



RENO COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

February 2026



4-H COUNCIL DATE

February 23, 2026 @ 7pm
Executive Team will meet at 6:30
pm before council starts
Reno County Extension Office
west meeting room

Attention in the barns

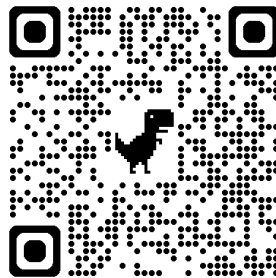
Household nominations are due
February 27, 2026 to the
Extension Office. If you are a
family with more than 1 child
in a species you will need to fill
one of these out. You will only
need to mark what the species
you will be showing then
Donna will fill in the tag
numbers. This is so when you
tag your animals you do not
need to specify which animal is
with which child at the time of
tagging. If you have any
questions please contact Donna
at dp96929@ksu.edu Forms are
at the end of the newsletter or
on the website.

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Leathercraft Meeting
February 20th
from 6 to 8pm in the
west meeting room of
the Extension Office.
Please contact Clint if
you will be attending
at 620-276-9824 by
February 18th.

4-H Day Sign Up

Get your project talks, demonstrations, speeches, and
par-law teams ready!
February 21, 2026
Reno County Extension Office



Sign up by February 13, 2026
Slots are available through the
SignUpGenius:
<https://tinyurl.com/ynfs5d6c> or
by scanning the QR code:

All presentations are scheduled to take place at the
Reno County Extension Office. Sign-up size is based on
involvement from previous years. Additional slots may
be added, as needed.

Project Resources

Did you know that the Extension Office has project curriculum
books available for check-out? They're FREE to use! Stop by the
office during regular business hours and ask to see what we have.
Projects include anything from arts and crafts to leadership to
livestock, and so much more! You don't have to be an expert in
every project. The lessons aren't just for beginners; there are
curriculum sets for more experienced 4-H'ers, too.

The Utah 4-H program also offers a variety of curriculum sets
that are FREE to download. Learn how to engineer an empire,
explore edible science, create your own candy company, and so
much more! You can find and download them at
<https://extension.usu.edu/utah4h/discover>.

Explore the possibilities with these project resources! If you have
questions, feel free to call the Extension office or email
Katherine at ksundgren@ksu.edu.

YQCA Scholarship

The national youth livestock quality assurance program, Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA), is continuing the scholarship program they initiated in 2025. Applications are now open and will close on February 15. High school seniors through college students who are 21 years of age are encouraged to apply. Last year, Kansas had two of the scholarship recipients!

For more information, visit the YQCA program website: <https://yqcaprogram.org/locate/2026-scholarship-program.php>

Join the Reno 4-H GroupMe

Scan the QR code or go to https://groupme.com/join_group/99562040/YXRq7els



Find us on Facebook

Follow the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/RenoCo4H>



County-wide Project Leaders



If you have any questions about the dog project please contact Melaney Dick at (620) 728-9743 or

renoco4hdogclub@gmail.com



If you have any questions about shooting sports, please call Ray Bartholomew at (620) 200-8253



If you have any questions about photography, contact Carolyn Kellogg Howey at (620) 664-0008



If you have any questions about the clothing project, contact Kathy Zongker

If you have questions about Ambassadors contact

Karolyn Howey at 620-664-0008 or Meghan Miller at 620-200-2544.

If you have any questions about Junior Leaders contact:

Kim Griffith at : 620-899-9453
kimberlygriffith27@yahoo.com



If you have an questions about rabbits, contact Vicki Myers at (620) 727-3980.

If you have any questions about Leathercraft, contact Clint Lanning 620-276-9824.

If you have any questions about electrics or robotics, contact Victor Martinez at 620-665-3487 or martinezv@hutchcc.edu.

2025-2026 4-H Calendar

View this year's calendar at <https://tinyurl.com/mr3mmspu>. Some dates are subject to change depending on weather, availability, etc. Make sure to keep up to date with the newsletter, GroupMe, and social media.

The Reno County Livestock Sale Scholarship Details are listed on the form that you can find on the Reno County Extension Website. Forms are due to the Extension office by March 20, 2026.

Record Book Tips

Record books don't have to be time-consuming at the end of the year. If you work on them throughout the year, they're easier to fill out. Here are a few things you can be doing now:

- Make sure you're using the forms for the right age group.
- Update your personal page.
- Write your goals.
- Start taking pictures of yourself doing the project.
- Write down what you've done to learn in your project so far.

You don't have to make a record book for every project, either. Choose your favorite project and focus on it! Need to download a copy of the records to fill out? Find them and other resources here:

https://www.reno.k-state.edu/4-h/record_books/. You can also email Katherine at ksundgren@ksu.edu with any questions.

Citizenship Washington Focus Trip

Road trip across the USA stopping to see Philadelphia, Gettysburg, the Liberty Bell and more! Meet, learn, share and tour with youth from other states and respected resource people. Walk among places that have made history and places that are making news today. Visit Capitol Hill, government departments, historic sites, and memorials. Get a close-up view of the political process through visits to Capitol Hill. Meet with the Kansas Congressional and Senate delegations to discuss legislative issues. Participate in workshops and assembly groups to learn life skills and discuss possible solutions to domestic and international problems. Interact with 4-H members from other states, learning and sharing about 4-H and other interests and issues. This trip has filled up quickly in the last few years, make sure that you do not delay in signing up to attend!

The trip will be in conjunction with Oklahoma and Missouri 4-H from June 13-23, 2026.

Cost: \$2500 - not required when registering, but arrangements will be made after February 16th for payment.

Register [Here](#) --- Registration will be collected by February 5th and spaces will be limited! Youth must be 15 by June 1, 2026. Kansas has 10 youth slots and 1 adult chaperone slot to fill. The adult chaperone has to be a registered 4-H Volunteer.

See the Kansas 4-H Webpage for all the information.

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/citizenship-washington-focus/>

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IPM Insect Art Contest – Join the Fun!

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

- 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/3NHuIEU>

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The monthly meeting of the Nickerson Clovers 4-H Club was called to order January 18, 2026 at the Nickerson Co-op. A new member was welcomed, Grayson Janzen. Roll call was answered by "What is your favorite winter past time?" Thirteen members and two leaders were present. The club's parliamentarian shared information on how to properly make and pass a motion. The safety officers shared information about keeping animals safe in cold weather. The club discussed 4-H Sunday, 4-H Days, Citizenship in Action and the hosts for the February meeting, as well as a new sign for Nickerson. For the program, club members made Valentine's Day door hangers for a nursing home. Meeting was adjourned.



News from Buhler Kansas

In the winter months, the Buhler 4-H Club had two monthly meetings. They held one at Sunshine Meadows Retirement Community on December 15th at 6:30 p.m. and another at Buhler Mennonite Church on January 12th at 6:30 p.m. Over the past few months, they have undertaken numerous initiatives to support the community around them. They helped a previous 4-H leader, Kathy Zongker, and her neighbor clean out their gutters and rake their lawns. In December, they provided cookies for the Buhler Public Library's annual "Cookies with Santa". At their December meeting, they sang Christmas Carols for the Residents at the Sunshine Meadows. And finally, during their January meeting, Saleh Roberts gave a speech about her year in the Dog Project. The next meeting will be held on February 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the Buhler Mennonite Church.



November 2025 Haven 4-H Club Meeting

by: Eli Showalter and Addison Showalter

The November 2025 Haven 4-H Club meeting was held on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the Haven Community Building in Haven, Kansas.

At the meeting, Haven 4-H Club members and their families brought unwrapped gifts to donate to First Call for Help Teen Christmas, a program that helps teenage boys and girls in Reno County. Members and families also donated food items to support the Haven Food Bank. In addition, the Haven 4-H Club made monetary donations to both Teen Christmas and the Haven Food Bank.



Haven 4-H Club's donations for First Call for Help Teen Christmas and Haven Food Bank.



December 2025 Haven 4-H Club Meeting

by: Eli Showalter and Addison Showalter

The December 2025 Haven 4-H Club meeting was held on Sunday, December 21, 2025, at the Haven Community Building in Haven, Kansas at 4:00 PM.

Aubree McCurry, Molly McCurry, and Drew McCurry presented a team talk on virtual fencing for cattle.

The Parents' Committee presented Haven 4-H Club awards for the 2024–2025 4-H year. The recipients were as follows:

- **7–8 year olds:** Drew McCurry
- **9–10 year olds:** Lily Hoskinson
- **11–13 year olds:** Eli Showalter
- **14 and older:** Alex Minnis
- **Overall Outstanding 4-Hers:** Bayleigh Minnis, Sorrel DeFrain, and Kyler Geffert.



December 21, 2025 – Aubree McCurry, Drew McCurry, and Molly McCurry doing a team talk on virtual fencing for cattle.

Roasting Marshmallows Community Service Project

by: Eli Showalter and Addison Showalter

The Haven Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Christmas Haven on Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Haven Fire Station in Haven, Kansas. The festive evening kicked off the holiday season with a variety of family-friendly activities for the community to enjoy.

Guests could take part in kid-friendly crafts, a passport event featuring prize drawings, caroling, hayrides, roasted marshmallows around the fire pit, and a special visit from Santa Claus complete with photo opportunities.

Several members of the Haven 4-H Club contributed to the event through a community service project by helping run the roasted marshmallow station. The fire pit and marshmallows proved to be a crowd favorite, making Christmas Haven a warm and memorable start to the season.



January 2026 Haven 4-H Club Meeting

by: Eli Showalter and Addison Showalter

The January 2026 Haven 4-H Club meeting was held on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at the Haven Community Building in Haven, Kansas.

The program featured several member presentations and demonstrations, including:

- Sadler DeFrain, who gave a talk on wrestling equipment and demonstrated a wrestling move;
- Alex Minnis, who presented a demonstration on power lifting which included the clean lift and snatch lift;
- Bayleigh Minnis, who demonstrated a hair updo; and
- Sorrell DeFrain, who gave a talk on resumes.

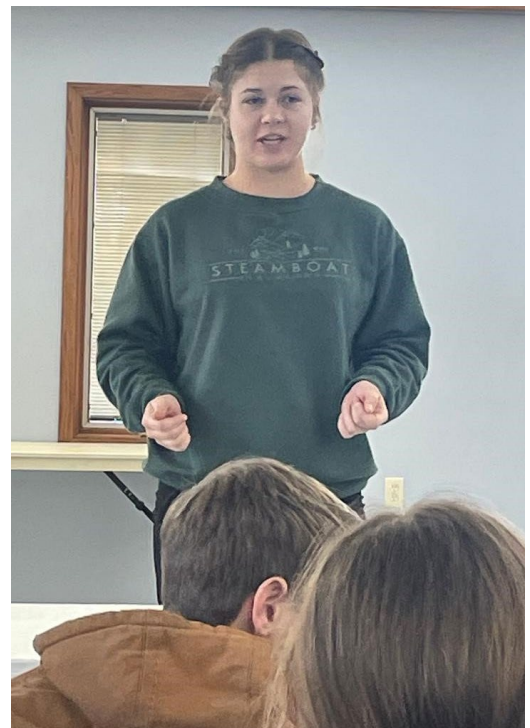


January 18, 2026

Top Photo: Alex Minnis demonstrating power lifts.

Bottom Left Photo: Bayleigh Minnis demonstrating a hair updo.

Bottom Right Photo: Sorrell DeFrain giving a talk on resumes.





Kansas 4-H Day *with* K-State Women's Basketball



**K-State Wildcats Vs.
Iowa State**
WILL BE TELEVIEWED



Step 1: Pick a Package:

\$28 Package Includes:

- Ticket
- \$10 Concession Voucher
- T-Shirt

\$18 Package Includes:

- Ticket
- \$10 Concession Voucher

Step 2: Register to get Tickets:

Use the QR Code or the link to register



<https://tinyurl.com/5x84fp33>



Pick up ticket packages on
game day 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Location TBA closer to event.



Doors open for the general
public at 12:00 pm



Tip-off at 1:00 pm

**Online registration
for this event will
be due February 8,
2026. No paper
registrations will
be accepted.**

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<https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience>

Sunday, March 1, @ 1:00 PM



Youth
Entrepreneurship
Challenge

Reno County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge

COMPETITION DATES:

Executive Summary Submission Deadline: **February 24, 2026**
Trade Show & Final Presentation: **March 10, 2026**

Register

Register for FREE to participate in the Reno County YEC 2026 at <https://goventuredash.com/competitions/762>.
DEADLINE: Feb 06, 2026



Prepare

Let's get started! YEC Participants can work with mentors to get their pitches just right! **The local Trade Show will take place on Mar 10, 2026 at 9:00 AM at Stringer Fine Arts Building**

Compete

Local entrepreneurs will judge participant's presentations and executive summaries.

Prizes:

1st Place: \$600
2nd Place: \$500
3rd Place: \$400

*1st place winner guaranteed opportunity to compete at YEC State

Christopher Acker, StartUp Hutch, Program Manager
Christopher@startuphutch.com | 620-665-8468

POWERED BY



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY



4-H Day

Get your project talks, demonstrations, speeches, and par-law teams ready!

February 21, 2026

Reno County Extension Office (Specific Times by Sign Up)

Sign up by February 13, 2026

Slots are available through the SignUpGenius: <https://tinyurl.com/ynfs5d6c>

All presentations are scheduled to take place at the Reno County Extension Office. Par-Law and Project Talks/Demonstrations will both take place in the West Meeting Room (basement). Sign up size is based on involvement from previous years. Additional slots may be added, as needed.

Please be aware, if sign up ends and we have a significant time gap for a room, we may reach out to you to consider changing so that we make the best use of our volunteer judges. To that end, if you sign up, please make sure you come for your specific time. If you know you are sick or will not be able to make it, please let us know as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please email Katherine at ksundgren@ksu.edu or Donna at dp96929@ksu.edu.

Tips for Giving a Public Presentation:

1. Dress appropriately for the occasion so you feel at ease and look presentable.
2. Stand up fully on both feet. Good posture will help convince your audience that you mean business!
3. Outline your talk, but do not write it out word-for-word. Use your outline as you give your talk (if you need it) but never read your talk!
4. Practice, Practice, Practice giving your talk. Give it to yourself alone at first in front of a mirror. Later, have someone listen to you who will offer suggestions for improving. The more you give it the more comfortable you will be.
5. Speak slowly; talk at a natural speed but change occasionally for emphasis and better attention.
6. Watch pronunciation of words. Don't use words you can't pronounce or understand.
7. Use charts or visuals if they help you present the topic and add to your talk. Make sure the letters on the poster are big enough to be read.
8. Be pleasant. A smile on your face will put a smile in your voice!
9. Be at ease. Be yourself. Be enthusiastic.
10. Have fun sharing the information with your audience! They want to hear what you have to say, are on your side, and want to be supportive of your presentation.

4-H Day Guidelines

Divisions for individual events:

Age Division	Age as of Jan. 1 (years)	Recommended Time Length
Beginners	7-8	3-5 minutes, 7 maximum
Juniors	9-11	3-6 minutes, 7 maximum
Intermediate	12-14	4-7 minutes, 10 maximum
Seniors	15 +	5-10 minutes, 15 maximum

All necessary equipment should be provided by the 4-Her.

DEMONSTRATIONS

What is a Demonstration?

A demonstration is simply showing and telling how to do something and end with a finished product. It is a teaching method. Most include an introduction, a body, which is the “show and tell” part, and a summary.

- Shows how
- Purpose: to teach
- Visuals: charts & aids for making end product
- Topic may be on any subject of 4-Her's choosing.
- May be individual or team presentation.

ILLUSTRATED TALK

What is an Illustrated Talk?

An illustrated talk is talking and telling how to do something by using pictures, charts, models, equipment, and other types of visual aids.

- Tells how
- Purpose: to teach
- Visuals: models & charts
- Topic may be on any subject of 4-Her's choosing.
- May be individual or team presentation.

PROJECT TALK

What is a Project Talk?

It is a talk about one of your projects. It can tell about your experiences in the project and/or give information relating to your project. The talk should be over something you are familiar with and be of interest to yourself and others.

- Tells about
- Purpose to inform
- Visuals: charts only
- Subject matter: project related
- Topic may be on any 4-H project you are enrolled in.
- Charts are the only visuals accepted
- Seniors: An outline is to be given to the judge.

SPEECH

What is a Speech?

A speech is a talk on any subject that you are familiar with and interested in. The purpose is to inform or persuade the audience on or about your topic.

- Tells about
- Purpose : to inform or persuade
- Visuals: minimal visuals are optional
- Topic may be on any subject of 4-Her's choosing
- Minimal visuals are optional
- Seniors: An outline of the speech is to be given to the judge.

Parliamentary Procedure Contest Guidelines

Age Divisions:

Juniors, 7-11 yrs;

Intermediate, 12-14 yrs;

Seniors, 15 yrs & up.

(Age is determined as of January 1, current year.)

Parliamentary Procedure

Presentations are limited to 15 min, plus a five min. conference judging.

- Contest will consist of teams of four 4-H'ers, President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer within each age group.
- Members may be from more than one club if a club is short one member. (3/4 of the team should be from the same club.)
- Each division needs to follow the business meeting order.
- Use the gavel to:
 - Call to order (2 taps)
 - Dispose of motions (1 tap)
 - Approve minutes (1 tap)
 - Receive treasurer's report (1 tap)
 - Recess/Adjourn (1 tap)
- Juniors and Intermediates will come into the contest already knowing their officer positions.
- Seniors will draw for offices during the presentation prior to the team's presentation.
- The following information sheets are the only notes that can be used during the presentation:
 - General order of business (President only)
 - Secretary's letter of communication and minutes
 - Treasurer's written report of club's financial statement
 - Sheet pertaining to the standing or special committee report (Juniors one each; Intermediate/Seniors only one.)
- Juniors are required and limited to do the first two problems plus one additional problem on the following list
- Intermediates are required to do the first four problems plus two additional problems.
- Seniors are required to do the first six problems plus three additional problems of their choice.

Problems for Presentations

1. Put a motion before the house
2. Amend a motion
3. Lay a motion on the table
4. Call for a division of the house
5. Rise to a point of order
6. Take a motion from the table
7. Withdraw a motion
8. Refer a motion to a committee
9. Call for a division of the question
10. Call for the previous question
11. Reconsider a motion
12. Rescind a motion
13. Appeal the decision of the chair
14. Postpone a motion definitely
15. Postpone a motion indefinitely
16. Reconsider a have entered on the minutes
17. Object to the consideration of the question

Reno County 4-H Livestock HOUSEHOLD NOMINATIONS: Due to Extension Office February 27, 2026

Household Name: _____
(Ex: Willie Wildcat Family. Include at least **one first name**. Use the same name each year.)

Individual exhibitor names in Household:

_____ **Initial** (youth and parent) to certify you have read the rules of Household Nominations.

Housing and Care: Reno County 4-H exhibitors are responsible for the proper care of their animal(s) by following acceptable methods of good animal husbandry. 4-H'ers choosing to household nominate livestock are responsible for following the rules for Reno County 4-H'ers and in the Reno County Fairbook. Please check the box for each species you will be household nominating:

☐ Market Beef Tag #'s: _____

☐ Commercial (Market) Heifers Tag #'s: _____

☐ Swine Tag #'s: _____

☐ Sheep Tag #'s: _____

☐ Goats Tag #'s: _____

Exhibitor(s) Primary Residence:

Physical Address: _____

City: _____ State: Kansas Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ Email: _____

Declaration: I attest that I have owned, possessed and cared for my livestock projects since the specified date by specie. I hereby certify that I have read the household nomination information and will comply with these rules. I understand that false information provided concerning household nominations will result in show and/or sale awards and/or premiums being forfeited. Exhibitors presenting false statements are also subject to further penalties by the Reno County Extension Council.

Exhibitor(s) Signature(s)

Parent/Legal Guardian

Signature Date



K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Ninnescah Thomadora Union Valley WRC Meetings	Buhler Meeting		Fair Board		Deadline to sign up for 4-H days	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Haven Mitchell Nickerson Meetings CIA	Office Closed CIA					4-H Days
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	4-H Council				Household Nominations due to Extension Office	

Reno County Extension Office Phone # 620-662-2371

All articles/pictures for the newsletter are due to the Extension office at least one business day before the end of the month.

PLEASE EMAIL DONNA AT dp96929@ksu.edu