



RILEY COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

May 2026

2025-2026 4-H Enrollment and Re-Enrollment

4-H Enrollment is DUE May 1 and is done via [4-H Online](#). If you have forgotten your password, 4-H Online can set you up with a temporary one. If you have forgotten your email log-in, PLEASE do not create a second account. Contact Brandy and she can assist you. The deadline to enroll and update projects is May 1.

Fair Royalty Program

Please encourage older 4-H members to apply! Applications are available NOW. Fill one out today by visiting www.riley.ksu.edu (4-H → Forms/Resources → Other Resources). Contact the office if you have any questions. **Applications should be email to Kelly Wendland (wendland@twinvalley.net) by Friday, May 1, 2026. Interviews will be June 10.**

Discovery Days Registration 2026

Discovery Days is a mini college experience designed for youth who are 13-18 years of age as of January 1. Youth will have the opportunity to select classes and attend social functions. Check out more details and register today! Closes May 8.
<https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based->

Spring Livestock and Meats Judging Contests

Throughout the spring there will be opportunities to attend Livestock and Meats judging contests through 4-H. If your 4-H member is interested in being notified of these opportunities, reach out to Lindsay @ lindsayshorter@ksu.edu

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!



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ENROLL in
Riley County
4-H TODAY
[https://v2.4honli
ne.com/](https://v2.4honli ne.com/)



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	John: jajobe@ksu.edu
110 Courthouse Plaza, RM B220	Brandy: brandymarie@ksu.edu
Manhattan, KS 66502	4-H Info: 4hinfo@rileycountyks.gov
785-537-6350	Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 7:30 am to 5 pm
	Friday 7:30 am to noon

4-H Council Dates for 2025-2026

Monday, May 4, 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 clothing/ fashion review.

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.



Leaders and Parents

Consider in May

- Check your club mailbox
- Make sure 4-H Council Reps are attending meetings as voting representatives of your club
- Start the conversation about exhibiting at county fair with new families
- Consider hosting a club project meeting
- Encourage Discovery Days 2026; Registration closes May 8 (See page 1)
- Remind Families of the May 1 enrollment deadline for dropping/ adding projects. You must be enrolled and signed up for projects in order to exhibit at the Riley County Fair.
- Encourage members to apply for fair royalty; Closes May 1 (See page 1)
- Horse ID papers are due June 1 for all horses being exhibited at the Riley County Fair
- Save the date for the “Path to Purple Showmanship Camp” May 30-31

4-H Project Day Ideas?...Let us Know.

Riley County 4-H is currently looking for passionate individuals to host project days during the next year. Do you have a skill or hobby you would be willing to share with other 4-Hers across the county? In addition, we are always looking for touring ideas for 4-Hers and families. Contact Brandy or John if this is of interest, 785-537-6350.

Sheep and Goat Tagging/ Weigh-In: May 4th

Next Monday, May 4th, from 5 pm-7 pm is the Sheep and Goat weigh-in and tagging. This will be held in Hulburt Hall (arena barn) at the fairgrounds. If you're unsure of what needs 4-H tags, double-check the [tagging guidelines](#) for our fair, found on page 9.

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!).

YQCA Training

As a reminder, anyone exhibiting a market livestock project (beef, swine, goat, sheep, poultry, or rabbit) must complete a YQCA certification course to exhibit at the Riley County Fair. You can complete the course either in person or online. Please email Lindsay (lindsayshorter@ksu.edu) your completed certificate.

We will have two opportunities to complete the YQCA training in person here in Riley County, see page 7. YQCA will be taught both afternoons of our showmanship camp, hosted on May 30th and 31st. If you have a young person who needs to attend YQCA but can not attend the full camp, that's fine. Please register all youth for YQCA training online [here](#): select the appropriate age division, choose “instructor-led training” (not the web-based training), and complete the registration with payment. YQCA will be open to anyone needing the training.

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





4-H Garage Sale
May 6-9, 2026
Wreath Barn, Cico Park, Manhattan

We are looking for a huge selection of items to be donated.
We do not accept TVs of any kind.

Proceeds benefit 4-H members in Pottawatomie, Riley, & Wabaunsee Counties

Drop Off Items on Location

Wednesday, May 6, 5-8 PM
Thursday, May 7, 10 AM - 8 PM

Garage Sale

Friday, May 8, 9 AM - 8 PM
Saturday, May 9, 9 AM - Noon

Questions: Call John Jobe, 785-537-6350



K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact, John Jobe, two weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
 K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Register here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6aafh89>

Camp Dates:

May 30th (Sheep and Goats) at the KSU Sheep/Goat Unit, 2117 Denison Ave. Manhattan, KS

May 31st (Swine and Cattle) at Riley Co. Fairgrounds

Camp Details:

The first annual “Path to Purple” Showmanship Camp will be hosted in Manhattan, KS on May 30th and 31st. Register early to save your spot! This camp will be limited, as its purpose is to provide a hands-on learning experience. This camp is designed to grow the confidence and knowledge of 4-H members with their livestock project. The camp is split into two days (you can attend both or just one). On May 30th, we’ll cover sheep and goat projects, and on May 31st, we’ll cover Swine and Cattle. YQCA will be taught both afternoons of camp. Camp will go from 8– 4 pm each day.

Who Should Attend Camp?

All are welcome to attend camp! Camp will be most beneficial to 4-Hers enrolled in the species corresponding to that day of camp. But if others who are interested in that project, or who would like to be more competitive in the round robin, are all welcome to attend. Camp will be initially open to Riley County 4-H member sonly through April 30th. If there is any remaining space after the 1st of May, it will be opened to 4-H members from surrounding counties to attend until the camp is full. So register early to save your spot!

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
<p>8am Building Block Engineering Project Poster/Notebooks Vet Science Wildlife Shooting Sports Interior Design</p> <p>1pm Photography All Cloverbud projects (except Clothing & Fashion Revue)</p> <p>1:30pm Small Engines Aerospace/Rocketry Computer Sciences</p> <p>6pm 4-H Pets</p>	<p>10am Visual Arts Foods & Nutrition</p> <p>11am Food Preservation Decorated Cakes</p> <p>3pm Bake Sale Begins Judge Banners Enter OC Building Creations</p>	<p>7-11am 4-H Livestock Arrive</p> <p>8am Pottorf Hall Opens 4-H Bake Sale Opens</p> <p>10am Enter OC Horticulture Enter Clothing for Display Fiber Arts Geology Forestry</p> <p>12pm Shepherd's Lead Pre-Entry Due</p> <p>1pm Woodworking 4-H Horticulture Judge OC Horticulture Entomology Livestock Exhb. Meeting</p> <p>2pm Electric Judging OC Building Ceations</p> <p>6-10pm Carnival Open</p> <p>7pm Sheep Show/Shepards Lead</p> <p>10pm Pottorf Hall Closes</p>	<p>8am Pottorf Hall Opens Dairy Goat Show</p> <p>1pm Poultry Show</p> <p>4pm Meat Goat Show</p> <p>6-10pm Carnival Open</p> <p>7pm Swine Show</p> <p>10pm Pottorf Hall Closes</p>	<p>8am Pottorf Hall Opens Rabbit Show OC Art and Clothing OC Photography Dairy Cattle Show</p> <p>9am Beef Show</p> <p>10am OC Foods</p> <p>11am Bucket Calf Show Follows Beef Show</p> <p>1-3pm Hort, Photo, FACS Judging Contests</p> <p>6-10pm Carnival Opens</p> <p>10pm Pottorf Hall Closes</p>	<p>10am Pottorf Hall Opens</p> <p>11am Round Robin Begins with Swine and then other species</p> <p>1pm Baking Contest</p> <p>3:30pm Livestock Judging Contest</p> <p>6-10pm Carnival Opens</p> <p>6:30pm Pedal Pull Registration</p> <p>7pm Pedal Pull</p> <p>10pm Pottorf Hall Closes</p>	<p>7-11am Non-Sale Livestock Released</p> <p>8am Pottorf Hall Opens</p> <p>10am Fair Olympics</p> <p>5-7pm Release Pottorf Hall Exhibits</p> <p>6-10pm Carnival Open</p> <p>7pm 4-H Livestock and Food Champion Auction</p> <p>7pm Pottorf Hall Closes</p>

**2026 Riley
County Fair
Schedule**

Livestock Tagging Made Easy!

Attached is a grid to help all livestock families understand livestock tagging, registration requirements, and YQCA requirements for showing at the Riley County Fair. Please utilize this tool and share it with new families within your club. It's also available on the Riley County Extension website. Check the grid for your livestock and ensure you meet all tagging or registration requirements.

Make sure you've got all livestock tagged and registered as required. Check out the guide to ensure you're ready to go to the county fair!

As a reminder:

Sheep & Goat Weigh-in/Tagging: May 4 from 5-7 pm at the Riley County Fairgrounds

2026 Riley County Fair 4-H Tagging Guidelines and Forms

Animal: Species	Tagging / Weigh-in Date	4-H Tag Required	YQCA Required	Registration Papers Required
BEEF INFORMATION				
Market Beef (Steers & Heifers)	Feb. 21st @ Riley Fairgrounds	YES	YES	NO - Show by weight, not breed
Registered Breeding Heifers	N/A	NO	NO	YES - in the youth's name on or before June 15th-Original papers due by Fair entry on July 1st
Unregistered Breeding Heifers	May 1st	YES	NO	NO
Bucket Calf (Born between Jan 1 to May 1)	May 15th	YES	NO	NO
DAIRY CATTLE INFORMATION				
Grade Dairy Heifers/Cows	May 1st	YES	NO	
Registered Dairy Cattle	N/A	NO	NO	YES - in the youth's name on or before June 15th-Original papers due by Fair entry on July 1st
SHEEP INFORMATION				
Market Lambs	May 4th @ Riley Fairgrounds	YES	YES	NO
Registered Breeding Ewes	N/A	NO	NO	YES - in the youth's name on or before June 15 th - original papers due by Fair entry on July 1st
Unregistered Breeding Ewes	May 4th @ Riley Fairgrounds	YES	NO	NO
SWINE INFORMATION				
Tags Required for ALL Swine				
Market Swine (Registered)	Swine nomination form with tagging and pictures turned into Lindsay at the office by May 1st	YES	YES	YES - in the youth's name on or before June 15th- original papers due by Fair entry on July 1st
Market Swine (Crossbred)	Swine nomination form with tagging and pictures turned into Lindsay at the office by May 1st	YES	YES	NO
Registered Breeding Gilts	Swine nomination form with tagging and pictures turned into Lindsay at the office by May 1st	YES	YES	YES - in the youth's name on or before June 15 th and turned in by Fair entry on July 1st
Commercial Breeding Gilts	Swine nomination form with tagging and pictures turned into Lindsay at the office by May 1st	YES	YES	NO
Animal: Species	Tagging / Weigh-in Date	4-H Tag Required	YQCA Required	Registration Papers Required
GOAT INFORMATION				
Market Meat Goats	May 4th @ Riley Fairgrounds	YES	YES	NO
Market Dairy Goats	May 4th @ Riley Fairgrounds	YES	YES	NO
Meat Goat Registered Breeding Does	N/A	NO	NO	YES-in youth's name on or prior to June 15th - Original papers due by Fair entry July 1st
Unregistered Meat Goat Breeding Does	May 4th @ Riley Fairgrounds	YES	NO	NO
DAIRY GOAT INFORMATION				
Registered Dairy Does	N/A	NO	NO	YES-in youth's name on or prior to June 15th - Original papers due by Fair entry July 1st
Unregistered Grade Does	N/A	NO	NO	NO, *Unique animal ID shall be tattooed in tail or ear*
RABBIT INFORMATION				
Rabbits	Permanently Tattooed by July 1st	NO	NO	N/A
POULTRY INFORMATION				
Poultry	Any testing/banding information will be sent out when necessary	NO	NO	N/A
HORSE INFORMATION				
Horse	N/A	NO	NO	Must submit Horse ID Form to Lindsay for Approval by June 1st

**If you have market animals that need tagged for state or national shows, they may be tagged after the Riley County Fair tagging deadline. However, they will NOT be eligible for the Riley County Fair.

**Tag Stickers for State Show Nominations: Stickers are required for the nomination of animals wanting to show at KILS or the State Fair. We will only provide stickers upon request from the 4-H family.

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 quode, you have
access to all the livestock judging, meats
judging, classes and question sets to
practice on.

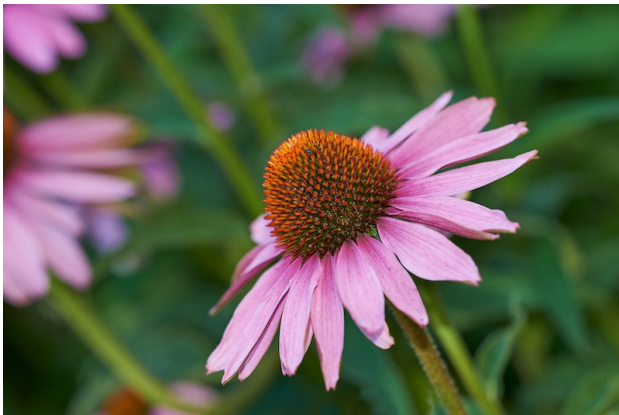
If you have issues accessing the account reach out to Lindsay Shorter at lindsayshorter@ksu.edu

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

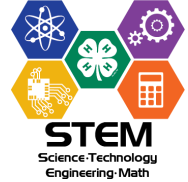
“Scenes of Riley County”

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

May

- 1 Swine Nominations DUE to office
- 1 Project Add/ Drop Deadline
- 1 Fair Royalty Apps DUE
- 1 State Beef Livestock Nominations DUE
- 1 Bucket Calf Tagging DUE
- 4 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- 4 Sheep & Goat Weigh-In/ Tagging,
Hulbert Arena, 5-7 pm
- 8 Discovery days registration closes
- 11 State Shutterbug Event, MHK
- 10 Fair Royalty Interview; Pottorf Hall
- 25 Memorial Day; Extension Office Closed
- 30 YQCA
- 30-31 Path to Purple Showmanship Camp
- TBA Dog Agility Workshop
- TBA Emerald Circle Banquet

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
- 19-20 Insect Spectacular; Yates Center
- 24 Babysitting Clinic
- 27 Dog Show (All Disciplines)
- TBA Pre-Fair Workshop

July

- 1 Fair Pre-Entries DUE Online
- 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
- 20 Fair Work Night, Pottorf Hall
- 23-27 Riley County Fair, Cico Park
- 28 Fairground Cleanup

August

- 1 State Horse Show DUE
- 4 State Fair Entry Forms 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



Beyond Ready

Updated 1/26/2026

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