

The 4-H Newsletter



K-STATE

Research and Extension

Butler County

December 2023

'Tis The Season. . .

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...to be busy, falalalala lalalala!! I don't know about you, but this time of year finds my mind going too many directions: wrapping up from Thanksgiving (my favorite Holiday), what to cook for Christmas dinner, who's going to be there, where's it going to be held, whose family is getting together when, high school and now college schedules, what am I going to gift each person, when will I have time to wrap it, not to mention any other school, work and family event going on!

One thing I know for certain; I will take the time to cherish every minute over the Holiday season with my family. Sadly, I have been reminded too many times this year that the next minute of our lives is never promised. Mental health is a major concern not only throughout the year, but especially over the Holidays. 5 ways to help you take care of your health through the Holidays according to mentalhealthfirstaid.org include: Focus on what you can control, keep healthy habits, make time for yourself, create new traditions and ask for help if you need it. The full article can be found here: <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/2021/11/five-ways-to-take-care-of-your-mental-health-this-holiday-season/> Take the time to slow down, relax and spend the time with your family and friends.

In just a few sleeps, December will be gone and the new year will be here. Take time to reflect on this past year, set some goals to roll into the new year and make the most of every situation you get to embrace!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday, blessed and Happy New Year!

~Charlene

Our office will be closed December 25th through January 1st

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**TO MAKE THE
BEST BETTER**



Leader's Lounge

December Check-Up

- Plan a Holiday gathering or community service project for the Holiday season
- Take time to Relax!
- Encourage 4-H'ers to ask their friends to attend a meeting
- Ask your 4-H parents to encourage others to get involved

Review

- Read the *4-H Newsletter* and mark important dates on the calendar.
- Review highlights from the *4-H Newsletter* at your club meeting.

To-Do

- Distribute copies of club program calendar or club notebooks
- Project Leaders conducting project meetings.
- Check club mailbox at the Extension Office.
- Plan holiday celebration
- Continue discussion of 4-H Day plans
- Check club's progress toward goals.
- Remind volunteers and 4-Her's to enroll / re-enroll in 4-H Online for the new 4-H year

Promote/Recruit

- 4-H Day in February
- CIA in February

Remember

- Make it a fun and rewarding year!
- Work with your co-leader!

If your Club is planning to have a bake sale, fundraiser, etc., please contact our office prior to doing so!



Important Dates and Deadlines

December

- December 8th:** Toy Drive Drop Off
- December 18th:** Dairy Goats County Fair & Beyond Zoom

January

- January 4th:** 4-H Council Meeting
- January 12th:** Club Quarterly Report Due
- January 27th:** Horse Panorama
- January 29th:** YQCA In-person Training

February

- February 1st:** Volunteer Registration Deadline
- February 5th:** 4-H Council Meeting
- February 12th:** Jr. Beef Producer Day Registration Deadline
- February 18th-19th:** Citizenship in Action
- February 21st:** YQCA In-person Training
- February 24th:** Beef Weigh-In and Tagging
- February 25th:** 4-H Day
- February 26th:** Jr. Sheep Producer Day Registration Deadline



***See the 2023-2024 Yearly 4-H Calendar for all event dates [HERE](#)*
Find it [HERE](#)**



Butler County 4-H Enrollment Quick Tips

- [4-H Online Enrollment Link \(v2.4honline.com\)](https://v2.4honline.com)
- [Butler County 4-H Website with Enrollment Information](#)
 - <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/enrollment.html>
- New 4-H Year started Oct. 1st: All youth participating between Oct. 1, 2023 and Sept 30, 2024 need to enroll (including shooting sports youth). Any enrollment prior to Oct. 1, 2023 needs to reenroll.
- State 4-H Projects—there have been some changes!! Please check the 4-H Project page and watch enrollment carefully!! Make sure your 4-H'er gets enrolled in the right projects.
- Clubs and Projects will not automatically populate when you reenroll. You will have to select your club and all projects you want to enroll in. Years in project are supposed to automatically populate when you reenroll in a project you were enrolled in the previous year.
 - ⇒ If you have projects that you previously enrolled in, did not enroll in the 2022-2023 year, but are reenrolling for the new year and need to know your 4-Her's years in the project – please give us a call and we can look up the years for you.
- State Project list can be found [HERE](#)
- REMEMBER, you are not a 4-H member until you are enrolled!
- Volunteers should not be doing project work until they are enrolled



Christmas Toy Drive

Christmas is an exciting time of year for most kids. For some, it means hearing all about the gifts of their classmates while they had very little under their tree.

How can you help make Christmas a happy time for others?

1. You can donate to the Christmas Toy Drive at the Extension Office. All donations need to be dropped off by Friday, December 8th at 11:30 a.m. so they can be delivered in time for Christmas.
2. Your family can adopt a kid to buy Christmas presents for. This is a great way to get into the spirit of Christmas as a family.
3. You can make small gifts for your classmates. For some, this may be the only gift they receive this Christmas.
4. When you go back to school after Christmas, it is okay to share your excitement of your Christmas break. Just remember that not everyone received gifts, so try to talk about the things you did rather than the things you got (talk about your new Xbox privately with your friends).
5. Donate to your local food bank or volunteer at a food kitchen. This is a great service project for everyone!

Butler County Extension Toy Drive

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Christmas Toy Drive

All donations will be collected at the Butler County Extension Office at 206 N Griffith, Suite A in El Dorado Until 11:30 a.m. Friday, December 8th



New and Unwrapped Items
Needed for Children 11 years
of Age and Younger:

- Sports Equipment
- Art Supplies
- Toys
- Books
- Journals
- Puzzles
- Board Games

All collected items will be given to the Augusta Community Caring Center where they will be distributed to Butler County Families in need.

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Other News and Events

2024 Butler County Fair Dates Set!

The 2024 Butler County Fair dates have been set for July 18th-23rd, 2024! We can't wait to see what projects and skills our 4-Her's will show off at the fair!

Butler County Fair Rules

The 2024 4-H/FFA Division Rules are out and posted! They can be found on our website at: <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4hfair/>

National 4-H Congress

Congratulations to Kylee Barlett (Purple Heart) and Trena Garcia (Cassoday Boosters) for being selected to represent the state of Kansas during the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta in November!

National FCS Judging Contest

Congratulations to the Senior Butler County FCS judging team for winning the judging contest at the Kansas State Fair for the second year in a row! The following members will be representing the state of Kansas at the National FCS Judging Contest In San Antonio, TX January 10-13, 2024: Kylee Barlett (Purple Heart), Taylor Gresham (Lily Lake), Mikalyn Peak (Purple Heart), and Brenna Sommers (Purple Heart). Thank you to our 4-H Sponsors for accompanying them to their contest: Shanna Sommers and Thomas Gresham.

4- H Day

4-H Day will be here before we know it! 4-H Day is a great time to showcase your talents, get feedback on your presentations and learn from others about projects and topics you might not know about! It will be held on February 25th, 2024 at the Butler Community College. You can sign up [HERE](#). Registration deadline is Sunday, February 11th, 2024.

Some divisions available are:

Public Speaking, Demonstrations, Readings, Gavel Games, Vocal and Instrumental Solos and Ensembles, Piano, Skits, Dance, and the list goes on! Your club leader can help you pick which divisions you might want to enter! There will also be fun events during the day like Crunch Time, FCS judging, horticulture judging, and a livestock skill-a-thon, just to name a few! Youth are encouraged to come out and join in a contest even if they are not participating in any other event at 4-H Day!

Be sure to save the date!

4-H Day

2024 Butler County 4-H Day

February 25, 2024 - 1:00 p.m.

Butler Community College

901 S. Haverhill Rd., El Dorado

Buildings 700 & 1500

EVENTS

Public Presentations Talent Showcase
Individual, Group, and Club Divisions
Gavel Games Crunch Time
Treat for all participants!!

What is 4-H Day??

This is an opportunity for all Butler County 4-H members to share their speaking skills, knowledge, talents, and creativity before a larger audience.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ⇒ Registration Deadline—Sunday, February 11th.
- ⇒ Late Registrations will NOT be accepted
- ⇒ Must be enrolled in 4-H to be eligible to participate
<https://v2.4honline.com/>
- ⇒ 4-H Day Guidelines are located here:
<http://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/4hday.html>
- ⇒ Register for Butler County 4-H Day here:
<https://forms.gle/fmJZnkNKcH2iQapv9>
- ⇒ County 4-H Day is a qualifying event for the Kansas State Fair Demonstration/ Illustrated Talks contest.



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2024 Butler County YQCA Information



Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national, multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 7 to 18. This program promotes food safety, animal well-being and character development. With YQCA, you'll discover what it takes to be an informed producer, consumer and employee of the agriculture and food industries.

YQCA is REQUIRED to be Eligible to Exhibit ALL ANIMAL EXHIBITS (Except Horses) at the Butler County 4-H Fair.

The YQCA Deadline for Participating in the 2024 Butler County 4-H Fair is May 30th at 11:59 PM, 2024

Youth are required to take YQCA in-person or online; if taken online, a certificate of completion must be submitted to the Extension Office by May 31st at 11:30 a.m.. You can find more information about YQCA [HERE](#).



⇒ Monday, January 29th

⇒ Wednesday, February 21st

⇒ Tuesday, March 12th

⇒ Thursday, April 18th

⇒ Tuesday, May 30th

**All Classes will be held from 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m. in the Community/4-H Building (200 N. Griffith, El Dorado).

Frequently Asked YQCA Questions:

⇒ **Is YQCA mandatory for all 4-H'ers?**

YQCA is required to show animals at the Butler County 4-H Fair. 8-18 yr. olds must pass a web based or instructor led training. 7 year olds must attend an instructor led course.

⇒ **How much does getting certified cost?**

The online module certification is \$12, and the instructor-led training method of certification is \$3.

⇒ **Does the YQCA certification ID sync with 4-H online?**

Yes, you will sign in using your 4-H Online information.

⇒ **I only show horses. Do I need to be YQCA certified?**

No. Right now, YQCA, is not required for 4-H Horse Project Members.

⇒ **Do 4-H'ers need to update their YQCA certification number each year?**

Yes they do. Youth should re-certify around the same time they tested each year.

⇒ **Do I need to register before class?**

Yes! You must register and pay online before attending an instructor-led class.

⇒ **Does Butler County 4-H get the registration money?**

No, all registration money is online and goes to YQCA.





HOSTED
BY:
CHARLENE MILLER
- KSRE BUTLER CO
& 3 VARNER GIRLS

DAIRY GOATS COUNTY FAIR & BEYOND

DECEMBER 18TH, 2023 6:30-7:30 P.M.

Join us for an online Zoom workshop to learn all about the Dairy Doe Project. This workshop will be geared towards families interested and enrolled in the Dairy Goat Project and Extension Agents.

Topics that will be covered:

- County vs. State
- State Fair Entry Deadlines
- Registration Tattoos
- Preparing your animal to show



Register by Sunday, December 17th to receive the
Zoom link: <https://forms.gle/Bh4V8a4UBFeFsLd47>



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Kansas State 4-H News

4-H Holiday Guide contains many fun and educational activities for the season

Find great ways to spend quality time with family, says K-State's Hinshaw

By Taylor Jamison, K-State Research and Extension news writer

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Kansas 4-H youth development specialist Beth Hinshaw knows how important meaningful family time is during the holidays, and how it may be a challenge to come up with ideas on how to spend that precious time together.

That's one of the very reasons why the national 4-H program has published a holiday activity guide. "[The Holiday Activity Guide] has great ways to spend quality time with people, and we can learn so much from our family when we see them at the holidays," Hinshaw said. "And to be able to have these learning experiences with them – that'll make a memory for us as well."

The Holiday Guide, she said, contains an array of fun activities, such as making ornaments, family story time, visual art projects, and many food recipes. "One of the things I think about, in my own experience, is the things I learned in the kitchen, during the holidays from my grandmothers," Hinshaw said. Within the Holiday Guide is a "cookie book" - listing more than 20 sweet holiday recipes to make together. One of Hinshaw's favorites is the no-bake cookies, a recipe from a Kansas 4-H member. "In the holiday guide, there are several activities that are STEM and math-focused, but as you read through and think about it, they're fun as well," Hinshaw said. "That's one of the things we pride ourselves on in 4-H -- to have those experiential, fun learning activities."

Food and STEM are both project areas 4-Hers may already be involved in, and the activity guide includes an additional area important during the holidays: service. "It shares how you might put together a winter coat drive for your community," Hinshaw said. "Or how you might make fleece scarves by hand for the homeless."

To begin one of the many fun and educational projects offered by 4-H, go online to find the complete [Holiday Activity Guide](#).

More information about opportunities available through Kansas 4-H is available online, or visit your local extension office.



Connecting New Families to 4-H



It doesn't matter where you live, what you want to be when you grow up, or your level of experience. 4-H is a club of kids and their families who take part in fun, practical projects from woodworking to rocketry, and everything in-between. Join 4-H and explore exciting ways to grow, together.

4-H Community Clubs

4-H members are given the opportunity to learn and practice decision making in group situations. Members are expected to attend their club gatherings and parents are encouraged to attend as well, as a 4-H family affair. The community club leaders can be your best resource for month-to-month things happening and helping you learn. The club meeting starts with the American flag salute, followed by the 4-H Pledge. Each meeting has three main components: Group Decisions, Program, and Group Building.

4-H Projects

As a 4-H member, youth choose at least one project to complete. Choose a project that fits into your family, community and lifestyle. These are typically areas that interest a kid where they will learn more and explore. Carrying out a project helps members learn by doing, making sound decisions, and mastering a subject matter. There are more than 35 different projects with options at several levels that allow a member to advance their skills.

Visit <https://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/> to view all projects available.

Enrolling

4-H members must be at least 7 years old and not have had their 19th birthday by January 1 of the current year. Members live in towns, in the country and on farms. The 4-H year runs from October 1 through September 30. Once a family has decided to join 4-H, they will need to enroll on 4-H Online. If families have questions during this process, contact your local K-State Research and Extension Office.

Other Resources

[Kansas Clover Classroom](#)

[Kansas 4-H Learning Pathway \(4H1131\)](#)

[A 4-H Project: More than a Fair Entry \(4H1132\)](#)

[4-H Online Family Resources](#)

[Kansas 4-H Facebook Page](#)