



RILEY COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

June 2026

Golden Clover Hunt

In early July, we will once again kick off the Golden Clover Hunt in anticipation of the Riley County Fair. Each weekday a new clue will be posted to the Riley County Fair website at www.rileycountyfair.com. Clues will continue to post right up until the start of the fair or until someone finds the clover. Upon discovery, the individual or family will be showered in wonderful gifts donated by local participants. Good luck to you all!



Pre- Fair Workshop 2026

Join us on **Monday, June 29** for our annual pre-fair informational event. This is a come and go event from **5:30-7:00 pm** at Pottorf Hall.

4-Hers and Cloverbuds can come out and learn about exhibiting their projects including; Project Poster/Notebook, Rabbit, Poultry, Photography (bring your photos to mount), Geology (bring your rock/minerals/fossil specimens), and Shopping in Style (Buymanship). Get help filling out fashion revue scoresheets and practice modeling.

There will also be an opportunity to practice talking with a judge.

State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest

The State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2026, in Manhattan, Kansas. Our contest is hosted for the day by the Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources.

If you enjoyed Horticulture judging at 4-H Showcase or the Riley County Fair, give this a try! If you are interested or have questions, please contact Gregg Eyestone geyeston@ksu.edu

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July 1 is the fair pre-entry deadline for

4-H & Cloverbud

3 photos =
3 pre-entries

1 goat in 5 classes =
5 pre-entries



If you have something for the 4-H newsletter, please submit it to jajobe@ksu.edu by the 10 of the month.

How to Reach Us:

Riley County Extension

110 Courthouse Plaza, RM B220

Manhattan, KS 66502

785-537-6350

John: jajobe@ksu.edu

Brandy: brandymarie@ksu.edu

4-H Info: 4hinfo@rileycountyks.gov

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 7:30 am to 5 pm

Friday 7:30 am to noon

Pathway to Purple Showmanship Camp Thank You

The Pathway to Purple Showmanship Camp happened in Riley County on May 30 and 32. We were very excited to host this hands-on learning experience and look forward to making this an annual event.

Thank you to Jacob Wendland for spearheading the event, and to the entire Wendland Family for their assistance and for sharing their knowledge with campers.

We'd also like to appreciate our other "celebrity showman" who helped teach throughout the event, Avery Eckoff, Dalyn Eckoff, and Kaden Camerlinck. You all truly made the "best better" by helping coach the next generation of champions.



Kansas 4-H Animal Science Webinar Series

The Animal Science Webinar Series is designed to give Kansas 4-H'ers an opportunity to learn more about the livestock industry, career opportunities and good animal husbandry practices.

The webinars include a variety of topics/species including rabbit, poultry, meat goat, swine, sheep, beef, biosecurity, heat stress, careers and more!

Check out the series here <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animal-science/animal-science-webinar-series/>



[Explore the World of Food at Youth Cooking Camp](#)

Pack your aprons and passports for a delicious global adventure! This summer, young chefs are invited to join **Kids Summer Cooking Camp: Tastes Around the World**, a hands-on culinary experience that combines cooking skills, cultural exploration, and plenty of fun.

Hosted June 30 through July 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., this three-day camp will take children on a flavorful journey across the globe without ever leaving the kitchen. Each day, campers will “travel” to a different destination and prepare kid-friendly recipes inspired by cuisines from around the world.

More than just cooking, the camp is designed to help children build confidence and independence in the kitchen. Participants will learn essential culinary skills such as measuring ingredients, following recipes, practicing kitchen safety, proper food handling, knife skills, and teamwork.

From savory dishes to sweet treats, young cooks will experience new flavors while expanding their palates and learning about the diverse foods enjoyed by families around the world. The camp encourages creativity, curiosity, and a willingness to try something new—all valuable skills that extend beyond the kitchen.

Whether your child is an aspiring chef or simply enjoys helping prepare meals at home, Kids Summer Cooking Camp offers an exciting opportunity to learn, create, and taste their way around the world.

Camp Details

- **Dates:** June 30 – July 2
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Pottorf Hall
- **Cost:** \$15 per child
- **Ages:** 10 years and older may attend independently. Children ages 8–9 are welcome with an adult present.
- **Theme:** Tastes Around the World

Space is limited, and advance registration is required.

Young chefs will leave camp with new recipes, increased confidence in the kitchen, and a greater appreciation for the flavors and cultures that make our world unique.

Register today and join us for a culinary adventure around the globe!

Registration link: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/67jesyc/lp/0cc0be52-b852-4bb5-a39c-cfb9dc701f45>

Registration and payment must be received by June 22 or your spot will be given to someone else.



4-H Council Dates for 2025-2026

Monday, July 6, 2026; Monday, August 31, 2026.

Each club is allowed to have 5 voting representatives: 3 youth and 2 adults.

Cloverbud Entries

Just a reminder that any Cloverbud bringing projects in will interview judge on Tuesday of fair week. The only exception would be sewing and textiles on Wednesday, July 15.

2026 Riley County Fair Theme

The 4-Hers have spoken! After working through a large number of possible fair themes for the 2026 Riley County Fair, our 4-H Council representatives voted to make the following the 2026 fair theme; **“Fair Lights and Star Spangled Nights”**. Remember this can be incorporated into banners and window decorations as we approach fair season. If clubs want to introduce a sub-text that highlights our celebration of Americas 250th Anniversary, that would be welcomed and not in any way penalized when it comes to banner judging.

4-H Club Window Decorations 2026

Each club will have the option to decorate a window in a local business or office in their local community. Window designs will be judged prior to the start of the fair. Photos of the window and ribbon placings will be on display in Pottorf Hall during the fair.

Below are the parameters:

Each club must secure their own window, making arrangements for painting as well as cleaning the window within a week following the fair.

Clubs CAN decorate more than one window, but can only submit one for judging.

Fair window will need to be decorated by **Monday, July 13**.

Each club must notify the Extension office by **Monday, July 13 at 5 pm** as to the location of their clubs window and send a picture of the window to Brandy at brandymarie@ksu.edu

Each window should include the fair dates as well as the wording “Riley County Fair 2026” somewhere in the design.

Designs are not required to follow the fair theme.

Judging criteria will be based on 1) Creativity 2) Fair Marketing Value/ Location.



Riley County Fair Sign Up Info 2026

*****Read very carefully*****

We will be using the Fair Entry online program for pre-entering **all 4-H exhibits**. This includes every project coming to the Riley County Fair; indoor static exhibits, all livestock exhibits, showmanship, as well as Cloverbud projects. Each separate project must have a pre-entry (i.e. 3 foods items, 3 separate pre-entries)

Step 1—complete before July 1

To access the Fair Entry program, all 4-H families will use their 4-H Online login. If you did not enroll in a particular project as of May 1, 2026, the program will not allow you to pre-enter or exhibit in that project area at the 2026 fair. You will follow the steps on the program for your entries. **You will receive an email confirmation of your pre-entry.** It will come from no-reply@faireentry.com. Pre-entries open on June 2 and will close on July 1. We highly suggest using a computer or tablet. Entering information in the Fair Entry program can be difficult on a cell phone.

Step 2—complete before July 11

The final part of the fair preparation process will be selecting an interview judging time-slot for all indoor static exhibits (4-H and Cloverbud). All indoor exhibits must be interview judged. These links will be sent out on July 2 and will remain open until midnight on July 11.

As part of the Fair Entry online program, all entry cards will be printed from the project information provided during the pre-entry process. You will not need to fill out entry cards prior to coming to the fair.

***FIBER ARTS, SEWING AND TEXTILE DESIGN, AND FASHION REVUE ***

Clothing, knitting or crocheting project members are eligible to participate in the Fashion Revue on Wednesday, July 15 at the Manhattan Catholic School Junior High (306 S. Juliette). Use the Fair Entry program to pre-enter by July 1. *Cloverbuds will use the Fair Entry program to pre-enter by July 1 for fashion revue and constructed garments.

If you chose to participate in the evening fashion revue (optional), you will need to submit a script prior to July 10. Watch for an email from Brandy with detail. Scripts will be read as you model in the evening fashion revue. The script is a 4-5 sentence description of your outfit. If you have questions about writing a description, please contact the office, 785-537-6350.

Judging forms and a schedule will be **emailed** to all fashion revue participants. Copies of the judging form can be picked up from the Extension Office. Judging forms can also be picked up from our display rack at the Riley and Leonardville Post office. These judging forms will need to be filled out and brought with you to fashion revue judging on **July 15**. The public evening revue will also be held at the Manhattan Catholic School Junior High (306 S. Juliette).

This year we will be following state fair guidelines. There will no longer be classes separated by gender in the Fashion Revue Department. Classes will only be separated into Cloverbud, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior.

Leaders and Parents

Consider in June

- Check your club mailbox
- Prepare a committee to work on the fair banner and window decorations
- Work with new families to make sure they are fair-ready
- Help work the 4-H pop stand during the fair
- Encourage new 4-H families to attend the Pre-Fair Workshop on Monday, June 29, 5:30-7:00 pm Pottorf

Fair Pop Stand Sign Up

As we make the final drive towards fair 2026, we are putting together some of the details for non-project related scheduling. We are asking individuals or families to sign up to work the 4-H Pop Stand (fundraiser for 4-H Council). Choose a slot that work with your schedule. Ideally four kids and 1-2 adults are about as many people you want to have in the stand at one time, but you can staff it with as few as two kids and one adult. Below is the link to the time slots, so please don't wait to get signed up for a shift. **We build in an extra (30) minutes for opening shifts Friday through Monday to accommodate the preparation of the pop stand. The opening shift will have additional responsibilities.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D44ADA72FA4FD0-4hpop>

Guidelines for operating the Riley County 4-H food stand

1. It is your groups responsibility to make sure someone is operating the pop stand during the assigned time.
2. One adult needs to be present when working.
3. Each group should clean throughout their scheduled time (wipe up spills, etc.)
4. Last in the evening are responsible for cleaning up and closing.
5. If the individuals assigned after you do not show up, please contact Brandy (typically in fair office).

Livestock Registration Papers Accepted During Fair Entry

New this year, when you register for the county fair, if you're showing a registered animal that requires registration papers, you will be able to upload a copy of your registration papers. By doing this during the registration process, you won't be asked to show them again at check-in (one less thing to remember to bring to the county fair!).

Food Stand 2026

We are excited to share that the 4-H Food Stand will be open during the 2026 Riley County Fair from **Friday, July 24 through Sunday, July 26**, operating daily from **10:30 AM to 7:30 PM**.

We will be looking for volunteers to help work the food stand throughout the weekend. Most shifts will be approximately **two hours long**, although some shift lengths may vary.

This year, sign-up opportunities will be offered as a **free-will sign-up**, rather than by club assignment. We encourage all 4-H members and families to participate. **Friends and family members are also welcome to volunteer and help make the food stand a success!**

The volunteer sign-up will be released within the next few weeks. Please watch for additional information and sign-up details coming soon.

Thank you for your support of the Riley County 4-H food stand. We look forward to a great fair and appreciate everyone who helps make the food stand possible!

Premium Sale Success & New Sale Flyers

The 4-H Livestock Premium Auction is an opportunity for our community to come together and support the hard work and dedication of local 4-H youth. 4-H supporters provide vital financial assistance that allows members to continue pursuing their livestock projects, build valuable life skills, and grow as future leaders in agriculture.

As 4-H members, our goal is to develop skills throughout this process. Being able to speak confidently to 4-H supporters, appreciate their support, and represent 4-H Youth Livestock are all important skills.

We want to equip youth with all the tools and materials needed for success. Check out our new [webpage](#) to help you start inviting potential supporters to the premium sale. We've updated our [sale flyers](#). Please use this to invite supporters to the sale. If you are inviting a new buyer, we've created a "[Sale FAQ](#)" document that explains all about premium auctions.

Early summer is a great time to make the rounds and invite supporters to the premium auction to bid on your animal! If you'd like copies of the flyer to give out to potential buyers, contact the office.



**2026 Riley Co.
4-H Premium
Auction**



**Monday, July 27th
at 7pm Hulburt Hall Cico Park**

Join us for the Riley County 4-H Livestock Premium Auction, where our community comes together to support the hard work and dedication of local 4-H youth. Your participation helps provide vital financial assistance that allows members to continue pursuing their livestock projects, build valuable life skills, and grow as future leaders in agriculture. We invite you to attend, bid, and make a meaningful impact in the lives of Riley County's young people.

**Find sale information,
buyer pre-registration,
and more!**

SCAN ME



Get access to our Riley County 4-H Practice Judging Account



Sign Up for free Account



Step 1: Follow the QR code or go to www.livestockjudging.com

Step 2: Create a free account

Log in with our code



Step 3: Log in using our code to get access to all the classes at <https://www.livestockjudging.com/code/>

Our Code: JNQG

Once logged in with our code, you have access to all the livestock judging, meats judging, classes and question sets to practice on.

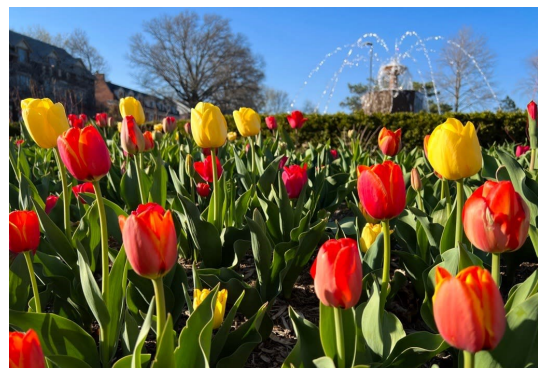
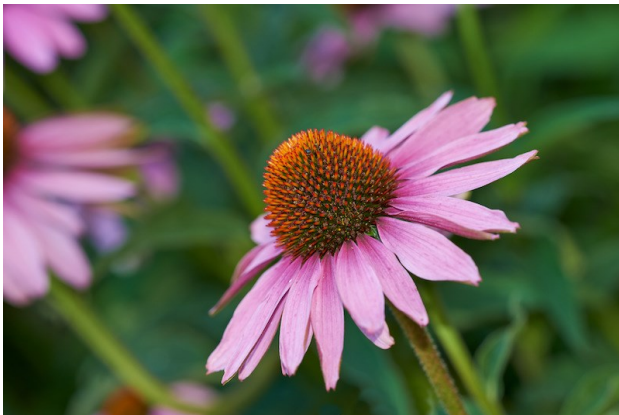
If you have issues accessing the account reach out to Lindsay Shorter at lindsayshorter@ksu.edu

Want to keep practicing your livestock and meats judging skills this spring? The Riley County 4-H has a premium account through www.livestockjudging.com and all 4-Her's have access to THOUSANDS of practice classes. Follow the instructions to get signed up, and if you have any issues, reach out to Lindsay.

Riley County Fair 2026 Open Class Challenge

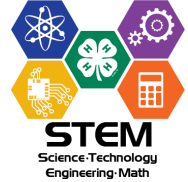
“Scenes of Riley County”

Join us for the Riley County Fair 2026 Open Class “Scenes of Riley County” Challenge. This year the Riley County scene will focus on “**Flowers of Riley County**”. All pictures must be taken in Riley County and a description of the flower(s) and location must be included on the back of the photo. The winning photo will receive a special ribbon and will be hung in the Riley County Courthouse for one year. Cropping is allowed, but no digital manipulation. Only **ONE** entry per person. Please refer to the 2026 Riley County fair book for additional requirements when it comes out. Contact the Riley County Extension office with any questions about the challenge 785-537-6350.





BUILD YOUR WORLD



1. Building Creations (LEGO®, K'NEX®, tooth picks, Etc.) should be no larger than 24"(L) x 24"(W) x 60"(H). **Special size accommodations can be made for larger creations with the approval of Mr. Jobe, Riley County 4-H Agent.** Contact him at the Riley County Extension Office prior to entry. 785-537-6350.
2. Building Creations will be judged on theme, neatness, and creativity.
3. Creations will be judged in (4) separate age categories; **Junior (ages 7-9), Intermediate (ages 10-13), Senior (14-19), and Adult (20+).**
3. Group exhibits are allowed, but only one prize will be given per exhibit if winner.
5. Each builder may enter a maximum of two exhibits.
6. One prize awarded for top exhibit in each age-category.
7. All entries must be completely assembled when entered. Only minor repairs will be permitted at entry.
8. **Entries will be displayed for the duration of the 2026 Riley County Fair**

All entries will be brought in on Wednesday, July 22 from 3:00-5:00 pm. Entries will be judged the afternoon of Thursday, July 23. Entries can be picked up Monday, July 27 from 5:00-7:00 pm. No early release will be permitted.

Open Class Building Creation prizes are made possible by a generous donation from the Manhattan Breakfast Optimist Club



2026 Riley County 4-H Calendar

June

- 1 Horse ID Papers DUE
- 3-5 Discovery Days, KSU Campus
- 10 Fair Royalty Interviews
- 12-14 State Geology Field Trip
- 15 State Livestock Entries DUE
- 19 Extension office closed
- 19-20 Insect Spectacular; Yates Center
- 24 Babysitting Clinic
- 27 Dog Show (All Disciplines)
- 29 Pre-Fair Workshop; 5:30-7 pm @ Pottorf

July

- 1 Fair Pre-Entries DUE Online
- 3 Extension office closed
- 6 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- 12-22 Triple E Exchange Trip to PA
- 15 State Fair Livestock Entries DUE
- 15 Fair Fashion Review (including Cloverbuds)
- 18 4-H Horse Show, Bilbrey Event Center
- 20 Fair Work Night, Pottorf Hall
- 23-27 Riley County Fair, Cico Park
- 28 Fairground Cleanup
- 30 State Fair Entry Form DUE

August

- 1 State Horse Show DUE
- 15 State Horticulture Judging
- 15 Wheat Expo, El Dorado
- 22-23 State Livestock Judging
- 31 4-H Leaders Meeting; 6 pm, Pottorf Hall
- 31 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- TBA KJLS Entries DUE

September

- 7 Labor Day, Extension Office Closed
- 10 State Fair Project DUE to Extension Office
- 11-20 Kansas State Fair
- 18 Project Report Forms & Awards DUE

H  AD

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Updated 6/3/2026

K-State Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.