

In the Loop

February 2020

Butler County 4-H Newsletter

Important Dates

February 6– Ambassadors and 4-H Council Meetings

February 6– YQCA Training– Extension Office

February 16-17– Citizenship in Action– Topeka/Capital Building

February 17– Extension Office Closed– President’s Day

February 18– Deadline to register for Game Day with the Lady Cats– See flier attached

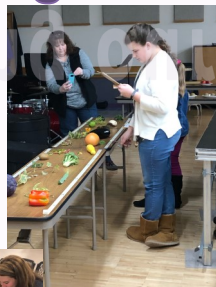
February 21-22– State Ambassador Training– Rock Springs

February 24– YQCA Training– Extension Office

March 1– Beef Weigh In– Fairgrounds– 1:00-2:30 PM

March 1– 4-H Camp Registration Opens, Applications for Camp Counselors Available

Growing our skills in 4-H!



4-H Day Contests, SELF Participants and 4-H Council Meeting

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Shout Outs

- To Desiree Ingalsbe on her selection for the States' 4-H International Exchange. She will travel to Taiwan in June. Congratulations!
- To Taylor Barlett, Shelby Varner, Trena Garcia, and Jeffrey Garcia on their KAP being selected to move on to the state wide judging competition.
- To the 73 participants at the County 4-H Day on January 26! We had many great performances by talented youth.
- To the 6 youth who attended the Southeast Leadership Forum in Emporia in January to learn more about engaging their communities.
- To the youth who stepped out of their comfort zone and participated in our judging competitions at 4-H Day. It was exciting to see the learning happening as they explored new concepts.

From the Agent

Ignite your **SPARK!** We often talk about our interests and hopes for the future, but included in that conversation is a **SPARK!** But how do we identify it?

The 2020 4-H Program Rally was last week and 4-H/Youth Development agents from all around the state met to discuss the **SPARK** in the youth of our communities. Oregon State University defines a **SPARK** as "... a passion for a self-identified interest or skill, or a capacity that metaphorically lights a fire in a young person's life, providing energy, joy, purpose and direction."

SPARKS can be motivators for young people to succeed in their lives and make positive choices. To grow in their knowledge of the subject matter and create networks with positive adults who can facilitate learning and engagement.

As a 4-H/Youth Development agent, my goal is to help every Butler County 4-Her find their **SPARK!** What project area are they truly interested in and do they have a passion for? How can we help that young person grow in their desire for knowledge and skill? What opportunities are out there to create an atmosphere where the youth feels empowered to try something new and develop their **SPARK?** In this month's newsletter, I have shared many opportunities from around the state from a wide range of topics that might just help develop that **SPARK!**

So tonight at the dinner table or driving to different activities, I encourage you to ask your child about their **SPARK** and what they want to accomplish! Once the **SPARK** is identified, make goals to help them discover more about the topic. Contact 4-H Volunteers who have knowledge in that subject area for help and develop that network of positive role models! What doors might this **SPARK** open in the future?

If I can be of any assistance to help provide direction or opportunities for growing a **SPARK**, please let me know! I'd be more than happy to help!

McKenzie Smithson

Butler County 4-H/Youth Development Agent

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4-H HAPPENINGS



Photography

4-H Photography Workshop

February 23 in Topeka, KS

Deadline to enroll is February 6!

Sign Up: <https://tinyurl.com/vdh8bnf>

4-H Super Saturday

Hays, KS

March 21, 2020

You'll find judging contests, hands on project learning, volunteer engagement and more at this year's 4-H Super Saturday. This annual event promises to provide engaging learning opportunities for 4-H'ers of all ages and their parents.

https://cottonwood.k-state.edu/ellis-county4h/4-hevents/ellis_nw4hJudging.html



K-State Jr. Producer Days

Beef– February 29, 2020

Sheep– March 14, 2020

K-State Campus– Weber Arena

See flyers attached to email

<http://bit.ly/ksuasiregister>



Host a 4-H Exchange Student

Kansas 4-H families have the opportunity to host high school students from Japan, South Korea, countries of Eastern and Southern Europe, Asia and Africa.

Contact Mary Kay Munson, State AYP Coordinator, at 785-238-3631 or munson@ksbroadband.net.

Game Day With the Lady Cats

Enjoy an afternoon of Lady Wildcat Basketball with 4-Hers from around the state of Kansas. Deadline to register is February 18!

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/docs/20%204-H%20Day%20Flyer.pdf>



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Livestock Notes

2020 Tagging/ID Dates

Beef: March 1 1:00-2:30 PM– Letters went out the week of February 3 with more information to those enrolled in the beef project.

Horse ID: May 1 Must be on file in Extension Office by 5 pm

Sheep and Goats: May 1 5:00-7:30 pm

Swine and Bucket Calves: By May 1–See Tagging Leader

ALL LIVESTOCK PARTICIPANTS:

Must complete the following trainings and complete these forms:

- ◇ YQCA training
- ◇ Animal Care and Housing Form
- ◇ Household Nomination Form (if applicable)

by published deadlines to compete at the 2020 BuCo Fair.

Forms and more information available at:

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