4-H RE-ENROLLMENT & NEW ENROLLMENT

New 4-H members, as well as returning 4-H members, may enroll/re-enroll online starting **Friday, October 1, 2021**. ALL returning 4-H members need to be enrolled by **December 1st, 2021** in order to participate with 4-H in the 2022 Fair. At this time, please double-check all contact information for accuracy. Also, there is a $15 4-H program fee per child to enroll. The Extension Office highly recommends using a debit/credit card for payment to expedite the enrollment process. If you have questions regarding the fee, please call the Kansas State 4-H Office at (785) 532-5800. For other questions, please call the Extension office at (785) 460-4582.

**4-H Project Record Books, Officer Notebooks, Club Seal forms & Achievement Pin forms**

Due – **Friday, October 1st!!!**  See Page 4 of this newsletter for more information.

**Women in Ag Program**

Please join us for a Thomas County Women in Agriculture program this fall. More details can be found on the flyer on page 7.

**Thank YOU!**

The Thomas County Extension Office Staff and Executive Board would like to say Thank You to each and every individual and business that helped with the 2021 Thomas County Fair. Without sponsors, volunteers, Fair Board and the 4-H Families, we would not be able to have such a successful fair!!!

**Seeking Candidates for Extension Program Development Committees**

Interested in making Thomas County a better place to live, work and farm? Want to develop your personal leadership skills? We’re looking for you!

Candidates are needed annually for positions on the Thomas County Extension Council. Each year, multiple residents age 18 or older are elected to a 2-year term on one of the four Extension program development committees: agriculture, family and consumer sciences, community development, and 4-H youth. If interested, please contact the Extension office.

*Fair Premium Checks are available for pick-up at the Extension Office.*
Winter Wheat Varieties Report

The 2021 Kansas Performance Tests with Winter Wheat Varieties report is now online. The Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station annually compares both new and currently grown wheat varieties across different regions in Kansas. These performance tests generate unbiased information designed to help Kansas growers choose the best wheat varieties for their cropping system.

In this report, you will find a recap of the 2020-21 wheat crop, with a detailed discussion of weather conditions that resulted in two very distinct wheat crops going into the winter months. The prolonged winter maintained the wheat crop dormant for a relatively long time. Most of the varieties evaluated in Hutchinson by K-State Research and Extension did not reach the first hollow stem stage of development until March 30, which compare to as early as March 6 in years with a warm winter. A recap of insect pressure and diseases is also included. More importantly, the results of the 2021 wheat variety performance tests are also shown.

Producers and crop consultants can use this resource to help select wheat varieties for their operation by checking for varieties that show a consistently good performance in their region. Be sure to keep extenuating environmental conditions in mind when examining test results.

The online version of the 2021 variety performance report is available [here](#) and performance test results from previous years are available [here](#).

Grasshopper Pressure is Increasing in Western Kansas

Weather patterns can have a significant impact on grasshopper populations from year to year. Hot, dry summers increase survival of nymphs and adult grasshoppers, leading to increased egg production during the growing season. Cool, wet weather promotes fungal pathogens that can reduce egg and nymph survival, but if the following spring is warm and wet, egg hatching will increase and more nymphs survive. So, several years of hot, dry summers followed by warm, wet springs can eventually lead to large populations of grasshoppers in some regions.

As the weather in western Kansas continues to be hot and dry this summer and areas of drought increase, larger populations of grasshoppers going into the fall season could be possible. This year’s USDA Rangeland Grasshopper Hazard map may explain the recently observed buildup of grasshoppers along field edges and in grassy areas (Figure 1). As non-crop sources of food are exhausted, grasshoppers will shift their grazing over to anything still growing in the landscape. In areas with greater grasshopper pressure seedling alfalfa and wheat could be at risk.

Treatment thresholds

Before planting alfalfa, treatment should be considered if there are 15 or more grasshoppers per square yard around the planting area. Once planted and growing, consider treatment if 3-5 grasshoppers per square yard are found in the seedling alfalfa stand.

Vegetated borders around areas where wheat will be planted should be scouted 10 days before planting. Consider treating those borders if there are 7 to 12 grasshoppers per square yard. Once growing, 3 or more grasshoppers per square yard within the field can destroy seedling wheat stands.

If grasshopper populations are low to moderate, seed treatments can protect emerging wheat plants for several weeks if products are applied at the highest registered rate. Seed treatments will be less effective under severe grasshopper pressure. Avoid planting too early as this will help reduce the time that wheat will need to be protected.

In either crop, depending on the products used and severity of the season’s grasshopper buildup, multiple applications might be necessary. Please refer to the most recent Alfalfa and Wheat Insect Management Guides for specific control information.

Alfalfa Insect Management Guide
Wheat Insect Management Guide

Source of map in Figure 1

Figure 1. Areas shaded in orange and red could experience increased grasshopper pressure through this fall.
September is National Fruits & Veggies Month

As part of the 2021 International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, the Produce for Better Health Foundation has designated September as National Fruits & Veggies Month.

Fruits and vegetables are available year-round as fresh, canned, dried or frozen. Many Americans do not meet the recommended daily intake of produce.

The goal of this promotion is to raise awareness and benefits in eating fruits and vegetables to have a more diversified and well-balanced diet. It also focuses on the problem of food waste and loss associated with the fact that fruits and vegetables are highly perishable.

How can you help promote fruits and veggies? Resources are available to share messages via social media, cooking ideas, learning about produce used in different cultures, or create food challenges.

There are educational resources to help consumers include fruits and vegetables into their daily diet plan, not just during September.

Make Fruit Leather for a Sweet Treat!

Looking to add more fruit into your diet? Use fresh berries to make fruit leather for a handy snack. Berries are in season, so now is a great time to make fruit leather.

When fruits are dried, moisture is removed which concentrates the flavor and caloric value. The same is true when the fruit is in the form of a leather. Fruit leather tastes sweet without additional sugar and are a good source of energy. Use as snacks (children of all ages love them) or include with hiking or camping supplies.

For instructions, go to the National Center for Home Food Preservation.

Source: Penn State University Food Preservation

Food Safety Education Month

Food safety is in your hands, and your home! Food Safety Education month is in September and every consumer has a role in how safe food is prepared, handled, and consumed. Your hands touch many items and surfaces throughout the day, so taking 20 seconds to wash them is the first step in keeping food safe.

Our hands also pass food from one person to another, whether at the dinner table or delivering food to a family member or neighbor. Food delivery demand increased dramatically in recent months. This will continue as we approach the holiday season.

Along with handwashing, fingernail hygiene is equally important. Fingernails can hide dirt and bacteria. They can contribute to infections such as from pinworms. This particular infection is the most common worm infection in the U.S. Because of this, it is important to always wash your hands, and clean under your fingernails, after using the restroom or after changing baby diapers.

Learn more about safe food handling practices and more at KSRE Extension Food Safety. More information regarding Food Safety Education month will be released soon.
**Project Records, Officer Notebooks, Club Seal forms, Achievement Pins**

- Project Recognition / Record Books—(previously called Kansas Award Portfolio or KAP): There are new record forms to be used for the 2020-2021 4-H year. Each record includes sections where the 4-H member can talk about the goals and experiences they had in their project over the past year. They can also include photographs. There are three age divisions—Junior (7-9 yr. olds), Intermediate (10-13 yr. olds), and Senior (14-18 yr. olds). There are also two different forms, depending on which project you want to talk about. One is a *general* form and the other is for *animals*, which includes pets, dogs, poultry, rabbits and all livestock projects. A record form should be completed and turned in for each project the 4-H member would like to have judged. These forms are available at the Extension office, or online. We also have examples of the new forms at the Extension Office if you would like to see a finished product. **Please, use only the new record book forms.** Contact the office if you have trouble finding the forms or have questions about completing them.

- The Historian, Reporter, Secretary, and Treasurers’ notebooks for each club should be turned in to be judged as well.

- 4-H members should also turn in their application forms for their annual achievement pins. These pins will be awarded at the Achievement Banquet, and the forms can be found in the office or online.

- Reminder to leaders that Club Seal and Club Project reports are also due to the office. We understand that Club Projects as well as items that were required for Club Seals in the past, may look different or may not have happened this year. However, we would like club leaders to turn in the Club Seal application with as much information as possible. We would like to highlight the work each club has done this year.

Mark your calendars!! **All of the above is due by 5pm, Friday, October 1st!!!**

**Record Book Judging**

Thomas County record books will be judged in mid-October. If you would like to be a volunteer judge, please let the office know. Parents can judge a project their child has not entered a record book for. This can give valuable insight as to how other 4-H members work on their projects.

**4-H Council Elections & Officer Training**

New Officers will be elected at the September 27th 4-H Council meeting. Clubs should each have their council representatives chosen by this time. Members who would like to run for office need to attend this meeting and must be 11 years old or older this coming 4-H year. The meeting will be a joint meeting between the current council members and the future members.

Officer Training will be Monday, October 25, 2021 at 6:00 PM in the 4-H Building. We will start off with pizza and conversation then break up into groups for the training. Please RSVP to the Extension office with how many slices of pizza you would like ($2 for each slice – includes drink) by noon on the day of the training – October 25th. The October 4-H Council meeting will follow.
Volunteers

It’s that time again and we need your help!! The enrollment date for adult volunteers is the same as that for 4-H members, October 1st. Returning volunteers will need to re-enroll on 4-H Online and verify their information just like returning 4-H members. If you are a new volunteer, please contact the office so we can get the forms and instructions to you. Call Joanna at (785) 460-4582 or email joannajohnson@ksu.edu.

***If you know someone who would be a great resource for our 4-H members to learn from, (friend, community member, etc.) please contact the office. We are always looking for new project leaders and volunteers.***

Club Attendance

For the 2021-2022 year, 4-H members wishing to participate in the livestock auction are required to attend 6 club meetings between the months of August 2021 and July 2022. 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. College students who enroll in 4-H for their final year must still attend 6 meetings either in person or by technology such as Skype or Zoom.

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.” Club leaders or a designated club member should send attendance sign-in sheets to Joanna after each meeting to ensure timely record-keeping. Sign-in sheets can be dropped off at the office or emailed to joannajohnson@ksu.edu.

Resource Guide

The Extension Office would like to create a Resource Guide of helpful information for 4-H families. If you have suggestions of something we can add, please let us know. This could be something you wish you knew when you were a new family or something you still don’t know much about. Help us help you!

Schedules & Calendars

A new 4-H year begins October 1, and with that our 4-H community club leaders and project program leaders are developing their schedule of events and activities. Please contact the Thomas County Extension Office at 785-460-4582 with the dates and locations of your meetings and events. Our office has a calendar posted on our website for your convenience. If you have a meeting or event you would like us to add, or if you make changes to regularly scheduled meetings, please let us know. This will help us keep an updated calendar and will help ensure you get the dates you need for the 4-H Building without scheduling conflicts.

This is a reminder that we get use of the building without a fee through the Thomas County Fair Board, so we need to appreciate their gracious offer. There are times when that building is rented to the public and that revenue is used for maintenance expenses.

This is also a good time to remind 4-H leaders that the building needs to be cleaned after each use, even if that means someone before you did a poor job of cleaning. Having our 4-H members clean the building after each use teaches responsible behavior. Leaving the building cleaner when we leave than when we arrive shows our appreciation and mature attitude.

A thank you note to the Fair Board for their support during the fair and for the use of the building would be a great way to show appreciation. The Extension staff wish you a great new 4-H year. Thank you!
Achievement Banquet

The Achievement Banquet will be held on November 19th in the 4-H building at 6:30pm. This event will showcase the winners of the 2021 Fair and the achievements of the 4-H members this past year.

Shooting Sports Projects

4-H members who are enrolling in the various shooting sports disciplines must enroll via 4-H Online in a timely manner so they will receive full educational benefit of the sport. 4-H members must be 8 years old before Jan. 1 of 2022 to participate in shooting sports. The deadline to enroll in the BB, Air Pistol, and Air Rifle projects is coming soon. Stay tuned for more information.

Photography Project

Shutterbugs events

- Shutterbugs at Big Creek—October 30th at the Ag. Research Center in Hays, KS
- Shutterbugs at Old Jefferson Town—November 6th in Oskaloosa, KS

Leader Training

C.A.T.S. (Cameras at the Springs), is a training, networking weekend held at Rock Springs 4-H Center. The training is designed to provide 4-H leaders with hands-on photo shooting activities, resources from print, web resources, mentors and materials. It will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 9th-10th. You could attend at no cost to you beyond transportation to Rock Springs. If you are interested, contact Pansy Fryman at pansyfryman@gmail.com no later than September 24th.

Entomology Project

The 2021 Kansas 4-H Insect Spectacular occurred on June 21st, 23rd, and 25th. This year there were three webinar sessions each lasting about an hour. Recordings for all three sessions in 2021 as well as the recordings from the 2020 Insect Spectacular are available on the Kansas 4-H website. Also, the dates for the 2022 Insect Spectacular have been set for June 17th and 18th.

48 Hours of 4-H

Join us this fall in seeing just how much we can give back to our communities! The weekend after National 4-H Week is the perfect opportunity to setup a service project and join the 48 Hours of 4-H Service Challenge, October 9-10, 2021. Register your projects online and then follow up with a report so Kansas 4-H will see all the great work that happened across the state.

KYLF

Kansas Youth Leadership Forum will be held on November 20-21 at Rock Springs. This event is for youth ages 14-18 before January 1, 2022. It will feature workshops, consulting groups, inspirational speakers, Youth Council Elections, and opportunities to learn and have fun. Early registration is due October 15th and regular admission due November 1st.

Project Leader Training Series

A Kansas 4-H Volunteer Project Leader Training Series is scheduled for fall 2021! All sessions are free and will be recorded. Sessions begin at 6:30pm. Topics include: Personal Development: Public Speaking; STEM: Rocketry; FCS: Textile Science; Animal Science: Livestock; Service Learning; Creative Arts—Visual Arts: Barn Quilts; Financial Literacy; and Ag & Natural Resources: Wildlife. For more information and to register, go to the 4-H website.
Thomas County
Women in Agriculture

October 23rd and 30th
8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Registration: $20/person

This program is to help women in Thomas County feel comfortable learning about agriculture in a group, asking questions, and expanding their knowledge in our agriculture industry.

Presentations By:
Farmers Bank & Trust and
Kansas Farm Management Association

Tours At:
Nutrien Ag Solutions
CCC Farm
Frahm Farmland
McCarty Farm

To register please call the Extension Office at 785-460-4582 or stop by and pay the registration fee to ensure your spot by Friday, October 15th.
Only 30 spots available.

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact Emily Bennigsdorf one week prior to the event starting on October 23rd at 785-460-4582 or ebennigsdorf@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
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**SS = Shooting Sports**
**AH = Abilene Hustlers**
**BPG = Brewster Prairie Gem**
**Gem = Gem 4-H**
**CC = Colby Comets**
**SV = Solomon Valley**
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.