

# In the Loop

August 2020

Butler County 4-H Newsletter

## From the Agent

Resilience, perseverance, creativity, hard working.... All these words describe our 4-H family over the past 5 months. We have all faced circumstances and situations that before March 9, we would have never could have imagined. My hope is that through these trials and adversity we have challenged ourselves to find the silver lining and continue forward with "making the best better."

I want to commend everyone on a job well done as we prepared for and experienced a Butler County Fair like no other. In the months leading up to the fair many meetings were held via Zoom, club leaders did a tremendous job working to keep everyone engaged and committees met to make sure that we were able to host a safe showcase event for our youth. With many hours of dedication by volunteers we were able to allow our youth an opportunity to showcase what they have learned over the past year and receive recognition for their learning.

With the dust settling from Fair we now turn our attention to the new 4-H year and the exciting possibilities it holds! In this newsletter you will find information regarding the 2019-2020 Awards season to receive recognition for your 4-H year. The Pin Application has been modified this year to fit our unique circumstances. The KAP model will stay the same and the link is also included. For those older 4-H members who can apply for the KEY Award a few modifications were made at the State level and that is also attached here. Plans are in the works for our 4-H Council and Ambassador elections, committees as well as plans for National 4-H week and 48 Hours of 4-H. As we plan our regular programming activities for the Fall we will be in communication with the local health officials as well as following guidance from the State 4-H Office on how to host our events in the safest manner possible.

I wish you all the best as we transition back to school this fall. I encourage you to continue to share the learning experiences your child has in 4-H programming with your friends and encourage them to join! I'm always happy to visit with new families about what our youth programming can do for their family!

Well Wishes,

McKenzie Smithson

**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension



# 4-H Important Dates

## **August 17**

*More information regarding Static State Showcase entries will be released. Information will be emailed out to all families once an announcement is made.*

## **September 21**

*State level applications for State 4-H Council due.*

## **September 25**

- All Pin applications, KAP Record Books, KEY awards, special awards and scholarship applications are due to the Extension Office by 5 PM.*
- All 2020-2021 Butler County 4-H Council Committee forms due (Google Form link) This is open to any 4-H member who would like to be involved in a County wide committee. If you are elected as your clubs 4-H Council representative you will already be placed on a committee as part of your responsibilities with Council.*

## **September 28**

*Special Awards/Scholarship Interviews via Zoom*

## **October 4-10**

*National 4-H Week– Be thinking how you can share 4-H in your community!*

*Wednesday, October 7– Wear your 4-H Shirt to School Day– All Butler County 4-H members*

## **October 10-11**

*48 Hours of 4-H– What service project could you participate in? How could you help your community at this time?*

## **November 21-22**

*Virtual KYLF Conference– More details coming soon.*

## *Feedback Requested*

*Please complete the following survey to let us know your thoughts about the 2020 Butler County Fair.*

[https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0XQC0YVKODE77XFL](https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0XQC0YVKODE77XFL)

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### **4-H Meeting Guidance**

At this time clubs may meet in person for their regular club meetings. It is strongly encouraged that clubs take precautions for Covid-19 such as social distancing, encouraging masks, meeting outdoors when weather allows and sitting in family groups.

I will continue to work with club leaders and volunteers as we plan other gatherings for the fall 4-H season.

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**Links to Pin Application, KAP information, KEY Award, Special Awards and Scholarships are found here:**

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

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End of the Year Awards... What's it all about?

*PIN Applications*– The annual PIN recognizes the achievements of a 4-H member throughout their 4-H career. A 4-H member completes an application, outlining their involvement in the 4-H program for that year. Each year the process emphasizes more leadership, citizenship and engagement as the 4-H member matures and grows. It is encouraged that 4-H members complete their PIN application annually to reflect on their growth in their learning experiences. All 4-H members may submit.

*KAP Record Books (Kansas Awards Portfolio)*– The KAP is a project specific record book. There is a template to follow to demonstrate involvement, learning, and growth in a specific project area for that year. KAPs are judged locally and Senior level KAPs go onto a regional judging with a possibility for a state competition. Intermediate and Senior local KAP Award winners are given scholarships through the Butler County 4-H Council to go to leadership or other state level events the following year. The value of the KAP is that you reflect on your experience and really assess your goals for the year, your accomplishments and that helps you determine where to focus for the next year. All 4-H members may submit.

*Special Awards*– Presented to our Senior division youth, we have a number of special recognition awards available to those youth demonstrating above and beyond 4-H programming

**I Dare You Award**– Sponsored by the American Youth Foundation– Recognizes youth who demonstrate leadership based on principles of Mr. William Danforth's ideals of leadership.

**Kiwanis Junior Leader Award**– Sponsored by the El Dorado Kiwanis Club– Recognizes youth for their unselfish use of time and their efforts to really live the 4-H motto "To Make the Best Better." This individual is normally not only active at their club level in leadership but looks for opportunities at the county or even state level.

**Service to 4-Hand Community Award**– Sponsored by the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce– This award recognizes youth who have worked hard and dedicated energy and efforts to support their local community through community service and 4-H programs.

**Butler County Junior Leader Award**– Recognizes leadership within the 4-H program at all levels.

**Dr. Johnson Outstanding 4-er Award**– Presented to youth who exemplify the 4-H standards. They are always active and engaged to help wherever they can and are true leaders for our 4-H youth programming.

*Scholarships*– Awarded to current Seniors or 1st year college students, these scholarships are provided to help assist our older members with pursuing their educational goals.

**EW Nath Scholarship**– \$250 awarded from the Butler County 4-H Foundation

**ECC Scholarships**– \$250 awarded from the Butler County 4-H Council

*Key Award*– The recipient (s) of the Key Award are recognized by standards and qualifications set forth by a process from State 4-H Youth Development Organization. It is one of the highest honors a 4-H member can achieve as the award recognizes tremendous leadership, citizenship and overall impact of the 4-H member. Must be 16 or older to be eligible.

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## FALL 4-H EXPERIENCES

Local 4-H Club Elections,  
4-H Council and  
Ambassador Applica-  
tions due.

**Online enrollment for the 2020-2021  
4-H years opens on October 1, 2020!**

**Enroll as early as possible so that you  
continue to receive communication  
from the Extension Office on 4-H  
activities, deadlines and events!**

Local, Regional and  
State learning  
workshops and events

K-State Research and Extension 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, or a dietary restriction please contact McKenzie Smithson at the Extension Office at 316-321-9660.