



Geary County

4-H NEWS



A Newsletter for 4-H Families and Volunteers

January 2025

Geary County 4-H Club Day

4-H Club Day will be held **February 8** at the First Presbyterian Church in Junction City. Pre-entry forms and event descriptions were included with the December newsletter and are also available online at <http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/>. Entry forms are due to the Extension Office or online at <https://tinyurl.com/4HDay2025> by **January 21** at 5:00pm. Kansas 4-H Communication Fact Sheets and event score sheets are available at <http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/resources.html> and may be helpful to you as you prepare for 4-H Day.

4-H Day Room Monitors Needed

Room monitors are needed for Geary County 4-H Day on February 8. Please call the Extension Office at 785-238-4161, email Traci at thockett@ksu.edu, or mark the appropriate box on your entry form to volunteer.

Post-Secondary Education Scholarships

Applications for county 4-H scholarships are due by March 1 and will be submitted online. The link for the county scholarship application and information can be found online at <http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/forms.html>. The County scholarships that are available this year will be the Paul and Clara Gwin Scholarship, the Ralph Dietrich Scholarship, two Ray and Nellie Smith 4-H Scholarships, the Flint Hills Preservation Coalition Scholarship, and three Geary County 4-H Foundation Scholarships. Applications for state 4-H scholarships are due by March 1 and will be submitted online. The state 4-H website (<https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html>) has a link to the online application and more information.

4-H Citizenship in Action Conference

Would you like to have more influence in laws and rules that affect your life? Then you'll want to attend Kansas 4-H Citizenship in Action! This two-day event will be held Sunday, February 16 through Monday, February 17 in Topeka. All youth who are at least 13 years old are eligible to attend. The purpose of this event is for Kansas 4-H members to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in their communities. Registration and further information is available at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/citizenship-in-action/index.html>. Registration deadline is January 24, but registration will be limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis, so get registered TODAY!

4-H Camp Deadline for Financial Support

The deadline to sign up for 4-H camp at Rock Springs and receive financial support in the amount of \$225 from the Geary County 4-H Foundation is May 1. Use the discount code GECOCAMP25 when you register to have these funds applied to your account. The code will need to be added for each camper's registration. In order to be eligible for this financial support, 4-H members must have been enrolled in 4HOnline by January 1, 2025. For more information about camp and to register, visit <https://www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org/>.

4-H Judging Contest Guide

A guide to 4-H judging contests can be found online at http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/judging_contest_guide.html. The guide includes information about what to expect during judging contests. The guide and the website include links to resources to help 4-H members prepare for the contests. Now would be a great time to check out this website since judging contests are held during 4-H Day each year.

Geary County Extension Website

Check out the Geary County Extension website at <http://www.geary.ksu.edu>. Pay special attention to the 4-H section which includes newsletters, a calendar of events, a forms section, and a resources page that should be especially helpful.

Rural Address Signs

Reflective rural address signs are still available at the Extension Office. Proceeds benefit the 4-H program. Contact us to get your sign today!

Judging Contests and Spring Shows

Information about upcoming judging contests and spring shows can be found online at <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/events/spring-shows/springshows.html>.

Beef Weigh-in

Weigh-in is scheduled for Sunday, March 23 from 2:00 to 3:00pm. We will be weighing and tagging beef cattle. More information will be shared with project members as the date gets closer.

Upcoming Youth Livestock Events at K-State

The K-State Youth Livestock Program has some exciting events planned for the upcoming months. Mark them on your calendar now and plan to attend!

Junior Swine Producer Day – March 1 (register by February 5)

Junior Meat Goat Producer Day – March 22 (register by February 26)

More information on these events is available online at <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/ks-jr-producer/index.html>.

The K-State Youth Livestock Program has Twitter and Facebook accounts to keep everyone updated on information and deadlines. Go to the webpage listed above to find links to these accounts.

Horse Panorama

This event is designed for youth to increase their equine knowledge and test their skills in a contest environment. Contests include: quiz bowl, hippology, public speaking presentations, photography, educational posters, and more. The event will be held February 22-23 at Rock Springs. More details on the Panorama and registration link are available at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/horse/horse-panorama.html>. Register by February 3 in order not to have to pay additional fees.

Sign Up to Receive 4-H Reminders

The Extension Office is using the Remind program to send 4-H-related reminders to 4-H families. To sign up to receive reminders, go to <https://www.remind.com/join/geco4h>.

Volunteer Screening

Any Club Leaders, Project Leaders, and other adult volunteers in direct contact with youth will need to fill out a profile in 4HOnline and complete training if they haven't done so. Information about creating or updating a profile in 4HOnline and the required training offered through 4HOnline is available at <http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/forms.html>. Thank you for helping to make sure Geary County 4-H members have a safe 4-H experience.

Fair Auction Participation Requirement for 2025

4-H members will be required to attend in-person at least 4 regular monthly meetings of the 4-H club in which they are enrolled between October 1 and June 30 to participate in the project/livestock auction held at the end of the fair in 2025. Official record of meetings attended will be the club secretary's book. This requirement does not limit fair participation, only participation in the auction. Plan ahead now to make sure youth meet the requirement if they want to participate in the auction.

Applications Being Accepted for 2025 4-H Exchange Host Families

Kansas 4-H families are encouraged to apply now to host one-month exchanges through States' 4-H International Exchange Programs in 2025. Kansas expects to host youth and chaperones from Costa Rica, Norway, Taiwan, and Japan. If your family is interested in hosting an exchange participant this summer, visit <http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/global-citizenship/index.html>.

Cool Careers 4-H Video Contest

Kansas 4-H is partnering with HirePaths to help youth and their families explore careers and post-secondary career options and has announced a Cool Careers 4-H Video Contest. This competition allows 4-H members to learn about a career related to a 4-H project they are enrolled in and then produce a video to create their own episode of the series Cool Careers. Videos should be 4 to 10 minutes in length. Entries can be submitted by an individual or a small group. Groups can consist of no more than four 4-H members. Deadline to submit videos is August 1, 2025. Find out more details at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/contests/hirepaths/HirePaths.html>.

Wool Fabric Available

Some wool fabric has been dropped off at the Extension Office for use by a 4-H member. Colors include blue, blue plaid, maroon plaid, and gray. Stop by the Extension Office if you are interested!

Ginger on Sabbatical Leave this Spring

Ginger has been granted a sabbatical through Kansas State University for the spring. This means she will be working on a special project and will not be in the office or attending meetings and events between January 5 and May 26. If you have questions or need assistance during this time you can call the Extension Office at 785-238-4161 or email ge@listserv.ksu.edu. The other agents and staff at the Extension Office have divided responsibilities to keep the 4-H program running during this time, including events such as 4-H Day and 3rd Grade Ag Day.

Calendar of Events

January

- 4 4-H Day with Wildcat Women's Basketball at K-State
- 20 Holiday, Extension Office closed
- 21 4-H Day entries due to Extension Office or online by 5pm
- 24 Citizenship in Action registration deadline

February

- 3 4-H Council Meeting at 7:00pm – 4-H/Senior Citizens Center
- 3 4-H Horse Panorama registration due
- 5 Junior Swine Producer Day registration deadline
- 8 4-H Day @ JC 1st Presbyterian Church
- 16-17 Citizenship in Action Conference, Topeka
- 17 Holiday, Extension Office closed
- 22-23 Kansas 4-H Horse Panorama at Rock Springs
- 26 Junior Meat Goat Producer Day registration deadline

March

- 1 Geary County and Kansas 4-H Scholarship Applications due (deadline was listed as February 28 in some places, but applications will be accepted until March 1)
- 1 Junior Swine Producer Day @ K-State
- 22 Regional 4-H Day, Clay Center
- 22 Junior Meat Goat Producer Day @ K-State
- 23 Beef Weigh-in, 2 to 3pm

April

- 20-26 National Volunteer Week

May

- 1 Project Drop/Add Deadline
- 1 Camp registration deadline to receive 4-H Foundation financial support
- 2 Ag Day
- 20 Bucket Calf ID's Due to Extension Office by 5pm
- 20 Market Goat/Sheep/Swine Weigh-in @ fairgrounds, 5:30-7:00pm
- 22 Market Goat/Sheep/Swine Weigh-in @ fairgrounds, 6:30-8:00pm
- 23 Market Goats/Sheep/Swine must be tagged/tag forms due to Extension Office
- 26 Holiday, Extension Office closed

June

- 2 Horse ID's due to Extension Office by 5pm
- 2 4-H Council Meeting at 7:00pm – 4-H/Senior Citizens Center
- 4-6 Discovery Days at K-State
- 27 Fair Pre-entries due

July

- 20-24 Geary County Free Fair (full schedule of 4-H events will be available after February 4-H Council meeting)

August

- 16 State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest

September

- 5-14 Kansas State Fair

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4-H Day Presentation Hints

Tips on Appearance and Talking

- Dress appropriately and comfortably. Be well groomed.
- Stand on both feet instead of rocking back and forth or leaning on the table.
- Be friendly – SMILE!
- Show interest and enthusiasm in what you are doing.
- Look at the audience. This is a “must” in keeping attention.
- Talk loud enough to be easily heard.
- Don’t talk too fast.

Tips to Combat Nervousness

- Be well prepared – making a list of needed items will help you not to forget anything
- Arrive early
- Yawn to relax your throat
- Breathe deeply, evenly, and slowly for several minutes
- Be yourself
- Remember that the audience wants you to succeed

Visual Aid Tips

- *Size*

Make letters big enough to be read. Consider letter width as well as height. Here are some suggested letter sizes in relation to distance.

<u>Distance from viewer</u>	<u>Minimum size</u>
3 feet	¼”
8 feet	½”
15 feet	1”

If you make posters, be sure the poster is able to stand by itself on the easel. Many times the poster board is hard to view when it is bent.

- *Color*

Color makes a difference, both in attractiveness and readability. Visuals in two colors are easier to read than multi-colored ones. Avoid multi-colored letters and words. Here are some suggestions for colors.

<u>Use:</u>	<u>Don’t Use:</u>
black on yellow	white on red
green on white	white on orange
blue on white	white on black
black on white	red on yellow
yellow on black	green on red
white on blue	red on green

- *Subject*

Don’t attempt to say too much with visuals. State the main idea and support it with a limited number of points. An outline form works well.

- *Lettering*

Use upper case and lower case letters. Avoid using all capitals because they make the visuals harder to read. Avoid script and other fancy letters. Instead, use neat, well-spaced block letters. If making a poster, use a pencil to design your poster then fill in with magic markers, crayons, etc. Try using a straight edge to lightly rule the poster board before making letters to keep them straight.

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Geary
County

**K-State Research and Extension
Geary County**

119 E. 9th Street
Junction City, KS 66441
(785) 238-4161

January 2, 2025

Welcome to 2025! The start of a new year is a great time to make goals, including general goals for 4-H and goals for your 4-H projects. It is a proven fact that if you write down your goals, you are more likely to achieve them, so get out those project report forms and complete Section 1 right away.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ginger D. Kopfer".

Ginger D. Kopfer
County Extension Agent



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 Ginger Kopfer four weeks prior to the start of the event at gtkopfer@ksu.edu or 785-238-4161. 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.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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