

ISSUE 15 • COVERING DECEMBER 2024

# 4-H UPDATES

Official Newsletter of Sumner County 4-H



## Happy Holidays!

We want to wish everyone a very Merry 4-H Christmas (yes we know its a little late)! During the holiday season our clubs took the opportunity to spread holiday cheer across Sumner County. We are so glad that our clubs live out the 4-H motto "To Make the Best Better" by going out into their communities to do service projects and help others. The beauty of having clubs scattered across the county is that 4-Her's can serve their own community to fill specific needs. This is why we love to highlight our clubs serving their communities because they are so different and 4-Her's continue to come up with new and fun ways to serve, especially during the holidays.

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# Program News and Updates



## Read 4-H is Back!

And completely redesigned!



Program Year: December 2024-July 2025

Who: All 4-Her's

**What:** Read 4-H is a program where 4-H members read books, complete projects, and get rewarded! The Extension Office will announce a theme each year and 4-her's will read books and complete tasks to get a reward at the end of each program year. All books that participants read need to be related to the theme. To earn the reward participants must complete at least 6 out of 10 tasks from the Task List. The Task List is available at the Extension Office, along with other necessary paperwork.

**Theme:** Exploration

**Rewards:** Yearly rewards will include a trip, special event, or a physical prize related to each year's theme!



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## Read 4-H is Back!

Read 4-H is back and better than ever! After a good first program year last year, we wanted to figure out a way to encourage even more kids to participate in the reading project. So Read 4-H underwent a complete redesign and now is more fun than ever!

How the redesign works is that a yearly theme will be established by the Extension Office. Participants can now decide what books they read, as long as they are related to the yearly theme. At the end of the year Read 4-H participants will receive a prize, attend a special event, or go on a fun trip! To be eligible to receive the yearly prize, participants will need to complete 6 out of 10 tasks from the task sheet.

This year the theme will be exploration. So pick books about exploring and going on fun adventures. More information about this year's prize will be sent out this spring. So get to reading and if you have any questions, please contact the Extension Office.



# State Events



## K-State Junior MEAT GOAT PRODUCER DAY

# 3.22.25

**Event**  
Join us on Saturday, March 22, 2025 for the biennial K-State Junior Meat Goat Producer Day at the Stanley Stout Center north of the K-State campus in Manhattan. This educational program will be a fun-filled day in which youth, parents, agents, ag teachers, project leaders, and volunteers can increase their knowledge of youth meat goat projects. Presentations will be provided by K-State faculty members, graduate students, former exhibitors, and guest speakers. All ages and skill levels are invited! Participants will receive a K-State Meat Goat Show Guide, t-shirt, and complimentary lunch. Only those who register by the deadline on February 26 will receive a t-shirt. The registration fee is \$20/person before February 26 and \$25/person after the deadline. This is a family event! Anyone attending must register, including all youth, parents, and adults. Registration is limited to 400 participants. Filled on a first come, first serve basis.

**Registration**

- ① \$20/person by February 26
- ② \$25/person after February 26
- ③ Late registrants will not receive a t-shirt.
- ④ All attendees must register, including youth, parents, & adults.
- ⑤ No refunds
- ⑥ Attendance is limited to the first 400 participants to register.

**Registration**  
Lexie Hayes  
adhayes@ksu.edu  
785.532.1264

**Register Online**  
<https://commerce.cashnet.com/KSUASIND>  
By **February 26**

K-State, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agricultural Cooperating. All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

## Junior Producer Days

The K-State Junior Producer Days Series is a set of workshops for Kansas youth focused on the four main livestock species. Two workshops are hosted every year for two different species. This year a Swine and a Goat Producer Day will be held in Manhattan. Swine Producer Day is on Saturday March 1st and Goat Producer Day is on March 22nd. Flyers for both events are attached on this page and have also been emailed out. You can also find the flyers on "Kansas State Youth Livestock Program" Facebook page. If you currently participate or would like to participate in either species, I would highly encourage you to attend. Each Producer Day has both large informational sessions and small hands on sessions.

## K-State Junior Swine Producer Day

# March 1

**Event**  
Join us on Saturday, March 1, 2025 for the biennial K-State Junior Swine Producer Day at the Stanley Stout Center in Manhattan. This educational event will be a fun-filled day in which youth, parents, agents, ag teachers, and swine project leaders can increase their knowledge of youth swine projects. Presentations will be provided by K-State faculty members, graduate students, former exhibitors, and guest speakers. All ages and skill levels are invited! Participants will receive a K-State Show Pig Guide, t-shirt, and complimentary lunch. Only those who register by February 5 will receive a t-shirt. The registration fee is \$20/person for those who sign up by the registration deadline, or \$25/person after that date. Registration is limited to 400 attendees, on a first come, first served basis. This is a family event! Anyone attending must register, including all youth and adults.

**Registration**

- ① \$20/person by February 5
- ② \$25/person after February 5
- ③ Late registrants will not receive a t-shirt.
- ④ All attendees must register, including youth, parents, and adults.
- ⑤ No refunds.
- ⑥ Attendance is limited to the first 400 participants to register.

**Registration**  
Lexie Hayes  
adhayes@ksu.edu  
785.532.1264

**Register By February 5**  
"Limited Attendance"

**Location**  
Stanley Stout Center

**Register Online**  
<https://commerce.cashnet.com/KSUASIND>

K-State, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agricultural Cooperating. All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

No matter if you are a beginner or have done livestock for several years, this is a great state level learning opportunity for 4-Her's. Also if you plan to show at either the State Fair or KJLS you are an in-person certification class will be offered at both events.

Personally I have both attended and helped to host these events. They are phenomenal learning opportunities and become a highlight for many 4-Her's. So if you are on the fence about attending or have questions about the Producer Days, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Extension Office. If several families are attending there may even be the potential of carpooling if the need arises.

# Agent Notes



## Happy New Year!

IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT SHOULD BE 2025!



## In and Out

Previously I have written articles about why youth should prioritize being involved with organizations like 4-H. The “big picture” of all these articles was the concept that you get out what you put in. In essence it is like school where you put in effort to receive a grade. But the case of youth organizations, you get character change and skills for your efforts and not a letter grade.

In the case of 4-H, if you commit time, effort, energy, and enthusiasm you will get things such as work ethic, an appreciation for those around you, leadership, and much more in return. If you decided to not put in much effort than 4-H will only be seen as another time commitment that competes with the life style you want to live.

Now some people may ask “why does character trait and skill development matter”? Well not to sound repetitive, but it means everything. Character development, skills, and discovering ones interests is of the utmost importance. Working on these things is what is going to set youth up for success in a rapidly changing world. This is why we want to put in effort and get out positive personal change. We want to give youth the best chance at having a “successful” life, which can mean many things. That is why we have to give them lots of tools to help them both identify what they want to do to be considered “successful” and then the tools to help them get there.

So no matter what you do, whether it's involvements with a youth organization like 4-H, grades in school, or any thing else, make sure to put in the effort to get out a positive change in your life.

## Side Notes

This article sounds easy but is harder to do than people realize. No one wants to change their lifestyle or put in a ton of hard work when there is no carrot on a stick directly in front of them. I know for sure that when I got started in 4-H that I wasn't thinking about the long term benefits and it felt like my parents sometimes dragged me to events. But I'm so glad they did, because they forced me to go and taught me to put in effort at things. That “polite encouragement” set me up for more personal success than I would have ever thought. The skills, traits, and leadership you learn by putting effort into something like 4-H will always be more than you know. So take it from a person living out this article and don't be afraid to put in some effort and watch what happens next.

# Club News

A place to highlight clubs and share ideas



Reporter's Corner

Club News from  
Sumner County



## Happy Hustlers

It has been a busy month for the Happy Hustlers. Their December meeting was held and included snacks, a gift exchange, and a craft for those in local Nursing homes. The club also organized a community food drive for family Christmas food baskets. In total the club was able to bless 12 families this year. Finally, club member Natalie Betzen created her own project to help the school Angel Tree. She made and decorated name tags for the gifts. Looking ahead the club is excited for the 2025 4-H Year!



Cardinals

Redwing

Buccaneers

Trailblazers

# 2025

## 4-H Council Meeting

FEBRUARY 24TH  
@ 7:00 PM



## Meeting Tips

### IMPORTANCE OF COUNCIL REPS

I KNOW I HAVE TOUCHED ON COUNCIL REPS BEFORE BUT IT'S WORTH MENTIONING AGAIN. COUNCIL REPS,

NOW MORE THAN EVER, CLUB REPS ARE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OFFICES IN A 4-H CLUB.

WE ARE RE-EMPHASIZING THEIR ROLE AND IMPORTANCE BY GIVING THEM MORE TO DO. CLUB REPS ARE THE LINK FROM THE CLUB TO THE 4-H COUNCIL AND ALL THINGS DONE AT THE COUNTY LEVEL.

CLUB REPS NOW WILL BRING ITEMS TO DISCUSS FROM THE 4-H COUNCIL TO THE CLUBS. THEY WILL THEN LEAD THE DISCUSSION AND TAKE NOTES. THEN AT THE NEXT 4-H COUNCIL MEETING, THEY WILL SHARE THEIR NOTES FROM CLUB DISCUSSIONS.

BEING THIS LINK IS VITALLY IMPORTANT AS IT IS HOW YOU WILL COMMUNICATE TO THE COUNCIL AND OTHER CLUBS ACROSS THE COUNTY.

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Looking Ahead

### January

- 1st; Office Closed for New Years
- 4th; 4-H Day with K-State Women's Basketball @ 4:00pm in Manhattan
- 15th; Shooting Sports Meeting @ 6:00pm @ RFC
- 17th; Regional Record Book Judging
- 20th; Office Closed for MLK Day
- 22nd; Shooting Sports Meeting @ 6:00pm @ RFC

### February

- 5th; Shooting Sports Meeting @ 6:00pm @ RFC
- 17th; Office Closed for Presidents Day
- 19th; Shooting Sports Meeting @ 6:00pm @ RFC
- 22nd; 4-H Club Days @ RFC
- 24th; 4-H Council @ 7:00pm @ RFC



**4-H**  
**GROWS HERE**



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#### Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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#### Accommodations:

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#### Sumner County Office

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