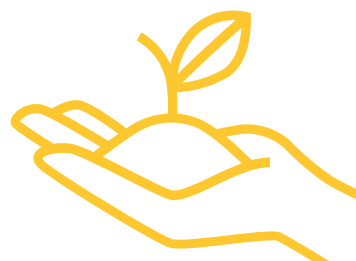
- Club Participation at the Butler County Fair
- Encourage your local community to come out to the fair!
- A Coggins test is required for the Horse Project

TO-DO

- Help 4-H'ers plan and prepare projects for the fair
- Check in with Project Leaders to ensure they are on task and holding meetings
- Check the club mailbox at the Extension Office
- Check the club's progress toward goals
- Remind 4-H'ers of the 2 Meeting Requirement for the Butler County Fair Premium Auction (by July 13)
- Remind families to "Subscribe" to 4-H Online broadcast messages. This is where all newsletters and important information are sent out to families!
- Check out the Kansas 4-H Club Resources page [HERE](#)

REMEMBER

- Work with your co-leader!
- Make it a fun and rewarding year!
- 2 Meeting Requirement for the Butler County Fair Premium Auction (by July 13th)
- If your Club is planning a bake sale, fundraiser, or making t-shirts, please contact our office prior to doing so!



IMPORTANT DATES

& DEADLINES



JULY

- July 3: 4th of July Observed - Extension Office Closed
- July 6: Superintendent Meeting
- July 10: Club Quarterly Reports DUE
- July 11: Butler County Fair Fashion Revue
- July 12: Butler County Fair Horse Show
- July 13: Auction Meeting Requirement Deadline
- July 13-22: Extension Office Hours 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- July 15: Kansas State Fair Grand Drive Entries DUE by 12:00 p.m.
- July 16-21: Butler County Fair
- July 21-August 11: Kansas State Fair entries accepted at the Extension Office
- July 23-24: Extension Office Closed

AUGUST

- August 1: State 4-H Horse Show Entries DUE
- August 4: 4-H Wheat Expo - El Dorado
- August 11: Kansas State Fair Entries DUE to the Extension Office
- August 15: State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest
- August 15: KJLS Entries DUE by 11:59 p.m.
- August 22-23: State 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes

SEPTEMBER

- September 5: State 4-H Dog Show - Hutchinson
- September 7: Labor Day - Extension Office Closed
- September 8: State Fair Project Drop Off 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
- September 8; 4-H Council Meeting
- September 9: State Fair Project Drop Off 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- September 11 - 20: Kansas State Fair - Hutchinson
- September 21: All KAP's and Pin Applications due by 5:00 p.m.
- September 26: State Small Bore/Muzzleloading Match - Topeka



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

BUTLER COUNTY FAIR

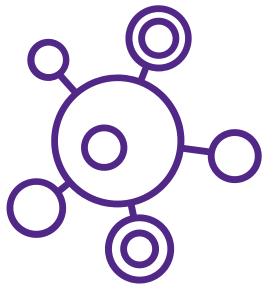
DATES AND DEADLINES

JULY 16-21, 2026



BUTLER COUNTY FAIR RULES

The 2026 4-H/FFA Division Rules are available on our website! They can be found at the following link: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4hfair/>



*See the 2026 Butler County Fair 4-H/FFA Tagging Guidelines and Forms Table [HERE](#)

PRE-ENTRIES

- Pre-Entries are required for all 4-H/FFA projects
- Cloverbuds will only need to pre-enter if participating in Fashion Revue
- Butler County will be using FairEntry once again this year for pre-entries
- Make sure you receive your confirmation e-mail!

IMPORTANT DATES

- July 1: Dairy Doe Registration/Ownership Deadline*
- July 13: Butler County Fair Auction Meeting Requirement **Deadline**
- July 16-21: Butler County Fair
 - July 17: 4-H Food Auction, 6 p.m.
 - July 19: Unified Livestock Show, 9:30 a.m.
 - July 19: Barn Yard Olympics, 11 a.m.
 - July 19: Round Robin, 7 p.m.
 - July 20: Premium Auction, 7 p.m.

FAIR SCHEDULE

The 2026 Butler County Fair schedule is now available and posted! It can be found on our website at:

<https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4hfair/Schedule.pdf>

APPROACHING POTENTIAL BUYERS

WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND

BE PREPARED AND PROFESSIONAL

Know key details about your project, what you learned, how you cared for your animal/how you created your item, and what makes it high quality. Dress neatly, make eye contact, and introduce yourself confidently.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Buyers aren't just purchasing a project; they're supporting your growth. Briefly explain what you gained from the project (skills, responsibility, leadership) and why it matters to you.

RESPECT THEIR TIME

Whether they buy or not, thank them for their support of youth programs. If they do purchase, send a handwritten thank-you note after the fair to build a lasting relationship.

FOLLOW UP WITH GRATITUDE

Consider who you're talking to, and tailor your message if possible. Keep your conversation concise, polite, and appreciative of their time.

STATE PROJECT

AWARD WINNER



Jackson S. Towanda Rustlers



Jackson has been named the State 4-H Project Award Winner in the Dairy Goat project! He is a 12-year member of the Towanda Rustlers 4-H Club. He has been actively involved in the Aerospace/Rocketry, Dairy Goat, Foods and Nutrition, Leadership, Meat Goat, Sheep, Shopping in Style, and Visual Arts projects. In his club, Jackson serves as President, Treasurer, and a junior project leader, lending a helping hand to younger members as they begin their 4-H careers. On the county level, Jackson has served on the 4-H Council and as a Butler County 4-H Ambassador. We are proud to know Jackson and have him as a Butler County 4-H member!

In his own words: "Dairy goats resonated with me as a 4-H project because they challenged me to grow not only as a livestock producer, but as a leader and mentor. Over my 12 years in 4-H with Butler County, I have learned that success in the dairy goat project requires daily commitment, attention to detail, and thoughtful decision-making in nutrition, genetics, and herd health. Managing my herd has strengthened my record-keeping, problem-solving, and time management skills as I balanced school, leadership roles, and competition. Competing at the county, state, and national levels pushed me to refine my showmanship and represent Kansas 4-H with professionalism and integrity. Beyond the show ring, serving as a Junior Leader and mentoring younger members has been one of the most rewarding parts of my journey – sharing my passion and helping others build confidence in their own projects. Dairy goats have become more than a project to me. They have shaped my work ethic, my character, and my desire to pursue a degree while attending McPherson Community College on a football scholarship."



4-H MEMBER

SPOTLIGHT



Jadon G. (PH) and Lane V. (BBB) delivered outstanding performances at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships in Grand Island, NE. They competed amongst 766 participants from 42 different states. Kansas placed 2nd overall in the sweepstakes competition. If you see these members around, please congratulate them on their success and let them know Butler County 4-H is incredibly proud of them!



Pictured: Jadon (right) and Lane (left) at the 4-H National Shooting Sports Championship.

Lane's Results - Shotgun

Day 1: Sporting Clays

13th individual, 7th team

Day 2: Skeet

35th individual, 6th team

Day 3: Trap

19th individual, 1st team

Overall, out of 135 participants

11th individual, 3rd team

Jadon's Results - Small Bore Pistol

Day 1: Slow Fire

8th individual, 2nd team

Day 2: Silhouettes

12th individual, 1st team

Day 3: Camp Perry

5th individual, 2nd team

Overall, out of 66 participants

5th individual, 1st team

AMBASSADOR

DAY CAMP



Stars, Stripes, & 4-H Pride

The Butler County 4-H Ambassadors hosted their annual Ambassador Day Camp on June 16. The "Stars, Stripes, & 4-H Pride" camp had 18 youth participants ages 5-9. During the half-day of fun, participants made patriotic crafts, played games, and learned about different 4-H projects! This event would not be possible without the Ambassadors and their adult sponsors, Joanna and Jessica!



4-H/FFA DIVISION

RULE UPDATES



2026 Butler County Fair Updates to 4-H/FFA Divisions

1.

Round Robin qualification

2.

Small Engines division added

3.

Vet Science dioramas

4.

Updated minimum weights for Market Dairy Wethers

5.

Updates to food gift packages

6.

Updated KSE publication links

7.

Recycled Garment class added

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2026 Kansas State Fair Information

Dairy Exhibitors:

- ☐ Entries are not done through the Extension Office. These entries are all online through the Kansas State Fair.
- ☐ The Kansas State Fair open class information and registration can be found here:



Volunteer Information:

Teen and adult volunteers are absolutely vital to the 4-H Division at the State Fair! If you would like to volunteer at the Kansas State Fair, please see the Extension Office to see where the needs are the greatest. This will also include the option to help with Centennial Hall set up on June 30th. Each volunteer will receive an admission ticket once the Fair has started.

Ticket Ordering:

- ☐ We will be ordering additional 4-H State Fair Tickets if you would like to purchase them. Please note that each static exhibitor will receive two free tickets in lieu of premium money.
- ☐ Adult Gate Tickets are \$7 and Youth Gate Tickets are \$4. There will be a \$2 handling fee for all ticket orders; this fee is per order, NOT per ticket. Tickets must be ordered by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 11th. Orders and money for the tickets will need to be paid by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 11th. Cash or checks only. Checks will need to be made payable to: Butler County 4-H.



- ☐ Ticket orders can be placed here:

Entry Information:

- ☐ The Butler County Extension Office will be accepting Kansas State Fair Entries through 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 11th.
- ☐ Please read the General and Division rules in the State Fair Book. You can find a link to that here:
 - To be eligible for State Fair entry you must 1) Be 9 years old 4-H age and 2) Receive a purple ribbon at the Butler County Fair.
 - Division rules will detail any labeling and forms required for exhibits. Please read this carefully as accurate forms and labeling are the responsibility of exhibitors.



- ☐ Complete the entry collection form for your entries. Please make sure that you have all fields as required on the second page.
 - You can log into 4-HOnline to check each 4-Her's years in project. You can print this form and drop it off during office hours, mail it to our office, or attach it to an email. If you choose email, please send to both mgwallac@ksu.edu and adodd10@ksu.edu.
- ☐ Exhibitors will receive two free entry tickets per exhibitor in lieu of premiums. We will order these and notify exhibitors when they are available for pickup.
- ☐ Entries may be dropped off at the 4-H Building on Tuesday, September 8th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. AND Wednesday, September 9th from 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. Further instructions about entry preparation for transit will be sent to exhibitors.
- ☐ Please note that some divisions, such as Fashion Revue, Building Block Engineering, and Visual Arts, only allow a certain number of entries per county. Those entries are preselected and eligible 4-H members have been notified.





COOL ART WITH MATH & SCIENCE

ANDOVER PUBLIC LIBRARY - ART GALLERY

FOR TWEENS/TEENS

DATES

Wednesdays: June
24th, July 1st, July 8th,
July 15th, and July
22nd



WHAT IS IT?

A different type of art lesson
each week!

- Optical illusions
- Tessellations
- String art
- Origami
- Structures

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GRAND DRIVE & KJLS IMPORTANT DATES

April 20	Last Day to Order Beef DNA Envelopes
May 1	Market Beef Nominations Due Online & DNA Postmarked
	Last Day to Order Small Livestock DNA Envelopes
June 5	Small Livestock Nominations Due Online & DNA Postmarked
June 15	-Market Swine, Commercial Breeding Gilt -Market Lamb, Commercial Breeding Ewe -ALL Meat Goat (<i>Market & Breeding</i>)
	Commercial Heifer Nominations Due Online & DNA Postmarked
	Registered Breeding Heifer Papers in Exhibitor's Name
	Registered Steer Papers in Exhibitor's Name
	Registered Breeding Gilt Papers in Exhibitor's Name
July 1	Registered Breeding Ewe Papers in Exhibitor's Name
July 15	Kansas State Fair Grand Drive Entry Deadline
July 25	Kansas State Fair Grand Drive Late Entry Deadline
August 15	KJLS Entry Deadline
August 31	KJLS Late Entry Deadline
Sept. 11-13	Kansas State Fair Grand Drive
Oct. 2-4	KJLS

*Allmarket animals must be nominated to be eligible for either show, regardless of breed or gender.

**Allcommercial breeding females must be nominated to be eligible for either show.

***Registered breeding females must be in the exhibitor's name by the appropriate date to be eligible for either show. Refer to show rules for details.

****All meat goats, including market, commercial breeding does, and registered breeding does must be nominated to be eligible for either show.

The Butler County 4-H Council Presents:

KISS A GOAT FUNDRAISER



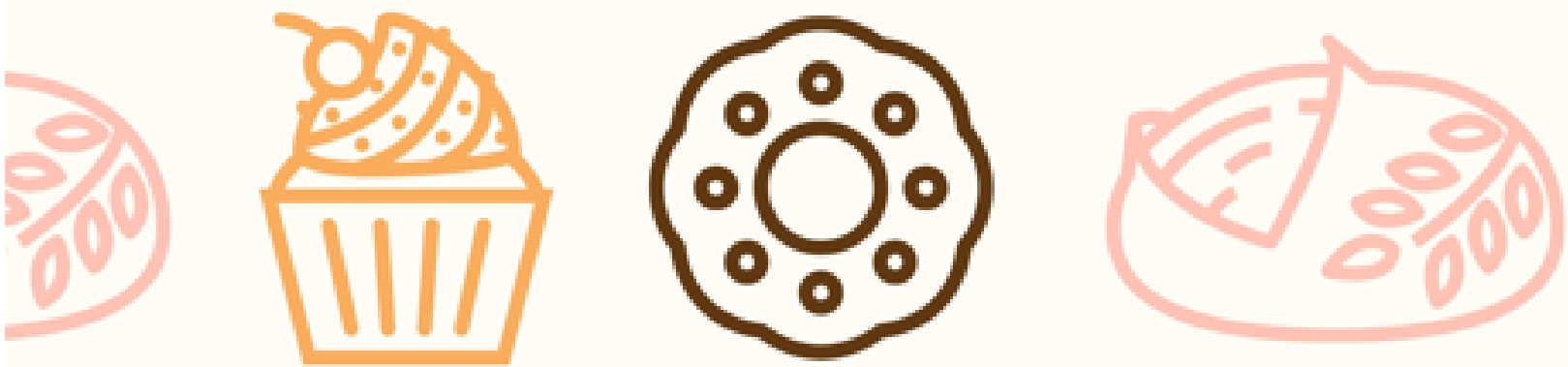
How It Works:

- Each participating individual will have a jar at the Clover Cafe, labeled with their name.
- Fair patrons "vote" by placing money into the jar of the individual they want to see kiss the goat during the Celebrity Goat Milking Contest on July 19.
- Voting will be open during Clover Cafe operating hours, July 17-19. Voting ends at 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 19.
- The individual whose jar collects the most money will be crowned...

THE GOAT KISSER

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CALLING ALL SWEET-TOOTHS

Want to Support Butler County 4-H?

Cakes and Pies and Bread, OH MY!

**COME OUT TO THE BUTLER COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL FOOD
AUCTION DURING THE BUTLER COUNTY FAIR!**

Friday, July 17th at 6:00 p.m.
200 North Griffith, El Dorado

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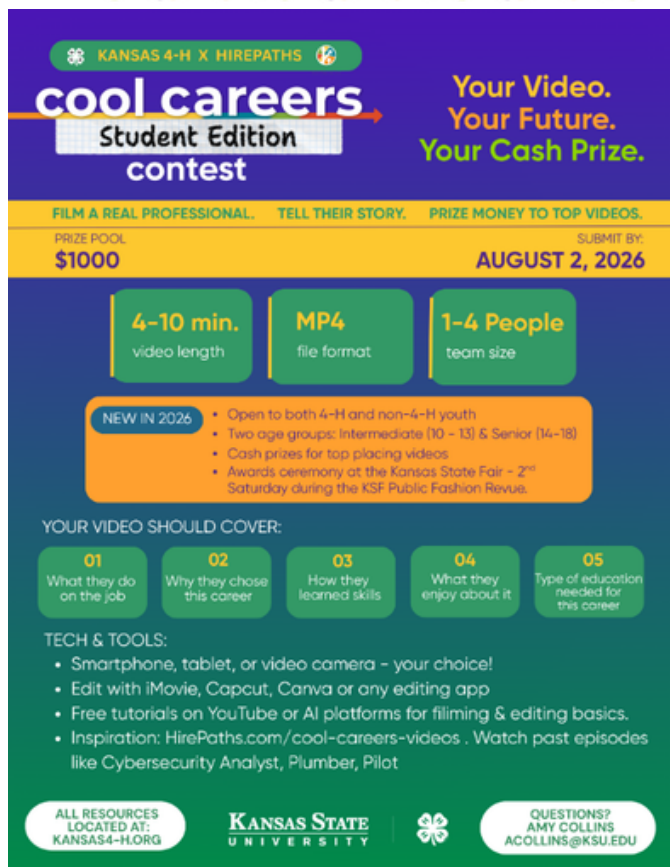


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STATE EVENTS

& OPPORTUNITIES



KANSAS 4-H X HIREPATHS

cool careers

Student Edition contest

Your Video. Your Future. Your Cash Prize.

FILM A REAL PROFESSIONAL. TELL THEIR STORY. PRIZE MONEY TO TOP VIDEOS.

PRIZE POOL: **\$1000** SUBMIT BY: **AUGUST 2, 2026**

- 4-10 min.** video length
- MP4** file format
- 1-4 People** team size

NEW IN 2026

- Open to both 4-H and non-4-H youth
- Two age groups: Intermediate (10 - 13) & Senior (14-18)
- Cash prizes for top placing videos
- Awards ceremony at the Kansas State Fair - 2nd Saturday during the KSF Public Fashion Revue.

YOUR VIDEO SHOULD COVER:

- 01** What they do on the job
- 02** Why they chose this career
- 03** How they learned skills
- 04** What they enjoy about it
- 05** Type of education needed for this career

TECH & TOOLS:

- Smartphone, tablet, or video camera - your choice!
- Edit with iMovie, Capcut, Canva or any editing app
- Free tutorials on YouTube or AI platforms for filming & editing basics.
- Inspiration: HirePaths.com/cool-careers-videos. Watch past episodes like Cybersecurity Analyst, Plumber, Pilot

ALL RESOURCES LOCATED AT: **KANSAS4-H.ORG**

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QUESTIONS? **AMY COLLINS** ACOLLINS@KSU.EDU

Cool Careers Contest Information



2026 KANSAS 4-H WHEAT EXPO

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 4TH | BUTLER COUNTY COMMUNITY BUILDING
206 W. GRIFFITH, EL DORADO, KS**

AG TOURS

- BRUCE'S BULLEYE FARMS
- BLUESTEM FFA/SCHOOL BARN
- BLUESTEM MERCANTILE
- ROBIN'S PANTRY
- LOVESEE PIZZA

CONTESTS & EXHIBITS

- BIN RUN WHEAT SAMPLES
- CLEANED WHEAT
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- FOODS
- EDUCATIONAL POSTERS/DISPLAYS
- CLOVER BUDS
- CROPS ID CONTEST

LUNCH & NETWORKING

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/4HWHEATEXPO](https://bit.ly/4HWHEATEXPO) 785-532-5800

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Wheat Expo Registration



YOU CAN FIND MORE KANSAS 4-H STATE EVENT OPPORTUNITIES HERE:

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

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?!

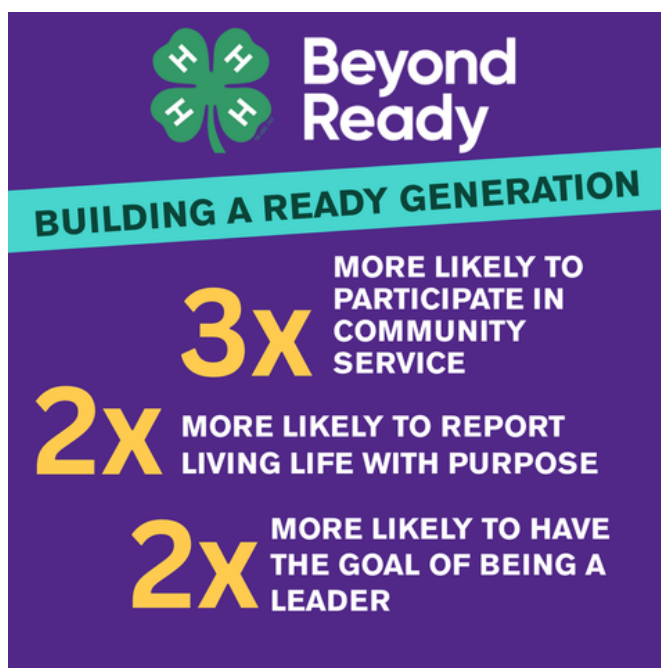
SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

- 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](https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/scholarships.html)



LOCAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS



TWO LOCATIONS. ONE PURPOSE. EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THE CATTLE INDUSTRY.

A no-pressure, practical skills camp for women ready to grow their knowledge—and their role—in beef cattle management.

WESTERN KANSAS, HAYS WKREC
SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2026
EASTERN KANSAS, PARSONS SEREC
MAY 5-6, 2026

Contact Us

Western: Dr. Emma Briggs
785-625-3425

Eastern: Dr. Jaymelynn Farney
620-820-6125

LEARN MORE AT:

https://www.wkrec.org/events/cow_camp/



SCAN HERE

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Logan Simon SWREC. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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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JUNE 15TH
10:00 A.M.

Watcha Eatin - know where your food comes
from and what's in it
Presenter: Charlene Miller: Ag Agent/Director

JUNE 18TH
10:00 A.M.

Reading Makes Sense - Session 1
Presenter: 4-H Summer Interns

JUNE 22ND
10:00 A.M.

Dehydration and Cool Refreshing Drinks for
the Summer
Presenter Charlene Miller: Ag Agent/Director

JUNE 25TH
10:00 A.M.

Reading Makes Sense - Session 2
Presenter: 4-H Summer Interns

JUNE 29TH
6:00 P.M.

Forage Sampling for Agriculture (hay bales,
native pasture)
Presenter: Charlene Miller: Ag Agent/Director

JULY 2ND
10:00 A.M.

Reading Makes Sense - Session 3
Presenter: 4-H Summer Interns

JULY 9TH
10:00 A.M.

Reading Makes Sense - Session 4
Presenter: 4-H Summer Interns

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LOCAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS

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FASHION REVUE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WHEN

The 2026 Butler County 4-H Fashion Revue Event will take place on Saturday, July 11th starting at 7:30 a.m.

WHERE

First Baptist Church in Augusta.
Located at 1501 State St, Augusta, KS 67010

TIMES

7:30 A.M. Check-In Begins
7:30 A.M. Sewing & Textile Design Revue
8:30 A.M. Shopping in Style Revue

PUBLIC REVUE & CHECK-IN

The Public Fashion Revue will take place on Saturday, July 11th, at 1:30 P.M. at the First Baptist Church in Augusta. Check-In for fair display will be Friday, July 17th from 2:00-3:00 P.M.



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HORSE SHOW INFORMATION

WHEN

The 2026 Butler County 4-H Horse Show will take place on Sunday, July 12th.

WHERE

The Horse Show will be held at the 3 Wooden Crosses in Augusta. Located at 5118 SW 100th St, Augusta, KS 67010.

TIMES

5:00-5:30 P.M. Check-In
6:00 P.M. Horse Show Judging

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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.