

Thomas County 4-H Family Guide



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Dear 4-H Family,

Welcome to Thomas County 4-H! Here is some information about the 4-H program and what it involves. We believe in giving 4-H members every opportunity to experience and explore new interests and master skills that will help them to grow into positive and productive citizens. 4-H is about hands-on learning, leadership, citizenship, decision making, goal setting, career exploration, record keeping and much, much more. I think you will find that 4-H is very much a family-oriented organization. It is very difficult for youngsters to reap the full benefit of 4-H without parental involvement. One of the nice things about 4-H is that you may be as involved as you wish.

If you have any questions about the Thomas County 4-H program, please ask. Contact the Thomas County Extension Office, 350 S. Range Ave., Suite 16, Colby, KS 67701. Our phone number is 785-460-4582. You may also reach us via e-mail at th@ksre.ksu.edu. For more information about many of these topics, be sure to check out our website @ www.thomas.k-state.edu. Don't forget to like our Facebook page.

We are glad to have you join us and hope that you will have a great 4-H experience!

Yours in 4-H,

Emily Bennigsdorf
Thomas County Agent
Ag & Natural Resources/4-H



What Is 4-H?

4-H is one of the world's largest youth organizations with a membership of around five million youth across the United States. 4-H is an informal educational program administered by the Cooperative Extension Service

What Is the Cooperative Extension Service?

The Cooperative Extension Service is a cooperative undertaking by the United States Department of Agriculture, the land-grant colleges (in our case, Kansas State University), and the County or District Extension Councils.

The Extension Service is in charge of carrying up-to-date information from the classroom and laboratory to the people of the state and bringing back to the university those problems that can be solved only by careful study and research.

The purpose of the County Extension Service is to provide instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture, marketing, home economics, 4-H and youth work and community development to all persons in the county. The County Extension Councils hire college trained agents in agriculture and family and consumer science, to plan and conduct the respective programs in the county.

Where Is 4-H?

4-H is in all states and in many countries around the world. Over 80 countries have 4-H or 4-H type youth programs. It is now estimated that there are over 36 million 4-H alumni in the United States.

What Is the Primary Objective of 4-H?

The basic philosophy in 4-H is to strengthen the mental, physical, moral, and social development of boys and girls; therefore, helping develop more desirable citizens and leaders. The main objective is the development of boys and girls through participation in projects, events, and various activities.

4-H is intended to supplement, not replace, the three primary educational institutions...namely the home, church, and school.

4-H Year

A new 4-H year starts October 1 each year and ends September 30 of the following year.

Age for Membership

4-H is for all boys and girls 7-19 years of age whether they live in town, the country, or on a farm. 4-H members must be 7 or older before January 1 to enroll in 4-H.

Residence

Kansas youth typically enroll in 4-H in the county in which they reside. However, individuals living in one county may join 4-H in another county. Although, a 4-H member may choose to participate in another county, they can only enroll and exhibit in one county. For any variations on this policy, please contact the Thomas County Extension Office for clarification. Decisions regarding 4-H membership in a non-resident county (a county you do not live in), rest with the County Extension Board in both counties. Their decisions are final.

Enrollment Timeframe

Youth may join any time during the 4-H year. For new members, enrollment is required by May 1 each year in order to participate with 4-H at the Fair. Some livestock projects require animal identification (weigh-in) at an earlier time. Each year, re-enrollments for continuing members are due in the Extension Office by December 1st. This enables project leaders to have lists of members with their projects, and notices can be sent out to 4-H members about their projects.

What Does It Cost?

There is a \$15 program fee per 4-H member to enroll. A payment waiver may be requested if needed. Additional costs to 4-H members are incurred in purchasing materials needed for individual projects. Local clubs may develop their own methods of raising money for worthwhile activities.

4-H is having fun and learning with friends.

4-H is older 4-H members sharing experiences and teaching younger members things that they've learned.

4-H develops "life skills" through the use of research-based project materials and experiential learning (hands-on experiences).

The Kansas 4-H Life Skills are to develop:

- A Positive Self-concept
- An Inquiring Mind
- A Concern for the Community
- Healthy Interpersonal Relationships
- Sound Decision Making



Why do youngsters enjoy 4-H?

- They want to belong.
- They want to achieve.
- They want to become independent.
- They want approval.
- They want affection.

4-H Motto “To Make the Best Better.”

4-H Pledge

I pledge . . .

My **Head** to clearer thinking,
My **Heart** to greater loyalty,
My **Hands** to larger service,
And my **Health** to better living,
For my club, my community,
My country and my world.



...To Make the Best Better.

4-H Colors: Kelly Green & White – Green symbolizes nature’s most common color and represents life, spring-time and youth. White symbolizes purity.

4-H Emblem:



4-H Week

One Sunday is set aside each year to call attention to and emphasize the spiritual H (heart) of 4-H. The local club decides how they want to observe 4-H Sunday. Some clubs attend church together, have a part in the church service, have a 4-H family picnic or other activities. 4-H Sunday is recommended to be the first Sunday in October (start of National 4-H Week), but local clubs can set the date for their group.

4-H Family Newsletter

The monthly Thomas County newsletter is sent to each 4-H family in Thomas County. Our mailing list is made from current 4-H members. This newsletter is to keep families posted on upcoming events. It includes dates and activities in which 4-H members and their families may want to participate. Take time to read it closely each month so that your family doesn’t miss out on some great learning opportunities! Our newsletter can also be found on our website www.thomas.k-state.edu.

4-H is a Family Affair

Something the whole family can do!

Parents: Partners on the 4-H Team

4-H parents are the most important in their 4-Her's life. By making 4-H a family affair, you will be able to take an active role in your children's' activities. Few other programs allow children and their parents and other adults to work side by side, play together and watch each other develop skills and talents. You as a parent have an active, not passive, part in the 4-H Club's Leadership Team.

Specific Areas of Parent Responsibility

Enrollment

- Learn what 4-H is about, its purpose, its objectives.
- Assist your children in selecting projects they like, that they have the ability to do, and one for which you can furnish needed materials.
- Go online to "re-enroll" in projects for the year. (<https://v2.4honline.com>)
- Show a genuine interest and enthusiasm in 4-H and in your children.

Club Meetings and Activities

- Encourage your child's participation in 4-H Club activities.
- See that your child has a way to get to club meetings and that he/she attends regularly.
- Attend club meetings with your child.
- Be willing to provide transportation for both your children and others. (Share this responsibility throughout the club year.) Be willing to volunteer for tasks that you can accomplish on the club and county level.

Project Activities

- Give encouragement and guidance in your children's project work by showing enthusiasm and interest in their work with record keeping, Kansas Award Portfolio (KAP) forms, demonstrations, judging, etc. Help them understand what to do - but give them the responsibility for the actual work that is to be done.
- Show a personal interest in your children. Show an interest in the projects which they select and other events in which they participate.
- Inspire and encourage your boys and girls to keep up with their 4-H records and complete their work.
- Familiarize yourself with project materials so you can help when needed.
- Provide for ownership and growth. Make it possible for your children to own their projects and help them plan for expansion of their project work.
- Share your talents & skills and become a 4-H Project Leader.

Liaison

- Keep in close touch with all members of the 4-H Leadership team.
- Inform and remind your children of communications that they have received.
- Response to correspondence from the Extension Office, or if the communication was to your children, see that necessary communication takes place.

Who's Who in 4-H

4-H Member

- Any child 7-19 years of age who fills out an enrollment card and meets the club requirements.

Community Club Leader

- An adult volunteer who is responsible for the organizational part of the club.

Project Leader

- A volunteer who helps to teach kids the projects. This person is often a 4-H parent, Jr. Leader, or a person from the community who agrees to help with a project in which they have knowledge.

Junior Project Leader

- 4-H member who is 13 years old and enrolled in the leadership project. They take an active part in helping the younger members in the club. By doing this, they grow, mature and learn leadership skills.

Parent's Committee

- The committee is made up of three to five adults. Duties will vary from club to club, but their basic responsibilities are: recruit and orient project leaders and or community club leaders, make arrangements for training leaders at the club level, and assist the club leader at his/her request. Over-all club support and trouble shoot club problems.

4-H Council

4-H Council meets every month throughout the year to make decisions concerning 4-H activities in Thomas County. Their primary purposes are:

- To assist agents in providing and developing an adequate County 4-H Program
- To help coordinate 4-H activities
- To encourage and develop leadership
- To provide an exchange of ideas for 4-H club work
- Put into operation policies set forth by the County Executive Board, the Fair Board, and the County 4-H Program Development Committee.

Each 4-H club has 2 youth and 2 adult representatives. Only the youth representatives have a vote on decisions made. Here, youth are empowered to make decisions for their own program. The group plans 4-H activities and events that take place on a county-wide basis. They organize fund-raising activities to assist in paying for the county-wide 4-H activities.

Program Development Committee (PDC)

- This group is an elected body of six people. They are responsible for the program direction on a county-wide basis. They implement and help carry out new programs and suggest improvements for 4-H and other Youth programs conducted by the Extension Service.

County Extension Agents

- They are the professionals who help carry out the 4-H PDC's objectives. Our county currently has one agent who specializes in a specific area - agriculture. The Extension Office is located at 350 S. Range, Suite 16, Colby, KS 67701. The phone number is 785-460-4582

Thomas County Fair Board

- Board members are appointed by the County Commissioners to carry out and plan the County Fair each year.

Area Extension Office

- This office is located in Colby. It contains an Area Director and several subject matter specialists.

Area 4-H Specialists

- There are Area 4-H Specialists in Kansas to assist County Extension Agents in developing and carrying out 4-H & Youth programs.

State 4-H Specialists

- These people have the responsibility for the 4-H program on a state-wide basis. Each specialist is responsible for a specific part of the total 4-H program. They are based at Kansas State University, Manhattan.

Kansas State University

- This land grant college has the responsibility for taking education to the people of the state. The 4-H program is part of that mission.

Rock Springs 4-H Center

- The KS State 4-H camp, located near Junction City, Kansas. Thomas County camps with the Great Northwest Camping group that attends camps each year in June.

What Is a 4-H Club?

A 4-H club is a group of boys and girls organized with officers appropriate to the groups and with one or more leaders under the sponsorship of the Cooperative Extension Service.

The club is organized within a neighborhood, a school, a church, a business, or social unit. The size of the club should be suitable to the age of the members, meeting place, and leadership available. This type of club is called a community 4-H club.

Most clubs hold monthly meetings, normally the same time each month.

Also, youth are 4-H members by taking part in project clubs (one subject), special interest groups, and school enrichment programs.

Community Clubs

Boys and girls enroll in a variety of projects. They have structured monthly meetings, participate in recreation, service projects, and work on improving communication skills through talks and demonstrations.

Here is a list of community clubs in Thomas County.

- Abilene Hustlers
- Brewster Prairie Gem
- Colby Comets
- Gem 4-H Club
- Solomon Valley

Project Clubs

Boys and girls enroll in the same project. The members place a great deal of emphasis on their project experience, on the club meeting, and outside activities.

The project club could also have officers, organizational leaders and a project leader.

- Shooting Sports
- Dog Club
- Horse

PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND MEETINGS WITH THEIR 4-H MEMBER. 4-H IS A FAMILY AFFAIR!



What Are 4-H Club Meetings Like?

A meeting includes business, educational program and recreation. 4-H meetings normally last 1 to 1 ½ hours.

Meetings may have:

Demonstrations - “Show and Tell” type presentations where the 4-Hers share some of the things they’ve learned in their projects. Most consist of three parts:

- Introduction - explains the purpose of the demonstration
- Body - outlines subject step by step
- Summary - reviews important points and gives opportunity for questions



Illustrated Talks - Differ from demonstrations in that they tell how rather than show how. Charts, models and other visuals are important for illustrated talks.

Project Talks - Project talks are given about the member’s projects. The project talk can relate things experienced in the project, or give information relating to the project.

Business Meeting - The business portion of the meeting should be short and snappy. It is a small democracy in action. It presents the opportunity for group consensus and parliamentary procedures to be learned and practiced.

Recreation & Refreshments - Most likely your recreation leader(s) will have an activity or game planned. Some clubs serve refreshments at meetings. Most often different families are host each month. It is a learning experience for the members who select, prepare and serve the refreshments as the prime concern.

Conducting the Meeting - The officers of the club and 4-H members are the ones responsible for conducting the meeting. Adult leaders of the club serve as advisors when needed by the 4-H members.



What Are 4-H Projects?

Other than age, the only requirement for 4-H membership is that 4-H members enroll in at least one project (learning opportunity). There are many projects to choose from. Projects include hands-on learning experiences that teach many basic skills. Following are some of the areas you can learn about through 4-H.

Citizenship
Photography
Geology
Entomology
Electric
Woodworking
Beef

Shooting Sports
Home Environment
Goats
Horse
Rocketry
Foods
Swine

Leadership
Visual Arts
Plant Science
Clothing
Small Engines
Pets
Sheep



Self-Determined: Can be anything that interests the 4-H'er, but doesn't quite fit into another category i.e.: collecting, Legos, welding, robotics, any hobby turned into a project.

Selecting Projects

Projects are selected early in the 4-H year when enrollment is submitted. Usually, younger members should limit their projects to one or two. Older, experienced members are able to complete several different ones, including those that are more difficult. In selecting projects, consider:

1. Does it meet the needs and interests of the member?
2. Is the project in keeping with age and ability (physical and mental) of the member? Will it challenge him educationally?
3. How much time does the member have and how much time does the project require? What season of the year has most of the activity of the project?
4. Is the project acceptable to you as parents and does it fit into the family needs and situation?
5. How much will the project cost?
6. Is adequate space and equipment available?
7. Is there an opportunity for ownership and management responsibilities?
8. Are there leaders to help with the project, or are you willing to help the member with the project?

What is the "Guide to Project Selection"?

The Guide to Project Selection lists guidelines and suggested learning experiences for the various projects.

As 4-H members identify specific interests, they may want to consider developing a project plan to guide them until they are past the 4-H age. When enrolling in additional projects, 4-H members could include those projects which relate to their other project work. For example, an electric project member may choose to enroll in home improvement, woodworking, safety or automotive projects. The project is the core of the 4-H member's experience. It is the center of many activities and experiences in which members should be encouraged to participate.

How Are Projects Conducted?

Project work is conducted through various activities and events such as:

- Project meetings (in the local club or county-wide)
- Regular club meetings (demonstrations, project talks, etc.)
- Tours - to visit projects of members
- Field trips
- Family activity at home
- Exhibiting projects at shows, fairs, etc.
- Record keeping



Who Are Project Leaders and What Do They Do?

4-H Project Leaders are people just like you and me. They have an interest in one particular project area. They are willing to share their time, talents and efforts with a small group of 4-H members.

YOU could be a project leader! It doesn't take an expert in photography to be a photography leader, the same with most all projects. The one most important ingredient for project leaders is that they be sincerely interested in working with boys and girls. If you would consider being a project leader, visit with your club's community leaders or club parent committee members.

The process for becoming a 4-H volunteer is:

1. Complete Application
2. Face to Face Interview
3. Reference check
4. Orientation
5. National Criminal Background Check (CBC)
6. Data File Review (Application, Interview documentation, References, CBC results, Orientation completion documentation)
7. Approval and appointment by local Extension Unit Board

More information can be found at <http://www.kansas4-h.org/p.aspx?tabid=487>.

Training meetings are conducted at the club level and county level for project leaders. Also, most projects have leader guide booklets to assist. Many of the clubs have a policy that unless more than 2 or 3 members are enrolled in a project, no project leader will be obtained. Parents will be expected to help the member with their project or the 4-H member should choose another project.

Record Keeping in 4-H

What Different Records Are There?

4-H members are asked to keep three different types of record sheets:

4-H Personal Page (Annual Record Sheet)	It contains space for a picture of the member, listing of projects enrolled in, and the 4-H story. A new annual record sheet is issued each year.
Record Book Sheets	Each project has its own K.A.P. (Kansas Award Portfolio) forms. K.A.P. forms are completed for 4-H'ers, ages 7-8 (Juniors), 9-13 (Intermediates), & 14-18 (Seniors).
Permanent Record	The summary of all projects, exhibits made, offices held, events attended and other participation for the entire year is made on the permanent record. Only one such record sheet is necessary for all the years that a youngster may be a member. While the permanent record is not turned in with the other records, it is extremely useful in completing the other record sheets.

When Should 4-H KAPs Be Completed?

Each 4-H member must keep a record of his 4-H work. Records are not an extra task, but a part of 4-H work. Few young people (adults are no exception) enjoy record keeping. However, record keeping skills are quite valuable. As adults, we use them every day.

- 4-H'ers are encouraged to work on records throughout the year as they do their project work. Many project leaders have 4-H'ers work on their records at the project meetings.
- Records should include all activities regarding the 4-H'ers and their project(s) that occur during the 4-H year.
- Each 4-H'er should keep a record of their 4-H work. A good 4-H record is a measuring stick. One can measure progress and help stimulate self improvement.
- A good 4-H record is a mirror. It will reflect accomplishments and, therefore, serve as a basis for trips and awards.
- It is recommended that every 4-H member keep a notebook or calendar handy to record the time spent on activities related to 4-H and projects.
- Record keeping teaches a desirable habit. Developing this habit early in life is a valuable asset.
- The 4-H year runs from October 1 to September 30 of each year.
- Younger members can complete their records in pencil. Older 4-H'ers records should be written in ink or typed by the member. Parents may assist with completing records, but should not fill them out for the member. Templates are available online at <http://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/4-h-library/awards-and-recognition/kansas-award-portfolio.html>
- Completed Kansas Award Portfolios (KAP's) are turned in to leaders in October.
- Awards, based on submitted records, are presented annually at the 4-H Achievement Banquet.

Clubs ask that completed KAP's be turned into the club leaders on a specified date, usually in October. Watch the newsletter for the date record books are due.

4-H Achievement Awards

Achievement awards are based on completion of minimum standards and are non-competitive. *Awards build upon one another and 4-H members can only receive one achievement award a year and only one of each award while in 4-H.* The awards are a way of recognizing 4-H members that are involved in the total 4-H experience which includes club participation, community service, project participation, leadership and more. These achievement forms may be obtained on the 4-H website or at the Extension Office. These forms need to be submitted and turned in with your record book on the date specified by your club leader.

The available awards are listed below from easiest to most difficult.

- **4-H Membership Pin** - The Membership Pin may be awarded at the conclusion of the 4-H year in which you join. In order to receive this pin, you must attend a majority (more than one-half) of the remaining regularly scheduled meetings of your club after the point at which you have joined the club.
- **Bronze** – Second in a series of pins. Exhibit at the Fair, complete 4-H record book, attend over ½ of club meetings, and attend one county or club event.
- **Clover** – Must have received the previous pin, exhibit at the Fair, attend over ½ of club meetings, complete 4-H record book, and complete five of optional guidelines.
- **Emerald** – Must have received the previous pin, exhibit at the Fair, attend over ½ of club meetings, complete 4-H record book, and complete 7 of optional guidelines.
- **Silver** – Must have received the previous pin, exhibit at the Fair, attend over ½ of club meetings, complete 4-H record book, and complete 9 of optional guidelines.
- **Silver Guard** – Must have received the previous pin, exhibit at the Fair, attend over ½ of club meetings, complete 4-H record book, and complete 14 of optional guidelines.
- **Leadership** – Must have received the previous pin, exhibit at the Fair, attend over ½ of club meetings, complete 4-H record book, enroll in Leadership project for the current year, and complete 18 of optional guidelines.
- **Gold** – Must have received the previous pin, exhibit at the Fair, attend over ½ of club meetings, complete 4-H record book, enroll in Leadership project for the current year, and complete 24 of optional guidelines.
- **Gold Guard** – Must have received the previous pin, exhibit at the Fair, attend over ½ of club meetings, complete 4-H record book, enroll in Leadership project for the current year, and complete 26 of optional guidelines. The Gold Guard is the highest pin award that can be presented to a 4-Her by the county.
- **4-H Key Award** – This is the highest award given at the county level. Only a small percentage of 4-H members receive this award. It demonstrates a level of achievement that is recognized and sought after by potential employers and scholarship selection committees.



“I Dare You Award”	This award is presented to members who have demonstrated excellence in character and personal development. They demonstrate qualities of constructive leadership as evidenced through challenges in community service, good citizenship, and excellence in education.
County Project Awards	Awards given to outstanding 4-Hers in each project area, based on records submitted in the 4-H member’s record book.
Area Awards	The top Senior Kansas Award Portfolio (KAP) in most Projects are sent to the area level, where they are judged against the top KAP forms from the other counties in Northwest Kansas. No prizes or special awards are presented and only Senior KAP records are judged at the area level.
State Awards	The top 2 KAP’s from the area judging are sent to the State level, where they are judged against other top KAP’s from around the state. State level winners will be recognized at the Emerald Circle Banquet in Manhattan the first part of June (usually during Discovery Days).

What 4-H Scholarships Are Available?

Thomas County 4-H Council Scholarships	Scholarships are available for Thomas County 4-H Seniors each spring. Check with the Extension Office for the specific due date.
State Scholarships	Scholarships ranging from \$100 to \$1000 are available to outstanding 4-H members. Applications are due February 1 st . Applications are available at the Extension Office.

4-H Trips

National 4-H Conference (Washington D.C.)	Four outstanding 4-H’ers from Kansas are selected to represent the state at this conference. Participants must be High school seniors or college freshmen and excel in leadership, achievement and citizenship.
Citizenship Washington Focus	All 4-H’ers 15-18 years of age (by Jan. 1 of the current 4-H year) are eligible to apply for this 11-day citizenship learning experience to Washington, D.C. 4-H’ers from across the state travel together.
National 4-H Congress	This trip is offered to State project winners. The Congress site rotates throughout the country.
Exchange Trips	Exchange trips with other counties or states are arranged by the state 4-H Ambassadors.



4-H Camps

- **The Great Northwest** is a multi-county camp held at Rock Springs Ranch near Junction City, KS each June. Campers must be 7 to 12 years old by camp date to participate. Counselors must be 16 by January 1 of the current year, and junior counselors must be 14 by June 1 of the current year.
- **Lakeside Camp** is held at Scott Lake by Scott City. It is a 2 day, 1-night camp aimed at 4-Her's 7-9 years old. Counselors for this camp must be 16 by January 1 of the current year.
- **Camp Counselors** Youth 14 and older are encouraged to take advantage of a wonderful opportunity. Senior (15 and older) and Junior (14-15 years old) Counselors are needed for the County Camps. Jr. and Sr. age counselors are needed for the Great Northwest Camp held at Rock Springs, and Sr. Counselors are needed for the Scott Lake Camp. Counselors MUST go through the Volunteer Screening process.
- **The Northwest High Adventure Trip** is a 4-5-day camp held the end of June or in July. The exact experience changes each year depending on the destination. The camp usually involves hiking and or water rafting. Participants must be 13 or older.
- **The Kansas 4-H Ventures Program** provides unique opportunities for teens and adults who are interested in and have a passion for outdoor adventure experiences, including backpacking, canoeing and rafting. The program is known for its emphasis on leadership development, youth and adult partnership and low impact camping techniques in wilderness settings.

More 4-H Camps

- **Campference** is focused on youth ages 12-14, and is held in June at Rock Springs 4-H Center. Participants experience the feel of a conference, while enjoying the "camp" activities Rock Springs 4-H Center has to offer. Campference features workshops about opportunities in the 4-H program and activities to energize youth that will help them learn leadership skills and how to better interact with others.
- **4-H Discovery Days** is held at Kansas State University in early June (sometimes late May). Members 13 years and older, leaders, and parents are invited to attend. The focus of the event is to help you DISCOVER more about a project area, strengthen what you are learning in the club and share with other 4-H members.

Thomas County Fair

The Thomas County Fair is held at the end of July or first of August. The guidelines and rules are listed in the county Fair book. All members must be enrolled in their projects by May 1. Livestock must be identified by earlier dates (weighed in). Check with the Extension Office for the actual identification (weigh-in) date for each specie.

Each year prior to the fair, 4-Hers and parents are expected to help set-up the fairgrounds for the fair. This activity involves sweeping the 4-H Building, moving the display cases and booths from storage to the 4-H Building. It also involves setting up the panels around the inside of the livestock arena, moving the benches and bleachers around the show arena and other miscellaneous activities that need to be done prior to the fair. You will want to wear your work clothes as we do get dirty. All 4-Hers and parents are expected to help with clean-up after the fair.

We put together a fair packet of information for the 4-H families. In this packet you will find a fairbook, entry cards, 4-Hers exhibitor numbers and everything else you will need to know to exhibit at the fair. Fair packets can be picked up from your club leader or from the Extension Office. When you receive your fair packet, you should take the time to sit down and read every section that pertains to your exhibits in the fairbook, and to read the information concerning the entry of exhibits. Pre-entries are required on the following exhibits, market steer, breeding heifers, breeding hog, market hog, market lamb, breeding ewe, bucket calf, yearling bucket calf, market goats, dairy goats, horse, poultry, showmanship for all species, demonstrations and illustrated talks, clothing construction, buymanship, fashion revue, foods, home environment, welding, woodworking, and visual arts.

Kansas State Fair

The KS State Fair is held in Hutchinson, Kansas in September. 4-H members must be 9 years old by January 1 to participate at the Kansas State Fair. A member must have received a purple ribbon at county level to participate at the State Fair in most project areas.

Pre-registration is due at the Thomas County Fair in July or August.

What Do 4-H Ribbons Mean?

White ribbon: For one reason or another, the exhibit did not meet all the minimum standards, but it does not mean the exhibit is not worthwhile. This is a learning experience that the 4-Her can ask themselves, "What have I learned and how can I make it better"?

Red ribbon: The project met all the minimum standards for its class. The exhibit shows that an honest effort has been put forth, and while there are visible signs of needed improvement, the skill level of the 4-Her is going up.

Blue ribbon: The exhibit is outstanding on all of the standards set up for the project. There are usually no flaws and if there are one or two very small ones, only the trained eye of the judge can see them.

Purple ribbon: The exhibit is outstanding on all of the standards set up for the project. No room for improvement, only the trained eye of the judge can see them.

Aside from any ribbon placements, what is most important is that the child was participating in an activity that will build character in learning life skills that will be of benefit to them for life. People remember the child, not the ribbon color.



A 4-H Year in Thomas County

An outline for the main events that take place during the 4-H year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) is given below. The dates may change due to conflicts, but this gives you an idea of what to expect each month. A 4-H calendar is included in the monthly 4-H newsletter. Check the newsletter for dates and times of all events. In addition to these activities, there may be special committee meetings, leader trainings, tours, conferences or judging events planned by a project group or neighboring county in which 4-H members can participate.

October

Enrollment begins on 4HOnline
4-H clubs elect new officers
National 4-H Week is celebrated (Refer to page 6)
4-H Council elect's new officers & selects "Friends of 4-H" & "4-H Family of the Year"
Previous year's Record Books are due

November

Enrollment continues on 4HOnline
Officer Training is held
County 4-H Achievement Banquet is held. Each 4-H member and leader is recognized.
Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KYLF)

December

Clubs are encouraged to do a community service project around the holidays
December- February fundraisers (dates vary)

January

Fundraiser
Clubs and individuals should start making plans for County 4-H Day

February

Steer weigh-in. All steers must be weighed in to be eligible to show at the County Fair

March

County 4-H Day is held in Colby. 4-H members share their talents in music, drama, dance, project talks, demonstrations, public speaking, and model meetings. Life Skills judging contest is held.
Regional 4-H Day - Top winners from County 4-H Day at Regional 4-H Days
4-H Scholarship applications due



April

Registration due for Discovery Days
Small Animal weigh-in – Bucket Calves (tagged only), Sheep, Goats, & Swine
(*may be held in May*)

May

IMPORTANT MAY 1 DEADLINES

- Last day to change any project enrollment
- 4-H horse identification papers due

Camp registration due

June

Discovery Days – held at K-State campus for 4-H'ers, 13 years and older, and adults. The mini-college helps members explore new project areas and learn more projects in which they are participating.

County 4-H Camp Counselor Training - Rock Springs Ranch

County 4-H Camp - Camp is held at Rock Springs Ranch in Junction City

Lakeside Camp at Scott Lake by Scott City

July

High Adventure 4-H Camping Trip

District Horse Show

Pre-entry form for all livestock, poultry, clothing construction and Buymanship, arts and crafts foods, and demonstrations and illustrated talks are due. The pre-entry deadline will be in the newsletter and the fair packet. Watch for the deadline date!!

Clothing and Fashion Revue judging held (Life Skills judging will also be available)

Arts & Crafts judging held (Life Skills judging will also be available)

4-H Dog Show

July/August

Thomas County Fair

September

Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, KS (begins Friday after Labor Day)

