

# WALNUT CREEK DISTRICT 4-H NEWSLETTER



Stay connected, To Make the Best Better!



785-798-5020



rdeines@ksu.edu



www.walnutcreek.ksu.edu



## Member Spotlight

Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors, we are super proud of all of YOU! See the Senior Spotlight Page for more information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### May

- 11: Rush Community Leaders moved to May 20<sup>th</sup>!
- 13 Thriller, Filler & Spiller - Bison
- 17 Ness Gradatim Trail Cleanup
- 20 Rush Judging Extravaganza
- 21-27 Robyn Gone, Please Call the Office
- 28 Rush Babysitting Clinic
- 30 Building Blocks Rush

### JUNE

- 1 Ness Babysitting Clinic
- 2-4 Rush Sr Award Trip
- 3-5 Discovery Days
- 10-12 4 Clover Camp
- 15-17 Ag Experience Trip
- 18-19 Cedar Bluff Overnight
- 19-20 Insect Spectacular
- 23-25 Leadership 101 Camp
- June 25 4-H Program at OB Lib.

## Learning Together, Growing Stronger

This issue is packed full of learning opportunities, as we transfer from School to Summer Break the adventures just keep coming. Mark your calendars and make sure you have checked all the boxes on your Membership in Good Standing Form.

- Senior Spot Lights - Congratulations to our Senior 4-H Members.
- KSF Communication Opportunities
- Families needed for Japanese Hosts
- County Fair Dates and Themes
- Horse Project Information
- Tractor Safety Operators Course
- County Fair Rule Updates – IMPORTANT
- 4-H Foods Rule for Frosting
- Project Resources and Ideas
- Thriller, Filler and Spiller
- Clover Connection Article
- Community Service Thank You
- Insect Spectacular
- Vet Med Camp
- Babysitting Clinics
- Camp Flyers
- 4 Clover Camp
- Cedar Bluff Overnight
- Leadership 101 Camp
- Clover Connection
- Volunteers

### Message from Robyn

I love camping season, who is ready to take on the camping season with me? Sign ups are coming up soon. Discovery Days, Camp Counselors, 4Clover Camp, Leadership 101 Camp, and Cedar Bluff Overnight. Pack your bags and Get Registered.



# WCD 4-H SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS



**Trenton Skillett**, LaCrosse High School  
Plans to attend FHSU  
Study Constuction Management



**Ashlynn Hoover**, LaCrosse High School  
Plans to attend Colby Community College  
Study Elementary Education



**Kelsi Maier**, Hoisington High School  
Plans to attend Hutchinson Community College  
Study Agribusiness and Play Volleyball



**Tavish Tracy**, Otis-Bison High School  
Plans to attend FHSU Tech NC  
Study Construction Technology



**Ethan Petersilie**, LaCrosse High School  
Plans to attend Hutchinson Community College  
Study Farm Business Management



**Luke Krehbiel**, Larned High School  
Plans to attend FHSU  
Study Agribusiness



**Emma Petersilie**, Ness City High School  
Plans to attend Garden City Community College  
Study Music Education, & Student Ambassador



**Grace Smith**, Otis-Bison High School  
Plans to attend FHSU Tech NC  
Study General Business



**Payton Reeve**, Otis-Bison High School  
Plans to attend FHSU  
Study Criminal Justice



**Chris Roberts**, Dighton High School  
Plans to attend FHSU Tech NC  
Study Information Technology



## Learning Opportunities:

### Communication Opportunities at the State Fair and 2026 Public Speaking Topic

Remember that 4-H Members ages 9 and older who participated in 4-H Day and received a Purple or Top Blue ribbons 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; however, regardless of the topic used locally, 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?" More information can be found in the 2026 State Fair Book.



**Volunteers  
needed**

## Volunteers:

How can you help our program GROW! We are down to crunch time before County Fair hits. If you have a project skill or talent, how about you share it with our 4-H Youth for 1 hour and help them brainstorm a County Fair Project that they can exhibit and learn from.



### Twelve Kansas Families Needed for Hosting Japanese Delegates!

Summer is getting closer ... have you thought about hosting a Japan delegate this summer for something distinctly different than past summers? It could be an exciting adventure for the family. Take the chance this summer and make memories for a lifetime. Kansas 4-H needs 12 Host Families for 7 girls and 5 boys ages 12 to 18 from Japan. Kansas families are needed to host delegates from July 23 to August 15. Yes, that might be through the county fair, but the Japanese youth would love participating in and learning from the fair activities. Some past delegates have shown hogs and sheep, exhibited foods, and arts and crafts. It's a dream come true for the delegates during their school break.

Any Kansas family (4-H Family or non-4-H Family) with children aged 9-17 who are interested in hosting someone from another culture may apply. A separate bed is required, but not necessarily a separate room from the host sibling. Delegates are 100 percent medically covered with 4-H insurance and bring their own spending money for souvenirs. The delegates can go on host family vacations, camping trips, or join their host sibling for summer camps and the county fair. The focus is on everyday family life.

# Learning Opportunities:



## Horse Project Information

Remember all Horse ID papers need to be turned into our office by June 1 for our signature. It is available on our website under 4-H. To be eligible to show at the State Fair you can qualify at other shows—including our County Fair Show by completing an affidavit.

4-H Horse Project members wishing to compete at the Kansas State Fair 4-H Horse Show must complete the Horse Safety Webinar and pass the quiz in addition to other requirements. The webinar and quiz are available on the Kansas 4-H Equine Webinar page. They must be completed prior to the entry deadline (August 1).

Additional requirements can be found on the Horse Project Page at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/animal-science/horse/>.

**Coggins Testing:** All exhibits in the County Fair and State Fair 4-H Horse Show must present proof of negative Coggins test within the last 12 months at check-in. Please check out the Kansas 4-H Horse Shows and Clinics page for horse project shows and clinics to assist you throughout the coming 4-H program year.

## Tractor Safety Operator's Course



There will be a Multi-County Tractor Safety Operator's Course on Wednesday, May 27, at the Gray County Fairgrounds, 17002 W. Highway 50, Cimarron, KS. Cost is \$20 for the class, meal and handouts. Must pre-register by May 20 to the Ford County Extension Office. More information can be found on this [DOCUMENT](#)



## Building Blocks Engineering Class

Come join Tia and William McClure at the Rush Co Extension Office on Saturday, May 30 from 10:00am to noon and learn the tips and tricks to Building Blocks Engineering



## 4-H Foods Rule for Frostings & Fillings at the County & State Fair

Remember for food safety purposes, any entries with frostings and fillings must calculate the amount of sugar in the frosting/filling recipe only. Calculation must be attached to entry, or the placing will be lowered one ribbon when judged. Frosting and fillings need to contain more than 65% sugar for safety. Examples on how to calculate this percentage are included in the publication [MF3544](#) and the worksheet is [4H1171](#).

## Project Resources and Ideas

Are you trying to figure out what you can do in your 4-H project (s)? Check out the K-State Extension's 4-H Youth Development website—<https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/> for help. On the left will be listed the major project area, but click on any and you will see all the subject areas covered. Each individual project then will have additional categories in the center of the page —

Things to Learn and Do

Project Materials

Awards and Recognition

Events and Activities

Next Steps—Career Exploration

Below these categories are boxes that you can also click on for additional resources — 4-H Clover Classroom and Calendar of Events. The Kansas Clover Classroom has publications for some individual projects which have additional information and activities which will enhance the learning, leadership and community service within each project area. There are project challenges for many projects but not all. These are still being developed.

# Learning Opportunities:

## Thriller, Filler and Spiller!!!!

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



When: May 13<sup>th</sup>, 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

## Are you a beginner to the 4-H Rabbit Project?

Register for the upcoming beginner rabbits showmanship webinar, being taught by our own Daphne Rider.

The webinar will be Monday, May 11th at 7pm via zoom (register to receive the zoom link) at

<https://ksu.zoom.us/meeting/register/nRo28KVNSWuR7Yfr>

VJEdQ



## The 4-H Geology State Field Trip

The State Geology Trip is scheduled for June 12-14 in Parsons, Ks. Registration Deadline is May 15! To Register:

<https://cvent.me/3owkLQ>

Every family member who attends the trip must register. This trip will focus on the Tri State Mining District, the Southeast Coal Mining Area and the Silver City Dome Mining Area. Specimens collected will be from the Pennsylvanian and Mississippian age rocks of the Cherokee Lowlands and the Osage Cuestas! The group will also stop to see Big Brutus on Saturday. Get registered today and join us for educational fun in June!

## Insect Spectacular

🐞 Beetles, 🐝 bugs, 🦋 butterflies, and more! It's time to get registered for the 34th Insect Spectacular. This is a two day event and a parent/guardian is required to attend with their 4-H youth.

All pertinent information about this event is available on the front page of registration. Register Here:

<https://cvent.me/4oL0D4>



## Vet Med Camp

🐾🎓 VetMed Rocks + Scholarships for 4-H Youth! 🎓🐾

Thanks to a generous Bill House Ag Grant through the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas, scholarships are available for 4-H'ers to attend K-State College of Veterinary Medicine's VetMed Rocks Summer Camps! These exciting one-day camps are perfect for youth who love animals and want to explore veterinary science 🧐🐾🐶🐱

📅 Camp Dates:

🐎 Monday, July 27 – High School (entering grades 9–12) & College

🐾 Tuesday, July 28 – Middle School (entering grades 6–8)

🐕 Wednesday, July 29 – Grade School (entering grades 3–5)

🌟 Don't miss this hands-on opportunity to learn, explore careers, and ROCK Vet Med at K-State!

📢 4-H members enrolled in the Veterinary Science project are eligible for scholarships! Reach out to [klnoydyke@ksu.edu](mailto:klnoydyke@ksu.edu) for the scholarship link.

## Rush Co Notice:

**Schedule Change for the 2026 Fair. Monday Judging will include Foods, Photography, Sewing and Textiles and Shopping in Style. Fiber Arts will be judged on Wednesday at the fairgrounds.**

### 4-H Visual Arts

Explanation of “Kit”. Any art project that comes pre-packaged or boxed as a “kit” is not an allowable project.

While utilizing projects kits can help build skills, the work needs to be original to the 4-H member. Examples include: Paint by number, diamond art kits, string art, etc. Exception: leather project kits, due to the nature of pre-cut leather are allowed.

### 4-H Photography

**NO writing on the back of the photo mat board.** Mat board is available for purchase from the Extension Office for \$1.50. Clear photo sleeves are available for purchase for \$.25. (do NOT seal the photo sleeve when you bring them to judging). A photo ID strip will be used on the bottom of the photo. ID strip should be carefully taped to the bottom edge of the photo mat board. A full sheet of the ID strips will be in your fair packet.

4-H TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING PROJECT MEMBERS PLEASE READ THE “SUPPLEMENT TO THE FAIR BOOK” WITH FURTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR STATE FAIR EXHIBIT THAT IS POSTED ON OUR [WWW.WALNUTCREEK.KSU.EDU](http://WWW.WALNUTCREEK.KSU.EDU) WEBSITE.

PLAN AHEAD --SEVERAL EXHIBITS REQUIRE PAPERWORK TO BE BROUGHT TO THE FAIR IN A 10” X 13” MANILA ENVELOPE.

**Make sure you have checked your Membership in Good Standing Form. Are you good to participate in the County Fair events?**

## Babysitting Course

# Do you have what it takes to be a Babysitter?

Rush Co. Extension Office Thursday, May 28th

9am to 2pm OR

Ness Co. Fairgrounds - Monday June 1st

9am to 2pm

Cost: \$15.00

Basic First Aid

Simple meal prep & snacks

Fun activities & playtime

Be a trustworthy sitter

## Learn the responsibilities of babysitting

Caring for your little ones as if they were your own!

Call Rush 785-222-2710 or Ness 785-798-3921 by May 20<sup>th</sup> to register.

K-State 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. Language access requests and 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 Robyn Trussel four weeks prior to the start of the event May 1st, 2026 at 785-798-3921 or rtrussel@ksu.edu. 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.



## UNITED WE CAMP

CELEBRATING FREEDOM & THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Who: 4-H and Non-4-H Youth 7-10 year of age  
Limit 45 campers  
Counselors: 13 and older

What: United We Camp - where youth will learn social skills, healthy living, enhance creativity and build friendships  
When: Thursday June 18th 1:00pm to Friday June 19th 1:00pm  
Where: Cedar Bluff State Park, North side Overland Dispatch Campground Shelter House  
Cost: \$30.00 - includes 3 meals, 2 snacks, and activity supplies, tents if needed, t-shirts and counselor expenses.  
Make Checks Payable to Gove County 4-H Council  
Registration Due by June 1

Sponsored by: Golden Prairie District (Gove, Logan and Trego Counties)  
Walnut Creek District (Lane, Ness and Rush Counties)  
Northwest 4-H Advisory Dane G. Hansen 4-H Daycamp Grant



Cedar Bluff Overnight Camp strives to be all inclusive of youth. Safety of our participants is of utmost importance to us. Therefore, if your child works under an IEP (Individual Education Plan) during the school year, for any reason emotional, social, behavioral or physical and/or requires one on one attention, we ask that you share this information with your local extension staff prior to sending them to camp. This will allow us to come up with a plan of action that is best for your child and the entire camp group. K-State Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Robyn Trussel at 785-798-3921 or rtrussel@ksu.edu two weeks prior to the event

# 4-H MYSTERY QUEST

## AT 4 CLOVER CAMP

WHO: 4-H Members 7 to 10 years of age  
Counselors 14-18 years of age

WHAT: Overnight 4-H Camp where youth will learn social skills, healthy living, enhance creativity and build friendships

WHEN: June 10-12. Starting at 11:00am Wednesday and ending at 12:50 pm Friday




WHERE: Dodge City Community College

COST: \$115 per camper, includes housing, 7 meals, 3 snacks, educational activities, recreational activities, and nurse supervision.

REGISTRATION DUE: Friday, May 22nd to your local Extension Office

**BLAKE STANLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:** Six \$50 scholarships will be provided to youth who complete a 250 word essay (included with registration) that explains why they want to come to camp and could use some financial assistance.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:  
The Mystery of Science  
Animal Science  
What's in the BIG Black Bags?  
I Spy Bottles  
Wild About Wildlife  
Scavenger Hunt and Games  
Fishing  
Swimming at the Long Branch Lagoon  
For Questions, Comments or Concerns talk to your Local Extension Agents



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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.



## 4-H YOUTH LEADERSHIP 101

11639 Garnett Road, Wright Kansas  
Ford County Lake

Who: 4-H members 11-13 years of age  
What: Foundations of Leadership  
Fishing, Archery, Outdoor Cooking, Swimming, Campfire and Camp Songs  
Cost: \$60 - dorms, meals and activity supplies  
For more information contact sponsors  
Gray County Extension 620-855-3821  
Walnut Creek District 785-798-3921

**JOIN US**  
June 23-25, 2026

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Extension

Registration Deadline June 1st

Sponsored by Gray County and Walnut Creek District Extension Units  
K-State University Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. K-State University Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer

# Congratulations

Congratulations... You are seeing it here first, Kelsi Maier, Tavish Tracy, Ethan Petersilie and Grace Smith all will be honored with the Eugene Littler 4-H Scholarship in the amount of \$2000. Tavish Tracy also was awarded the Nathan Carroll Memorial 4-H Scholarship for \$800.



## 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](mailto:rdeines@ksu.edu).

## Who needs YQCA?

Canyon Foos, Dustin Johnson, Makenna Miller, Casen Pfannenstiel, Maya Detherage, Henry Georg, Amelia Sehl-Anderson, Chris Seltman, Phillip Peteler, Dice Felder, Mollie Georg, Heaven DeWald, Jayden Martinez, Reed Nichepor, Aiden Ochs-Lohrey, Izzy Petersilie, Denton Pfannenstiel, Jamie Stos, Tenley Wittman

June 8<sup>th</sup> Rush 10:00am Extension Office

June 9<sup>th</sup> Lane 10:00am Community Room

June 11<sup>th</sup> Ness 10:00am Fairgrounds

## 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, Please DOUBLE CHECK your t-shirt size in 4-H Online so we can get our orders placed soon.

## Stay Connected with Walnut Creek District 4-H

### 4-H Agent

Robyn Trussel

[rdeines@ksu.edu](mailto: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](http://www.kansas4-h.org) for all Kansas 4-H information

[www.ksre.k-state.edu](http://www.ksre.k-state.edu) for all K-State Extension information.

## Community Service for Foods Members

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You to Molly George, Mollie, Deke and Henry Georg, Dice & Drew Felder and James and Jacque Littler for your donations to the KAE4HA Spring Meeting Snacks, they were much appreciated!



APRIL

- 3 Good Friday, Office Closed
- 4 4H on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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



MAY

- 1 Last Day to ADD/DROP Projects, Camp Counselor Apps Due
- 2 Rush Small Animal Weigh-in
- 4 4H on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wild over 4-H
- 4 Lane 4-H Council
- 10 Mother's Day
- 11 Rush Community Leaders moved to the 20th!
- 18 Ness 4-H Council
- 25 Memorial Day Office Closed
- Project Focus: Shopping in Style, Building Blocks Engineering

SEPTEMBER

- 4 4-H on the 4<sup>th</sup>
- 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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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