Elk County 4-H News

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August - September 2018

4-H Calendar of Events

For the most up to date list of events, go to the Rolling Prairie/Elk County 4-H website.

August
15 Kansas Junior Livestock Show Entries Due
18-19 Livestock Sweepstakes -- Manhattan
25 4-H Roundup -- Howard City Lake - 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
26 Teen Leaders - 5:00 p.m.

September
7 Kansas State Fair Exhibits Due to Extension Office by 8:30 a.m.
7-16 Kansas State Fair -- Hutchinson
21 Record Books, Achievement Pin Applications, Excellence Award Applications, Club Summary Reports and Officer Notebooks Due

October
1 Beginning of New 4-H Year
   Youth Leadership Council Applications
3 4-H Council -- 6:30 p.m.
5-7 Kansas Junior Livestock Show -- Hutchinson
7-13 National 4-H Week
13-14 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 starting, 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 camp are only a few of the hundreds of experiences a 4-Her learns from throughout the year.

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Thank You’s

Have you taken the opportunity to tell all those people that have supported you throughout this 4-H year how much you appreciate their help and support? Trophy and plaque sponsors, livestock sale donors, project leaders, etc are some of these people. In addition, there may be others you can think of that have helped you in some way and deserve a thank you.

There are many creative ways to say thank you, and all of them are appreciated. The important thing is not what you do, but that you do something! It does not always have to be something elaborate to say thank you. A simple, handwritten thank you note is always a nice way to say thank you.

Livestock Buyer Thank You’s

For those of you in the market livestock projects, many of the sale folders are now available. I hope to have all the thank you lists in the very near future. Folders will include buyer ribbons and a thank you list. Only donors that gave a set amount of money receive a buyer’s ribbon. These should be marked on your lists. Once you turn in your record book, you will receive your premium sale check.

If you have a base bid check, please cash/deposit it as soon as possible. There is less chance that you will lose it that way. If a check happens to get lost, let me know.

We had a tremendously successful premium sale this year. We are very fortunate in Elk County to have such a good sale. The Livestock Sale Committee and I get tired of saying this and you probably get tired of hearing it, but it is essential that 4-H’ers thank the donors, buyers and supporters of the 4-H program. Do you ever wonder why buyers and donors do not continue to contribute? Is it because they did not hear from you? Do your thank you’s today!

Kansas State Fair

Those eligible to exhibit at the Kansas State Fair will be mailed information later this month. Members are encouraged to bring their exhibit(s) to the Extension Office any time during the week of September 4, but they must be here by 8:30 a.m. on Friday September 7.

Please prepare the exhibit exactly as directed. Make sure Rolling Prairie Extension District - Howard Office is used instead of Elk County.

If you wish to take your own exhibit(s) to the fair, please let me know because there are entry cards that must be placed on each exhibit. These are only available at the Extension Office. They will be placed on the exhibit when you bring them to the Extension Office.

Kansas State Fair Volunteer Help

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. The Extension Office has additional information about the different volunteer roles and responsibilities.

If you are interested in volunteering with a 4-H exhibit area at the Kansas State Fair, please let me know at the Extension Office by Tuesday, August 14.

An admission ticket will be provided for each day you serve as a volunteer and the Kansas State Fair will provide a meal ticket for volunteers who work at least four hours and are not receiving reimbursement from other sources.
Kansas Junior Livestock Show Entries are due August 15. Here is the link to the online entry process: http://www.kjls.org/

Kansas 4-H Leadership Weekend

The Kansas Youth Leadership Forum and the Kansas 4-H Volunteer Forum will be held November 17-18 at Rock Springs 4-H Center. KYLF is for youth ages 14-18 as of January 1, 2019 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 Volunteer Forum will include workshops, a program from the Kansas Leadership Center and lots of opportunities for networking and sharing resources.

Registration and other information will be shared in the October newsletter. Early bird registration is due October 15.

Kansas Youth Council Application Process

The Youth Council Application information link is available on the KYLF webpage on the state 4-H website. http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/kansas-youth-leadership-forum/index.html. Any Kansas 4-H member between the ages of 14 and 18 before January 1, 2019 may apply. This year’s KYLF delegation will elect representatives from the four Extension program areas (NE, NW, SE, SW). Youth Council members work to involve youth with K-State Research and Extension in promoting, developing, implementing and evaluating Kansas Extension 4-H Youth Development programs in order to reflect the needs and interests of the youth in the state. Council members will also plan and conduct the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, Citizenship in Action, Campference, 48 Hours of 4-H and other events.

Applications and photos are due on an online form by October 1 along with two letters of reference. This year the elections will include the application process and from those applications up to 12 young people per area will be invited to interview with a panel at the beginning of the KYLF. From those that interview, up to six candidates will be selected to be in the election.

Summary of Achievement Awards Due 9-21-18

- 4-H Record Book
  - Achievement Pin Applications
  - Excellence in Project Achievement Awards
- 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
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. It should include the completed personal page, permanent record, ALL project record sheets and pictures.

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 applications and record books are due in the Extension Office Friday, September 21. Club leaders should request them before this date to review them. Also due September 21 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. Be sure to answer questions completely and accurately.** For example, question 1 asks if you attended/participated in 3 project meetings or educational activities or list 3 things you learned in the project this year. **No application should have listed that no meetings were held!** If you are in a market livestock project, you should have the three activities you participated in or attended in order to sell at the premium sale. If you didn’t have any meetings, that is why it also asks for 3 things you learned in the project.

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:

- Beef
- Bucket Calf
- Buymanship
- Citizenship
- Clothing & Textiles
- Communications
- Dairy Cattle
- Dairy Goats
- Dog Care & Training
- Energy Management
- Entomology
- Exploring 4-H
- Fiber Arts
- Foods & Nutrition
- Forestry
- Geology
- Health and Wellness
- Home Environment
- Horse
- Leadership
- Meat Goat
- Performing Arts
- Pets
- Photography
- Plant Science
- Poultry
- Rabbit
- Reading
- Self-Determined
- Sheep
- SpaceTech
- Shooting Sports
- Swine
- Visual Arts
- Wildlife
- Woodworking

Record Books

4-H record books are rarely one of the most favorite tasks for anyone, yet they can be one of the most valuable learning tools. One of the real values of 4-H record keeping is as a monitor of growth. For project work, charting the number of items made, books read, demonstrations or talks given, members helped, tours taken and items exhibited--really makes progress obvious.
Many of the rewards of 4-H record keeping are not immediate. Record keeping is one of those temporarily painful experiences that leaves a young person with a good feeling when it is completed--a sense of pride and accomplishment. Record keeping is filled with personal lessons in diligence, decision making, self-expression, time management, creativity and honesty.

All records are available from the Rolling Prairie Extension website [http://www.rollingprairie.k-state.edu/elkcounty4h/recordbooks/index.html](http://www.rollingprairie.k-state.edu/elkcounty4h/recordbooks/index.html) They are available in both form filler versions and a hard copy version.

Also on the website is a link to download a software program (PDF-XChange Viewer). This is a free PDF editor/reader that allows you to view and edit PDFs, all from within an attractive and intuitive interface. It should allow you to edit the form filler PDF files and save them.

P.S. if any of the links on the website do not work, please let me know so I can get them fixed and working for everyone. I don’t know if a link doesn’t work unless someone lets me know.

One other resource on the website is the publication “Rolling Prairie District 4-H Records Guide.” This contains much of the information in this newsletter as well as other stuff. Check it out or pick up a copy at the Extension Office.

The Market Livestock Record has been updated and posted to the website.

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

1. **Achievement Pin Application** - (If you are applying for one.)

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

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

4. **4-H Story**--Not to exceed six pages, double-spaced on one side. Younger 4-H'ers can write on the back of your Personal Page and continue on white paper. Older members should write their story on white paper and place it behind their Personal Page.

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.

5. **Photographs**--A maximum of three pages of pictures on one side only. Photography project members may have an additional 10 pages of photos that they have taken placed with their photography record. Captions for each photograph improve the quality of your record book.

6. **Current year's project sheets**--Only include current year's records. Pictures should only be added to project records if the record requires them and then only include the amount asked for. Take other years out and put in a safe place.

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.
- Be sure to get all signatures. If you don’t have a project leader, your parents may sign as your leader.
- Fill in the blanks--even if it is with none or N/A.
- Add another page if you need more room on Permanent Record. Extra pages can be copied or picked up at the Extension Office.
- 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 OR REQUIRED!!!

Follow directions on assembly order, number of picture pages and information requested on the records.

4-H Story:

Your 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.

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### 48 Hours of 4-H

October 13 - 14 has been designated this year for the 48 Hours of 4-H. The weekend after National 4-H Week is the perfect opportunity to setup a service project to give back to our communities that have been so supportive.

For more information and to report your activities go to: [http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/48-hours-of-4-h/index.html](http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/48-hours-of-4-h/index.html).  

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### October 4-H Council Meeting

4-H Council will meet **Wednesday, October 3 at the Extension Meeting Room in Howard at 6:30 p.m.** This will be the new 4-H year organizational meeting for 4-H Council. Clubs should have their new council representatives attend this meeting.

The agenda items include:

- Election of Officers
- Meeting Dates
- Achievement Banquet
- Other New Business

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### 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.

- 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.

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**Club By-Laws**

With the end of the 4-H year nearing, another item that needs to be reviewed is the club bylaws and constitution. The constitution and bylaws of your club should be reviewed annually. A suggestion would be to include reading the constitution and bylaws at the October or November 4-H club meeting. Upon the conclusion of the reading members are encouraged to sign the constitution and bylaws, indicating their approval. If changes are made send a copy to the local Extension Office.

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**National 4-H Week**

October 7 - 13 is National 4-H Week. This is a time to promote 4-H, encourage membership, celebrate the completion of a successful 4-H year and make plans and set goals for the new 4-H year.

It is recommended that all clubs do something to promote 4-H during this week. Let us know what you are doing and where. If we can provide assistance, we will be glad to.

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**What is an Elk County 4-H Member**

- 4-H is for youth 7 - 18 years of age.
- Youth who turn 7 before January 1 of the current 4-H year may enroll. Youth who turn 19 before January 1 of the current 4-H year are ineligible to enroll.
- 4-H age is based on age of the members as of January 1 of the 4-H year.
- February 1 is the enrollment deadline to be eligible to exhibit at the county fair.
- May 1 is the project drop/add deadline.
- To join, youth must select a community club, complete enrollment and a participation form.

For more information, contact the Extension Office or read the Elk County 4-H Handbook.

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**If you have pictures from the fair or other 4-H events during the year, please share with me. I am needing pictures for the slide show at the Achievement Banquet.**

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**Develop an Attitude of Gratitude**

Say Thank You to everyone you meet for everything they do for you.
K-State Research and Extension is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision or hearing disability, or a dietary restriction please contact the Howard Office.

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

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