

The 4-H Forecaster

K-State Research &
Extension Butler County

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Tis the Season...



...to be busy, falalalala
lalalalaa!! I don't know
about you, but this time of
year finds my mind going
too many directions: what to cook for
Christmas dinner, who's going to be
there, where's it going to be out, what
family is getting together when, chil-
dren's classroom winter party's, what
am I going to give each person, when
will I have time to wrap it, not to men-
tion any other school, work and family
event going on!

Since this is a very busy time of year
for many, I'm going to keep this article
short, with the hopes you spend those
few added minutes reading about 4-H
Online and the changes to the VIP
Process.

Just remember as you go through the
processes and have any questions,
please do not hesitate to ask! We are
here to help and see you through the
process! Until next month's newsletter,
I wish each of you a Merry Christmas
and a safe, healthy and happy New
Year!

~Charlene



Knowledge
for Life

KANSAS STATE FAIR MONEY

Did you exhibit at the 2014 Kansas
State Fair? We have received the
premium money for your exhibits!
Premium money is now available in
our office and **MUST be picked up**

by December 31st at 5:00 p.m. This
will be the last day the office is open in
2014. After that, the money will be
deposited into the 4-H Council.



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Leader's Lounge

DECEMBER CHECK-UP

- ___ Plan a Holiday gathering or community service project for the Holiday season
- ___ Take time to Relax
- ___ Encourage 4-H'ers to ask their friends to attend a meeting
- ___ Ask your 4-H parents to encourage others to get involved

Review

- ___ Read *4-H Forecaster* for important dates.
- ___ Review highlights from the *4-H Forecaster* at your club meeting.

To-Do

- ___ Turn in all paper enrollment cards to the Extension Office ASAP
- ___ Encourage Project Leaders to start conducting project meetings.
- ___ Start generating ideas for the 4-H Fair Theme.
- ___ Check club boxes at Extension Office.
- ___ Plan Holiday party
- ___ Have a Parents meetings
- ___ Have a NEW parents meeting-welcome, encourage and let them know what to expect.
- ___ Out of County Request to Join forms due with Enrollment cards
- ___ Hand out and return VIP Renewal Forms
- ___ Have new volunteers contact the Extension Office to get the VIP Process started

Promote/Recruit

- ___ 4-H Days in February
- ___ CIA in February

Remember

- ___ Make it a Fun and Rewarding Year!



If your Club is wanting to have a bake sale fundraiser, please contact our office prior to doing

Junior Leaders & Volunteers

The new volunteer policy has arrived in my email inbox! While we all have our thoughts and opinions on this, I want to share some new and updated information with you:

- 1) Once application is submitted it is going to take a MINIMUM of 2 weeks to be ran through the background checks.
- 2) ALL JUNIOR LEADERS need to go through the ENTIRE process—including background and Child Abuse Neglect Registry. If they have been a Junior Leader previous—renewal paperwork will be need ALONG WITH with going through the background check and registry check.
- 3) All 4-H Ambassadors have to go through the check.
- 4) If you are considering being a 4-H Camp Counselor, then you MUST go through the checks. Start the process now so we are not delayed come time for 4-H Camp.

(Continued on page 4)

Online 4-H Enrollment—ACTIVE!!!

The online 4-H Enrollment System is now active! You can begin the process of entering your children online. By now, you should have received a brochure and letter outlining the online enrollment process. If you have not, please contact our office ASAP!

This process is also required for volunteers! If you are a volunteer submitting a VIP New or Renewal application you need to set up an online account.



The community leaders, Staci in our office and I have been through the process. I think you will find it relatively easy...all things considered!

There are a few items that have come up I want to make sure and highlight with everyone:

- 1) When selecting a county, make sure and select BUTLER even if you are living in another county. If you do not select Butler County, your club will not show up in the selection list!
- 2) Years in projects—the number listed should be for your

entire time in the project. For example. If you are enrolling in Foods ages 12-14, you will want to put the TOTAL number of years you have been in the foods project. Same goes for any other project that has age or years breakdown.

- 3) Volunteer—if your child is a club officer, you will need to check the volunteer box, even if they are not a junior leader. That will be the only way that you will be able to list them as a club officer.

If you have any questions as you go through the process, or need Internet or computer access, please let us know. We are here to help you!

Important News and Deadlines

Dec. 15—Registration Due for 4-H Day with the Lady Wildcats

Dec. 15—Registration deadline for SE Youth Leadership Forum

Dec. 25—Office Closed

December 31—Deadline for picking up State Fair premium money.

Jan. 1—Office Closed

Jan. 6—Senior KAP champion books due to extension office.

Jan. 8—4-H Council

Jan. 9—SE Area Record Book Judging

Jan. 10—SE Youth Leadership Forum—Eureka

Jan. 11—4-H Day with the Lady Wildcats basketball game—Manhattan.

Jan. 21—4-H Day pre-entries due

Feb. 2—5:00 p.m.—deadline for enrolling in livestock projects. Paper enrollment cards and health participation forms due into the Extension office along with the online enrollment submitted.

Feb. 14—4-H Club Days

Feb 20-21—Ambassador Training at Rock Springs

March 7—Market Beef Weigh-in

April 24th—4:30pm –6:00pm—Sheet and Meat Goat Tagging

April 25th—8:30 am—9:30 am—Sheep and Meat Goat Tagging

May 1—deadline for enrolling in non-livestock projects. Paper enrollment cards and health participation form due into Extension Office along with the online enrollment submitted.

June 3-6—OzSome 4-H Camp

July 25-30—Butler County Fair

Shooting Sports



Rifle, Pistol and Archery meetings begin again in January. Rifle and Pistol start on Jan. 6 and Archery on Jan. 8. New basic classes will begin in all three disciplines. Registration will be from 6:30 to 7pm and

meetings will be from 7 to 8pm. All meetings are at the 4-H Building. Meetings will be held at the same time and days of the week through most of the weeks in January, February, March and April. All new participants are required

to attend the first meeting in each discipline. If you have any questions please call Gene Maggard at 316-742-3746.

...VIP Continued

- 5) Any other youth with programming responsibilities will need to go through the ENTIRE process as well!
- 6) New volunteers and Junior Leaders need to be interviewed by the Community Leader.

Unfortunately, this is not a time friendly project. It will take time to get everything done and no one will be approved until ALL process are complete. With that in mind, I encourage you to make "full speed ahead" through this process so it doesn't slow you down for any activities and involvement!

I am attaching a copy of a VIP Fact Sheet to the end of this letter. Please take a few moments to look over it.



4-H Days

4-H Days will be here before we know it! 4-H Days is a great time to showcase your talents, get feedback on your presentations and learn from others about projects and topics you might not know about! The will be held on February 14th, 2015 at the Butler Community College. More information on sign up and deadlines will be following in future newsletters.

If you are looking for more information on 4-H Days and the different categories, make sure to visit www.butler.ksu.edu. There is a guidelines document under 4-H & Youth, 4-H Day. Other information can be found on the State website at: <http://www.kansas4-h.org/p.aspx?tabid=551>.

Some divisions available are:

Public Speaking, Demonstrations, Readings, Gavel Games, Vocal and Instrumental Solos and Ensembles, Piano, Skits, Dance, and the list goes on! Your club leader can help you pick which divisions you might want to enter! There will also be fun events during the day like Pickle Power.

Make sure to save the date!

Other News & Project Information

S.T.E.M.

STEM is growing a lot of steam. There is interest in our county. If you are interested in being a leader for Science, Technology and/or Energy Management, contact Charlene. There are kits available. For more information on this project, go to: <http://www.kansas4-h.org/p.aspx?tabid=411>.

TECH TRUNKS

Did you know there are several different tech trunks available to check out and have fun with projects. To view the different trunks go here: <http://www.kansas4-h.org/p.aspx?tabid=573>. If you are interested in bringing one to Butler County, contact Charlene.

4-H DAY WITH THE LADY WILDCATS

The Kansas Association of Extension 4-H Agents is excited to inform you that the seventh annual

4-H Day with the Wildcat Women's Basketball team is scheduled for Sunday, January 11th. The lady cats will take on the University of Kansas Jayhawks. Registration is due December 15th. If you need the registration form, let me know!

4-H CAMP 2015

Save the dates! June 3-6, 2015

CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION

Would you like to have more influence in laws and rules that affect your life? Then you'll want to go to the Kansas 4-H Citizenship in Action conference Feb. 15-16, 2015. This event is held at the State Capital in Topeka and is available to all youth who are between the ages of 13 and 19 years old as of January 1. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available!

PROJECT RESOURCES

Are you in need of help with a project? Not sure what to do next? Come to the Extension Office and check out a CCS book. These books are available in several project areas and can be checked out for 2 weeks at a time. Curious if we have a book for a certain project, give the Extension Office a call!

DISCOVERY DAYS

Discovery Days is open to all youth between the ages of 13-18. Discovery Days allows youth the opportunity to explore various career options, participate in leadership activities and interact with other teens from across the State. All of this and more will take place on the beautiful KSU campus in Manhattan! Save the dates for May 26-29, 2015.

4-H Clubs & the Holiday

When I sent out a request to the 4-H Clubs the first week of December, this Agent's heart was beating with Joy when I received responses back. I want to say CONGRATULATIONS and GOOD JOB for each and everyone of you who are doing community service activities during the Holiday season.

You all are rocking it! By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have submitted an article to the Farm Talk magazine which covers a 4-State Region and the Butler County Times Gazette. Sometimes we don't toot our own horn enough.

I think it is very important to reach out to our media to let them know the great things 4-H is doing!

Keep up the great work you are doing!



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From Left: Larry Crouse, Horticulture Agent, Barb Roths, Family and Consumer Science Agent, Charlene Miller, 4-H Youth Agent and Dave Kehler, Agriculture Agent

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VIP Fact Sheet

I have received the State policy for **Volunteer Screening Policy and Procedures** from the State 4-H Office. In addition to the screenings for the adult volunteers, Junior Leaders and other juniors will need to go through the process. Let me break it down:

- 1) Volunteer Policy states – 4-H Volunteer Screening must be completed by: any individual who works in close, ongoing interaction with youth, or any adult or youth with authority to independently plan and conduct 4-H education experiences for youth with other adults present or in a public setting... This is defined as community/organizational leader, project leader, activity leader, judging team coach, camp counselor, Discovery Days, Camp adult assistance, overnight event chaperones, countywide project leaders, chauffer drivers for any 4-H activity, etc.
- 2) Per the above information in #1, I am taking this to include Junior Leaders, 4-H Ambassadors, 4-H Camp Counselors, and all other areas as defined above.
- 3) For **Adult VIP RENEWAL** volunteers
 - a. Only submit your renewal form – we are not putting you through the screening just yet
- 4) For **Adult NEW VIP** volunteers
 - a. Complete the ENTIRE VIP packet which can be found here - <http://www.butler.ksu.edu/doc4304.ashx>
 - b. The background checks will take a *minimum* of 2 weeks to run. Allow plenty of time for this before your club is using them to conduct activities.
- 5) For **Junior Leader, 4-H Ambassadors, and those interested in being 4-H Camp Counselor RENEWAL VIPS**
 - a. Complete the renewal VIP form
 - b. Complete the background check found here – <http://tinyurl.com/cbcks4h>
 - c. Complete the Child Abuse and Neglect Registry form and mail in to: DCF, Child Abuse and Neglect Central Registry, P.O. Box 2637, Topeka, KS 66601. The form is attached to this email. *****Please note that EVERY line must be filled out on this form.** Failure to fill out EVERY line will result in further delay of the process. This form is found in the VIP packet. The link is below in item 6.
 - d. These need to be done as soon as possible.
- 6) For **NEW Junior Leaders, 4-H Ambassadors, and those interested in being 4-H Camp Counselors submitting a VIP**
 - a. Complete the ENTIRE VIP packet which can be found here: <http://www.butler.ksu.edu/doc4304.ashx>
 - b. The background checks will take a *minimum* of 2 weeks to run. Allow plenty of time for this before youth are conducting and helping with any activities.
 - c. These need to be done as soon as possible