



4-H NEWSLETTER



Hey, Meade County! My name is Shelby Robertson. I grew up in Dodge City. I went to college at NWOSU in Alva, OK, where I majored in Agriculture and minored in Business. Growing up, I was active in 4-H and FFA until I graduated from both programs.

After graduation, I spent 3 years in Rush County, KS, as the 4-H Program Assistant, explored banking for a year, then returned to 4-H and Extension in Oklahoma for a short stint. There, I realized that my heart was truly in Kansas Agriculture and 4-H.

A few of my favorite projects are food and nutrition, photography, horses, and sheep; however, I have truly tried most everything KS 4-H has to offer as far as projects go. I was a part of the Ford County 4-H Council for 8 years, and the Ford County 4-H Exchange group for 6 years, where I was able to travel to Massachusetts, and twice to Wisconsin. I loved getting to travel to unfamiliar places and see the 4-H programs and agriculture in other states. I enjoyed going to 4-H Camp at Rock Springs Ranch as a camper and, when I was old enough, as a camp counselor. My favorite part was always meeting others and making new friends.

In the Summer of 2019, I spent time working with Montana State University Extension, building a 4-H program for Fort Belknap Reservation. I have so many wonderful memories of my brief time there.

I am excited to meet all of you and immerse myself in growing and advancing the Agriculture/4-H and Youth Development programming. If you find yourself around the office or see me at a 4-H Function, stop by and say hi!

NEW AG AGENT ALERT!

Read all about our new agent, **Shelby Robertson!** Her first day in the office will be **August 18th**. Her welcome reception will be **September 10th**, also at the office!

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Funky Time (after) the Fair!

Thank you

4-Hers, we're sending you a huge shoutout for helping make this year's county fair a success! Your creativity, dedication, teamwork, and positive attitudes kept the energy high and the vibes funky. You brought your best—whether it was in the show ring, the exhibit hall, or cheering on your fellow 4-Hers—and we're so proud of everything you accomplished.

Parents, we know the effort it takes to get through fair week (and everything leading up to it). Thank you for every early morning, late night, extra driving, and words of encouragement. Your support doesn't go unnoticed, and it makes all the difference—not just for your own kids, but for the whole 4-H community in Meade County.

To our amazing volunteers (both the official kind and the ones who just jump in when needed): thank you for rolling with the wild schedule, lending helping hands, and keeping things running smoothly. It takes a village, and we're grateful you're part of ours.

The fair may be over, but the 4-H fun doesn't stop! We can't wait to kick off another great year this October. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer—and keep it *funky*!

Speaking of Appreciation ...

Saying “thank you” might not be the most exciting part of 4-H, **but it's one of the most important!** After big events—like the fair—it's good practice to show appreciation to the people who helped you along the way. These supporters could include your club leaders, fair secretaries, the fair board, award sponsors, add-on supporters, and anyone else who helped with your projects or fair experience! Need addresses? Just ask us!

Top 5 Reasons to Write Thank You Notes to Your 4-H Supporters

1. It shows supporters their help matters and encourages them to stay involved.
2. It shows respect, maturity, responsibility, and good manners—core 4-H values.
3. Supporters want to know their time/donations made a difference. A thank-you note lets them know they did!
4. It makes you stand out: A handwritten note is rare—and it shows effort and sincerity.
5. It keeps 4-H growing! Grateful members = happy supporters = a stronger 4-H program for everyone.

Funky Time (after) the Fair!

THANK YOU, JATEICE!



If you see Mrs. Vieux hanging around, please show her your appreciation for all of her hard work this season! We are SO LUCKY to have had her creativity and assistance the last two summers. Please see the end of this newsletter for an overview of how much she's done with the community lately!



Welcome Reception!!

We will be holding a Welcome Reception for our new Ag and 4-H Agent, Shelby Robertson, on Wednesday, **September 10th** at the office. The reception will be a come and go event from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Stop in to introduce yourself so she can start getting familiar with our 4-H families! We can't wait to see you!



4-H Council Meeting

There will be a **4-H Council Meeting on Thursday, August 7th** following the Back to School Bash at **Meade City Park**.

Call or text Wadona if you're able to help at the Extension and 4-H booth during the event at the park!

Fair Results

When Meade County Fair results are posted and available, we will let you know via an email from 4-H Online!

State Fair Entries

We sent out an email on July 28th listing members who are eligible for the Kansas State Fair. If you would like to take your exhibits, please let Wadona know no later than **August 11th**. She will coordinate the drop off time for food items with families. More information about the State Fair will be released as we receive it. Congratulations to all who qualified!



Grand Drive + KJLS Dates

August 15th - KJLS Entry Deadline
August 31st - KJLS LATE Entry Deadline
September 5-7 - State Fair Grand Drive
October 3-5 - KJLS

<https://www.kansasstatefair.com/p/competitions/grand-drive1>

At last month's meeting, members helped fill over 60 Appreciation Gift Bags for fair judges, project superintendents, volunteers, and many more who helped make Meade County Fair a success.

NEWS AND EVENTS

UPCOMING 4-H NEW YEAR



Watch these
DATES

October is a very important month for 4-H. Please pay attention to the newsletter for updates as we finalize details for the following events and prepare to be **Beyond Ready!**

- Enrollment begins: October 1st
- National 4-H Week: October 5 -11th
- 48 Hours of 4-H: October 12-13th
- 4-H Sunday: October 13th
- 4-H Council Meeting: October 13th

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum

What: Build your leadership skills and potential through workshops, consulting groups, inspirational speakers and more. In addition, the 2026 State 4-H Youth Leadership Council will be elected. Up to six National 4-H Conference delegates will be selected through an interview process at KYLF.

When: November 22-23, 2025

Where: Rock Springs 4-H Center

Who: Youth 14-18 years of age before January 1, 2026

2025 Fees will be set in late summer.

2024 Fees were \$210 + \$50 for add'l opt'l Friday overnight and breakfast.

Registration Deadline: Registration is not open yet, but will close on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 by 11:59 p.m.

Interested in Being a 4-H Ambassador?

4-H Ambassadors are a team of 14-18 year old 4-Hers who work to promote 4-H in the county. The 4-H Ambassador team is lead by the advisor, Dixie Harlow, and the Extension Agents. To be a 4-H Ambassador, you must be enthusiastic about 4-H, have a passion for spreading the program in our county, and be willing to consistently participate and be part of a team.

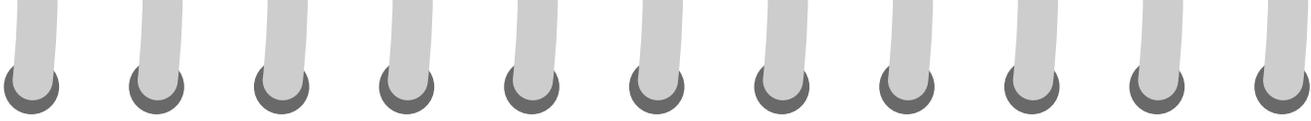
Commitment: Average of 4-8 hours per month, including monthly meetings to plan activities.

Ambassador Application for the 2025-2026 4-H Year

<https://forms.gle/Z8WuuVrxFPiD4NMZ8>

Deadline: Submit an application by Tuesday, September 2nd!

Note: Please start early, take your time, and put some thought into your answers. We are looking for youth who are really going to make a difference in our 4-H program!



AWARDS, RECOGNITION AND RECORD BOOKS

Due Date: September 19th at 4:00 PM

4-H offers a variety of Awards and Recognition opportunities to celebrate the achievements and hard work of its members. These include scholarships, achievement pins to recognize members' dedication and growth in specific areas, and project awards that honor excellence in a wide range of 4-H projects.

Kansas 4-H Member Achievement pins are designed to recognize 4-H members as they reach milestones throughout their 4-H journey. The pins are awarded in a series. As a member's 4-H journey progresses, the achievement pin requirements expand to challenge individuals to explore and engage in more opportunities to develop life skills.

Kansas 4-H Project Recognition awards youth for completing a record book in a project area. Project records are a summarization of a given year's 4-H work within a certain project. 4-H members assemble their project report into a specified document and submit those for evaluation. The top half of record books in each project are awarded with a project pin. Meade County also currently offers a non-competitive record book option. The purpose of non-competitive books is to encourage all Meade County 4-Hers to participate in some form of record keeping. However, the competitive record book option is what we strongly recommend.

Membership Achievement Pin Applications and Record Books are due September 19th at 4:00pm. Both must be signed by the parent, 4-H member, and your Club Leader prior to turning them in to the office. Information for both Member Achievement Pin Applications and Project Records can be found at: <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/index.html>.

Record book options:

- **Non-competitive**
 - Not judged, no project pins received
 - Receive \$25 credit from 4-H Council towards local or state 4-H events
 - **For a non-competitive record book you need:**
 - Personal Information Page
 - 4-H Story (general, 2 page maximum)
 - Permanent Record
- **Competitive**
 - Taken to another county to be judged
 - Receive \$25 for one or \$50 credit for 2 or more from 4-H Council to use towards local or state 4-H events
 - Top half scores in each project will receive awards (project pins)
 - **For a competitive record book you need:**
 - Record Book Check Sheet
 - Personal Information Page
 - Project Record Report Form (One for each project you are completing a record book for; either general or animal for livestock projects for the correct age division)
 - Permanent Record (Keep year to year; continue adding to it.)

Membership Achievement Pins:

Pins are awarded in the following order:

Membership
Bronze
Clover
Emerald
Silver
Silver Guard
Leadership
Gold
Gold Guard

Achievement Plans and pin applications can be found here:

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/index.html>

2025 Summer ENGAGEMENT

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Meade County by the Numbers

Programs added by the Summer Engagement Intern

- 10 programs
- 47 registered patrons
- 129 points of direct service

Programs aided by the Summer Engagement Intern

- Fishing Camp
- Wildhorse Camp
- Day Camp
- Chalk our Walk
- 4th of July
- Fair Week

Camp Wildhorse Association Benefits

- Camper transportation
- 88 campers & 19 counselors rotated through 4 different STEM stations

Extra Projects enrolled for Fair

- 19 photos
- 23 air dry clay sculptures
- 4 construction paper painted projects



2025

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 4-H Council Meeting	8	9
10	T&C Mtg 11	12	13	14	15	16 Ford Co. Shotgun Gray Co. Archery
17	18 Shelby's 1 st Day in the Office!	19	20	21	22	23 Gray Co. Shotgun Livestock Sweepstakes
24 Livestock Sweepstakes	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Monthly Club Meetings

Club	Date	Time	Location
4-Leaf Clover	--	--	4LC Mtg No meeting this month.
3 C's	--	--	3 C's Mtg Check with your leader.
Town and Country	11th	6:30	Meade City Pool
Plains Livewires	--	--	PLW Mtg Check with your leader.



YEAR IN A GLANCE:

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2025-2026!

August

7: State 4-H Wheat Expo, Manhattan
16: Ford County Shotgun State Qualifier
16: Gray County Archery State Qualifier
23: Gray County Shotgun State Qualifier
23-24: State 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes

September

4: Entry Day for 4-H Static Exhibits,
Kansas State Fair
5-14: Kansas State Fair
20: State Archery Match; Wakarusa, KS
27: State Fall Small Bore/Muzzleloading
Match, Topeka, KS

October

1: 2025-2026 4-H Online Enrollment Begins
3-5: Kansas Junior Livestock Show,
Hutchinson, KS
4: State Hunting Skills Match and Field Day,
Junction City, KS
11-12: State 4-H Shotgun Match
11-12: 48 hours of 4-H

November

22-23: Kansas Youth Leadership Forum,
KS Association of 4-H Volunteers, Rock
Springs

January

10-11: Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership Council
Orientation Retreat, Rock Springs
23: State 4-H Horse Judging, Topeka
27-29: Kansas 4-H Program Rally, Great Bend

February

15-16: 4-H Citizenship in Action, Topeka
21-22: 4-H Horse Panorama, Rock Springs

