Elk County 4-H News

October 2020

Rolling Prairie Extension District

Howard Office
130 South Pennsylvania
Howard, KS 67349-0647
Phone: 620-374-2174
Fax: 620-374-2889

Sedan Office
Courthouse
Sedan, KS 67361-1326
Phone: 620-725-5890
Fax: 620-725-5892

www.rollingprairie.k-state.edu

Rolling Prairie District Staff

Richard Fechter
District Extension Agent
Elk County 4-H & Agriculture
rfechter@ksu.edu
620-515-0149

Jenny McDaniel
District Extension Agent
Chautauqua County 4-H & Agriculture
jlm323@ksu.edu
405-245-1925

4-H Calendar of Events

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

October
1  Beginning of New 4-H Year
4-10 National 4-H Week
7  4-H Council -- 6:30 p.m.
10-11 48 Hours of 4-H
18  Teen Leaders
25  Hot Dog Roast and Hay Rack Ride -- Grenola

November
1  4-H Achievement Banquet -- Grenola
21-22 Kansas Youth Leadership Forum -- Virtual Format

New 4-H Year

The new 4-H year began October 1. ELK COUNTY MEMBERS MUST BE ENROLLED BY DECEMBER 1 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE 2021 COUNTY FAIR. You will still have until May 1 to drop or add projects but you need to be enrolled by the DECEMBER 1 deadline in order to be eligible to exhibit at the 2021 County Fair.

Link to 4HOnline and other resources for enrolling: https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-online-family-resources/index.html

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum

Information about the Youth Leadership Forum is now available. The conference will be virtual. Youth participants must be 14-18 years old before January 1, 2021. The conference is brief, so delegates should plan to attend the program times on both Saturday and Sunday.

The registration fee (register by November 10) is $30. It will include: a conference t-shirt (mailed after the event), insurance, and program fees. Delegates should pay fees to their local Extension Office that will in turn
write one check payable to the Kansas 4-H Foundation. Registration fees are due for all who register. Please refer to your local Extension Office for payment and registration deadlines.

Registration is on-line. Upon completing registration online, participants will immediately know their workshops! No waiting to see if they got their first choice! All online registrations are contingent upon Extension Agent’s approval and fee being turned in on time. If participant cancels on or before November 10, they will be subject to a $25 cancellation fee. If cancellation after November 10, participant will not receive registration fee back and will be expected to pay the entire $30 fee.

Participation will require an internet connection and a device (computer, tablet or phone). Computer or tablet preferred. All participants will get an email with links and instructions prior to the conference.

4-H Council

4-H Council will meet Wednesday, October 7 at the Extension Meeting Room in Howard at 6:30 p.m. For those unable to attend, a Zoom link will be sent out on Wednesday for you to connect and participate. 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 -- months and days
- Enrollment and Reenrollment Date
- Achievement Banquet
- Officers and Club Leaders Training
- Other New Business

If you would like to help judge another county’s record books, please come at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7 or stay after the 4-H Council meeting.

National 4-H Week

October 4 - 10 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.

48 Hours of 4-H

October 10 - 11 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.

Reorganization Time for Clubs

As the new 4-H year starts, the officers & leaders are busy getting everything reorganized for the year. Some things to remember are:

**Club Program Books:** The books or whatever your club uses are very helpful to your 4-H families. Try to get the year’s programs planned early so the families will have them. Be sure that each 4-H’er has time at least once, to present a talk or demonstration. Once you complete your club program book, please bring a copy to the Extension Office for our records.

A couple of suggestions for clubs: First, have a chairperson for each committee, not just a list of committee members. Second, when determining your monthly program and hosts; it may be a good
idea not to have the family or families that are
giving talks to serve as hostess as well.

**Club Goals:** A good time to set goals is as you fill out program books.

**Parent’s Committee:** This committee within the club helps support the community club leaders. They assist in getting project leaders, help committees and recruit community leaders when needed. They also help the community leaders with some of the problems and decisions that may arise in the club. The committee may be made up of adults who are parents of members, former leaders, interested adults in the community or a combination of these people. Clubs are strongly encouraged to form and use parent’s committees.

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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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**Welcoming New 4-H Families**

Make a special effort to welcome all new 4-H members and their families. Try to involve them in club activities—not just at the first meeting, but throughout the year. Here are some suggestions for doing that.

Explain the sometimes confusing 4-H terms to new families. Don't assume they understand.

Form a buddy system by having older 4-H'ers help new 4-H members with meetings, records, and 4-H events.

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Advise new families of deadlines. Explain the major events that happen in 4-H such as 4-H Club Day, fair, awards program, record books, etc.

Have other adults or 4-H'ers sit with new 4-H families. Involve them in conversations and explain what is happening in the meetings.

Have a parent's meeting during recreation or before or after the 4-H meeting. Be sure to brief all parents about plans for the year and the important skills we are trying to teach our youth.

Let new 4-H families participate at their own pace. Involve them in club activities, but allow them to participate at a level that is comfortable to them.

Be aware of special family circumstances and be flexible. All families are an important part of our 4-H program.

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**Traits of a Strong Club**

Listed are some traits of a strong 4-H club. Can you answer yes to each statement for your club?

- Fun for members!!
- Growing
- Doing things
- Strong leadership (Adult and youth)
- Visible in the community.
- New members (and their families) welcomed and supported.
- Members receive recognition for many accomplishments.
- Members participate in beyond the club level activities, events and training.
- High percentage attendance at meetings, activities, and events.
- Family involvement
- Lots of parents at the meetings & activities.
- Good relationship with the Extension Office.
- Fair to all
- Good communication
- Meetings belong to members.
- Standard meeting times and places.
Club Finances and Monies

Questions regarding club finances are frequently asked of the Extension Office. There are five basic principles that exist to assist with management of non-appropriated funds. First, what is non-appropriated? Non-appropriated funds are described as, “Any funds, outside of appropriated tax dollars, collected by groups for educational purposes, examples include fees, registrations, etc.”

The five principles to manage these funds include:
1. Extension Boards are accountable for all non-appropriated funds generated for Extension programs under their jurisdiction - which includes 4-H.
2. All accounts should require at least two signatures for withdrawals.
3. All funds should be receipted each time they change hands.
4. All 4-H clubs/groups must have their own Employer Identification Number from the IRS. Personal Social Security Numbers are not to be used.

Club Treasury Health

Club finances are a necessary resource for a successful 4-H club. How is your club doing with money? Check out the survey below for help. If you need additional financial resources, contact the Extension Office.

- Prepare a yearly budget with club finance committee, Leaders and Treasurer.
- Only spend money with club approval.
- Keep club money & personal money separate.
- Treasurer’s record is accurate & up to date.
- Funds are deposited into the bank ASAP.
- Bills are promptly paid as directed & approved by the club.
- Bills should only be paid by check.
- Receipts must be collected for bills, before they are paid.

- A monthly Treasurer’s report is prepared for each meeting.
- Reconcile the account against the bank statement each month.
- All checks have two signatures before sending.

Achievement Banquet

The Achievement Banquet is scheduled for Sunday, November 1, 5:00 p.m. at Grenola. If you have pictures from the past 4-H year, please forward them to me as I begin to work on the slide show for the year in 4-H.

Livestock Sale Committee

The Livestock Sale Committee will meet sometime in late October or early November. Typically, during the fall meeting, rule changes are discussed and officers are elected. One other item we will talk about is membership of the committee. Once a date is determined, an email will be sent out to the 4-H list serve.