

Clover Connection

Chisholm Trail District - Dickinson County
4-H Youth Development News & Updates
Late September - November 2025



Beyond Ready

Thank You!

Thank you to all the fair superintendents, assistant superintendents, board members, junior leaders, parents, volunteers, and 4-Hers who worked to make the Central Kansas Free Fair a fantastic community experience!
~Extension Office Staff

Thank You Notes

If you haven't already, please take the time to write a note expressing your thanks to those who supported you during the fair and throughout this 4-H year. 4-H volunteers and sponsors are essential to our success and we need to remember to thank them for their work!

Need ideas on what to write? Thank them for sponsoring the award, tell them about yourself and your project as well as what you enjoy about 4-H!

- Award sponsor postcards were attached to your check or completed at the fair (if it was a cash award). Call us if you aren't sure who to thank!



CKFF Photos

Photos taken during CKFF by the county fair committee will be available at the following link for a limited time. Check them out and help yourself! <https://bit.ly/2025ckffphotos>

Deadline Reminders

October 1st

- Kansas 4-H Project Report Forms ***nominated by club leaders to be judged***
- Achievement Pin Applications
- Club Summary Reports
- Club Officer Books
- Club Completion Sheet
- Club Financial Report
- Nominations for Friend of 4-H Awards
- Project Leader Awards Nominations
- Outstanding 4-Her Nominations
- 4-H Family of the Year Nominations



****Please check with your club leaders about their due dates for record books and award applications!**

4-H Council Committees

If you want to take advantage of having a voice in the county 4-H program, **sign up online at** <https://tinyurl.com/CtyCmtee> **by November 1** to serve on a 4-H Council committee. You will need to indicate a **1st and 2nd choice** as well as if you would like to serve as a committee chair. Adult advisors are also needed for each committee.

National 4-H Week

Celebrate **National 4-H Week, October 5-11, 2025.**

- Mon., October 6 = Beyond Ready: Go Green Day! And show your 4-H spirit! (wear green)
- Thurs., October 9 = 4-H for Good Day – Help shine a light on all the good that 4-H does! Recognize what 4-H has done for you and thank those that support us

Look [here](#) for more information about National 4-H Week 2025 and the Beyond Ready campaign.

Dickinson County 4-H Week Proclamation Signing

Dickinson County 4-Hers and their families are invited to attend the signing of a proclamation declaring Dickinson County 4-H Week, coinciding with National 4-H Week. The proclamation will be signed during the county commission's regular meeting on **Thursday, October 2, at 11:00 a.m.** **Since many of our members won't be able to attend because of school, notes of thanks to the county commissioners for their support of Dickinson County 4-H and their acknowledgement of Dickinson County 4-H Week may be sent to commission@dkcoks.gov.**

Recording Radio Spots for National 4-H Week

Radio spots to be run during National 4-H Week will be recorded on **Wednesday, October 1, starting at 3:30 PM** at the KABI studio in Abilene (200 N Broadway). **Must arrive prior to 4:00 PM to participate.** Participants may be any age but will need to be comfortable reading a 30 second spot fluently. Contact our office prior if you'd like to participate!

Recognition and Awards Judging

Awards and Recognition Committee will have four weeks scheduled to accomplish award judging. Books will be available in the office for judging every day **9 AM – 5 PM, October 7 – October 31.** Evening judging times are listed below. **Every club needs to be represented for significant amounts of time to accomplish the work;** times are come and go as needed. We will be judging senior books for Marion County first and then our county awards. If each club could find additional volunteers to help judge, the process would go more quickly. Please make sure the Extension Office knows who is judging from your club so everyone is aware of the judging dates. All meetings will be at our office with snacks provided.

Extended Hours On:

Thursday, October 9	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 15	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Monday, October 20	5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

District Club Officer Training

District 4-H club officer training is scheduled for **Monday, October 27**, at the **Emmanuel Church in Abilene**. All club officers and organizational leaders as well as Cloverbud leaders and new family mentors should mark this on their calendars and plan to attend. Registration will begin at **6:45 p.m.** with training starting at **7 p.m.** If you are unable to attend in person, officers may choose to complete the scavenger hunt worksheet utilizing our **4-H officer training videos**, the **Chisholm Trail District website**, and **Kansas 4-H**. The worksheet may be found on our **4-H events page**. Completed worksheets must be emailed to Jill (martinso@ksu.edu) by **December 1** to count toward your club's seal.

48 Hours of 4-H

Join us this fall in seeing just how much we can give back to our communities! 48 Hours of 4-H will be **October 11-12, 2025**. Invite your friends, clubs, adult volunteers and 4-H alums too! Find all the information and start planning your projects at <http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/48-hours-of-4-h/>. Projects may be completed anytime throughout the month of October. **SQUAD members have discussed special projects that could be accomplished by their clubs during the month.**

**48 Hours of 4-H at Rock Springs**

Rock Springs 4-H Ranch could use your help on **Saturday, October 11, starting at 8 AM**. There's a wide variety of tasks that need done. RSVP today at <https://forms.gle/famBKW9VaetdecEy8>

SQUAD Meeting

When: **Monday, October 27, 8:00 PM**

Where: Emmanuel Church

What: Judge 4-H coloring contest entries, check-in about club 48 Hours of 4-H projects

Enrollment Information

Re-enrollment will be done through 4HOnline (ks.4honline.com) starting **October 1**. Instructions and link to ks.4Honline.com may be found at: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-online/index.html> We will have a coupon code to pay the member fee. Until that code is issued, please mark **WILL SEND CHECK** and our office will add the coupon code when we approve enrollments. This year the Kansas 4-H program fee is being covered by the Dickinson County 4-H Foundation for ALL Dickinson County 4-H members. Notes of thanks should be sent to:

Dickinson County 4-H Foundation
712 S Buckeye Ave
Abilene, KS 67410

To Know About Enrollment in 4HOnline: What Is the Publicity Release?

When families enroll in 4-H Online, they are asked to agree (or not agree) to a **publicity release**. This release gives permission for the use of a member's name, image, and likeness by:

- Local Extension Units
- Kansas State University (including the State 4-H Office)
- The Kansas 4-H Foundation

This includes use in photos, videos, social media, websites, press releases, and more. If a family selects "I Do Not Agree," their child's name and image cannot be used. Some examples include:

- Kansas State Fair & County Fair entry cards, schedules, or results
- Local or state contests
- Social media posts
- News articles or promotional materials

Additional Consent Questions

To provide more clarity, families are asked to give specific permission for:

- First and last name
- Extension unit
- 4-H club or town name
- Media (photos, video, audio, etc.)
- Print-only media
- Social media
- County fair-related publicity

These responses override the general publicity release and help guide what can or cannot be shared publicly.

Please review these items carefully when enrolling to make sure they represent your intention. Please contact Jill with any questions at 785-263-2001 or martinso@ksu.edu.

Kansas 4-H Participant Code of Conduct and Volunteer Code of Ethics

As you enroll for the new 4-H year, please take time to note the participant code of conduct and volunteer code of ethics. These documents may be found at: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/policy-guide/index.html>

Kansas 4-H Accidental Insurance

Kansas 4-H will continue to provide accidental insurance under a statewide group activity accident policy for 4-H members and volunteers through American Income Life. This benefit is provided through the \$15 annual state program fee. This policy covers members and volunteers enrolled in 4HOnline, so please make sure you are re-enrolled (or enrolled) for the new 4-H year!

Volunteer Screening Process

Our 4-H program relies on volunteers to accomplish our Positive Youth Development goals. As a part of our commitment to these goals is the desire to provide a safe environment for learning. To help accomplish this, Kansas 4-H screens volunteers who work directly with youth. As a potential or current volunteer, we ask you to complete the screening process. This process will be accomplished through 4HOnline. As you set up your profile after October 1st, the system will take you through the volunteer screening process. If it's your first time applying, please complete the [Outside Background Check](#) and contact Jill for a new volunteer interview. Additional details on our [volunteer page](#).

NOTE: once completed initially, the outside background check only needs to be completed every three years and can be accomplished by letting our office know to re-submit your information.

Online Volunteer Orientation

The Volunteer Orientation needs to be completed by everyone applying to be a 4-H volunteer. It only needs to be done one time. **You will need to be enrolled as an individual in your family's 4HOnline account to access the training.** Instructions are available at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-online/index.html>. The course consists of video modules and quizzes. Please let our office know when you have completed the orientation.

Kansas State Fair Results

Check out the [Kansas State Fair Results LIVE link](#) at to see a list of Dickinson County results. Congratulations to all participants, you represented us well!

Kansas State Fair Judging Teams

Livestock Judging was held in Manhattan on Saturday, August 23.

Our senior team included Layla Pickerign, Carleigh Abeldt, Addison Acheson, and Dally Emig. Members of the intermediate team were Kinsey Acheson, Cohen Abeldt, Colten Abeldt and Anna Holt. We also had individuals competing including Rylee Thomas, Steven Bogart, and Emil Pickerign. A thank you and congrats goes out to these 4-Hers and to Nick Acheson and Josh Abeldt for serving as the team coaches.



Livestock Skillathon was also held in Manhattan on Saturday, August 23. We were represented by two teams including Dally Emig, Eyler Holt, Anna Holt, Layla Pickerign, Steven Bogart, Lorelai Kuntz, Roper Lefert, Reatta Lefert, Cohen Abeldt, and Cash Emig. Congrats to these 4-Hers and thank you to Jo Emig and Angela Holt for serving team coaches.

Meats Judging was held in Manhattan on Saturday, August 23. We were represented by Eyler Holt, Cash Emig, and Anna Holt. Kudos to these 4-Hers for taking on the challenge to try something new!

Horticulture Judging was held in Manhattan on Saturday, August 16. Our intermediate contestant was Grace Hanback who placed 6th in the contest. Special thanks to our horticulture judging coach, Jessica Murphy. Congratulations, Grace!

Photography Judging was held on Sunday, September 7, at the Kansas State Fair. Senior team members included Claire Rock, Connor Overturf, Eyler Holt, and Kaylee Livingston. Representing Dickinson County in the intermediate division was Grace Lefert, Lorelai Kuntz, Roper Lefert, and Dyllen Hemmy. Congratulations! Special thanks to Angela Holt for serving as the adult sponsor.

November 4-H Council

When: **Monday, November 24, 7 PM, Officers to meet at 6 PM**

Where: Sterl Hall

What: Set-up for the Achievement Celebration, bi-monthly meeting, and creation of thank you cookie boxes.

Each council representative (2 adults/2 youth per club) needs to bring at least three dozen homemade cookies for cookie boxes.

Kansas 4-H Leadership Weekend

The Kansas 4-H Leadership Weekend will be **November 22-23** at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch and consists of the [Kansas Youth Leadership Forum](#) and the [Kansas 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum](#).

KYLF is for youth ages 14-18 before January 1, 2026, and KVF is for all Kansas 4-H Volunteers. KYLF will feature leadership workshops, Youth Council Elections, and opportunities to learn and have fun. The Kansas 4-H Volunteer Leader Forum will feature workshops and information to help volunteers be more effective and learn from each other. The Kansas Association of 4-H Volunteers organizes this Forum for adults.

Participants in both forums will register through the same system. Registration deadline is **October 15, 2025, for both events**. Draft agendas and prices are on the websites linked above. ***The Dickinson County 4-H Foundation provides 50% scholarships for DK 4-H members and registered volunteers.***

International Travel Opportunities

Travel opportunities for Kansas 4-Hers are detailed on the [Global Citizenship website](#). Applications for travel are due **November 1 with a required interview and first orientation on November 23, 2025**. Current destinations include Japan, Costa Rica, Taiwan, South Korea, and Argentina, as well as additional sites available through IFYE USA. Host families are needed this coming summer for 4-Hers from Japan and Taiwan. Chaperone applications from adults 21 and older are also welcome!

Standards for Participation in Kansas FFA and 4-H Youth Development Educational Opportunities

The purpose of the standards outlined below are to assist in determining eligible participation in FFA and/or 4-H Youth Development learning experiences. Both 4-H and Agriculture Education/FFA promote teaching youth life skills. Each program exists to maximize the participants' knowledge of agriculture and its value to our communities while educating the young people to become productive citizens. Eligible youth may participate in both 4-H and FFA but should avoid duplication. The following standards of participation are used in delivering the 4-H and FFA programs in Kansas.

- 1. Agriculture Education teachers, FFA Advisors, Extension staff and local volunteers are encouraged to cooperate in sharing information and resources to provide educational opportunities for youth.
- 2. When young people are members of both 4-H and FFA, they must plan and manage separate projects, and/or supervised agriculture experiences (SAE) programs.
- 3. FFA and 4-H members may enroll in the same area of experience in 4-H and FFA, however; participants cannot identify, nominate, manage, keep records on, or exhibit the same plants, animals, etc. in both organizations. Members must designate exhibits as either FFA or 4-H at weigh-in, registration or similar deadline.
- 4. Members may participate in judging contests and related events in FFA and 4-H but cannot represent both organizations at a contest, show or event at the same time.
- 5. When 4-H and FFA are conducting collaborating activities, both the 4-H and FFA organizations must be represented through emblems and information on all signs, print materials and awards.
- 6. Collaborating FFA and 4-H activities or events are obligated to have supervision representation from both organizations.

The standards are in agreement with Kansas 4-H and FFA and hereby affirmed by members and professionals in order to participate in either educational program.

4-H Club New Family Mentors

In 4-H we “learn by doing” which can often cause new families to feel lost until they’ve experienced a 4-H event or activity. To help ease their anxiety and keep our new families engaged, clubs are encouraged to recruit an adult volunteer (who is not currently an organizational leader) to serve as a New Family Mentor. This individual will be responsible for checking in with new 4-H families and help them understand more about Dickinson County 4-H. Let us know who your club’s new family mentor is when you turn in your club leader list by **December 1!**

Thank you for CKFF Cattle Hauling

If you had cattle go on the truck following CKFF, that trucking was provided to you completely free of charge by Kenny Livingston Trucking. Please send a note letting the Livingston family know how much we appreciate their support at: Kenny Livingston Trucking, 1325 3300 Ave, Abilene, KS 67410

Cloverbud Meeting!

Put **Sunday, November 2, at 1:30 PM** on your calendar for the first Cloverbud meeting of the new 4-H year. Cloverbud members ages 5 & 6 may be enrolled starting October 1.

Cloverbud Information

Kansas State Research and Extension and 4-H Youth Development offers 4-H Cloverbuds, an educational program designed specifically for youth ages five and six. Children of this age have distinctive learning characteristics and developmental needs that are different from older youth who participate in 4-H. That is why the 4-H Cloverbud program is designed with specific educational objectives and policies focused on the 5- and 6-year-old child.

- 4-H Cloverbuds is activity-focused, rather than project-focused.
- The 4-H Cloverbud programming is cooperative, rather than competitive.
- 4-H Cloverbud exhibits can be showcased at fairs and public events, but a 4-H Cloverbud member may not participate as a competitive exhibitor in traditional 4-H events.
- A ratio of two adults to 12 4-H Cloverbud members (2:12) is required.
- 4-H Cloverbuds requires a safe environment.

If you haven’t already, start recruiting your club Cloverbud leader now!

**Save the Date! Heritage Center Old Fashioned Christmas**

Dickinson County 4-H clubs will again be invited to decorate Christmas trees for the Heritage Center Old Fashioned Christmas celebration scheduled for **Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6**. **NOTE** this is a shift from the usual Saturday/Sunday schedule will trees needing to be in place and decorated by Friday.

Radio Day

4-H Radio Day will be coming to club leaders via email and in club boxes ASAP. Remember that each club is expected to sell three ads and 4-Hers are needed to record promotional ads prior to and read ads live on the air that day.

Club Community Service Grants

The Dickinson County 4-H Foundation seeks to assist county 4-H clubs and project groups in funding worthwhile community service projects. Guidelines for acceptable projects include:

- * Project will have a positive impact on your community
 - * Project emphasizes 4-Hers giving back to their community
 - * Evidence in budget that the 4-H group is sharing in the total cost of the project through time, dollars, or both.
- Total grant dollars awarded will be dependent on the number and quality of applications received.

Completed applications are due in the Extension Office by **December 1**. Find the application on the [Dickinson County Forms and Applications](#) page.

95th Annual 4-H Achievement Celebration

Help the Dickinson County 4-H Foundation celebrate our 4-H members, volunteers, and community supporters at the Dickinson County 4-H Achievement Celebration on **Tuesday, November 25, 6:30 PM at Sterl Hall**. The catered dinner will begin promptly at 6:30 PM with awards to follow. All 4-H families, volunteers, and community supporters are invited to attend.

- RSVP by **November 15** at <https://bit.ly/achievementrsvp> or by calling our office at 785-263-2001. Clubs are asked to decorate their club tables using the same theme as the 2025 Central Kansas Free Fair, “Just a Small Town Throwdown”. Cash prizes will be paid to the top three.

Set-up for the celebration will be done by the county-wide achievement celebration committee and 4-H Council representatives starting at **7 PM on Monday, November 24**. The November 4-H Council meeting will follow set-up. Club tables will be available for decorating that evening until **9 PM**.

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 - * Evidence in budget that the 4-H group is sharing in the total cost of the project through time, dollars, or both.
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Shooting Sports Enrollment Deadline

Dickinson County has three certified instructors and a coordinator for Shooting Sports. This year we will be offering bb gun, air rifle, and shotgun. There will be a parent meeting **on October 23, 6:30 PM at the Armory**, so anyone wanting to participate will need to be enrolled in the project through 4HOnline before that time to be included.

Kansas 4-H Live Well Lead Well Workshops

Workshops that focus on preparing participants to be Beyond Ready by building Strong Minds, Active Hearts, Helping Hands, and Healthy Lives will be offered across the state in October and November. Look for more information at www.kansas4h.org.

- October 18 – 9:00 am to Noon – Hays (Engineering & Technology workshop in the afternoon)
- October 25 – 9:00 am to Noon – Manhattan (Engineering & Technology workshop in the afternoon)
- November 1 – 9:00 am to Noon – Wichita (Engineering & Technology workshop in the afternoon)
- November 8 – 9:00 am to Noon – Garden City

Livestock Citizenship Opportunity

Neighbor to Neighbor Abilene is a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals and families at any stage of adult life from life skills classes and free meals to travel assistance and educational programs. They have received a grant to help with meat processing costs and are looking for discounted or donated animals to stock their 24/7 food pantry and mobile food unit. Please contact them at 785-200-6750 or n2nabks@gmail.com for more information.

Looking Ahead

- Start thinking about your plans for participating in our district 4-H Day on **in February** by taking a look at past presentations from our [2021 Virtual 4-H Day](#).
- Get your club basketball teams organized, roster are due **February 1 with the tournament on March 14**.
- [Re-enroll in 4-H by December 1](#).

Looking for 4-H members interested in participating in Livestock Skillathon.

Skillathon is for all 4-H ages interested in learning about various livestock-related areas for beef, swine, sheep and goats. Includes breed identification, health and biosecurity, nutrition and feedstuffs, wholesale and retail meat identification, equipment identification and anatomy and physiology identification, along with practical application knowledge (gestation periods, etc.)

Owning or working with animals is not a requirement! This is a hands-on educational learning opportunity to help 4-Hers develop a comprehensive understanding of livestock production and management.

Our Skillathon group meets approximately 5 times per year where 4-Hers are given the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills needed to compete in a Skillathon Contest.

Participants may have the opportunity to participate in the Kansas Youth Livestock Sweepstakes in Manhattan in August. For more information, contact Angela Holt (andyandang@sbcglobal.net) or Jo Emig (emigkj07@gmail.com).



Beyond Ready



This institution 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 of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact Jill Martinson four weeks prior to the start of the event at 785-263-2001, martinso@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.

Kansas State University is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Jill D. Martinson

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