



Beyond Ready

A P R I L 2 0 2 6
4 - H N E W S L E T T E R



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension
Phillips Rooks District

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STATE 4 - H NEWS

INSECT ART CONTEST

The K-State Extension Pesticide Safety and IPM Program is hosting its annual insect-themed art contest, open to all ages and skill levels in Kansas! This year's theme is "Metamorphosis Magic." The goal is to explore insects that undergo complete and incomplete metamorphosis, then create artwork that fits the contest theme. Artwork may include drawings or paintings, digital art, or a 3-D piece such as sculpture, stained glass, or other creative media. Awards will be given for 1st-3rd place in each of the following age categories: Kindergarten - 2nd grade, 3rd grade - 5th grade, 6th grade - 8th grade, High school, and Adult. Entries must be received or postmarked before April 15, 2026. Full contest rules and details are available at: [Learning and Resources](#)

CHALK THE VALK

April 11 on the Valkommen Trail in Lindsborg. Artists of all ages come to create and explore with chalk art. The fee is \$10 per participant. Prizes for 1st place will be awarded in these divisions: adults/college students, middle school, grade school, PreK-K. At the end of the day, there will be an educational session with world renowned artist, David Zinn, Hallmark artists, and art educators. For more information and to register—[Lindsborg Kansas Convention & Visitor Bureau - Chalk the Valk](#)

PHOTOGRAPHY SHUTTERBUGS

April 11 in Manhattan. Workshops that will be held that day include—black & white photography, kaleidoscopes, how to properly mount photos for county/state fair, basic camera operation, glass bottles & marbles, and photo composition. Photography members are encouraged to bring their camera, smart phone and/or tablet to use; there will also be 20 SDLR cameras available for check out just bring your own SD card. The registration fee is \$25 per 4-H member. Registration begins at 8:30 am, orientation at 9:20 am and workshops will begin at 9:45 am. Register here—[Archived Event - 2025 Kansas 4-H Shutterbug @ Botanica](#)

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

April 19-25—We want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the 4-H volunteers from club leaders to project leaders, and helpers at the fairs. We truly appreciate your support of the 4-H program. Positive youth development would not be possible without YOU!

SPRING INTO VOLUNTEERING

The Association of Kansas 4-H Volunteers is hosting "Spring Into Volunteering" at the K-State Polytechnic Campus in Salina on April 25. Registration will begin at 9:00 am, and the day will conclude at 3:00 pm. This is for anyone serving as a 4-H Volunteer or considering it! The goal is for volunteers to go home recharged, excited, and ready to try new things in their volunteer roles. Register here by April 15- [Volunteer Continuing Education | K-State | Kansas State University](#)

STATE 4 - H NEWS

STATE LIVESTOCK NOMINATIONS

All market animals and commercial breeding females must be nominated to be eligible for the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and/or Kansas Junior Livestock Show. Market Beef nominations are due May 1, with Small Livestock and Commercial Heifer due by June 15. The deadline to order DNA envelopes is 10 days prior to the deadline, which is April 20 for market beef and June 5 for all other species. More information can be found here—[Nominated Livestock | K-State | Kansas State University](#)

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES EXPERIENCE

New for 2026! The State 4-H Family and Consumer Sciences Judging Contest will take place on the K-State Campus June 4. The experience will include the Family and Consumer Sciences Judging Contest, lunch on campus, workshops, and a campus tour. The judging contest will include—consumer decision placing classes and reasons, skill-a-thon identification, and a group think presentation. The experience is open to all members ages 9-18 and youth can participate individually or a team of 3-4 youth in the same age group. Intermediates are ages 9-13 and seniors are ages 14-18. For more information—[Family and Consumer Sciences Judging | K-State | Kansas State University](#)

4-H DISCOVERY DAYS

June 3-5 at Kansas State University in Manhattan. Youth ages 13-18 before January 1, 2026 are invited to register. Come to learn new things, find a career/college path, meet new friends, experience K-State campus and develop skills. There's over 60 class sessions to choose from. Some classes will fill quickly so register today—[Discovery Days | K-State | Kansas State University](#)

QUALIFYING EVENTS FOR KANSAS STATE FAIR

4-H Members ages 9 and older who participated in County 4-H Club Day and received a top blue can take their project talks, demonstrations, and illustrated talks to the Kansas State Fair. Poetry entries can also be entered. Public Speaking entries can come to the State Fair; all contestants at the State Fair will use the same topic: "How has your journey in 4-H contributed to being Beyond Ready for current challenges and future goals?"

ROCK SPRINGS RANCH

Summer camp is right around the corner. Be sure to check out the opportunities available at Rock Springs Ranch. They offer the traditional summer camp, a mini camp, and specialty camps like Ranch Camp, Shooting Sports Camp, Outdoor Wilderness Leadership Skills, and Family Camp. Financial assistance is available for 4-H members that want to attend camp. Find out more information about Rock Springs Ranch and get registered - [Rock Springs Ranch](#)

STATE 4 - H NEWS

YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY SALINA

Wildcat Explorers Camp—May 26 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for students entering the fourth through sixth grades. Work with an engineering expert to build and test airplane designs, learn how drones are used in everyday lives, and see how basic programming is used to complete a challenge with a robot. Register here—[Wildcat Explorers Camp | K-State Salina | Kansas State University](#)

Wildcat Innovators Camp—May 27-29 for students entering the seventh through eighth grades. Students will learn basic drone flying skills, and explore the world of virtual reality in 3D game simulation of each student's design. Register here—[Wildcat Innovators Camp | K-State Salina | Kansas State University](#)

K-State Aviation Academy—June 21-27 for students ages 15-17. Students will use flight simulators to learn how to safely fly an aircraft and have the opportunity to experience a cross-country flight to Stearman Field near Benton, KS. Register here—[K-State Aviation Academy | Kansas State University](#)

K-STATE ANIMAL SCIENCE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

June 10-13 in Manhattan. Designed to enhance the leadership skills and animal science knowledge of students in ninth through twelve grades. Applications are due April 30. For more information—[K-State Animal Science Leadership Academy | Kansas State University](#)

LOCAL 4 - H NEWS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Phillips County 4-H Council — April 27 at 7:00 pm at the Phillips County Annex for committees and 7:30 pm for 4-H Council

Rooks County 4-H Junior Leaders—May 11 at 7:00 pm at the Rooks County Fairgrounds, 4-H Building

Rooks County 4-H Council—May 11 at 7:30 pm at the Rooks County Fairgrounds, 4-H Building

YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS (YQCA)

Required for youth planning to sell livestock in the Rooks County Free Fair 4-H/FFA Livestock Sale, livestock exhibitors at the Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show. Training will be available on April 13 at 5:30 pm at the Rooks County Fairgrounds, 4-H Building. All livestock must be tagged and turned into the Phillips-Rooks Extension District by May 1 to be eligible for the Phillips County Fair and Rooks County Free Fair.

LOCAL 4 - H NEWS

ROCKETRY RANGERS

We're excited to announce a new Rocketry Club. This group is designed especially for 4-H members who are new to the aerospace/rocketry project! This hands-on group will meet a few times to guide members through building their own model rocket from start to finish. Participants will learn basic rocketry concepts, rocket launching safety, and what makes rockets fly. In addition to building a rocket, members will also learn how to properly complete the required paperwork and display their rocket at the county fair. This is a great opportunity for those who wanted to try the rocketry/aerospace project and didn't know where to start. If your 4-H member is interested in joining or you would like more information, please contact Brayden King at braydenking137@gmail.com by April 15, 2026.

HORSE ID CERTIFICATE DEADLINE

If you are planning to show your horse at the Phillips County Fair or Rooks County Free Fair you must complete a horse identification certificate by May 1. The certificate should be turned into the Phillips-Rooks Extension District Office and/or uploaded into your 4-H Online account. Please use the form updated July 2024 for all horses you plan to show [horse-identification-certificate P1039.pdf](#)

ADD/DROP 4-H PROJECT DEADLINE

May 1—Deadline to make project changes that you plan to take to the Phillips County Fair or

PHILLIPS COUNTY FAIR PREMIUM REQUIREMENTS

Required participation to receive a Phillips County Fair premium for 2026:

-4-H members must attend three 4-H Club meetings from roll call to adjournment

-Work their shifts in the fair food concession stand

Members must also meet **one** of the following requirements:

-Attend 4-H Sunday

-Participate in the county sponsored fundraiser

-Participate in County 4-H Club Day

-Participate in a 4-H leadership activity, such as serving as a teen leader at Day Camp

PHILLIPS COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK TAGGING

All livestock (beef, goats, sheep and swine) must be tagged with a 4-H tag for identification purposes and turned into the Phillips-Rooks Extension District by May 1. Goat and sheep project members, a scrapie tag or USDA Premise tag is also required. These tags should be provided by the breeder or person you are purchasing livestock from. Please contact the Phillips-Rooks Extension District Office for tags and to report livestock tag information. All livestock must be in the members possession by May 1. If an animal loses a tag please notify the Phillips-Rooks Extension District so a replacement tag can be arranged.

PHILLIPS COUNTY FAIR LIVESTOCK RULE CHANGES

General Livestock Rules

8. Livestock Show Grooming: The purpose of grooming rules for exhibitors is to promote the youth program as a learning experience for the youth. All exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals throughout the show. Grooming at the Phillips County Fair for the breeding and market animal shows may include the use of adhesives, paints, and powders and shall not include the use of hair not from the animal being groomed or twine/artificial material.

9. Immediate family members (to include parents, legal guardians, siblings and grandparents) and current Kansas 4-H or FFA members who are exhibitors at the Phillips County Fair may provide grooming and/or care to 4-H/FFA livestock projects, regardless of if the exhibitor is present while such grooming and/or care is being provided. Any person who is not an immediate family member or current Kansas 4-H or FFA member exhibiting at the Phillips County Fair shall be deemed a "livestock helper." Livestock helpers may only assist in grooming and/or care of animals if the exhibitor is both present and participating in the care and/or grooming of their animal. *Except that, a livestock helper may provide grooming and/or care to an animal with the exhibitor not present if the exhibitor is not present because they are showing one of their other animals. Exhibitors and livestock helpers in violation of this rule will be warned once by Phillips County Fair officials. Upon the second violation, an entry that has been deemed by Phillips County Fair officials to have been groomed or cared for by a livestock helper without the exhibitor being present and participating in the grooming and/or care without meeting the exceptions described above, may be disqualified. Violations of this rule are subject to all penalties afforded by all applicable Phillips County Fair rules.

Premium Auction Rules

9. An area livestock buyer will designate a cost per pound floor price for each species that will be posted on sale day. Example floor bids might be \$1.00 per pound for hogs and \$1.80 per pound for sheep. The premium buyer will have first option to purchase the animal at the floor price. If the premium buyer does not want the animal, it will be made available to the first person to raise their buyer number. If no one wants the animal for consumption it will go to the floor buyer. In all cases, the animal will sell. If a buyer purchases an animal in the premium sale, they must contact the sale committee representative that is arranging locker appointments immediately following the livestock premium sale. If the buyer does not contact the sale committee representative, that animal will be delivered to the locker of the sale committees choice based on locker spots available.

Market Lambs and Meat Goat Rules

4. AGE: All Market goats must have baby teeth in place with no visible signs of permanent teeth. The decision of the mouthier is final.

4. All Market Lambs must have their baby teeth in place, decision of the mouther is final.

ROOKS COUNTY 4-H DOG PRACTICES

To be held at 1:00 pm at the Rooks County Fairgrounds, 4-H Building on the following dates—
April 19, May 17, and June 21

Please bring proof of dog vaccination records, water, and treats for your dogs. Additional summer practices may be scheduled as needed.

Members and their dogs must attend 2 practices to be eligible to show at the Rooks County Free Fair. The dog project leader is Mari Jo Stout. If you have any questions, please contact her at 785-623-8006.

ROOKS COUNTY 4-H LIVESTOCK TAGGING

Hogs, Goats, and Sheep will be tagged on April 29 beginning at 8:30 am at the Rooks County Fairgrounds. Please schedule an appointment with the Phillips-Rooks Extension District Office at 785-425-6851. All hogs, goats, and sheep must be tagged with a 4-H tag.

Goat and sheep project members, a scrapie tag or USDA Premise tag is also required. These tags should be provided by the breeder or person you are purchasing livestock from.

Animals nominated for state shows must follow date requirements for those shows. If your animal already has an eID tag in its' ear, please do not remove that tag; it's against the law. A non-eID tag will be used as the 4-H tag.

All livestock must be in the members possession by May 1. If an animal loses a tag please notify the Phillips-Rooks Extension District so a replacement tag can be arranged.

The Rooks County 4-H Council will provide the 4-H livestock tags at no cost to the members.

ROOKS COUNTY 4-H FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EVENTS

Financial Assistance is available for 4-H members that attend conferences and camps as long as the member(s) work a shift in the Rooks County Free Fair 4-H Food Stand. 4-H Council will pay \$150 toward registration fees.

ROOKS COUNTY FREE FAIR CHANGES

The Rooks County Free Fair will be held August 4-8. All static projects (projects housed in the 4-H Building) will be judged on Monday, August 3. The livestock check in/weigh in, animal show schedule and livestock sale will not change from previous years. For registered beef animals, eID tags will be allowed in place of a tattoo as long as the eID is listed on the registration papers. All Rooks County Free Fair 4-H/FFA livestock species shows will be blow and go. Any product used must be water soluble, nothing stiff and/or sticky. Show order for the sheep and goat show will be dairy goats, sheep, and meat goats. Following the livestock sale on Friday evening 4-H members are responsible for their animals until release on Sunday morning.

Ag Tech Day

April 4, 2026
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

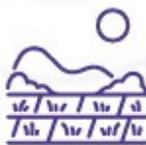
Flickner Innovation Farm
Moundridge, Kansas



Visit stations around the farm and learn about technologies to make a farm management plan.



Free and open to the public; activities are tailored for middle and high school students.



Come and go as you please; snacks provided!

Register by April 1 at <https://bit.ly/AgTechDay>

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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Institute for Digital Agriculture and Advanced Analytics





Zoom meetings that will cover the state livestock nomination process. The session will open with a presentation of general information regarding nominations and requirements. Then transition to logging into the ShoWorks system and doing some live examples of creating exhibitor accounts, submitting animal nomination entries, uploading documents, purchasing DNA envelopes, and printing the correct receipt to mail with your signed DNA envelopes. There will be time for questions as well. Attendees need to register by noon on Monday prior to the zoom meeting.

Register here for the Beef State Nomination Zoom—[2026 Beef State Livestock Nomination Zoom Session](#)

Register here for the Small Livestock Nomination Zoom—[2026 Small Livestock State Livestock Nomination Zoom Session](#)

SAVE THE DATE

2026 Livestock County Fair Management Clinic



Kansas State University



Animal Sciences and Industry

April 13 & 16, 2026

7-9pm

Hosted online via Zoom



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The clinic is designed for county fair board members, Extension agents and volunteers involved in local livestock fair management and leadership. This professional development opportunity consists of a forum for open communication for individuals working with livestock at their local fairs. Although some of the topics can be applied generally to the county fair, this program focuses specifically on the livestock perspective. K-State faculty, staff, fair board members, extension agents, and outside speakers will facilitate discussion directly related to livestock activity at local livestock fairs in Kansas. It is a collaborative effort among all of those involved in the livestock project aspects of a county fair. The program has been divided over two evenings, with different topics being covered each night. This year we will be breaking out into round table discussions. The sessions will be recorded. Register here by April 6—[2026 Livestock County Fair Management Clinic](#)

“To Make the Best Better”



VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Join the Rooks County 4-H Junior Leaders

April 25 at 2:00 pm
EGA Service Center
211 Hendrick St. Stockton, KS

Learn:

- General Vehicle Maintenance
 - Changing the Oil
 - Changing a Tire
 - Jumpstarting a Vehicle
- And Much More!



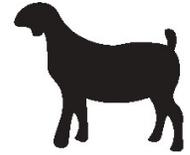
Please RSVP by April 22.

Call the Phillips-Rooks Extension
District at 785-425-6851.

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Meat Goat Showmanship Clinic



Date: April 26, 2026

Time: 3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.

Sign-Up



Deadline to Sign-Up: April 17, 2026 **Location:** Smith County Fair Grounds
(101 Armory Road, Smith Center, KS)

LEADING THE CLINIC



\$5 per 4-Her participating



Addison and Allison Vavricek

Top Individuals in Livestock Judging at National level.

Nationally known, State Fair Champions and Nationals Top Individuals Goat Showmen.

Bring your own goat for a hands-on experience; or prepare to be an observer. Goats will not be provided.

Jennifer Dix

Smith County Goat Superintendent and well-versed in the goat industry.

Billy Thayer

Knowledge and experience in fitting National Competing Goats.

- **Nutrition and Basic Care Information**
- **Hands-On Showmanship Class**
- **Hands-On Fitting Demonstration**
- **Tips on Identifying High-Quality Goats**



Post Rock District

Contact Post Rock District 4-H Coordinator, Emma Anderson, at emmaand2026@ksu.edu or call 785-282-6823 with questions.

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Safe Tractor & Machinery Operation Training

This program is a collaboration with K-State Research and Extension Districts: Post Rock, Midway, Cottonwood, and Central Kansas District.

The National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP) is designed for 14- and 15-year-olds seeking employment in production agriculture.

Core content areas include:

- Safety basics, Agricultural hazards, Tractors, Connecting and using implements, Materials handling, and more.

Students are certified after successfully passing a 50-question test at the training and doing both an operating skills test and a driving test administered by the employer.

2026 Course Dates, Locations, & Contact Info

April 18th – Great Bend, KS
KanEquip

Alicia Boor: aboor@ksu.edu or 620-793-1910

April 25th – Beloit, KS
Carrico Implement

Blaire Todd: blairet@ksu.edu or
785-738-3597

May 28th – Solomon, KS
KanEquip, Inc.

Justine Johns: jwh04@ksu.edu or
785-392-2147

Scan to register!



SIGN UP: Visit <https://bit.ly/tractorsafety2026>, scan QR code, or call an agent listed below!

MANUAL COST: \$15 – Pick up at your local Extension Office

BRING: Your course manual and enrollment form. Pay and pick up your course manual at your local Extension Office. Please pick up your manual at least 5 days PRIOR to the course.

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Tractor Safety Operator's Course

Students must attend all day on May 27th for the training and final test.

Wednesday, May 27th, 2026

Gray County Fairgrounds
17002 W. Highway 50, Cimarron



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PURPOSE OF COURSE & TEST:

To provide teenagers with a fuller appreciation and awareness of needed safety practices around tractors and farm machinery. As well as provide 14 & 15 year old youth an opportunity to receive a tractor operator's permit, required by the Child Labor Regulations in regard to agricultural hazardous occupations before they can be employed to operate a tractor.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE:

Any teenage youth, regardless of age. Those completing the course and test will receive an operator's certificate upon completion of when he/she turns 14. Those who are 16 or older do not need an operator's certificate, but are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

SCHEDULE:

Tractor and other important farm safety skills will be given from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27th Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. at the Gray County Fairgrounds.

COST:

\$20.00 (made payable to the Ford County Ag Activity Fund) for noon meal and handouts.

MEAL:

The noon meal, included in the registration fee, is hamburgers hot off the grill. Students are encouraged to eat the meal provided. Please contact the Gray County Extension Office, 620-855-3821 with any participant's dietary restrictions.

ENROLLMENT:

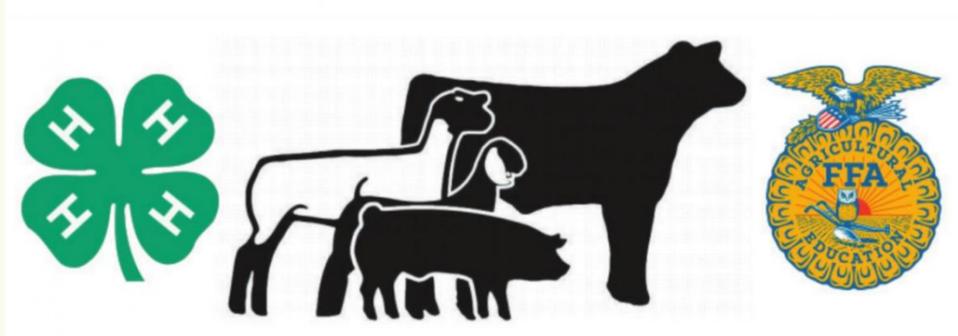
All participants will need to complete a registration form and a 4-H Participation form in order to participate.

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR TRACTOR COURSE IS REQUIRED BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 20th, TO YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE.

Sponsored By:

Clark, Comanche, Ford, Gray,
Hodgeman, Meade, Pawnee
County Extension Councils,
Walnut Creek Extension District,
& 21st Central Extension
District—Edwards County

LARGE ANIMAL SHOWMANSHIP CLINIC



Join the Rooks County 4-H Junior Leaders

May 28 at 5:30 pm

Rooks County Fairgrounds, Sutor-Blauer Arena

Stockton, KS

LEARN HOW TO SHOW:

- ✓ Beef
- ✓ Dairy Goat
- ✓ Horse
- ✓ Meat Goat
- ✓ Sheep
- ✓ Swine

RSVP BY

MAY 25

**Call the Phillips-Rooks
Extension District
785-425-6851**

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4 - H C A L E N D E R O F E V E N T S

April

- 4 Ag Tech Day
- 11 K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day
- 13 YQCA - Stockton
- 13 Livestock County Fair Management Clinic
- 14 Judges Training
- 16 Livestock County Fair Management Clinic
- 19 Dog Practice - Stockton
- 20 Last Day to Order Market Beef DNA Envelopes for Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show
- 25 Vehicle Maintenance
- 25 Spring Into Volunteering
- 27 Phillips County 4-H Council Committees
- 27 Phillips County 4-H Council
- 29 Rooks County 4-H/FFA Small Animal Tagging (goats, hogs, and sheep)

May

- 1 Livestock Tagging Deadline
- 1 Horse Identification Certificates Due
- 1 Last Day to Add/Drop Projects
- 1 Market Beef Nominations Due for Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show
- 11 Rooks County 4-H Junior Leaders
- 11 Rooks County 4-H Council
- 17 Dog Practice - Stockton
- 20 Phillips County Day Camp
- 28 Large Animal Showmanship Clinic

June

- 3-5 Discovery Days
- 4 Family and Consumer Sciences Experience
- 5 Last Day to Order Small Livestock DNA Envelopes for Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show Nominations
- 13-23 Citizenship Washington Focus
- 15 Commercial Heifer, Swine, Sheep, & Meat Goat Nominations Due for Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show
- 21 Dog Practice - Stockton

Visit our website:

<https://www.phillipsooks.k-state.edu/4-h/>

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