



RILEY COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

September 2025

Join us for the County 4-H Achievement Celebration

Join us for the County 4-H Achievement Celebration on **Sunday, October 19** 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 10** using the link below.

Attendance Registration Link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGx6sRRo5FUU1ShOW65Xj6wL0_0010QzEobQ2NXnan_WIsNw/viewform?usp=header

2025-2026 4-H Enrollment and Re-Enrollment

Enrollment and re-enrollment will open on **October 1** and will be 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. Instead, contact Brandy brandymarie@ksu.edu or call 785-537-6350 and she can assist you. The deadline to enroll and change projects will be May 1.

4-H Council Officer Applications

If you wish to be a 4-H Council Officer, applications are due **Friday, October 31 before noon**. For details on 4-H Council Officer responsibilities and for an application, please visit <https://www.riley.k-state.edu/4-h/forms-resources/council/index.html> You will have to download the application for it to be form fillable.

Trips and Awards Nominations

Nominations for new 2025-2026 Trips and Award Committee members are due on **Friday, October 31**.

Qualifications: Any adult (leader, parents' advisory committee member, or parent) with three years exposure to the 4-H program.

Applications can be accessed online: <https://www.riley.k-state.edu/4-h/forms-resources/awards/index.html>

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

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The Riley County Extension Office will be closed **Monday, September 1** in observance of **Labor Day**

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

4-H Council Dates for 2025-2026

Monday, November 3, 2025; Monday, January 5, 2026; Monday, March 2, 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.

Importance of attending 4-H Council

Our Riley County 4-H Council serves as a vital component to our month-to-month programming here in our area, but also allows club representative to take vital information back and report to their club. 4-H Council plans and implements county-wide events, oversees funding request, and votes to make necessary changes to our program as they see fit. Each club is allowed to have (5) voting representatives (3) youth and (2) adults. I would strongly encourage you to exercise that right throughout the year. You don't have to be a Council Representative to attend. It is open to all 4-Hers and parents. The 4-H Council dates are **ABOVE**.

4-H Showcase Event 2026

Our 4-H Showcase event date will be announced in the coming month. Hopefully we will once again gather in mid to late February at Riley County Grade school, with events beginning at 8:30 am and we should be done by 3:00 pm. As part of the event we will have photography, horticulture, and FACs judging. **For this years event we will offer a project showcase expo in the gymnasium for the first time ever!** Registration will open to 4-Hers in December so check back in with us. Start the planning process now for the February event. See you there!

Shining Star Volunteer Award

I would encourage 4-H clubs, individual's 4-H families, or 4-H volunteers to nominate an outstanding volunteer in your club as a "Shining Star". Depending on the number of submissions, one or two individuals will be selected and acknowledged at the **October 19**. Achievement Celebration. Shining Star award nomination forms can be found online at www.riley.k-state.edu/4-h/forms-resources/awards/index.html or picked up at the Extension office. All nominations are due on **September 19**.

Club Seal, Pin, Key and Project Reports

Project Report Forms, due by noon on **Friday, September 19**, you can only have (1) report per book and must feature; Personal Page, 4-H Story, and Project Report Form, including pictures. These items need to be placed in a folder or report cover. Junior 7-9, Intermediate 10-13, and Senior 14-18 (4-H Age as of January 1, 2025). **Cover labels need to include the members name and state whether this is a Junior, Intermediate, or Senior project and the project name.** Other awards due on **Friday, September 19 before noon** include: Club Seal Applications, Pin Applications (**DO NOT use state forms**), I-Dare-You Applications, Key Awards (*follow state guidelines*), Family of the Year Applications, and 4-H Shining Star Award Applications. Visit <http://www.riley.k-state.edu/4-h/forms-resources/awards/index.html>. Additionally, forms may be picked up from the Extension office.

Nominate a Family of the Year

Do you know of a Riley County 4-H family that has gone above and beyond this past year? Nominate them for the 2024-2025 'Family of the Year Award'. This family will be acknowledged at the 2025 Riley County Achievement Celebration on October 19. Applications can be found at <https://www.riley.k-state.edu/4-h/forms-resources/awards/>. Applications are due at the Extension office on **September 19**.

Nominate a 4-H Alumni of the Year

Do you know of a former Riley County 4-Her that should be acknowledged for giving back to our local program? Consider nominating them for the annual '4-H Alumni of the Year' award. The winner will be celebrated and acknowledged at this years achievement celebration. Applications can be found at <https://www.riley.k-state.edu/4-h/forms-resources/awards/index.html>. Applications are due at the Extension office on **September 19**.

2026 Riley County Foundation Grants

Are you a Riley County 4-H youth development group seeking support funds? Consider filling out a Riley County 4-H Foundation funding request application. Application must be returned to the Riley County Extension office, 110 Courthouse Plaza, Rm B220 by **Noon on Frida, November 21**. Recipients will be notified after the first of the year as to the status of their request.

Applications can be found online at <http://a.cms.omniupdate.com/10/#k-state/k-state/ksre-riley/preview/4-hfoundation/index.pcf>

If your group received a grant at the beginning of 2025 you will need to fill out a grant follow-up report <http://a.cms.omniupdate.com/10/#k-state/k-state/ksre-riley/preview/4-hfoundation/index.pcf>

Riley County 4-H Livestock Judging Team

Congratulations to our 4-H livestock teams that represented Riley County this past weekend at the State 4-H Sweepstakes Contest. We had a team in every contest including livestock judging, meats judging, skill-a-thon and quiz bowl. The Riley County team was 5th overall in the Sweepstakes contest, which is comprised of all the contests throughout the weekend. Great job to our Riley County team!



Registration for 48 Hours of 4-H

We hope every Extension Unit will join us this fall in seeing just how much we can give back to our communities! The weekend after National 4-H Week is the perfect opportunity to set up a service project. Invite your friends, clubs, adult volunteers, and 4-H Alums too!

When: October 11-12, 2025

Who: 4-H Members, 4-H Clubs, Friends, Adult Volunteers, Parents, 4-H Alumni

It's time to make plans for your club to participate, and registration is open on the webpage.

Rock Springs will also be hosting a 48 Hours of 4-H Project, so watch the tipsheet for information about this opportunity!

Ask Mr. Jobe About Becoming a Part of the 2028 CWF Experience



Citizenship Washington Focus 2025 Delegation

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.

Doing a Project Report? We Got You!

Are you thinking about completing a Project Report this year? Check out the link below for a list of resources that will help you on your way. All project report notebooks are DUE to the Extension office by 5 pm on noon on **Friday, September 19**. <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/LocalRecordKeeping.html>

2025 Kansas 4-H Leadership Weekend

The Kansas 4-H Leadership Weekend will be **November 22-23** at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch and consists of the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum and the Kansas Volunteer Leader Forum.

KYLF is for youth ages 14-18 before January 1, 2026, and KVF is for all Kansas 4-H Volunteers. KYLF will feature leadership workshops, Youth Council Elections, and opportunities to learn and have fun. The Kansas 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum will feature workshops and information to help volunteers be more effective and learn from each other. This Forum for adults is organized by the Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers.

Registration will open in September. Again, this year, participants in both forums will register through the same system. Registration deadline is October 15, 2025, for both events. There will also be an option for coming in on Friday evening and having breakfast Saturday morning for those coming from a distance.

Applications are Open for Kansas Youth Leadership Council and National 4-H Conference

The application for and information about the [State 4-H Youth Leadership Council](#) and [National Conference](#) is open and available now! The Youth Council Application and National 4-H Conference Application will be combined again this year, 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, 2026, may apply as a Council Rep, and those 15-18 before January 1, 2026, may apply for the National 4-H Conference.

This year's Kansas Youth Leadership Forum delegation will elect representatives from the four extension program areas (NE, NW, SE, SW) for one-year terms on the council. Up to 6 National Conference Delegates will be selected through an interview prior to KYLF, and they serve a two-year term on the council. The deadline will be October 1, 2025

Take on the Heaviest Onion Challenge for Fair 2026

Congratulations to Brianna Britt on winning the Largest Pepper Challenge at the 2025 Riley County Fair. Next years fair will look to host the heaviest onion (any kind) contest. Contact the Riley County Extension office if you have any questions, 785-537-6350.



Leaders and Parents

September 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
- 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 5-11** - Promotion ideas/Implement plan within community/school
- Encourage members to fill out Achievement Pin applications, Project Report Forms (formerly KAP), Key Awards, I Dare You, etc. They are due to the Extension Office **Sept 19**. (Check with your club leader for your club deadline)
- 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 19, 5 pm** ; Pottorf Hall, meal provided, **but RSVP needed**).

Project Report Form Screening

Volunteers are needed to screen Project Report Form (formerly KAP) from Pottawatomie County this year. Screenings will take place at the Riley County Extension office, **Wednesday, October 1 and Thursday, October 2**, starting at 9:00 am both days. **Each club is required to provide at least two screeners.**

No previous experience is necessary! We can walk you through the screening process and answer any questions you may have!

Screeners can come and go from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on Wednesday and 9:00 am to whenever we're finished on Thursday.

We are allowing books to go home with screeners this year!
Please consider this opportunity!

Now Accepting Credit Card Payments!

We're pleased to announce that 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 materials

And more!

Payments can be made securely in person or over the phone.

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, 785-537-6350—we're happy to assist!

Be a Part of the GREATEST Team Ever Assembled: Join the Riley County 4-H Ambassador Team

Riley County 4-H Ambassador Job Description

Purpose:

Riley County 4-H Ambassadors promote 4-H and Extension youth programs and participation in Riley County, through the use of activities, presentations, personal connections, and media.

Responsibilities:

Promote 4-H programs and opportunities by:

Working as a team with Ambassadors, Advisors, and 4-H staff

Attending scheduled meetings and activities

Connecting with younger 4-H members to inspire them to greater involvement

Delivering presentations and programs promoting 4-H to community groups

Creating content for radio, print, and social media regarding 4-H promotion

Serving as an Ambassador for two-year term

Attending annual State Ambassador Training workshop

Recruiting other teens to serve in the 4-H Ambassador role



Skills Needed:

Positive attitude

Willingness to engage with youth and adults in individual conversation and public speaking venues

Enthusiasm for the 4-H program

Experience/knowledge of 4-H programs in Riley County and beyond

Growing communication skills and ability to work well with diverse groups of people

Ability to manage personal schedules, responsibilities, and commitments

Time Required:

A Riley County 4-H Ambassador position is a two-year term commitment to help maintain and pass along knowledge and experience in the program.

This position, on average, requires 1-2 hours per month with additional time needed for specific activities and events.

Application link will post soon and will be DUE by October 3

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Are You Ready For a RABBIT?

Come learn what it takes to get started in the 4-H rabbit project and its many benefits. Or, if you're already started and want to learn more, come ask questions and learn from and with other experienced members.

Why rabbits?

The rabbit project offers all of the perks and learning opportunities of an animal project without the overhead!

- Develop responsibility in caring for an animal
- Learn the science around animal nutrition, anatomy, and basic vet care
- Improve skills while communicating about interests

Other advantages of rabbit projects:

- Limited space needed (no acreage or fencing necessary)
- Can be raised "in town"
- Easily maintained
- Minimal mess
- Reasonable expenses for feed and supplies

Interested? Come learn more!

This group will be led by **Alena Wiebers**, a 9-year Riley County 4-H member in the rabbit project, 2024 state winner in the 4-H rabbit project, and competitor in national-level youth educational contests.



Riley County 4-H Rabbit Project Group

WHO: Anyone interested in the rabbit project

WHAT: Introductory Meeting

WHEN: Sunday, September 21, 2025
4:00-5:00 PM

WHERE: Pottorf Hall Clover Room



4-H Garage Sale

October 17-18, 2025

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, October 15, 5-8 PM

Thursday, October 16, 10 AM - 8 PM

Garage Sale

Friday, October 17, 9 AM - 8 PM

Saturday, October 18, 9 AM - Noon

Questions: Call John Jobe, 785-537-6350

K-STATE
Research and Extension



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.

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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.

Leadership in Training

(Riley County 4-H Middle School Leadership Program)

Why Join?



Leadership
& teamwork



Communication



Adventure &
overnight trip



Community
service

**Cost: \$50 for all
6 sessions**

(First session is FREE!)

When & Where?

**Session 1 – Kickoff &
Info Night**

Sept 25 | 7–8:30 pm
Pottorf Hall

Leadership in Action

Nov 8 | Morning

Community Engagement

Jan 3 | Location TBA

Professional Growth

Mar 12 | Location TBA

Communication Skills

May 7 | Location TBA

Leadership Adventure

June 5–6 | Location TBA

**Call the Riley County Extension Office
with questions at**

785-537-6350

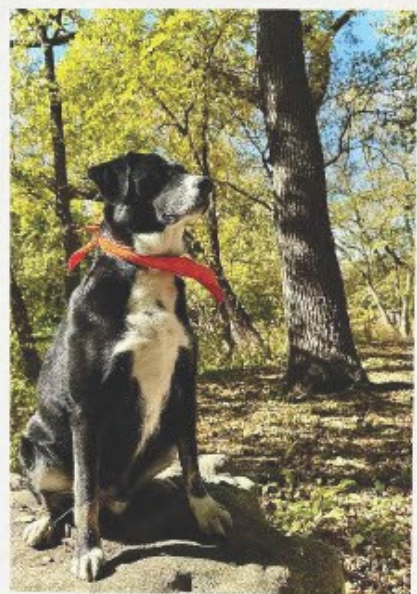


Photo credit:
Lydia from Phillips County

Rock Springs Ranch
1168 Hwy K157
Junction City, KS



Shirts available for additional cost.

Register
using this
QR Code:



Cost
\$170



TRAILS & TAILS

KANSAS 4-H DOG CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 18-19, 2025

Stay at Rock Springs Ranch *with your dog*. Enjoy the beauty of the Flint Hills in the fall with a guided hike with your furry friend. Sharpen your obedience training skills. Learn about dog health and potential careers related to the Dog Project. Make new friends through fun canine-related activities. Participate in the **Dog Photography Contest** and **Kansas 4-H Dog Quiz Bowl**.

For more information visit: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animal-science/dog/>

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2025-2026 Riley County 4-H Calendar

October

- 1 4-H Year Begins
- 1 Online 4-H Enrollment Opens
- 1-2 Project Report Form (PRF) Screening
- 5-11 National 4-H Week
- 18-19 State Dog Conference
- 19 Achievement Celebration, Pottorf
- 31 Trips/ Awards Nominations DUE
- 31 4-H Council Officer Applications DUE

November

- 3 4-H Council Meeting, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- 11 Veteran's Day, Extension Office Closed
- 17-18 CWF Garage Sale/ Cico Park
- 21 Riley County 4-H Grant Proposals DUE
- 22-23 KYLF
- 27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday, Ext Office Closed
- TBA Officers Training, Pottorf Hall

December

- 22-26 Christmas Holiday, Office Closed

January

- 1 NYE Holiday, Ext. Office Closed
- 5 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- 16 NE Area PRF Screening, Pottorf Hall
- 19 MLK Jr. Day, Extension Office Closed
- 23 State Horse Judging
- TBA 4-H Showcase Pre-Entry DUE
- TBA State and Local Scholarships DUE

February

- 15 Citizenship in Action, Topeka
- 16 Presidents Day, Extension Office Closed
- 21-22 TBA Horse Panorama, Rock Springs
- TBA Beef Weigh-In; Fairgrounds 1-3 pm
- TBA 4-H Ambassador Training, Rock Springs
- TBA Riley County Showcase, RCGS

March

- 1 State 4-H Scholarship and State PRFs DUE
- 1 Red Wheel Sales Begin
- 2 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- Late March Red Wheel Sales DUE
- TBA YQCA, 6-8 pm, Clover Room

April

- 18 State Shooting Sports Match
- 25 Red Wheel Pick-Up, Pottorf Hall 9-9:30 am
- TBA Discovery Days Registration DUE
- TBA Fair Royalty Applications DUE

May

- 1 Project Add/ Drop Deadline
- 4 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- TBA Sheep & Goat Weigh-In/ Tagging, Hulbert Arena, 5-7 pm
- TBA Dog Agility Workshop
- TBA Fair Royalty Interview; Pottorf Hall
- TBA Emerald Circle Banquet

June

- 1 Horse ID Papers DUE
- 3-4 Discovery Days, KSU Campus
- 12-14 State Geology Field Trip
- TBA Dog Show (Disciplines TBA)
- TBA Dog Show (Disciplines TBA)

July

- 1 Fair Pre-Entries DUE
- 4 Independence Day, Ext Off. Closed
- 6 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- 15 State Fair Livestock Entries DUE
- 15 Fair Fashion Review
- 18 4-H Horse Show
- 20 Fair Work Night, Pottorf Hall
- 21 4-H Photography Judging
- 21 4-H Pet Show
- 21 Cloverbud Judging EVERYTHING
- 22 4-H Visual Arts Judging
- 22 4-H Foods Judging
- 23-27 Riley County Fair, Cico Park
- 28 Fairground Cleanup

August

- 4 State Fair Entry Forms DUE
- 15 State Horticulture & Livestock Judging
- 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

Updated 8/28/2025