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Thomas County

K-State Research and Extension News

*Knowledge
for Life*

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Summer Internship Opportunity

Thomas County Extension is accepting applications for a temporary summer employee. Employment involves the assistance of summer events and activities. Normal work hours will be from 8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Applicants must be 18 years old and be a high school graduate or have GED equivalent. This is a temporary summer position from June 1 through August 6. Application deadline is April 16th, at 5 p.m. Applications are available in the Thomas County Extension Office located in the Thomas County Office Complex at 350 S. Range Avenue, Colby, Kansas between the hours of 8 a.m. until noon and 1 – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; or contact Emily at ebennigsdorf@ksu.edu, or the Extension office (785) 460-4582. Thomas County Extension is an equal opportunity employer.

Small Animal Weigh-In

April 29, 2021

The 4-H small animal weigh-in will be held at the Thomas County Fairgrounds on Thursday, April 29th from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. If you want to show your goats, sheep, swine or bucket calves, please remember they must be weighed in at this time. Again this year, we will be charging for advertising in order to pay for the County Fair Livestock Advertisement in the newspaper. Ear tags are \$3.00 each and advertising costs \$5.00 per animal to be sold. We ask that you bring cash or check that day to pay for tags. Please note: our tags are NOT acceptable at the Kansas State Fair. If you have an animal you would like to nominate for the State Fair, please let the Extension Office know so we can get the correct EID tag for your animal.

4-H Camps

See page 6 for more information regarding 4-H camps being held this summer! These are great opportunities for 4-H members to experience a variety of activities. We are also looking for counselors for camp. If you are interested, we need counselor information and camper registration by April 9th. Be sure to come into the office or call if you have questions.



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KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

Lawn Care for the Next Few Months

These last few days have been nice and warm compared to last week's temperatures.



Kansas State

University horticulture expert Ward Upham is reminding community members that cool-season grasses will need some attention at the beginning of March.

Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue are the most common cool-season grasses in Kansas. Through the end of the year, Upham said the following calendar will give homeowners a good plan for maintaining these varieties.

Usually in March try to spot treat broadleaf weeds, if necessary. Make sure to treat on days that are 50 degrees Fahrenheit or warmer. The spot treating will be less effective if it rains in the 24 hours after the initial application.

Apply crabgrass preventer in April when redbud trees are in full bloom. The preventer needs to be watered in before it will start to work. One-quarter inch of water should be enough for most products.

When May gets here make sure to fertilize with slow-release fertilizer if you water your lawn, or if you normally receive enough rainfall that your turf doesn't go drought-dormant during the summer. If there are broadleaf weeds, spot treat with a spray, or use a fertilizer that includes weed killer. The fertilizer needs to be watered in; the weed killer's effectiveness will be reduced if you get rain within 24 hours after application.

Also, if you have grubs that are obnoxious, apply a product containing imidacloprid or chlorantraniliprole. Irrigate with $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of water if it doesn't rain within 24 hours of treatment.

Getting into the heat of the middle of summer (June through mid-July) apply a second round of crabgrass preventer by June 15, unless you have used Dimension (dithiopyr) or Barricade (prodiamine) for the April application. These two products normally provide season-long control with a single application. Remember to water in the product after applying.

If you see grub damage in late July through August, apply a grub killer that contain Dylox. Imidacloprid and chlorantraniliprole are effective against young grubs but may not be effective on late instar grubs. The grub killer containing Dylox must be watered in within 24 hours.

In September make sure to fertilize the lawn around Labor Day. This is the most important fertilization of the year. Water in the fertilizer if rainfall doesn't occur within 24 hours.

To finish off the season in November, Fertilize again. This application is taken up by the roots but is not used until the following spring. Water in the fertilizer. Spray for broadleaf weeds even if they are small. Broadleaf weeds are much easier to control in the fall than in the spring. Try to spray on a day that is at least 50 degrees F. Use label rates for all products.





Canning Season is on it's Way!

Home canning of foods is done using two processing methods based on the type of food being canned.

Low acid foods, such as vegetables and all meats, must be pressure canned. High acid foods, such as most fruits, tomatoes, pickled foods, jams and jellies, are processed using a boiling water bath. This is based on the acidity, or pH, of the food. The dividing point is a pH of 4.6. Any food above 4.6 is a low acid food. Any food below 4.6 is a high acid food. There are some fruits that are low acid. Examples are all melons, bananas, and pineapple.

Besides the pH, how canning preserves food is based on many other factors such as water activity, enzymes, microorganisms, moisture content and much more.

Gardeners are making their plans, and in some areas, vegetables and other foods are already being planted. A Kansas State University food scientist figures those are pretty good signs that food preservation season is not far away.

"Now is the time to check canning equipment and make repairs needed or replace worn items," said Karen Blakeslee, who is also coordinator of K-State's Rapid Response Center for

food science. "Examine jars and take damaged ones out of your canning supply. Canning lids were in short supply last year, so be patient as those supplies get replenished."

Blakeslee said that K-State Research and Extension offices across the state can check several brands of dial gauge pressure canners – including Presto, National, Maid of Honor and Magic Seal -- to make sure they are working properly. This service is free.

"If you are new to canning, practice using your equipment now before you want to can food," Blakeslee said. "Learn how the canners work with your stovetop. Use water-filled jars as substitutes to process through the canners. Also, be aware that some canners should not be used on flat, glass stovetops. Always follow the canner and stove manufacturer's directions."

Blakeslee also encouraged using canning recipes that have been validated by research.

"Following those recipes and directions will help insure a safely canned food," she said. "A majority of food preservation failures occur due to user errors. And don't forget to adjust your processing for our location's elevation."





Lifeskills Judging

A Lifeskills Judging kit will be available at the Extension Office from April 12th-16th. Usually this is available during County Club Day and at Fair. However, due to COVID, we are offering this opportunity at a separate time to allow for smaller groups and more time to clean between participants. This is a great event to use for achievement pin applications.

Project Enrollment



May 1st is the last day to add or drop projects on 4-H Online. Please log-in to update

which projects you will or will not be participating in this year.

Project Meetings/Events

Dog Project– Practices are being held on Tuesdays from 7-9pm at the 4-H Bldg. Masks and social distancing are recommended.

Horse project– Practices are being held two Thursdays a month at the CCC Farm at 5:30pm. Riders will need to provide a negative Coggins test (within the last year) and will have to wear helmets per CCC policy.

Photography project– Shutterbugs events

- ♦ May 1st at 9:15am at Botanica Gardens in Wichita, KS with \$9 entry fee per person
- ♦ May 8th at Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City, KS with \$5 reg. fee for each of the first 5 members of a family. Age 5 and under are free.

Shotgun project– The coaches are gearing up for the upcoming shotgun season. Safety meetings and practices will be held later this spring. Watch for more information and make sure you're signed up for the shotgun project on 4-H Online.

Record Keeping for 2021

Each year, Thomas County 4-H members can earn project pins for completing a project record book and submitting it for judging. This year, the Kansas State 4-H Office has created new Project Record Report Forms for 2021.

Record Keeping and Project Reporting are valuable skills taught to members of the Kansas 4-H program. Members are encouraged to keep a permanent record of all 4-H and Non-4-H Experiences and are encouraged to summarize their experiences on the **NEW** Kansas 4-H Project Report Form for project recognition. These reports will replace the Kansas Award Portfolio (KAP) forms that have been used in the past. There are two report forms per age division. One is for animals including all livestock, horses, pets, cats, dogs, and rabbits. The other is a general form that should be used for all non-animal projects. Project Report Forms and Achievement Pin Applications are due October 1st each year. However, 4-H members should work on these reports throughout the year.

The new forms and instructions can be found on the Kansas 4-H website. You are able to open and save the form-fillable PDF in order to complete the necessary information. We have also put an example together to show which forms need to be included in the final record book. The example and the Guide to 4-H Project Recognition are available at the Extension Office.





Thomas County Livestock Opportunities

Several livestock events will be held here in Thomas County this year.

◆ **Fair Livestock Educational Workshop Day**

April 10th from 1-5pm, Fairgrounds Arena

This workshop will include best practices to raise, handle, and show your livestock. There will be 4 sessions (one for each species) and there is no cost to attend. Come for one session or all!

◆ **Thomas County Livestock Expo**

April 24th & 25th on the Fairgrounds

This spring show is for youth ages 8-18 and includes showmanship, market and breeding classes. Shows start at 9am and pre-entries are due April 15th.

◆ **CCC Classic Spring Livestock Show**

May 15th at the Fairgrounds Arena

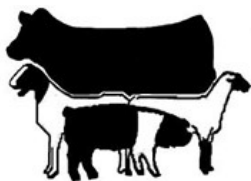
This show is open for youth ages 7-18 and includes showmanship, market and breeding classes. Shows start at 9am and online entry for discounts due May 13th.

4-H Events & Spring Shows

Many counties are starting to think about their annual spring livestock shows. There are also several other 4-H events being announced. We will have a notebook of flyers available with more information.

Check with the Extension Office periodically to learn about upcoming events including:

- Livestock, Horse and Dog shows
- Swine Across Kansas Series
- Judging contests
- Educational workshops
- Animal clinics for Poultry and Rabbits



Horse Papers



Horse deadlines are quickly approaching ...let's review a few frequently asked questions. The form must be front and back only, not two separate pages and must have a standard-sized photo attached with all markings visible. ID papers need to be turned in to the Extension Office by Wednesday, May 1st.

Horse Ownership: Youth may own the horse themselves, or use a family-owned horse (immediate family: mother, father, stepparent, brother, sister, grandparent, or legal guardian).

Leasing: The leasing option is intended for youth who are unable to participate fully in the 4-H horse project because they do not have access to family-owned horse, provided that they manage the horse at least 75 percent of the time from May 1 through September 30. If a 4-H member leases his or her project horse to another 4-H member, the leaser forfeits the right to use the horse.

Sharing project horses: Siblings may show the same horse provided they are not in the same class. If both are in the same age classification, they must decide what classes each will show in.

Horse Level Testing

4-H Horse Project members who would like to compete at the District or State level, must complete the Level 1 workbook, do some community service work, attend an educational seminar, take & pass the Level 1 written exam, as well as take & pass the Level 1 riding exam. More information can be found on the [4-H Horse page](#).

NW District Horse Show

The Northwest District Horse show will be held on July 8th in Norton. Stay tuned for more information and registration deadlines.



Discovery Days

4-H Discovery Days will be delivered virtually in 2021. The event will be held on June 1st-4th. Discovery Days offers classes and tours about 4-H projects, careers, hobbies, community service and more!

Save the Date



Great Northwest Rock Springs Camp will be held from June 9th - June 12th, 2021. This camp is for ages 7-12. Camper and

counselor registration forms are available at the Extension Office and are due April 9th. If camp requires reduced numbers, attendance will be based on a first-come, first-served basis.

Camp Lakeside will be held June 9th-10th in Scott City. This camp is for ages 7-9.

***These camps overlap this year, so we may not be able to send 4-H members to both camps. Also, if you are interested in being a chaperone or helping with transportation, please let us know!*

Campference

This event is focused on “betweenagers,” youth ages 12-14 and will be held June 27-30, 2021. This event is normally held at Rock Springs Ranch. However, it was held virtually in 2020. Keep an eye out for more information on this year’s event.

Fair Livestock Auction

The livestock auction during the 2021 Thomas County Fair will be held on July 29th. Animals will be released on July 31st. While this seems far away, many lockers are already full for butcher dates through October. Please call the lockers for more information or to book a date for yourself or potential buyers.

ZD’s Meatz in Oakley: 785-672-9003

Ben-Lee Processing in Atwood: 785-626-3732

Grinnell Locker: 785-824-3400

Insect Art Contest



The Pesticide Safety and Integrated Pest Management Program is hosting an insect-themed art contest for Kansas 4-H members and art students.

This year the artwork needs to fit into the contest theme of “Exploring Pollinators.” The goal is to explore what pollinators do and why they are important and create an art piece that captures that information. More information on the rules, prizes, how the entries will be used, and how to submit an entry can be found at: <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/pesticides-ipm/> or you can e-mail fmiller@ksu.edu to have the rules e-mailed to you. Submit entries by April 16th.

Club Attendance

For the 2020-2021 year, 4-Her’s wishing to participate in the livestock auction are required to attend 6 club meetings between the months of August 2020 and July 2021. Members must attend meetings for the club they are enrolled in on 4-H Online. Business must be conducted at the meeting in order for the meeting to qualify for attendance. February attendance will count twice.

Club members and leaders can check their attendance record by going to the Thomas County Extension [website](#). Click on “4-H Youth Development”, followed by “Record Keeping.”

Volunteers

New and returning volunteers need to complete the Volunteer Application/Renewal on 4HOnline. If you have questions, call Joanna at (785) 460-4582 or email joannajohnson@ksu.edu.



State Livestock Nominations

Market Beef state livestock nominations (including steers and market heifers) are due May 1st. All small animal nominations (non-market beef) are due June 15th. This includes commercial heifers, market swine, commercial gilts, market lambs, commercial ewes, and ALL meat goats. There is not a separate division for registered breeding does at either state show, so all meat goats must be nominated in order to be eligible to show.

Any 4-H or FFA youth who would like to exhibit in the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive or KJLS is required to nominate their livestock projects. The 2021 nomination information has been distributed to county offices and may be found on the Youth Livestock Program [website](#). The 2021 Declaration and Specie Nomination Forms MUST be used for nominations to be accepted. All families are encouraged to use the nomination checklist as a guide to ensure their nominations are complete upon submission. This resource may be found on the Youth Livestock Program website, or through the local county office. Please double check that there are not any blank fields or questions on the Declaration and Nomination Forms before placing them in the mail.

As a reminder, ear notches are required for swine nominations and scrapie tag numbers are required for sheep and goats. Nominations received without this information will be considered incomplete and returned to the family for completion.

Confirmation letters will be sent to families once their nominations have been processed, and reports will regularly be posted on the Youth Livestock Program website. Families are encouraged to use one of these options to verify their nominations.







A complete nomination does NOT constitute show entry. The Kansas State Fair and KJLS will release entry information to agents and through their respective websites as entry season draws near. State Fair Grand Drive entries will be due July 15th, and KJLS entries will be due August 15th. Animals who are nominated, but do not follow the appropriate entry processes set forth by each show, will not be permitted to show. For nomination questions, please contact Lexie Hayes at adhayes@ksu.edu.

Livestock Quality Assurance

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a new, national, multi-species livestock quality assurance program available for youth ages 7-21. This annual educational and certification program focuses on food safety, animal well-being, and character awareness for youth producing and/or showing livestock. Youth exhibitors in the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and/or KJLS are currently required to have quality assurance certification (YQCA) in order to participate. It is a requirement to exhibit at the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and/or KJLS for all species exhibiting livestock in 2021.



April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 NO Horse project practice @ CCC Barn 5:30pm	2	3
4 Happy Easter! 	5 AH—Meeting @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	6 Dog project practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	7	8 Fairboard Mtg. @ 8pm	9 Rock Springs Camp reg. due!	10 Fair Livestock Educational Workshop 
11	12 BPG—Meeting @ Henry Hall 7:30pm GEM—Meeting @ Gem Comm. Bldg. 7pm SV— Meeting @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	13 Dog project practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	14	15 Pre-entries due for Thomas County Livestock Expo Horse project practice @ CCC Barn 5:30pm	16 Insect Art Contest entries due 	17
18	19 CC—Meeting @ 4-H Bldg. 6:30pm	20 Dog project practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	21	22	23	24 Thomas County Livestock Expo
25 Thomas County Livestock Expo	26 4-H Council Mtg. 	27 Dog project practice @ 4-H Bldg. 7pm	28	29 Small Animal Weigh-In 	30 	May 1 Horse Papers due Last Day to Add/ Drop projects State Fair Beef Nominations due
					SS = Shooting Sports AH = Abilene Hustlers	BPG = Brewster Prairie Gem Gem = Gem 4-H CC = Colby Comets SV = Solomon Valley



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Research and Extension

Thomas County Office Complex

350 South Range Ave. Suite 16

Colby, Kansas 67701

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 & Twitter:

K-State Research and Extension Thomas County 4-H



K-State Research and Extension and Thomas County Extension are committed to making their services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision or hearing disability, or a dietary restriction please contact Emily Bennigsdorf at 785-460-4582.