



October 2026

Riley County

4-H Newsletter

Join us for the
Riley County
4-H
Achievement
Celebration

Join us for the County 4-H Achievement Celebration on
Sunday, October 25 at Pottorf Hall in Cico Park starting at **5 pm**.
Parents, guardians, 4-Hers, and siblings are welcome!

Enjoy a catered meal brought to you by The Farmhouse, followed
by a short award presentation starting at 5:30 pm.
Please RSVP by October 9 using the link below.

[Riley County 4-H Achievement Celebration RSVP](#)

Photos
Needed for
4-H
Achievement
Slideshow

We need photos for the 4-H Achievement Slideshow! Please be
intentional with your submissions — we have limited space, so
choose up to 8 meaningful photos from each activity. Avoid
submitting large batches; we won't be able to sort through them.

Photos can include:

- Club meetings
- 4-H project meetings
- 4-H Showcase
- L.I.T.
- Riley County Fair
- Citizenship in Action
- Horse, Dog or Shooting Sports
- Dog Conference
- KYLF
- ...and other 4-H events!

Please do not email photos to Brandy. **Deadline: October 20**

[Submit Photos 2026 Achievement Celebration Slideshow](#)

How to
Contact Us

Daniel: skuciusd@ksu.edu

Brandy: brandymarie@ksu.edu

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

Closed October 12

The Riley County Extension Office will be closed **Monday, October 12** for a county in-service. We will reopen at 7:30 am Tuesday, October 13

Items for the 4-H Newsletter

Please send items for the 4-H Newsletter to brandymarie@ksu.edu **before the 20th of October.**

Accepting Credit Card Payments

The Extension Office is now able to accept credit card payments for 4-H-related fees and services! This added payment option offers more convenience for our 4-H families. You can now use most major credit cards to pay for: Event registrations, project registrations, and more! ****this does not include payment for the 4-H Program Fee****

Payments can be made securely in person, in the office, or over the phone. For some of our events, the link to pay will be in the confirmation email.

Please note: A 2.5% convenience fee will be added to all credit card transactions to help cover processing costs.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the Extension Office—we're happy to assist!

4-H Enrollment Opens October 1

Enrollment opens on October 1 and will be done via 4-H Online. You must enroll every year! You must pay the 4-H Program Fee (or receive a waiver) to be considered an active member. Payment may be made with a credit card during the enrollment process or a check made payable to "Kansas 4-H" mailed to the State 4-H Office. **Do not send payment to us!**



**Beyond
Ready**

Forgotten your password? 4-H Online can set you up with a temporary. Forgotten your email log-in? PLEASE do not create a second account. Contact Brandy and she can assist you. The deadline to enroll and change projects will be May 1.

Beginning January 1, 2027 we will only be sending 4-H emails, newsletters, announcement, etc to 4-Hers who are actively enrolled.

Celebrating Riley County 4-H Display

Thank you to the Cloverbuds and 4-Hers for letting us borrow their projects for our 4-H display. Come see the creativity, hard work, and accomplishments of our 4-H youth on display at the Riley County Office Building (where our office is) through the end of October.



Congrats!!

Congratulations to all our Riley County 4-Hers who exhibited at the Kansas State Fair.

Results can be found [Kansas State Fair Results](#)

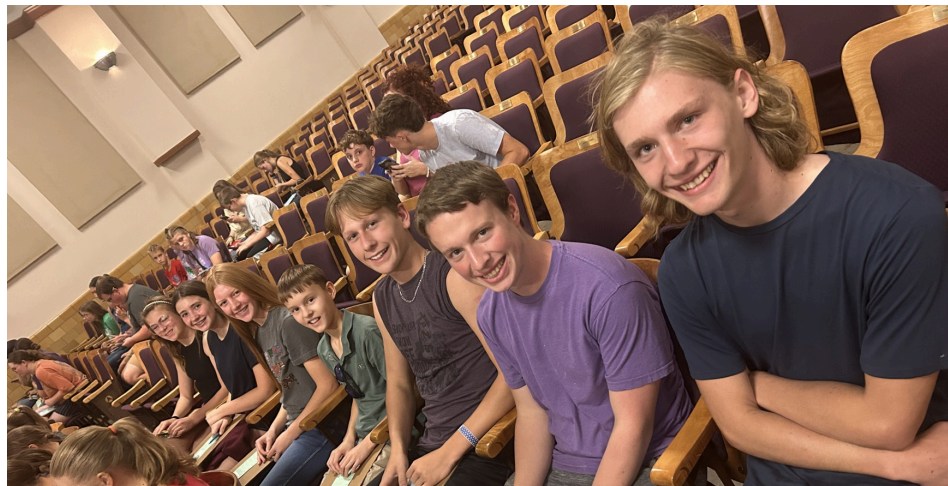


Congratulations to our senior and intermediate state photo judging teams!

Our senior team was made up of Jameson M., Lane S., Alena W., and Marek W. and placed 9th out of 27 teams!

And drumroll... our intermediate team placed first in the state! Each member of the intermediate team also secured spots in the top 10 individual placings which was an incredible accomplishment. The intermediate team included 1st place Emerson B., 5th place Audrey H., 9th place Carly R., and 10th place Olivia L. They were up against more than 70 other individuals and about 25 other teams, we are so proud of them!

A huge thank you to all the families who supported their 4-Her in getting them to Hutchinson for the event and to the 4-Hers for their hard work and time they took preparing for and taking part in the event. We are so proud of you!



Congrats to our State Fair Poultry Judging Team

Congratulations to our state fair intermediate poultry judging team! They recieved first place! The only team that scored high was the 1st place senior team. Team members included David H., Audrey H., Elijah S. and Akinya W. Garrett H. was the alternate.

Youth competed in judging 8 different classes. The classes include: Production Hens, Broiler Parts Identification, Processed Chicken Products, Broken-Out Eggs, Ready-to-Cook Parts Quality, Egg Candling, Broiler Carcass Quality, and Exterior Egg Quality.



4-H Council Officer Applications Now Available

Please consider applying to be a Riley County 4-H Council Officer. This a great leadership opportunity! Officers include:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Financial Liaison (treasurer)
- Parliamentarian
- Reporter

For details on 4-H Council Officer responsibilities and for an application, please visit [2027 Riley County 4-H Council Officer Applications](#) You will have to download the application for it to be form fillable.

Applications are due October 26. You may drop them off at the Extension Office or email them to brandymarie@ksu.edu. We will confirm receipt of your application.

Sew Much Fun!

What: A sewing learning group for youth ages 8-18 years of age

Where: CICO Park, Pottorf Hall, Manhattan, KS

When: Monday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm

Class dates: October 26, November 30, December 21, January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, May 17, and June 14

Each session will have a lesson and demonstrations with step-by-step directions. Enthusiastic volunteer leaders will coach and support the learning process.

4-H Members will learn: Identification and use of sewing tools. Use and care of the sewing machine, Selection of appropriate fabric and care/pressing for sewn projects. Basic construction techniques. Project selection appropriate for age and developmental skills. The class routine, safety, and equipment practices.

Youth will make several small projects and sew a basic garment to wear. Directions for each project will be provided. Members will make samples of sewing techniques and keep a record of their sewing projects. By the end of the program, youth will learn how to model their clothes and talk about what they learned. We know that the skills that the youth learn will be useful and bring pleasure throughout their lifetime.

All youth are expected to arrive on-time so they do not miss important class information. **A parent or other adult is expected to attend all class sessions.** For the first class, youth are encouraged to bring their own sewing machine if they have one. It should be clean and in good repair. Do not buy a toy sewing machine, as it is not appropriate for this class. We have a few sewing machines youth can use if needed. A list of sewing supplies will be provided when we discuss the specific supplies needed for the program.

We will have an intermediate level component taught by Janette Jensen. It will be on the same registration, just choose a higher level of sewing knowledge, and we will get you in the right class!

Registration: All participants must be enrolled in 4-H to sign up for the program.

If you are unable to attend after the first few meetings, please let us know! There will be a wait list, and someone can take your spot. [2026-2027 Sewing Club Sign-Up Registration](#)

Registration and \$20 payments are due by Monday, October 19! You may not pay at class!

If you have questions, please contact Sheryl Fjell at sherylfjell@gmail.com

STEM Challenge & STEM Community Service Opportunity

STEM Challenge Event: **October 28, 2026**

6:00-7:30 PM at Pottorf Hall. Try your hand at creating a parachute for an action figure, a duck swing, or a paper house sturdy enough to foil the big bad wolf. You can also design and test new STEM challenges using a variety of makerspace supplies! **Youth 9 and younger must have an adult.** Parents are welcome to stay. There is no cost to attend.



Registration deadline **October 26** [Register for STEM Challenge](#)

STEM Community Service Opportunity:

November 19, 2026; 6-8 PM at Pottorf Hall.

We will work together to assemble STEM activity boxes that will be donated to Toys for Manhattan in time for the holidays. This is a great community service opportunity for younger 4-Hers.



Youth 9 and younger must have an adult. Parents are welcome to stay. Registration deadline November 18.

[Register for STEM Community Service Event](#)

Questions on either event, please email Lisa Brummett

Did you miss our LIT information night? Well, no worries!

Your 6th, 7th, or 8th grade 4-H'er can still participate. This program is built to provide middle school youth with an interactive leadership and personal skills building experience. Growing county connections and providing a bridge for this "middle aged" 4-H youth before they reach high school 4-H age and activities.

Key things to know right now:

- First meeting is in the works for November (TBA)
- Bimonthly meetings through the year
- Topics and dates TBD in conjunction with our incoming 4-H agent.
- Fee: \$50 to help offset program costs
- Fun: Lots!
- Personal Growth: Even more!

If you haven't already, let us know if you're interested by e-mailing Daniel Skucius (skuciusd@ksu.edu) or Brandy Bruna (brandymarie@ksu.edu).

Official registration for 26-27 LIT will be sent out in correlation with the November Meeting information

Leader In Training L.I.T

Save the Date Kansas 4-H Leadership Weekend

Apply for the Kansas Youth Leadership Council and National 4-H Conference

48 Hours of 4-H

We encourage youth ages 14-18 (before January 1, 2027) to attend the Kansas Youth Leadership Weekend. It will be held **November 21-22** at Rock Spring 4-H Center.

Build your leadership skills and potential through workshops, consulting groups, inspirational speakers and more. More details will be shared soon.

There will also be an opportunity for adults to attend the Kansas 4-H Volunteer Leaders Forum that will be held the same weekend

Registration deadline is October 15.

The **Youth Council and National 4-H Conference application** will be combined, with applicants indicating if they are applying for one or both opportunities. Any Kansas 4-H member between the ages of 14 and 18 before January 1, 2027 may apply as a Council Rep and those 15-18 before January 1, 2027 may apply for National Conference.

This year's KYLF delegation will elect representatives from the four extension program regions (NE, NW, SE, SW) for one year terms on council. Up to six National Conference delegates will be selected through an interview process at KYLF and they serve a two year term on council. Application deadline is October 1, 2026.

Join us this fall in seeing just how much we can give back to our communities! Invite your friends, clubs, adult volunteers and 4-H Alums too! Start planning your projects today.

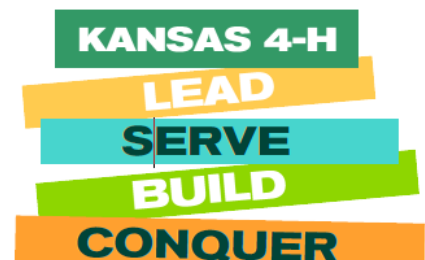
When: October 10-11, 2026

Who: Everyone!

What: [48 Hours of 4-H](#)



Beyond Ready



2027 Horse Panorama

Save the Date: February 21-22, 2027

Location: Kansas State University Campus, Manhattan, Kansas

Horse Panorama provides youth with opportunities to strengthen their understanding of the horse industry while developing valuable communication, teamwork, and decision-making skills.

Participants can look forward to a variety of educational contests and activities that challenge their horse knowledge and showcase the skills they have developed through their 4-H horse projects. The event also offers an opportunity for youth from across Kansas to connect with fellow horse project members, learn from industry professionals, and experience the K-State campus.

More details and registration information will be shared later this year.

Outbound 4-H Exchanges for Summer 2027

States' 4-H International Exchange Programs have announced six outbound exchanges for next summer. All are about one month during the June to August 2027 period, except the Japan 8-week Exchange, which runs from June to August. Kansas 4-H is a partner in these exchanges.

Exchanges offered to U.S. **teens age 12-18**, and the dates when the U. S. kids are away from home include:

Japan 4-Week Exchange with Labo or LEX, July 6-August 6, 2027

South Korea 4-H Exchange, July 6-August 6, 2027

Taiwan 4-H Exchange, June 29-July 30, 2027

Exchanges offered to U. S. **teens ages 15-18** include:

Costa Rica 4-S Exchange, June 23-July 23, 2027

Japan 8-Week Exchange, Labo/Labo/LEX, June 8-August 6, 2027

Norway 4-H Exchange, June 16-July 17, 2027

Applications are due November 1, 2026. Interviews and First Orientation for Kansas applicants are on November 22, 2026, at Junction City.

If for more information and an application visit Kansas 4-H "[States' 4-H International Exchange Program](#)" Contact Kansas 4-H International Exchange Coordinator, Mary Kay Munson, mkm2@ksu.edu or 785-375-3189.

Trips and Awards Nominations Needed

Nominations are needed for new 2026-2027 Trips and Awards Committee members. The committee meets twice a year.

Trips and Awards members assist in updated award applications, review award applications and 4-H scholarship applications. Parents can gain valuable insight by reviewing applications and awards. This knowledge can be helpful when their 4-Her(s) apply.

Qualifications: Any adult with 3+ years of exposure to the 4-H program. i.e. Leader, parent, or 4-H volunteer.

[Trips and Awards applications](#) are due by **noon on Friday, October 30.**

Have You Enrolled as a 4-H Volunteer?

It's time to enroll for the new 4-H year! Beginning October 1, all Riley County 4-H volunteers should complete their annual enrollment through 4-H Online. Enrollment helps ensure you receive important county and state 4-H updates, training opportunities, and program information throughout the year.

Who? All Volunteers (club leader, project leader, etc.)

When? Enrollment opens October 1. We encourage everyone to enroll early

Why? 4-H Online is our primary way of communicating with and tracking volunteers

Cost? There is no cost to volunteers to enroll.

How?

1. Visit 4honline.com
2. Log in with your existing family account information. New volunteers will need to create a profile.
3. Complete the enrollment process and select your volunteer role(s).
 - a. Utilize either the Volunteer [Reenrollment](#) or [Enrollment](#) Guide.
4. Contact the Riley County Extension Office if you need assistance.
5. Once completed, our office will contact you regarding if you are needing to update your background check.

Thank you for investing your time, talents, and energy in Riley County 4-H and helping our youth learn, grow, and thrive!



Riley County 4-H Foundation Grants due November 30

Are you a Riley County 4-H youth development group seeking support funds? Consider filling out a Riley County 4-H Foundation Grant funding request. Application must be returned to the Riley County Extension office by **5 pm on Monday, November 30**. You may also email it to brandymarie@ksu.edu. We will confirm receipt of your application.

If your group received a grant at the beginning of 2026 you will need to fill out a grant follow-up report. Both the application and report can be found here.

[Riley County 4-H Foundation Grant and 2026 Follow-Up Report](#)
(scroll to the bottom of the page)

October Leader and Parent Checklist

- Check club mailbox at the Extension Office
- Highlight key points/deadlines from the 4-H newsletter & calendar at club meeting
- Elect Club Officers and 4-H Council Representatives
- Have members sign up for club committees
- **Send list of new officers, club leaders, and project leaders to the Extension Office.**
- Announce to club parents that you are recruiting project leaders and other volunteers (Parent Advisory Committee, New Family Coordinator, etc.).
- **National 4-H Week is October 4-10.** How will you and your club celebrate within your community/school?
- Select your 5 new club 4-H Council Representatives at your October meeting.
- Work with Club Officers/Parents to make club handbook with member/leader contact info, monthly meeting information (date/time/project talks/demonstrations). A copy should be given to each family.
- Make plans to attend 4-H Achievement Celebration (**October 25, 5 pm** ; Pottorf Hall, meal provided, but **RSVP by October 10**).
- Send club and 4-H activity photos for the county-wide Achievement Celebration slideshow. See page 1 of the newsletter for details.

ATV Safety Certification Course



Thursday
October 8th

9am-Noon

Riley County
Fairgrounds

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension
Riley County

Class size is limited to 8 participants per session. **RSVP by October 5** to the Riley County Extension Office. This hands-on training allows **youth and adults (12 years old and up)** to learn the basics of safely operating ATVs. There is no cost for the class.

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/HCaLuZjANTu4r4WKA>

Display case on the 1st floor of the Riley County Office Building showcases plaques won at the Livestock Sweepstakes. They will be on display through the end of the year.



No Countywide Officer Training

During this transition of 4-H agent and other factors, there will be no countywide officer training this year. We encourage clubs of hold their own officer training. Additional resources can be found [Officer resources, training, ceremonies and parliamentary procedure](#)

Setting S.M.A.R.T. Goals Written by Meadlowlark District 4-H Agent Megan Vrbka

As you begin to think ahead about the new 4-H year, you may have things you want to improve, change, or accomplish as the year progresses. A great way to quantify these thoughts would be setting goals. All in all, these tactics will help you set goals that will increase your likelihood of successfully achieving your goals.

Setting goals is an important aspect of success, and how we can measure success. It can help guide focus and help trigger new behaviors. Ultimately, they help manage your focus and success.

Goals need to be S.M.A.R.T. which stands for:

- **Specific** – This is where you want you should be thinking about what you want to accomplish. This is where you would have to ask yourself the “W” questions; who is involved, what are you accomplishing, where is this, when will this be done, and why are you doing this?
- **Measurable** – What are you measuring to determine if you have met the goal? This will help make more quantifiable and provides a way to determine the progress of your goal.
- **Achievable** – This will focus on the importance of the goal. Additionally, you should think about how to accomplish the goal and if you have the skills and tools to accomplish the goal.
- **Relevant** – This should be focused around what makes sense for the broader picture at hand.
- **Time-bound** – A target finish date should be set for your S.M.A.R.T. goal. Additionally, you should have other check-in dates as well to ensure that you are on track to achieve your goal.

Here are two examples of S.M.A.R.T. goals that I pulled from 4-h.org:

1. Learn how to use my DSLR camera by completing the photography 4-H project and enrolling in the Clover County Library’s basic photography class this June.
2. Apply to be a 4-H Camp Counselor for this summer and complete all required training by **June 1**.

I encourage you and your family to sit down and reflect on the last year. Next, I encourage you to think about the future year and develop S.M.A.R.T. goals to track your success as a 4-H family. These can also be included in your Record Books!





Setting 4-H Project Goals

Name: _____ Club: _____ Year: _____

Now that you have selected your 4-H projects for the year, it is important to plan out what you would like to learn and accomplish. What new skills would you like to gain? Who is going to help you along the way? Setting measurable goals will help guide you through positive 4-H project learning experiences.

WHAT IS A GOAL?

A GOAL is . . . Deciding what you want to do and learn in a 4-H project.

A road map. It helps you get where you want to go.

Your goals should have three parts that will allow you to measure and check your progress. The three parts of a good goal, include:

1. ACTION — How are you going to do something.

2. RESULT — What are you going to do. Be specific!

3. TIMETABLE — When are you going to do it.

This worksheet is designed to help you set your 4-H project goals. Below are some examples of well-written goals:

Action	Result	Timetable	Who Will Help Me
I want to learn	about my bucket calf's nutritional needs	before county weigh-in.	Dad
I want to make	three nutritious snacks for the nursing home residents	by our June club meeting.	my project leader
I want to learn	about the aerodynamics of my rocket	before the spring launch.	Mom
I want to lead	a horse project meeting	by February.	my extension agent
I want to keep	accurate records of my photography project experiences and expenses	monthly.	my project leader & parents

CONTROL TEST: Do your goals pass the control test? Do you have control over all parts of what happens? If you can answer "yes," then you are ready to begin record keeping. For example, "I want to win grand champion with my cookies at the county fair," does not pass the control test. A 4-H member doesn't have control over ribbon placing.

Now it is your turn. Practice writing three goals that you would like to accomplish this 4-H year. If you need help, ask an adult to assist.

Action	Result	Timetable	Who Will Help Me
I want to . . .			
I want to . . .			
I want to . . .			

Time to begin. In the spaces provided on the next page, set your goals for each project you are enrolled in this year. Attach additional pages as necessary.

Please keep in mind that younger 4-H members will have fewer, less complex goals than older, more advanced 4-H members. A good rule of thumb is three to five goals per project for ages 7 to 10, four to eight goals per project for ages 11 to 13, and seven to 12 goals per project for ages 14 to 18.



4-H Garage Sale

October 16-17, 2026

Wreath Barn, Cico Park, Manhattan

We are looking for a huge selection of items to be donated.

We do not accept TVs or Books of any kind.

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

Drop Off Items on Location

No pickup services will be provided

Wednesday, October 14, 5-8 PM

Thursday, October 15, 10 AM - 8 PM

Garage Sale

Friday, October 16, 9 AM - 8 PM

Saturday, October 17, 9 AM - Noon

Questions: Call Riley County Extension Office, 785-537-6350





Riley/Pottawatomie



4-H STRAIGHT SHOOTERS



Sign Up
OCTOBER 1ST - 15TH



**NEW MEMBER INTRO CLASS
OCTOBER 23RD & 24TH**



**SIGN UP AT
4-H ONLINE**

SPRING DISCIPLINES



AIR RIFLE



AIR PISTOL



BB GUN



**HUNTING
SKILLS**

2026-2027 Riley County 4-H Calendar

October

- 1 4-H Project Report Form Review 8 am-8 pm
- 1 4-H Year Begins
- 1 4-H Enrollment Opens
- 4-10 National 4-H Week
- 10 4-H Achievement Celebration RSVP due
- 10-11 48 Hours of 4-H
- 14-17 CWF Garage Sale; Cico Park
- 17-18 State Dog Conference
- 25 Achievement Celebration, Pottorf
- 26 Trips/ Awards Nominations DUE
- 26 4-H Council Officer Applications DUE

November

- 2 4-H Council Meeting, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- 11 Veteran's Day, Extension Office Closed
- 21-22 Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KYLF)
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday, Ext Office Closed
- 30 Riley County 4-H Grant Proposals DUE

December

- 21-25 Christmas Holiday, Office Closed

January

- 1 NYE Holiday, Ext. Office Closed
- 4 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- TBA NE Area PRF Screening, Pottorf Hall
- 18 MLK Jr. Day, Extension Office Closed
- TBA State Horse Judging
- TBA 4-H Showcase Pre-Entry DUE
- TBA State and Local Scholarships DUE

February

- 7-8 Citizenship in Action, Topeka
- 15 Presidents Day, Extension Office Closed
- TBA Beef Weigh-In; Fairgrounds 1-3 pm
- 21-22 Horse Panorama, KSU Campus
- TBA Riley County Showcase, RCGS

March

- 1 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- TBA State 4-H Scholarship-State PRFs DUE
- TBA YQCA Training

April

- TBA State Shooting Sports Match
- TBA Discovery Days Registration DUE
- TBA Fair Royalty Applications DUE

May

- 1 Project Add/ Drop Deadline
- 3 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- 31 Memorial Day; Extension Office Closed
- TBA Sheep & Goat Weigh-In/ Tagging,
- TBA Fair Royalty Interview; Pottorf Hall

June

- 1 Horse ID Papers DUE
- 9-11 Discovery Days, KSU Campus
- 19 Juneteenth; Extension Office Closed
- TBA State Geology Field Trip
- TBA Dog Show

July

- 1 Fair Pre-Entries DUE
- 5 Independence Day, Ext Off. Closed
- TBA 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- 14 4-H Fashion Review
- 15 State Fair Livestock Entries DUE
- TBA 4-H Horse Show
- 19 Fair Work Night, Pottorf Hall
- 22-26 Riley County Fair, Cico Park
- 27 Fairground Cleanup
- 30 State Fair Entry Forms DUE

August

- TBA State Horticulture & Livestock Judging
- 25 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- TBA KJLS Entries DUE

September

- 6 Labor Day, Extension Office Closed
- TBA State Fair Project DUE to Extension Office
- 9-19 Kansas State Fair
- TBA Project Report Forms & Awards DUE

Updated 9/29/2026

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