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# Thomas County

## K-State Research and Extension News

*Knowledge  
for Life*

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### Paid Summer Internship Opportunity

The Thomas County Extension Office is accepting applications for a summer intern! The work will consist of preparing and helping at all summer events and activities. Normal work hours will be from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Applicants must be 18 years old, with a high school diploma or GED equivalent. This internship runs from May 27 through August 1. Please submit an application and resume by April 18th. You can bring documents to the office or you can email it to [th@listserv.ksu.edu](mailto:th@listserv.ksu.edu). To complete the application, [CLICK HERE](#) or pick one up at the office! Thomas County Extension is an equal opportunity employer.

### Small Animal Weigh-In

**Saturday, April 12th, 2025**

The 4-H small animal weigh-in will be held at the Thomas County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 12th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The weather back-up date will be on Saturday April, 19th. If you want to show your goats, sheep, swine or bucket calves, please remember they must be weighed in at this time. Ear tags will still be \$3.00 each. We ask that you bring cash or check that day to pay for tags. If you have an animal you would like to nominate for the State Fair or KJLS, make sure you let us know at weigh-in.

### Walk Kansas is On!

Walk Kansas kicked off on March 30th. We have 10 teams and a handful of solo walkers! The program runs from March 30th through May 24th and would be a great time to create a healthy exercise habit. **Offered again this year:**

- ⇒ Track your miles with a cell phone app!
- ⇒ Walk Kansas Webinars and newsletters.
- ⇒ Collect online badges.
- ⇒ This year's shirt colors are Amethyst and Cement.
- ⇒ <https://www.shopwalkkansas.com/>

### National Volunteer Week: April 20-26

Be sure to recognize and appreciate those that keep our 4-H program running! Club & project leaders, Shooting Sports Coaches & Coordinators, Superintendents, & volunteers, we couldn't do it without you.

### Club Day Results

Check out page 8 for the results from County Club Day. Great job to all of our 4-H county participants!

# Upcoming Events

## April

**1st-State Project Evaluations Due**

**2nd—K-State Garden Hour:** Increasing Vegetable Yield [Register here!](#)

**2nd—Field to Fork webinar:** Plant Pathology 101: Common Plant Diseases  
[Register here!](#)

**4th - First Friday eCall: Save your Town:** Uniquely Do-Able Ideas

[Register Here!](#)

**9th—Field to Fork webinar:** All About Alliums: Garlic, Green Onions, Dry Bulb Onions, Leek, and Shallots  
[Register here!](#)

**11th - Regenerative Farming Program** in Colby  
Details [here!](#)

**12th - Small Animal Weigh-In**

**16th—Field to Fork webinar:** Ghost in the Garden: Night-flying Moths  
[Register here!](#)

**17th - Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge -** Manhattan

**19th - Small Animal Weigh-In (Back-up)**

**19th - 24th National 4-H Conference -** Washington, DC

**20th-26th--National Volunteer Week**

**26th — Hazardous Occupations Safety Training in Agriculture** (Youth Aged 14-15 in Hoxie, KS) Flyer can be found [here.](#)

**26th - Shooting Sports State Spring Match –** Great Bend

**26th-27th--Thomas County Livestock Expo**

[Thomas County Livestock Expo](#) | [Colby KS](#) | [Facebook](#)

**30th—Field to Fork webinar:** Food Preservation Toolkit  
[Register here!](#)

## May

**2nd--First Friday e-Call:** Regional Food Business Center & Rural Grocery Initiative (RGI)  
[Register here!](#)

**7th--K-State Garden Hour:** Heat Loving Perennials for Kansas  
[Register here!](#)

**10th—CCC Spring Show** Details [here!](#)

**12th & 13th--FSMA Produce Safety Grower Training-** online  
[Register here!](#)

**7th--Grant Writing Workshop–** In Person-Hill City  
[Register here!](#)

**15—Grant Writing Workshop-** In Person-Parsons

[Register here!](#)

**24th—Walk Kansas Ends**

**26th—Memorial Day: OFFICE CLOSED**

**27th & 28th—Babysitting Class** Look [here!](#)

## June

**4th--K-State Garden Hour:** Native & Ornamental Grasses for Kansas  
[Register here!](#)

**6th--First Friday e-Call:** All Things Kansas  
[Register here!](#)

## **Chiggers in Kansas**

Warmer days may lead many to itch for spring and summer, but a K-State entomologist cautions against a small mite that is likely to give you a less-pleasing seasonal itch.

Chiggers are active beginning in April, says K-State's Raymond Cloyd, and are usually found in areas with unmanaged vegetation, as well as parks, golf courses, sports fields and other grassy areas. The larvae attach themselves to humans, pets and other animals.



"Chiggers do not suck blood," Cloyd said. "Rather, chiggers burrow and feed on dissolved skin. The larvae inject a saliva that causes the skin tissue to dissolve, and that is what the chigger larvae feed on."

According to Cloyd, the larvae are difficult to see with the human eye. Humans often notice the presence of chiggers by a reddish-rash and itchy skin.

Cloyd cautions to resist the urge to scratch.

"You want to avoid scratching too often because you can promote a bacterial infection by opening wounds," he said. "I've been bitten by chiggers many times, and I know it's very tempting to scratch, but you don't want to create a bigger problem."

Cloyd said some topical ointments may help with the itch and a dermatologist may be able to provide recommendations.

Once attached, larvae feed for "a few days," according to Cloyd, and then they fall off the host. The larvae become nymphs and then adults that reside in the soil. The nymphs and adults do not feed on humans or other animals. Instead, they feed on insects, mites, and their eggs in the soil.

The best advice, according to Cloyd, is to avoid

getting bitten in the first place.

"If you're going to go into an area where chiggers are likely to be, use DEET or other repellants, and then when you come back inside, immediately take a shower to help reduce the itchiness caused by chiggers."

Chiggers are usually active from Spring (late April) until Fall, or until the first frost. The species of chiggers found in Kansas do not transmit disease, Cloyd said.

Cloyd has written a publication, titled Chiggers in Kansas, with additional tips for protecting yourself from chiggers, including:

Avoid walking into areas with tall grass and weeds.

Do not sit, lie down or walk barefoot in areas that may harbor chiggers.

Insert pant legs underneath socks.

Mow turfgrass regularly and remove extensive vegetation, such as brush, shrubs, grass and weeds).

Wash clothes using a hot water wash and rinse to kills chiggers that may be attached to clothing.

Consult a physician about products that can be used to relieve discomfort and itching.

To view the full publication written by Raymond Cloyd, [click here](#).

## **Regenerative Farming**

The regenerative farming movement is gaining momentum in much of the United States, but can it work in western Kansas? Join us at the 4-H Building on April 11 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. to learn about the science behind the movement as well as an upcoming research project we will be conducting in partnership with Tyler Johnson, a local farmer and co-owner of North West Kansas Soil Amendment, LLC.





## **Save Money with Egg-Less Recipes**

The H5N1 Bird Flu (Avian Influenza A) is affecting egg supplies across the country. Currently, there is no person-to-person spread of the virus and public health risk is low.

But the poultry population has been drastically affected, with a loss of over 166 million poultry, leading to shortages of eggs in grocery stores. It has also affect dairy cows in 17 states.

If eggs are in short supply in your area, here are some egg-less meal options from the [Partnership for Food Safety Education](#).

- [Hearty Breakfast Casserole](#)
- [Vegetarian Lasagna](#)
- [Jambalaya Casserole](#)
- [Classic Vegan Cheesecake](#)
- [Vegan Key Lime Pie](#)

Iowa State University Extension also has tips and tricks in their blog:

- [Baking Without Eggs – Part 1](#)
- [Baking Without Eggs – Part 2](#)

Learn more about the current status of Avian Influenza A from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

The [CDC has many tips on prevention and treatment](#) of Avian Influenza A, including safe food preparation.

## **Getting Started with Home Food Preservation**

In home canning, [botulism](#) illness from *Clostridium botulinum* bacteria, is rare, but it can happen if unsafe methods and untested recipes are used. Foodborne botulism does not spread from person to person, it comes directly from food. Get started on the path to safe home canned foods with these tips:

- Learn how to use equipment properly. Practice by canning water to learn how your stovetop works with the canner. Read canner and stove manufacturer instructions.

Follow [reliable recipes](#). They will safely guide you through the steps and also tell you how to [adjust processing for your elevation](#).

Use the proper canning method for the food being canned. High acid foods can be safely canned in a [water bath canner](#). Low acid foods must be canned in a [pressure canner](#).

Learn more with the resources in [Preserve it Fresh, Preserve it Safe](#).



## **Let the Easter Egg Hunt Begin!**

Sometimes eggs are decorated, used as decorations, and hunted at Easter. Here are some safety tips.

- *Dyeing eggs:* After hard cooking eggs, dye them and refrigerate within 2 hours. Use a food-safe coloring.
- *Blowing out eggshells:* Use caution when blowing out the contents to hollow out the shell for decorating. Use eggs that have been kept refrigerated and are uncracked. To destroy bacteria that may be present on the surface of the egg, wash the egg in hot water and then rinse in a solution of 1 teaspoon liquid chlorine bleach per half cup of water. After blowing out the egg, refrigerate the contents and use within 2 to 4 days.
- *Hunting Eggs:* If hard cooked eggs have been lying on the ground, they can pick up bacteria, especially if the shells are cracked. If the shells crack, bacteria could contaminate the inside. The total time for hiding and hunting eggs should not exceed 2 hours. Refrigerate and use “found” eggs within 7 days of cooking.

Learn more at [USDA Shell Eggs from Farm to Table](#)







## Small Animal Weigh-In

Small animal weigh-in will be held **April 12th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Make-up day if necessary will be **April 19th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**. Regular visual tags are \$3 each. Please let the extension office know if you are needing **Kansas State Fair or KJLS tags at weigh-in.** Please have your livestock ready and bring cash or check to purchase tags.

## Camp Lakeside

Camp Lakeside will be held on June 9th-10th this year. We have 10 camper spots (ages 7-9) and 2 counselor spots (ages 14-18) available. Cost is \$140 per camper. Camp Registration is open. Please call the office to sign up and register!

The theme this year is Exploring the Waters at Camp Lakeside!



## Dog Club Meetings

Pawsome Paws, the Thomas County 4-H Dog Club, has begun their spring practices. Meetings will be held on Tuesdays at 7pm at the 4-H Building. A copy of vaccine records as all dogs are required to have a current Distemper/Parvo (DHLP), Kennel Cough (Bordetella), and Rabies vaccine before the dog can come to practice. Angie will keep a copy of the vaccine record and the 4-H member will keep the original. For more information, please contact Angie Harris at 785-443-2797.

## Insect Art Contest

The Pesticide Safety and IPM program is hosting an insect-themed art contest for Kansas 4-Hers and art students across the state. The theme this year is "By the Light of the Moon: Insects at Night." The program encourages youth and adults to get creative and create an entry before the April 15, 2025 deadline. Visit their [website](#) for contest rules and entry forms.

## State Livestock Nominations

State livestock nomination deadlines:

- **Market Beef: May 1**
- **Small Livestock: June 15**

DNA Envelopes must be ordered in advance. Find more details [here](#).

## Horse Papers



Horse Identification papers are due to the Extension Office on May 1st. The 4-H Horse ID Certificate has been updated for the 2025 4-H program year. Please destroy previous versions of the ID form and use the update certificate moving forward. The form must be front and back only, not two separate pages and must have a standard-sized photo attached with all markings visible. Here is the [new form](#).

## 4-H Camp 2025

Ready, set, register! 2025 4-H camp sessions at [Rock Springs Ranch](#) are now available for registration. A full list of session dates and costs for Summer Camp 2025 can be found [here](#).

## Spring Shows are Coming!

- Thomas County Fair Board Show: 26th & 27th
- CCC Classic Show: May 10th

## YQCA Training Required for all Livestock Participants

The Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) certification training will be required for 4-H members ages 8-18 to be able to show and sell their livestock this year for fair. 7 year-olds are encouraged to attend, but will not become certified. **Species that require certification include beef, hogs, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits.** This training focuses on food safety, animal well-being, and life skill development. The office will be hosting two in-person dates for members to receive their certificate. If they cannot attend either in-person date they are able to complete the training online. The first training will be Thursday, April 24th at 6:30pm at the 4-H Building and the second will be Sunday, June 1st at 2:00pm location TBD. The training will be \$3/ participant in-person or \$12 online. All online certificates of completion are due to the office by **July 1st**. **Registration for instructor-led trainings needs to be completed on the [YQCA website](#)!** For questions please call the Extension Office at 785-460-4582.





## Discovery Days

Discovery Days offers in-depth training through educational sessions from content and youth development experts. It will be held June 4-6 on the K-State Campus. Click [here](#) to learn more about the event and to register! Sessions fill up quick!



## 2025 Fair Livestock Weights

A reminder on livestock weights requirements for the 2025 Thomas County Fair are as follows:

- Beef- 1000-1800 • Swine- 225-350
- Sheep- 100-160 • Goats- 50-125

Monitoring and adjusting the feed program for your livestock, based on actual growth, is important to ensure that a member's project animal is in market ready condition come fair time.

## Project Leader Resources

The Kansas 4-H Volunteer Project Leader Training Series recordings and resources are available [here](#). The resources are designed to help provide tangible examples of activities you can do with youth in their 4-H projects and connect you to useful resources to aid in your teaching. You can find additional resources for various projects on the [4-H website](#). New and returning volunteers need to complete the Volunteer Application/Renewal on 4-H Online. If you have questions, call the office at (785) 460-4582 or email [ldespain@ksu.edu](mailto:ldespain@ksu.edu).

## Thomas County Fair 2025

The 2025 Thomas County Fair will be held July 21st—26th.

- June 28th: Open Horse Show
- July 12th & 13th: Dog Show
- July 15th: Fashion Revue
- July 17th: Visual Arts & Communication Judging
- July 19th: 4-H Horse

This year's fair theme is 'Twas the Night Before Fair.

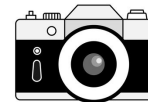


## Insect Spectacular

The Kansas 4-H Insect Spectacular, a two-day state-wide entomology workshop, typically held in June. More information coming soon. You can view the prior year's details and find the updated information [here](#) when its completed.

## Geology Field Trip

A geology field trip is scheduled for June 13-15 in Concordia. A variety of workshops and activities are planned along with a variety of stops. You can visit [here](#) for more information that will be posted soon and to review the prior year's details.



## 4-H Shutterbug

A photography workshop is being hosted May 3, 2025 at Botanica Gardens in Wichita. Shutterbug events are photography workshops put on across the state, and are a perfect opportunity to develop new camera skills, hone your creative talents and try new photography techniques. Workshops are typically scheduled as a morning session and concentrate on a variety of aspects of composition. Find more information and registration [here](#) when it is available.

## Animal Science Webinar Series

The Animal Science Webinar Series is designed to give Kansas 4-H members an opportunity to learn more about the livestock industry, career opportunities and good animal husbandry practices. To view previous recordings, visit the [4-H website](#).

## Youth Ag Ambassadors



The ambassador program is a premier leadership opportunity for youth ages 13 to 18 who are passionate about agriculture and are willing to complete a one or two-year term. The program focuses on:

- Connecting youth with their local agricultural industries
- Developing ag advocacy skills and fostering educational mindsets
- Increasing access to career and post-secondary experiences within the Agri-science world

Ambassadors complete training to develop leadership and teamwork skills. This includes leading educational experiences for youth and attending ag events, such as the Kansas Youth Ag Experience trip. **This would be an incredible resume & record book addition!**

Click [here](#) for more details! Applications and supporting documents are due by April 15<sup>th</sup> and may be submitted to the extension office.



## Cloverbuds can now join Thomas County 4-H!

The 4-H Cloverbuds program is specifically designed for 5-6 year olds, providing them with a unique introduction to the world of 4-H and experiential learning. This program focuses on nurturing curiosity and encouraging exploration through hands-on activities tailored to younger children.

Cloverbuds can engage in fun projects related to their interests, attend club meetings, participate in community service projects, and foster a sense of belonging in 4-H early!

### **Goals for Kansas 4-H Cloverbuds**

- **Self-understanding skills** (Initiating independence and self-direction)
- **Social skills** (Getting along with others)
- **Decision-making skills** (Making positive choices)
- **Learning skills** (Learning to learn)
- **Mastering physical skills** (Enjoying constructive and creative play)

The 4-H Cloverbuds program is an exciting and enriching non-competitive way for young children to start their journey in 4-H, laying the groundwork for lifelong learning and active participation in their communities.

### **How to Join**

Enrollment is completed the same way as a non-Cloverbud 4-H member.

Easy as 1-2-3

1. Find a club
2. Visit a club
3. Enroll online

### **Cloverbud Division at the Thomas County Fair**

- 4-H Cloverbuds may exhibit or showcase age-appropriate activity related items from their 4-H Cloverbud experiences.
- 4-H Cloverbuds may showcase a product, poster, or notebook for a show-and-tell type display.
- 4-H Cloverbuds will receive a special 4-H Cloverbud ribbon for their work. They may not participate as a competitive exhibitor and are not eligible to receive premiums.
- 4-H Cloverbuds cannot exhibit livestock in the 4-H division, if they wish to enter these divisions they must do so in the Open Class division.
- 4-H Cloverbuds may exhibit a pet from the approved list in the [Kansas 4-H Policy Handbook](#).







# THOMAS COUNTY 4-H CLUB DAY RESULTS

March 28, 2025

## MODEL MEETINGS

Abilene Hustlers — Purple  
Brewster Prairie Gem — Blue

## SKITS

Abilene Hustlers — Blue  
Stramel Family — Purple

## PROJECT TALKS

### **\*Junior (Ages 7-9)**

Ella Johnson — Purple  
Rawlins Mattix — Blue

### **\*Intermediate (Ages 10-13)**

Morgan Mattix — Blue  
Sebastian Schrick — Purple

## DEMONSTRATIONS & ILLUSTRATED TALKS

### **\*Junior (Ages 7-9)**

Korin Gabel — Blue  
Anthony Haag — Purple  
Bear Stramel — Purple

### **\*Intermediate (Ages 10-13)**

Brasen Fikan — Blue  
Rence Fikan — Blue  
Aleha Gabel — Purple  
Max Juenemann — Blue  
Joseph Schrick — Blue  
Cort Stramel — Blue  
Sophia Stramel — Blue

### **\*Senior (Ages 14 & older)**

Elijah Gabel — Blue  
Emery Fikan — Blue  
Ella Fikan — Purple  
Brody Stramel — Blue

## INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

### **\*Junior (Ages 7-9)**

Korin Gabel (viola) — Blue

### **\*Intermediate (Ages 10-13)**

Aleha Gabel (violin) — Red  
Abigail Jamison (cello) — Blue  
Abigail Jamison (trombone) — Purple  
Morgan Mattix (flute) — Purple  
Morgan Mattix (violin) — Purple  
Sophia Stramel (clarinet) — Blue  
Cort Stramel (trombone) — Blue

### **\*Senior (Ages 14 & older)**

Elijah Gabel (cello) — Blue

## PIANO SOLO

### **\*Junior (Ages 7-9)**

Korin Gabel — Blue  
Rawlins Mattix — Blue

### **\*Intermediate (Ages 10-13)**

Aleha Gabel — Blue

### **\*Senior (Ages 14 and older)**

Reagan Frantz — Purple  
Elijah Gabel — Purple  
Colby Kriss-Howlett — Purple  
Allison Zimmerman — Blue

## VOCAL SOLO

### **\*Junior (Ages 7-9)**

Bear Stramel — Blue

## DANCE

### **\*Intermediate (Ages 10-13)**









Aleha Gabel — Blue

Purple = Top Blue

Purple/Top Blue = State Qualification



# April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 State Projects Evaluations Due	2	3	4	5
6	7 AH - Meeting	8	9 	10 SS Fair Board Meeting	11 Regenerative Farming Program 	12 Small Animal Weigh-In 
13	14 BPG—Meeting @ Henry Hall 7:30pm GEM—Meeting @ Gem Comm. Bldg. 7pm SV— Meeting @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	15 Crop Talk Series	16 Field to Fork  LIVING WELL WEDNESDAY 	17 SS YEC -Manhattan	18	19 Small Animal Weigh-In (back-up) <i>National 4-H Conference - Washington, DC</i>
20 <i>National 4-H Conference - Washington, DC</i>	21 <i>National 4-H Conference - Washington, DC</i>	22 Crop Talk Series PP--Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm <i>National 4-H Conference - Washington, DC</i>	23 Field to Fork  <i>National 4-H Conference - Washington, DC</i>	24 SS KSRE Stem Day - Home School <i>National 4-H Conference - Washington, DC</i>	25	26 Fair Board Spring Show
27 Fair Board Spring Show	28 4-H Council Mtg. 	29 Crop Talk Series PP--Practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm Kids Conservation Round-Up	30 Field to Fork 			
					PP = Pawsome Paws SS = Shooting Sports AH = Abilene Hustlers	BPG = Brewster Prairie Gem Gem = Gem 4-H SV = Solomon Valley





# **K-STATE**

## **Research and Extension**

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Bookmark our website for quick reference to educational and informational resources as well as contact information for all of your questions:

**<http://www.thomas.k-state.edu>**

**Check us out on Facebook:**

**K-State Research and Extension Thomas County 4-H**



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