

WALNUT CREEK DISTRICT 4-H NEWSLETTER



Stay connected, To Make the Best Better!



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www.walnutcreek.ksu.edu



Member Spotlight

Thank you Robert Schlegel, Rush Co Road Runner for letting me borrow your wildlife exhibits for my 4-H Program Rally Wildlife Class.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

- 7 Regional Club Days
- 8 Walnut City Club Meeting
- 9 Rush Community Leaders
- 14 Rush Center St. Patricks Day
- 15 Lane Beef Weigh in
- 16-20 Spring Break Classes
- 19 Ness Beef Weighin
- 21 Super Saturday Judging, Hays
- 22 Rush Beef Weigh-in
- 23 WCED Board Meeting

April

- 1 Goodland Livestock Jdgd
- 2 Ness Comm Vitality PDC
- 3 Office Closed
- 5 Happy Easter
- 6 Monday Fun Day in Lane
- 6 4-H Council
- 7-9 KAE4-HA Spring Meetings

Learning Together, Growing Stronger

This issue is packed full of learning opportunities, as we start to transfer from Winter to Spring adventures are popping up all over the place just like Spring flowers and baby animals.

- UAS Workshop in Salina
- 4-H Ag Tech Day in Moundridge
- Junior Sheep Day in Manhattan
- National Volunteer Week is April 19-25
- Summer Engagement Intern and Summer Assistant Positions
- Home School STEM Days, Hays and Colby
- Super Saturday, Hays
- Club Day Results and Regional Club Days Info
- Spring Break Class Schedule
- Rush St Patrick's Day Celebration
- Rush Livestock Meeting
- Beef Weigh in dates and times
- County Fair Judges Training in Wakeeney
- Fair Dates and Themes - Tshirt ideas
- Camp Dates
- YQCA Trainings and who needs to take it

Message from Robyn

March in my opinion is another great time to celebrate 4-H, wear those GREEN clovers all month long, especially on St Patrick's Day, so you don't get pinched.



Project Focus:

This Month our Project Focus is on the Horse and Leadership Projects.

Horse ID Certificates

A reminder that Horse ID Certificate papers are due June 1 to the local office. ID Forms can be found on our website or you can update from last year if you still have room on the signature lines. For more information, please contact our office.

Horse ownership:

Each horse should be properly identified with the local Extension Office by June 1 of the current 4-H program year. Horses may be identified by a) completed Horse ID Certificate with all required signatures, or b) breed registration papers with horse ownership listed in the 4-H member's or a family member's name. "Family member" includes: immediate family—parent, stepparent, sibling, stepsibling, grandparent, or legal guardian.

LEADERSHIP

Teens are challenged to plan and implement learning experiences to help others gain knowledge and skills in project areas. Taking the step to plan and implement project workshops and meetings can help teens reach upper-level achievement pin requirements, work toward earning your key award, build a stronger comprehensive project experience for record book recognition, complete the district's ambassador expectations, explore the leadership project, and, most importantly, give back to younger members by providing your mentorship and passion to help others. If you are interested in leading a project workshop or meeting in the spring or summer, contact your local Extension Office so we can help you promote and support your effort!



Volunteers:

National Volunteer Week is celebrated

April 19-25th

This is a great time for 4-H

Members/Families to say thank you to your 4-H Club Leaders for all they do to help prepare for Club Meetings and all the communication they assist with.

Please do something NICE for your Club Leaders.



4-H on the 4th

4-H on the 4th this month is Horticultural Fun start planting your seeds for the garden.

Start an Herb Garden, Talk to Robyn and get a couple her Mystery Flower seeds that were mailed with NO labels. Lets see what they grow. Don't have a green thumb try your hand at paper flowers.

Learning Opportunities:

UAS Workshop, March 14, 2026, by Central Kansas District

Central Kansas District 4-H is hosting a UAS workshop on March 14th, 9:30 am-6:00 pm, at K-State Salina Campus. Any 4-H youth across the State aged 7-18 who is interested in UAS is eligible to register. Estimated total flight hours required at the time of registration. Youth will be grouped as beginners or experienced based on flight hours.

Deadline: March 9, 2026. If you have any questions, please call 785-309-5850.



4-H Ag Tech Day, April 4, 2026

Kansas 4-H, Kansas State University ID3A (Institute for Digital Agriculture & Advanced Analytics), and KCARE (Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment) are co-hosting an engaging Ag Tech Day at Flickner Innovation Farm in Moundridge, Kansas, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 4.

This event is geared toward youth in grades 5-12, offering a unique opportunity to explore the farm and learn about both new and established technologies that are helping make farm management easier and more efficient for producers. A wide variety of stations will be set up around the farm for attendees to visit while they learn from presenters. Attendees are welcome to come and go as they please, and snacks will be provided!

Stations may include:

- Unmanned aircraft systems and drone technologies
- John Deere technologies
- Sensors
- An under canopy robot
- Technology for finding and tracking insects

Registration: <https://bit.ly/AgTechDay>

Ag Tech Day is FREE and open to the public, but registration is required. **Please register by Wednesday, April 1.**

The Homeschool STEM Field Days

The Homeschool STEM Field Days are April 14th at Hays and April 16th at Colby. Last year each group was able to rotate to 5-6 stations that were 20-25 minutes in length. I will share more information and the registration link as soon as it is available, In the mean time save the date.

YQCA-Youth Quality Care of Animals

Each 4-H Member that is enrolled in a Livestock Project is required to take a one hour educational class called YQCA. If this is your first year in any livestock projects you need to take the class, If you turn 8, 12, or 15 this year you need to take the class. Everyone must take it their first year showing, and then again when they advance to a new age group. The age groups are 7, 8-11, 12-14 15-18.

Also, if you are planning to participate in Kansas Junior Livestock Show, Kansas State Fair or any National shows you will need to take the class every year.

The class is offered via face to face with Jared or Lacey and online at <https://yqcaprogram.org>

Jared is hosting YQCA classes on Thursday the 19th at Ness 9am, Lane 1pm and Friday the 20th in Rush at 9:00am.



Learning Opportunities:

Thriller, Filler and Spiller!!!!

Tips for a successful exhibits at the fair, flowers, arrangements and plants.



When: May 13th, 2026

Where: Bison Community Room
202 Main Street, Bison

Time: 6:00 to 7:00 PM

Presenter: Patricia Thibault
K- State Extension Master Gardener

We will learn how to put together arrangements to be eye catching, what the judges are looking for in fresh flowers, and as a bonus you might even win a ribbon at the fair.

Everyone is invited to attend this presentation.

Refreshments will be served.

Sponsored by the FCE Sunshine Unit and the Bison
Community Library

Junior Producer Day Registration Open

Registration is now open for the 2026 K-State Junior Producer Days! Junior Sheep Producer Day scheduled for Saturday, April 11. the event will be hosted at the new Billbrey Family Events Center, north of the K-State campus in Manhattan. This event is a one-day educational events for families to learn more about the selection and management of a specific specie. Youth, adults, extension agents, project leaders, and volunteers of all ages and skill levels are invited to attend! Presentations will be provided by K-State faculty, staff, students, extension agents, former exhibitors, and guest speakers. Topics range from selection, to nutrition, reproduction, health, clipping and grooming, and showmanship. This is a family learning event! Everyone who plans to attend must register, including both youth and adults. The cost is \$20/person by the deadline, or \$30 after the deadline for both events. Only those who register by March 20, 2026 will receive a t-shirt.



IPM 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

Adult

Entries must be received or postmarked before
April 15, 2026.

Full contest rules and details are available at:
<https://bit.ly/3NHu1EU>

Beef Weigh Dates

March 15th at 2:00pm Lane Co
Lane Co Fairgrounds

March 19th at 5:00pm Ness Co

March 22 at 2:00pm Rush Co
LaCrosse Livestock Sale Barn/Vet Shack



Super Saturday

Super Saturday will be held in Hays this year on Saturday, March 21st starting at 9:00 am at Albertson Hall on FHSU campus.

There will be judging contests covering Photography, Crops, Horticulture, Entomology, Life Skills, Livestock Skillathon, and NEW this year Wildlife Skills & Geology!

Mark your calendars and grab a couple of friends to make a team of 3-4.

The afternoon will start at 1:00pm with Livestock Judging and STEM activities learning opportunity.

There will also be a couple of Parent/Volunteer Sessions offered in the morning while your kiddos are working through the Judging. Watch for more details and the registration link coming soon.

Register Here: https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_78Jwy8nnfMNIBW6

County Fair Dates & Themes

This years fair dates and fair themes are as follow:

Lane County - July 15-18 Stars, Stripes & Summer Nights

Ness County - July 21-25 American Flair at the Ness County Fair

Rush County - July 29-Aug. 1 Spotted at the Rush Co Fair, Celebrating 250 years of Freedom.

Each 4-H Council will create a 4-H t-shirt, if you have ideas let me know by April 1st.



County Fair Judges Training

Mark Your Calendars for Saturday April 11th 10:00am to 1:30 pm in Wakeeney, if you are interested in learning to be a County Fair Judge and make some extra \$\$\$\$ on the side this summer. There will be 4 sessions and several project areas covered. More information coming soon.



4-H Record Book Tip

If you need help figuring out what you can do to reach these Achievements ask your club leader or talk to Robyn.

Activities

List the event that you attended and place an "X" in the appropriate level of participation.

Examples:

What did you do for National 4-H week?

Did your club do something for 4-H Sunday?

Did you attend officer training?

Did you attend the Achievement Banquet?

Did you help with any school assemblies to promote 4-H?

What did you do for District Club Days?

Did you go to Regional Club Days?

Have you had any project meetings?

Did you attend weigh in?

Did you go to camp?

Did you help with County Fair Pre/Post Cleanup?

What events did you participate in at County Fair?

Did you go to the State Fair?

2026 Walnut Creek District 4-H Club Days

The Walnut Creek District 4-H Club Days is the opportunity for youth to learn, grow and perform public speaking in several different categories. Public speaking is something that Kansas 4-H prides itself on, as we encourage youth to start working on this life skill as young as 7 years of age. The 4-H members can participate individually, in small groups or as a 4-H Club. Those youth who receive a Top Blue rating can advance on to Regionals held in Dodge City in conjunction with Meade, Clark, Ford, Hodgeman, and Gray counties. The results for this year are:



Club Skits – Top Blues - Eager Beavers and Walnut City; Blue Placings - Rush Co Road Runners, and Otis Go Getters.

Talent – Aubrey Petersilie & Praylee Horchem (Top Blue)

Dance/Gymnastics– Top Blues - Jamie Stos and Mercedes Horchem; Craylee Foos (Cloverbud)

Readings – Top Blues - Dylan Schlegel, Ava Roberts, Ravanna Roberts, Aubrey Petersilie, Tyndale Smith, and Devin Smith.

Instrumental Solos – Top Blues – Dice Felder, Nathan Vondracek, and Maggie Showalter; Red Placings -Drew Felder, Aubrey Petersilie, James Littler, Sophie Scheib, Jacque Littler, Mollie Georg, Ethan Petersilie, Robert Schlegel, Dylan Schlegel, Jadyn Petersilie, White Placings - Praylee Horchem, Deacon Georg.

Vocal Music– Top Blues – Emma Petersilie, and Dylan Schlegel Red Placings – Isabel Petersilie, Praylee Horchem, Mollie Georg, Shields Jayhawks Club Chorus, and Daisy Roberts.

Project Talks – Top Blues - Canyon Foos, Bentley Shapland, Jayne Rider, Emerson Steffens, Blue Placing -Titus Rider.

Show & Tell – Trigger Horchem (Blue); Clover bud participants - Avery Scheib, Clint Flax.

Extemporaneous – Top Blues – Jadyn Petersilie, Ethan Petersilie; Blue Placings - Maggie Showalter, Travis Ross

CRI (Cover Letter, Resume and Interview) -- Top Blues -Ethan Petersilie, Nathan Vondracek, Daphne Rider, Blue Placings-Jadyn Petersilie.

Digital Presentations – Top Blues – Nathan Vondracek, Travis Ross, Stetson Noterman, Grayson Noterman, Daphne Rider, Tenley Wittman Blue Placings – Asher Rider.

Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks – Top Blues – Daphne Rider, Jarret Shapland, Harper Shapland, Asher Rider; Blue Placings – Briana Whipple, Tavish Tracy, Jamie Stos, Eli Tracy & Ethan Maier, Benjamin Flax.

Public Speaking – Top Blues – Ethan Petersilie, Jadyn Petersilie

Congratulations to all that participated, and Good Luck March 7th at Regional Club Days. We are proud of all your hard work and efforts.

Community Service for Foods Members

Are you looking for an act of citizenship for your 4-H Foods and Nutrition project? The KAE4-HA Spring Meeting is being held in Wichita and we are looking for donations of cookies or Snack Mixes. If you are interested in donating please Let Robyn know. Please have donations to your local office by April 6th. Thank you in Advance.



Camp Dates

Plan to use up those record book scholarships by attending 4-H camp this summer.

June 3-5 Discovery Days youth 13-18

June 10-12 4 Clover Camp youth 7-10

June 15-17 Ag Experience Trip (Ag Ambassadors)

June 18-19 Cedar Bluff Overnight Camp youth 7-10

June 24-26 Leadership 101 Camp youth 11-13

Camp Counselors are needed for 4 Clover Camp and Cedar Bluff Overnight.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Josie & Rylie Larson and Nathan Vondracek for interviewing and making the NW Kansas Ag Ambassador team for 2026. They are 3 of 11 that will help us promote Ag in Northwest Kansas.



Clover Connection Articles

Clover Connection articles are still needed!! We attempt to put one in the newspaper each week, that means I need 52 articles to help make it through the year. A Clover Connection article is a 200-250 word write-up sharing one of your 4-H projects and some interesting things about that project such as what you have learned, how it has helped you in life, your future plans and the difficulties that you have overcome. Please email me your articles at rdeines@ksu.edu.

Who needs YQCA?

Thea Blair, Emersyn Bunch, Canyon Foos, Dustin Johnson, Makenna Miller, Casen Pfannenstiel, Olivia Riffle, Bryn Steffens, Kynzlee Bunch, Maya Detherage, Jackson Faulkner, Henry Georg, Barrett McDonald, Stetson Noterman, Amelia Sehl-Anderson, Emerson Steffens, Landon Bretz, Chris Seltman, Grayson Noterman, Trey Overlease, Phillip Peteler, Bentley Shapland, Harper Shapland, Addie Butler, Dice Felder, Christian Funk, Mollie Georg, Molly George, Brooklyn Overlease, Chris Riffle, Daisy Roberts, Dylan Schlegel, Heaven DeWald, Gunner Foos, Presley Wade, Jarret Shapland, Rowyn Juno, Josie Larson, Rylie Larson, Jayden Martinez, Reed Nichopor, Aiden Ochs-Lohrey, Izzy Petersilie, Brynlee Pfannenstiel, Denton Pfannenstiel, Daphne Rider, Hunter Riffle, Jamie Stos, Tenley Wittman

Stay Connected with Walnut Creek District 4-H 4-H Agent

Robyn Trussel
rdeines@ksu.edu
785-798-5020 cell
785-798-3921 Ness Office
785-222-2710 Rush Office
620-397-2806 Lane Office

4-H Online Enrollment System -v2.4honline.com
Broadcast emails will come from 4-H Online or Reg Max

Facebook:

Ask to join Walnut Creek District 4-H Facebook group for pictures and upcoming dates.
Follow Walnut Creek Extension District Facebook Page
Follow Kansas 4-H Facebook Page

Website information:

check the <https://www.walnutcreek.k-state.edu> website for upcoming events and information.
www.kansas4-h.org for all Kansas 4-H information
www.ksre.k-state.edu for all KState Extension information.



Summer Intern and Summer Assistant

Walnut Creek Extension will be hiring 2 summer positions to help with 4-H Programming and Office assistant to prep for all things Extension and County Fair. IF you know someone that is looking for a summer job. Please have them contact Robyn at 785-798-5020. The Official Job Positions Announcements will come out soon. Must be 18 years of age. Pay is negotiable at \$12-\$14 per hour. If you have questions, please ask.

4-H Scholarships

Lane County Senior 4-H Scholarship is due April 1st and Rush County Eugene Littler Scholarship is due April 15th. These applications can be found at <https://www.walnutcreek.k-state.edu/4-h/teen-opportunities.html>



Spring Break Project Opportunities



Monday
March 16

9:00am - 12:30pm Sewing with Berny in LaCrosse - Rush Co Extension Office
All supplies are provided, \$3.00/person
1:00 to 3:00pm Building Blocks Engineering with Tia and William -
Rush Co Extension Office – No Charge

Tuesday
March 17

9:00am to noon Wild about Wildlife - Ness Co Fairgrounds
No Charge
1:00 to 5:00pm Fun with Foods Ness Co Fairgrounds
Cost \$7.00 each

Wednesday
March 18

9:00am to Noon Fun with Foods Lane Co Fairgrounds
Cost \$7.00 each
1:00pm to 5:00pm Rocketry - Lane Co Fairgrounds
Cost \$ 18.00

Thursday
March 19

10:00am to noon Rush Photography - Rush Co Extension Office
Please bring a SD Card with you
2:00 to 4:00pm Ness Photography - Ness Co Fairgrounds
Please bring a SD Card with you

Friday
March 20

10:00am to 3:00pm Ness Co Fair Grounds
Visual Arts and Fiber Arts
There will be several projects to accomplish throughout the day
\$10 for the day bring a sack lunch.

All classes open to all youth 4-H and Non 4-H participants, from Lane, Ness or Rush Counties.
Call Lane 620-597-2806, Ness 785-798-5921 or Rush 785-222-2710 to Register by March 11th.



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2025-2026 WCD 4-H Family Calendar of Focus

This list is of approximate dates of important 4-H events, these dates are subject to change. Please watch emails and Facebook posts for the most current and up to date information.

OCTOBER

- 1 NEW 4-H YEAR Begins – Open Enrollment
- 4 4-H on the 4th
- 5-11 National 4-H Week
- 5 4-H Sunday
- 6 Lane County 4-H Council
- 11-12 48 Hours of 4-H
- 13 Rush 4-H Junior Leaders/ Council
- 21-23 Annual Conference for Agents



NOVEMBER

- 1 Rush Achievement 6:00pm LaCrosse
- 1 ALL 4-H Re-Enrollment DUE
- 2 Lane Achievement Ceremony 5:30pm
- 8 District Officers Training
- 8 Live Well, Lead Well, Garden City
- 10 Rush Community Leaders
- 11 Veterans Day Holiday
- 17 Ness 4-H Council
- 19 Lane New Family Orientation
- 21 Donnis' Retirement Party
- 22-23 Kansas Leadership Weekend
- 24 WCED Board Meeting
- 26 Rush New Family Orientation
- 27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 29-30 Lane Christmas Tree Sales

DECEMBER

- 1 Monday Fun Day Dighton
- 1 Lane Co 4-H Council
- 2 Ness New Family Orientation
- 4 4-H on the 4th Be Creative and Share your art project with LTC residents
- 6 Ness Community Christmas
- 22 RH 4-H Council, 7pm Zoom
- 24- Jan2 Christmas/New Year's break
- TBA Project Talk & Demo Training
- Project Focus: Photography



JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day Holiday, Office Closed
- 4 4-H on the 4th Family Board Game Time
- 5 Lane 4-H Council
- 9 Record Books Due for NW Area
- 12 RH Community Leaders Meeting
- 13 NW/ SW Record Book Judging
- 19 Martin Luther King Day Office Closed
- 23 State 4-H Horse Judging, Topeka
- 30-1 4-H Dog Judge and Leader Training, Salina
- Project Focus: Foods & Nutrition and Visual Arts



FEBRUARY

- 2 Lane Monday Funday/ Lane 4-H Council
- 4 4-H on the 4th For the Love of Ag
- 9 Rush 4-H Council
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day
- 15-16 Citizenship in Action, Topeka
- 17 Ness 4-H Council
- 21 District 4-H Club Days, Ness City
- 21-22 4-H Horse Panorama
- Project Focus: Beef, Fiber Arts
- Order Bulk Rockets for District



MARCH

- 2 Lane County Monday Funday and 4-H Council
- 4 4-H on the 4th Horticulture Fun
- 7 Regional Club Days, Dodge City
- 9 Rush Community leaders
- 14 St Patrick's Day Parade in Rush Center
- 15 Lane Beef Weigh in
- 21 Super Saturday Judging Event, Hays
- 19 Ness Beef Weigh in
- 22 Rush Beef Weigh in
- Project Focus: Horse and leadership



APRIL

- 3 Good Friday, Office Closed
- 4 4H on the 4th Family Time
- 5 Easter
- 6 Lane County Monday Funday & 4-H Council
- 13 Rush County 4-H Council
- 18 Spring State Shooting Sports, Great Bend
- 20 Ness 4-H Council
- 20-26 National Volunteer Week
- 22 Earth Day
- 25 Spring into Volunteering, Salina
- 28-29 Youth Entrepreneurship, Manhattan
- 26 Ness & Lane Small Animal Weigh-in
- Project Focus: Lawn Mower/ Babysitting/ Bicycle Safety



JULY

- 4 4-H on the 4th Family Time Preparing for Fair
- 6 Lane County 4-H Council
- 13 Rush Community Leaders
- 13 Lane Clothing Judging
- 15-18 Lane County Fair
- 20 Ness Clothing and Photography Judging
- 22-25 Ness County Fair
- 27 Rush Clothing, Fiber Arts, Photography Judging
- 29-Aug 1 Rush County Fair



AUGUST

- TBA Livestock Sweepstakes, Manhattan
- 1 Rush County Fair
- 3 Lane County 4-H Council
- 4 4-H on the 4th Pool Party
- 10 Rush 4-H Council
- 15 Lane Thank You Letters Due
- 15 State Horticulture Judging Contest, Manhattan
- 17 Ness County 4-H Council
- 22-23 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes, Manhattan



THANK YOU!

SEPTEMBER

- 4 4-H on the 4th
- 7 Labor Day, Office Closed
- 8 Ness Thank You Letters Due
- 11-20 Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson
- 14 Rush County Community leaders
- 30 Record Books Due, Rush Thank You's due



JUNE

- TBA Camp Dates
- 1 Horse ID Papers Due
- 1 Lane County 4-H Council
- 3-5 Discovery Days in Manhattan
- 4 4H on the 4th Daycamp
- 8 Rush 4-H Council
- 12-14 State Geology Trip
- 15 Ness 4-H Council
- 19 Juneteenth Office Closed
- 19-20 Insect Spectacular, Yates Center
- 21 Father's Day



Make



Grow



Serve



Thrive



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