

Elk County 4-H News

August 2025

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K-STATE
Research and Extension



4-H Calendar of Events

August

6 Elk County 4-H Council Meeting -- 6:30 p.m.
8 Let Office Know about Kansas State Fair Entries
15 Kansas Junior Livestock Show Entries Due

September

4 Kansas State Fair Exhibits to Hutchinson
5-14 Kansas State Fair -- Hutchinson

October

1 Record Books, Achievement Pin Applications, Excellence Award Applications, Club
Summary Reports and Officer Notebooks Due
1 Beginning of New 4-H Year
1 Elk County 4-H Council Meeting -- 6:30 p.m.
3-5 Kansas Junior Livestock Show
5-11 National 4-H Week
11-12 48 Hours of 4-H



County Fair Wrap Up



A big thank you to everyone that helped out at the fair! Without everyone's efforts, the fair would not be possible. Now that the fair is over, and school is getting ready to start, attention turns to record books. Included in this newsletter is all kinds of information about completing your records and applying for awards.

Try to put the 4-H fair in perspective. It is only one part of the total 4-H learning experience. Serving as an officer or on a committee, giving a talk or demonstration, going to a project meeting or workshop, completing record sheets and going to a camp or other 4-H events are few of the hundreds of experiences a 4-H'er learns from

throughout the year.



4-H Council

4-H Council will meet Wednesday, **August 6, 6:30 p.m.** at the Extension Meeting Room in Howard.

Agenda items include: County Fair review and Achievement Banquet.

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## Livestock Buyer Thank You's

I will let clubs know sale folders and thank you lists are ready to be picked up. Folders will include an individual buyer banner(s), buyer ribbons and a thank you list as well as a base bid check if you have one. Only donors that donated a set amount of money receive a buyer's ribbon.

Once you turn in your record book, you will receive your premium sale check. In order to receive your premium sale check, members must turn in at a minimum the livestock record(s) for the animal(s) that they sold in the premium sale as well as a permanent record and personal information page.

Once again, we had a tremendously successful premium sale this year. We are very fortunate in Elk County to have such a good sale. It is essential that members thank the donors, buyers and supporters of the 4-H program.

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Kansas State Fair

Earlier this week, I emailed out a list of items that are eligible to be entered in the Kansas State Fair. **Not all items from the county fair are eligible for the Kansas State Fair. Only members age 9 and older as of January 1, 2025 are eligible to exhibit. Also, some categories do not have divisions at the State Fair.**

If you want to enter, please let the office know by Friday, August 8 so we can get them entered by the due date.

If you want to enter Rabbits and/or Poultry, contact Richard as more information is needed to get entered.

Those that enter the Kansas State Fair will be mailed information about their exhibit(s).

Volunteering at the Kansas State Fair: Help is needed to reach our goal of making the fair an educational experience for participants and spectators. In the 4-H Division at the State Fair last year, it took people in over 900 different roles assisting with all the exhibit areas, contests, and shows! Duties range from accepting entries, to clerking for judges, to displaying exhibits, to assisting with contests and shows. *Youth volunteers must be at least 13 years of age and mature enough to handle assignments without excessive supervision.* If you are interested in this opportunity, contact Richard for the areas needed, etc.

Other Contests: If members are interested in competing in any of the other contests at the State Fair, including Family & Consumer Science Judging, Crops Identification Contest, Photography Judging, and Poultry Judging, contact Richard as contest fees are needed for entry and is due by AUGUST 15.

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## Kansas Junior Livestock Show Entries

Entries for the Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) will open August 1 and be due August 15. A complete nomination does not constitute entry; it only makes animals eligible. So, even if a family state nominated market animals or commercial breeding females earlier this summer, there is still another step left to be able to show! All exhibitors and animals must be entered directly through the KJLS entry link using ShoWorks. Only online entries will be accepted. Exhibitors will receive a receipt via email to confirm show entry through KJLS.

Families who state-nominated livestock will use the exhibitor name and password created for each child

during nominations to log in and submit their entries. Exhibitors will select their Tag IDs/Validation Numbers from a drop-down list of nominated animals in those divisions that require nomination. Registered breeding females are entered by the exhibitor off of their papers. Show entry is also when exhibitors will enter showmanship. Youth who are only showing registered breeding females will submit their YQCA verification at the time of entry.

Late entries will be accepted until August 31, but will cost double the listed original entry fee amount. No entries will be accepted after August 31.

All families should read the rules prior to show entry. For more information, including the rules and where to enter, visit <https://www.kjls.net/>.

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4-H Record Books

4-H Record Books are due WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1 to be eligible for judging for Achievement Awards!! All forms and other information are located on the website at: <https://www.rollingprairie.k-state.edu/elkcounty4h/recordbooks/index.html>

For Market Livestock exhibitors that went through the premium sale in order to receive your premium sale check, members must turn in at a minimum the livestock record(s) for the animal(s) that they sold in the premium sale as well as a permanent record and personal information page. For example, if you sold a goat and a hog in the premium sale, at a minimum you must turn in a market hog record and market goat record as well as the personal information page and permanent record to receive your check.

When record books are handed in, they should be arranged in the following order:

1. Achievement Pin Application - (If you are applying for one). If not sure which pin you are eligible to apply for, contact the Extension Office.

2. Excellence in Project Achievement Award Check Sheet(s) - (If you are applying for any.)

3. Personal Information Page--Should be current year's Personal Information Page; be sure to include a picture of yourself.

4. General 4-H Story--Not to exceed six pages, double-spaced on one side.

5. Permanent Record--A well completed Permanent Record should reflect growth of the project. Size of the project does not mean exhibits at the fair, it means number of animals, articles made, pictures taken, books read, etc.

6. Current year's project report forms -- Complete per the instructions on the project report forms.

DIVIDERS: Use tab dividers to make projects easy to find.

Things to Remember:

- ✓ Your records are the only impression of you the judge has.
- ✓ Tell everything about your project--don't take anything for granted.
- ✓ Be neat.
- ✓ Be accurate.
- ✓ Add another page if you need more room on Permanent Record.
- ✓ Be sure to always fill out your own book.
- ✓ Do not include newspaper clippings, ribbons, awards or things like this in your record book. These go in a scrapbook or shoebox.
- ✓ Pencil, pen, or type? Whatever the 4-H'er feels comfortable with as long as the 4-H'er completes their own records. Be consistent with whatever you do. If you print or write, use blue or black ink, or type, try to do the same for all of your records.
- ✓ **DO NOT ADD MORE PICTURES THAN WHAT IS ASKED FOR!!!**
- ✓ Follow directions on assembly order, number of picture pages and information requested on the records.

- ✓ On Project Report Forms, extra pages or pictures cannot be added. Only use the spaces that are allowed on each page.

Other General Comments about Project Record Forms and Excellence in Project Applications:

- If you mark on Excellence Award or pin application that you are an assistant project leader or project leader, it should be mentioned in your 4-H story and on Section 5 of project form -- project leadership. That is a big deal and should be worth mentioning.
- Read the requirements for Achievement Pin applications and Excellence Awards and make sure what you are checking actually applies!!
- Spelling, spelling, check it!!
- Achievement Pin applications are for 4-H activities completed during the current 4-H years. (Exceptions are marked with **; these may have been completed in previous years. Date must be noted.) *You cannot use events or activities more than one time on pin applications.*
- Signatures on pin applications and others. Don't wait until last minute to get signatures.
- If requirements are checked and no information is provided to verify it in the particular section of the project form or record book, credit WILL NOT be given.

General 4-H Story:

Your General 4-H story is an important part of your records. It should focus on how the total 4-H year impacted you and your family. Tell about experiences you have had this 4-H year; good and bad and what these experiences meant to you. Do not just tell what ribbons or awards you received. You can include these, but talk about your experiences, growth, and development.

The following outline may help you in developing your story. **Do not use** numbers or asterisks to outline your story when writing it.

- ✿ **Introduction:** Include your age, interests, parents, brother and sisters, where you live, where you go to school, and for first year members why you joined 4-H.
- ✿ **Project Information:** Tell about your projects -- things you learned, whether your project grew in size and scope, successes and failures, experiences and 4-H events participated in i.e. 4-H Club Days, Livestock Judging, Spring Livestock Shows, etc. Can also tell if you served as any officers on the club or county level, or other leadership roles, and other 4-H events participated in.
- ✿ **Future plans:** Tell how you have benefited from 4-H participation and what are some future plans you have.

If you have any questions, please ask!!

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## Summary of Achievement Awards Due 10-1-2025

- 4-H Record Book
  - Achievement Pin Applications
  - Excellence in Project Achievement Awards
  - Project Report Forms
- Club Summary Reports
- Officer Notebooks
  - **Secretary**
    - Original Notes Taken
    - Minutes of Meeting
    - List of Members/Roll Call
    - List of Committees
    - List of Leaders
  - **Treasurer**
    - Monthly Record of Club Finances
    - Club Budget
    - Yearly Summary of Club Finances
    - Monthly Bank Statements
    - Receipts

- **Reporter**
  - Monthly Meeting Reports
    - Include what you wrote for the paper
    - Include original article that appeared in paper.
  - Other stories written
- **Historian**

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Excellence in Project Achievement Awards

Community club leaders and the 4-H'er will determine if the Excellence in Project Achievement Award should be awarded. The record book should still be turned into the club leader by the 4-H'er. The form has been updated to a check sheet. Your record book **should include the completed Personal Information Page, General 4-H Story, Permanent Record, and the age-appropriate Project Report Form for the project you are applying for to receive the Excellence Award. INFORMATION IN THE PROJECT REPORT FORM, GENERAL 4-H STORY, AND/OR PERMANENT RECORD should answer the questions.**

Members basically decide how many projects they want to be recognized in by completing the requirements on however many projects they want to. Only members receiving the Excellence in Project Achievement Awards will be eligible for county project champion.

Excellence Award check sheets and record books are due in the Extension Office ***Wednesday, October 1.*** Also due ***October 1*** are achievement pin applications, key award applications, club summary reports, and officer notebooks.

The Excellence forms are available at the Extension Office or on the website. **Applications need to be completed according to the directions listed on them. Listed by each requirement is where the information should be found in your record book to verify you met that particular requirement**

Excellence awards may be awarded to Juniors (members age 7-13); and Seniors (members 14 and older). Age is based on January 1 of the current year. County Champions will be selected in the Senior Age Division (14 and older) and in the Junior Age Division (Age 13 and under). Seniors are the only ones that are eligible to compete at the area level judging.

From the Excellence in Project Achievement Award winners in a project, a county champion may be selected, if the quality merits.

The Excellence in Project Achievement Awards that may be awarded at 4-H Achievement Banquet are as follows:

Aerospace/Rocketry
 Ag Mechanics Welding
 Agronomy
 Astronomy
 Beef
 Bucket Calf
 Building Block Engineering
 Civic Engagement
 Communications
 Computer Science
 Dairy (includes Dairy Cattle & Dairy Goats)
 Dog
 Electric & Renewable Energy
 Entomology
 Environmental Science
 Family Studies
 Fiber Arts
 Foods & Nutrition
 Forestry
 Geology
 Health and Wellness
 Horse
 Horticulture & Landscape Design
 Interior Design & Architecture
 Leadership
 Meat Goats
 Performing Arts
 Pets
 Photography
 Poultry
 Rabbits
 Reading Adventures
 Robotics

Self-Determined
Sewing & Textile Design
Sheep
Shooting Sports
Shopping in Style
Small Engines
Swine
Veterinary Science
Visual Arts
Wildlife
Woodworking
Uncrewed Aircraft Systems

Club Officer Elections

The September club meeting is the time for clubs to elect officers for the new 4-H year. Electing officers can be a very educational process for both young and old members. Here are a few suggestions I have for your club in electing officers.

Election of officers should not be a popularity contest. Members need to be reminded to elect the individual(s) that will do the best job for each office.

- ✓ Talk to members about the election process and why we use it in a democracy.
- ✓ I strongly suggest that clubs use a nominating committee and prepare a ballot. Allow write-ins and let the 4-H'ers vote by written ballot.
- ✓ Allow the group to see the total nominating committee's report before taking nominations.
- ✓ New members probably should not be eligible to be elected to offices.
- ✓ Candidates should be introduced or allowed to introduce themselves with a very brief campaign "speech" before balloting.
- ✓ Numbering the candidates may allow very young members to vote without assistance. Writing a number instead of a candidate's name may be easier for younger members.
- ✓ A member does not have to be present to be elected. However, an effective officer must be someone that does have a good attendance and club participation record.

- ✓ Every leader, nominating committee member and current officer should review the club bylaws and be familiar with them before elections.

Job Openings in Rolling Prairie District

Office Professional - The Rolling Prairie Extension District is taking applications for a Full-Time position. This position will be located in the Sedan office. Good communication, computer, social media, digital delivery, and financial skills are desired. Applicant must also be well organized, willing and able to give presentations, knowledgeable in youth development, and be able to multi-task. Driver's license and clean driving record required. Salary will be based on work experience and skill level. Associates degree is preferred. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Applications and job descriptions are available at the <https://www.rollingprairie.k-state.edu/>. For more information, contact Richard Fechter at 620-374-2174 or rfechter@ksu.edu. K-State Research and Extension - Rolling Prairie District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Two EXTENSION AGENT opportunities: AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES AGENT and FAMILY & COMMUNITY WELLNESS AGENT in Rolling Prairie District. Primary office in SEDAN, KS, with another in Howard. See ksre.k-state.edu/about/careers to learn more and apply. Screening begins IMMEDIATELY. K-State Research and Extension is an EOE of individuals with disabilities and protected veterans. Background check required.

