

4-H

Making the Best Better



Beyond Ready

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension
Pottawatomie County

NEW MEMBER HANDBOOK

Welcome to
Pottawatomie County 4-H
Your Guide to Success

612 E Campbell Street
Westmoreland, KS 66549

<https://www.pottawatomie.k-state.edu/4-h/>





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GETTING TO KNOW US



4-H members and leaders live across Kansas, in all 50 states and in 82 other countries around the world. Members are 7-18 years old, and live in cities, towns and farms. There are more than 17,000 4-H members in community clubs across Kansas, and we're glad to welcome you and your family as our newest members. 4-H is focused on youth having fun and learning with their friends. We understand that you may have many questions your first few years in the program, so we developed this guide to help. Also, you can always call your 4-H community club leader or your local extension agent for help.

The basic philosophy of 4-H is to strengthen the mental, physical, moral and social development of boys and girls, thereby, helping develop effective citizens and leaders. We do this through participation in projects, events and other various activities.



4-H PLEDGE


I pledge my **H**  **AD** to clearer thinking,

my **HE**  **RT** to greater loyalty,

my **H**  **ND** **S** to larger service,

and my **HE**  **LT** **H** to better living,

for my club, my community, my country,

and my world. 

At its roots, 4-H is a family program. Parents and family help members with project work and other activities. 4-H members are also helped by volunteer leaders. Each club needs two adult leaders. These leaders teach, organize the club, help officers, assist at meetings and orient new parents.

There are various kinds of leaders in 4-H:

- **Community Club Leaders:** Responsible for the general club organization.
 - Project Leader: Helps members with their project work.
- **Junior Leaders:** 4-H teens who work with an adult leader to give leadership to activities, events and/or projects.
- **Parents:** Show interest and concern for their children by attending meetings, serving as leaders, helping in club activities and serving on committees.

Volunteers are screened through a
Criminal Background Check using Validity.



MOTTO

**TO MAKE THE
BEST BETTER**



EMBLEM & COLORS

The four-leaf clover is the official 4-H emblem.
The four H's stand for head, heart, hands and health.

Our colors:

- Green: signifying life, springtime and youth
- White: signifying fresh and clean

THE BEGINNING

4-H began in the early 1900s. Girls participated in canning clubs, and boys participated in corn and pig clubs.

In 1914, Congress passed an act establishing Cooperative Extension and 4-H across the country. Corn, poultry and garden clubs existed in Kansas as early as 1905.

4-H has certainly changed since its early days. While we are proud of our rich history, we've expanded to include members from more than just rural backgrounds. We've evolved to meet the needs of today's youth, and develop learning experiences for boys and girls of all ages.





FIND YOUR CLUB

Blackjack

Where

- St. George Elementary Cafeteria

When

- 2nd Sunday, 3:30pm

Club Leaders

- Brandi Disberger
 - bdis@ksu.edu
- Shauna Davis
 - shaunad24@hotmail.com

Dutchmill

Where

- St. Luke's Episcopal Church

When

- 2nd Sunday, 1:30pm

Club Leaders

- Marcia Hermesch
 - hermeschfamily@aol.com

Jayhawkers

Where

- St. Mary's Methodist Church

When

- 1st Sunday, 5:30pm

Club Leaders

- KayLynn SinghDhillon
 - singhdhillon1@yahoo.com

Kaw Valley

Where

- Wamego Methodist Church

When

- 2nd Monday, 7:00pm

Club Leaders

- **Coming Soon**

Lucky 'Leven

Where

- Wamego Senior Center

When

- 2nd Monday, 7:00pm

Club Leaders

- Sharon Blume
- Susan Hartwich
 - susanlhartwich@gmail.com

Olsburg Boosters

Where

- Olsburg American Legion

When

- 1st Sunday, 6:30pm

Club Leaders

- Marcus Bryant
 - bryant.l.marcus@gmail.com
- Maggie Lundberg
 - lundbergfamily2011@gmail.com

Shinning Star

Where

- Havensville Community Center

When

- 2nd Sunday, 4:30pm

Club Leaders

- Mary Pennington
 - m_and_j03@yahoo.com

Triple V

Where

- Fairgrounds: Onaga

When

- 1st Sunday, 5:30 or 7:30pm

Club Leaders

- Luke and Carol Perry
 - cawege@yahoo.com

Clubs Typically Meet Monthly, with a few exceptions!
It's always good to reach out before attending the 1st time!





OPPORTUNITIES

1

Kansas Leadership Trips

CIA (Citizenship In Action) (13+ years old)

- Two-day event is for KS youth to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in their local communities.

KYLF (Kansas Youth Leadership Forum) (14+)

- Builds leadership skills and potential through workshops, consulting groups, inspirational speakers and more.

4-H Camp: Rock Springs (8+ Years Old)

- Three programmatic Centers of Excellence to spark learning and personal growth for 4-H groups. Leadership, Conservation and Sportsmanship lessons learned create a foundation for success that lasts far beyond the visit.

2

Out of State Leadership Trips

CWF (Citizenship Washington Focus) (14+)

- Road trip across the USA sightseeing and more: Meet, learn, share and walk among history and places making news today. Visit Capitol Hill, government departments, historic sites, and memorials while getting a close view of the political process through visits with KS Congressional delegations.

National Congress

- Held in Atlanta, Georgia, combines leadership development, community service, and diverse cultural experiences with an emphasis on civic engagement.

Interstate Exchange

- PA, SC, OH, NY for USA Trips
- Japan for International Trips

3

Leadership

- Club Officer
- County Council
- Ambassador
- Camp Counselor (LIT and CIT)
- KS 4-H Youth Leadership Council
- 48 Hours of 4-H



4

Competitive Team Events

- Horticulture Judging
- Livestock Judging
- Livestock Sweepstakes
- Family and Consumer Science Judging
- Photography Judging
- Crops and Weed ID Team
- Poultry Judging
- Rabbit Judging





OPPORTUNITIES

5

Project Areas

Animal Science

- Beef
- Dairy Cattle
- Dairy Goats
- Dog
- Horse
- Meat Goats
- Pets
- Poultry
- Rabbits
- Sheep
- Swine
- Veterinary Science

Communication & Expressive Arts

- Communications
- Interior Design & Architecture
- Performing Arts
- Photography
- Visual Arts
- Engineering & Technology
Aerospace/Rocketry
- Ag Mechanics Welding
- Astronomy
- Building Block Engineering
- Computer Science
- Electric & Renewable Energy
- Robotics
- Small Engines
- Uncrewed Aircraft Systems
- Woodworking

5

Project Areas Con't

Family & Consumer Sciences

- Family Studies
- Fiber Arts (includes 9 projects)
- Foods & Nutrition
- Health & Wellness
- Sewing & Textile Design
- Shopping in Style

Leadership & Personal Development

- Civic Engagement
- Entrepreneurship
- Leadership
- Reading Adventures
- Self-Determined

Natural Resources

- Environmental Science
- Geology
- Shooting Sports (includes 10 projects)
- Wildlife

Plant Sciences

- Agronomy
- Entomology
- Forestry
- Horticulture & Landscape Design

6

Project Centered Events

- Photography Shutter Bug
- Wheat Expo
- Insect Spectacular
- Horse Panorama
- Geology Fieldtrip
- Shooting Sports



AWARDS

1

Achievement Pins

Awarded in a series to 4-H'ers who meet the pin and turn in a completed record book.

- Cloverbud
- Membership
- Bronze
- Clover
- Emerald
- Silver
- Silver guard
- Leadership
- Gold
- Gold Guard.

2

Public Presentation Award

This can be a demonstration, project talk or an illustrated talk and should teach a skill, concept, or principle. Applicants are encouraged to present to groups outside your 4-H club along with make different presentations throughout the year. Qualifying presentations for this award are not limited to those given before a judge. Presentation must have been given in the current 4-H year.

3

Outstanding Member

Recognizes 4-H members who have an exemplary record of accomplishments.

4

Thelma Hubbard

Dedicated to Thelma Hubbard, a long time 4-H volunteer. She encouraged people, was willing to work, and had a positive attitude. She brought out the best in people and the winner should have similar characteristics.

5

Project Award Pins

Members must complete their 4-H record book and a Project Award Nomination Form to be eligible for a project award pin. Winners in various projects are eligible to compete at the area and state levels (some age restrictions apply).

6

Key Award

Recognizes 4-H members who have an exemplary record of accomplishments. Applicants must be at least 16 years old, completed four or more years and meet the other nine requirements.

7

I Dare You

The "I Dare You" award recognizes character and leadership qualities in young people and encourages and challenges them to have creative and purposeful lives. Applicants must be at least 16 years old, completed four or more years and meet the other nine requirements.

8

Lasting Rewards

Greatest rewards receive are:

- Satisfaction from a job well done.
- Pride in his or her accomplishments.
- Recognition from leaders, parents and other 4-H members.
- Knowledge and skill gained through the project.



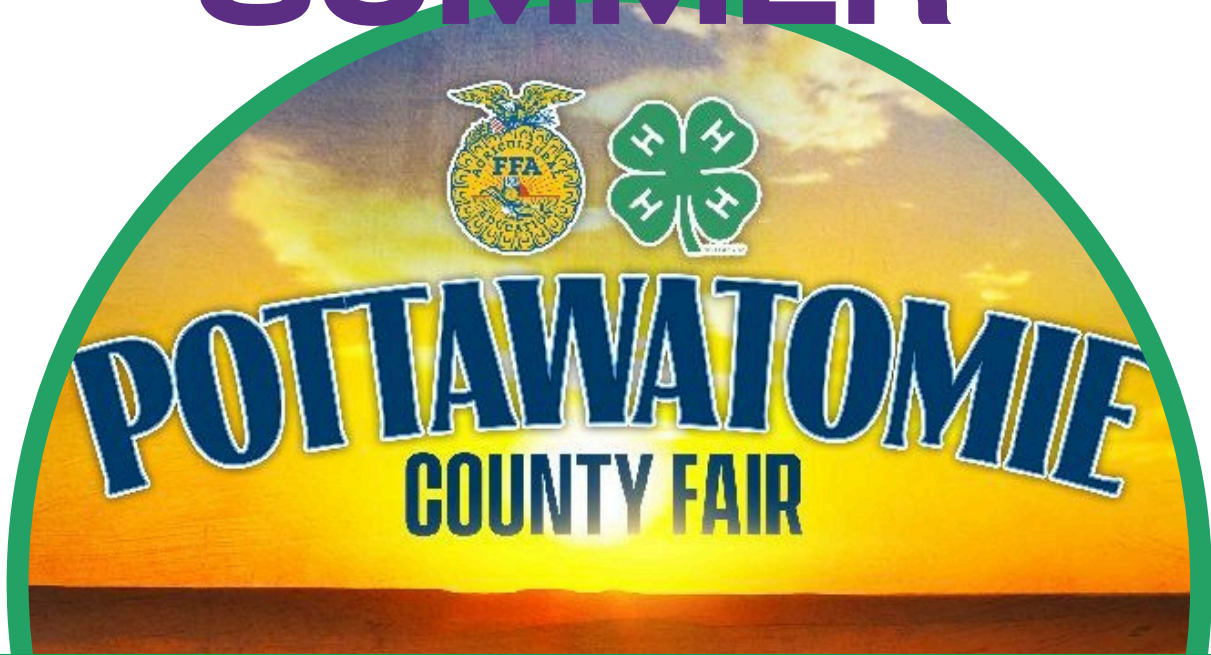
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BEST 4 DAYS OF SUMMER



A 4-H Fair is a lively, Family-Friendly celebration where 4-H members display the projects they've worked on all year, raising animals and growing crops to crafting, cooking, robotics, photography and everything in between! Judges are hired for each area to judge entries! The fairgrounds buzz with activity as kids show their livestock in the arena, and colorful exhibits fill the barns and exhibit halls. There are games, a 4-H Food stand and community events, making it both a learning experience and a social highlight for anyone who attends.

Fair registration begins July 10th on Fair Entry, but a link will be sent out through 4-H Online! The Fair book, which is released in May, will have details of when everything is judged. It is important to stay informed by attending club meetings to get the latest information about submissions and deadlines. The Fair book is posted on our website and in general, we follow the same schedules most year!





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MEET THE TEAM



Erin Tynon

FCS Agent



Shannon Blocker

Ag Agent



Amber Sharpe

4-H Agent



Jeanna Haug

Office Professional



Kate West

Program Assistant





POWER OF THANK YOU

Members who receive recognition should view it as both a badge of honor and a symbol of the broad interests of their friends in the 4-H program. Say “thank you” to your 4-H friends, including trophy donors, livestock buyers, project and club leaders, parents, judges, etc. A personal letter is the most satisfying and lasting way to say “thanks.” Remember, it’s not WHAT you say, but HOW you say it that counts. Your note need not be long, but it should be sincere.

WHERE DO PARENTS FIT IN?

You may help child get more from their 4-H experience in several ways:

- Counsel your 4-H’er in the selection of a suitable project by showing interest, but do not complete the work for them. Make sure the work they start is completed.
- Encourage your child to attend meetings regularly and attend with them so you’ll be able to help the child remember upcoming activities.
- Offer your home occasionally for a club or project meeting.
- Become a registered volunteer and share your knowledge, special skills and hobbies as a club leader or project leader.
- Keep informed of local 4-H information.





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A NOTE FROM AMBER

4-H'ers are...

2x

more likely to
have the goal
of being a
leader

3x

more likely to
participate in
community
service

2x

more likely to
report living life
with intentionality
and purpose

Welcome to the Pottawatomie County 4-H Family!

There is truly a place for every person and every interest in 4-H and the support you'll find here is my favorite part! Kids often join 4-H to learn about rockets, cattle, or baking, but they leave having learned so much more about themselves. They gain memories that shape who they are with friendships and connections that will last for years, often a lifetime.

I'm 100% here to help you and your child thrive, and I can't wait to meet you! If you ever have questions or need anything at all, don't hesitate to give me a call at 785-457-3319. If I don't have the answer, I'll be glad to help you find it.

It truly takes a village – and we have the BEST one, and it's only getting BETTER!

Thanks for being awesome, and welcome aboard!



AMBER



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ARE YOU READY?



• **Lets Make Memories** •



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Email

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Address

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Website

<https://www.pottawatomie.k-state.edu/4-h/>