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4-H News

River Valley District

**January &
February
2024**

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Happy Holidays

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to your family from the River Valley 4-H Staff!

Without our 4-H’ers and their parents, club and project leaders, and our 4-H volunteers we could not do what we do within the River Valley District. Thank you so much for everything you do to make our job so rewarding. We are extremely blessed to have you in our River Valley 4-H Family! Let’s keep making the best better as we go into 2024.



District Club Days

District Club Day is right around the corner. This year’s event will take place on Saturday, February 10th, 2024 at Republic County High School in Belleville, KS. Club Day is a great opportunity for all 4-H members to showcase their talents both individually and as a club. If you have not registered and are interested in doing so, contact your 4-H Club Leader or your local extension office. All registration forms are due to your local RVD extension office by January 9th, 2024.

Judging Contests will be offered at Club Day again this year for our 4-H youth. These contests will serve as a qualifier for top-placing participants to judge at the Kansas State Fair in September. The following areas will be available to judge: FCS, Crops, Photography, Horticulture, & the Livestock Skill-a-thon. All youth are encouraged to try out at least one contest, as it is a great learning opportunity for them!

The District Club Day schedule, along with any other necessary information, will be emailed out to all 4-H families as soon as all scheduling has been completed. All 4-H club leaders have access to a copy of the Club Day rulebook, but if you’d like your own copy you can find one on the RVD webpage. If you have any other questions, please call your local extension office.



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Kansas 4-H Day With K-State Women's Basketball

Mark your calendars! The annual 4-H Day with K-State Women's Basketball Game will be on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at Bramlage Coliseum. Tip off will be at 1:00 p.m. and you can pick-up your ticket packages from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration is open now and will close January 1, 2024. During registration you will have the option of the two packages listed below.

\$30: Includes a ticket, \$10 concession stand voucher, and a t-shirt

\$20: Includes a ticket and a \$10 concession stand voucher

To register, please scan the QR code to the right or visit <https://bit.ly/3N85oPY>.



4-H Project Record Award Deadline

The next level of the Kansas 4-H Project Recognition process is the Regional Project Award Screening. 4-Hers in the senior age division who were chosen as the project award champion in their local counties are eligible to advance to this screening. All county champions have been notified by their local program manager. Each 4-H member must submit a separate project award for each individual project in which they are eligible. This year's Northeast Area Project Judging will be held in Manhattan, KS on January 9th, 2024. If you plan to send your project record, please turn in your complete and updated record to your local extension office by Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

The following items must be turned in for a complete Regional Project Award submission:

1. Check Sheet
2. Personal Information Page
3. Project Report Form
4. Cover Letter
5. Resume

Please reach out to your local program manager if you need help preparing your project record for the next level. There are also several helpful resources online to help prepare you. They can be found at the following link under "Project Recognition": <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/regionalscreening.html>

Citizenship In Action

Have you attended Citizenship in Action, also known as CIA? This is a great opportunity for youth aged 13-18 to travel to the Kansas State Capitol in Topeka to get a first-hand look at how our state legislation functions. This event takes place on a Sunday and Monday over the President's Day holiday weekend. This year, Citizenship in Action will be held on February 18-19, 2024.

One main goal of this conference is to educate our youth about the government system. CIA is designed to help 4-H members understand that they have a voice when it comes to current issues, and to teach them how to participate in making important decisions. Youth who attend this event will have the opportunity to meet with State Representatives and Senators from the communities that they live in. They will get to tour the Capitol building and watch parliamentary procedure in action. Transportation and chaperoning for Citizenship in Action will be provided by RVED staff. Please watch for an email from the State 4-H Office providing more details about this event. We hope to have you join us!

Regional Club Days

Regional 4-H Club Day will be Saturday, March 23, 2024 at the Clay Center Community High School in Clay Center.

You are able to attend Regional Club Day if you have received a Top Purple in eligible divisions at District Club Day. If you are eligible to compete at Regionals you will be contacted by your local RVED office after February 10, 2024.

Regional Club Day entries will be due to our offices Thursday, February 29, 2024.

RVED Summer Spectacular Rabbit Show

The River Valley Rabbit Club is excited to host their annual Summer Spectacular 4-H Rabbit Show again! The show will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2024 at the Clay County Event Center at the Clay County Fairgrounds. The Summer Spectacular Rabbit Show will be a double show. (4-H and ARBA)

Doors will open at 7:30 a.m., with the show beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will be contests for Breed ID, Judging and Showmanship. Entry fees will be \$4 per rabbit for one show or \$7 per rabbit for both shows. The fee for the Fur Class will be \$2.00 per each fur class entry. ALL entries must be completed by 8:30 a.m. the morning of the show.

There will be a concession stand and a raffle. The members of the River Valley Rabbit Club would enjoy having you come support them at the show! For more information you can contact Steven Wright by email at steven-wjedi@gmail.com or by phone at 785-265-3019.

NCK LEAD—Cloud County Community College

Welcome to the Jungle at NCK LEAD! Join fellow adventurers on a quest to master leadership. Complete career and college readiness challenges as you embark on your journey to make the best better. Explore campus, network with 4-H friends, and equip yourself to navigate life by reaching your full potential.

River Valley District and Post Rock District are teaming up to offer a drive-in personal development experience for youth currently in 6 th through 12th grades. NCK LEAD will take place on Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Cloud County Community College in Concordia. In addition to hands-on workshops focused on leadership and career development, participants will engage with collegiate professionals to gain information to assist with making post-high school decisions and enjoy a tour of campus. Adults bringing you to the event will have a chance to learn about financial aid for higher education. Lunch will be provided. A full event schedule will be available by December 5 on the River Valley 4-H website. A fee of \$10 is due to the River Valley District to attend. Register by January 3 at bit.ly/NCKLEAD.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding NCK LEAD, please contact Macy Hynek at 785-527-5084 or at mhynek@ksu.edu.

Judge Training Opportunity

Fair could not happen without all of our amazing judges! On Monday, January 15, 2024, there is an opportunity for adults to get trained on how to judge areas of Style Revue, Photography, Clothing, Fiber Arts, Foods and Nutrition, Rabbits, Horticulture and Crops, Visual Arts, Woodworking, Wildlife, Shooting Sports, and STEM.

When: Monday January 15, 2024 from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm

Where: Western Research Center (1232 240th Avenue, Hays, KS 67601)

Fee: \$10 (Lunch is Provided)

Registration Deadline: January 3, 2024

**Register by scanning the QR Code.



2023 National Congress

River Valley District 4-H was honored that we had 3 youth that attended this years National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA recently. Clayton Carlgren, Zachary Piroutek, and Aubrey Stahlman were state project record winners who then decided to attend this great opportunity.

They attended team building workshops with wonderful speakers. Workshops included learning how to meet new people, how to help others by giving in many ways, career choices, mental health, getting organized and different hands-on activities to be highly successful team leaders.



The group had the opportunity to take tours to the College Football Hall of Fame, Centennial Olympic Park, World of Coca-Cola, Atlantic Zoo, Atlantic History Center, and the Georgia Aquarium.

The 4-Her's performed much needed community service in Atlanta. Some did landscape tasks at Piedmont Park or the Atlanta History Center, some painted at the 4-H Camp Fortson, sorted and packed books for the children in Africa, or helped with inner city school projects and read to the students. Aubrey, Clayton, and Zach had a great time and definitely recommend that all 4-H members should fill out a project record for your favorite project and submit it with the goal of attending National Congress.

Junior Producer Days

Dates have been set for the Bi-annual KSU Jr Beef Producer Day and the KSU Jr Sheep Producer Day. These events will be held in Manhattan, KS on the Kansas State University Campus in Weber Arena.

Registration is open for both events.

Jr Beef Producer Day will be held on Saturday, March 2nd. The fee to attend is \$20 by or before February 12th. The fee increases to \$25 after February 12th. Registrations received after February 12th will not receive a shirt with their registration.

Follow this link to register for Jr Beef Day: <https://commerce.cashnet.com/KSUASIND>

Jr Sheep Day will be held on Saturday, March 12th. The fee to attend is \$20 by or before February 26th. The fee increases to \$25 after February 26th. Registrations received after February 26th will not receive a shirt with their registration.

Follow this link to register for Jr Sheep Producer Day: <https://commerce.cashnet.com/KSUASIND>

Livestock Weigh In

We know it is early to be thinking about spring weigh-ins and tagging, but please mark your calendar with the following dates. You may choose to tag/weigh your livestock at any of the offered times and locations for that specie in the River Valley District. No tagging will be allowed to be completed at home for any specie for any reason. All tagging must be completed on one of the following dates and times.

Beef

All Market Beef, Second Year Bucket Calves, and state nominated Commercial Breeding Heifers must be tagged at a RVD weigh-in/tagging. Commercial Breeding Heifers must have an EID tag for the state livestock shows, including Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show. Registered Breeding Heifers for state shows and breeding stock for the county fair do NOT need an EID tag.

Clay Co	March 9 th	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Salava Vet Clinic
Cloud Co	March 17 th	5:30 – 7:00 pm	Cloud Co Fairgrounds
Republic Co	March 17 th	2:00 – 4:00 pm	Belleville 81 Livestock Sale Barn
Washington Co	March 9 th	9:00 -11:00 am	Animal Health Center

Goat, Sheep and Swine

All Market Sheep, Goats, and Swine for the county fairs, as well as Commercial Breeding Sheep, Goats, and Swine for State Shows, must be tagged at a RVD weigh-in/tagging. Registered Breeding Sheep and Swine do NOT need EID tags.

Clay Co	April 23 rd	5:30 – 6:30 pm	Clay Co Fairgrounds
Cloud Co	April 25 th	5:30 – 6:30 pm	Cloud Co Fairgrounds
Republic Co	May 11 th	9:00 – 10:30 am	NCK Free Fairgrounds
Washington Co	April 15 th	5:30 – 6:30 pm	Washington Co Fairgrounds

Beef EID tags will be \$4 per tag. Sheep, Goat, and Swine EID tags will be \$3 per tag. Payment is required at the time of tagging, so please bring small bills or a check payable to River Valley Extension District.

2024 Fair Dates

Fair	Dates	Location
Cloud County	July 16 th – 21st	Concordia, KS
Washington County	July 16 th – 21st	Washington, KS
Clay County	July 23 rd – 28 th	Clay Center, KS
Republic County	July 29 th – August 4th	Belleville, KS

2023 Kansas Youth Leadership Forum

The River Valley District had two 4-H Members participate in the 2023 Kansas Youth Leadership Forum on November 18th and 19th. The theme this year Lights, Camera, Action, and Leadership.

KYLF is a state event for 4-H youth to build their leadership skills through workshops, consulting groups, and inspirational speakers. This years key note speaker was Jason Wetzler. This event teaches youth the meaning of leadership and the qualities a leader has. It gives them the opportunity to practice the skills they have learned and to improve their interpersonal communication skills as well as building up their confidence. Like many other state events, it's a great chance to network and meet other 4-H'ers from across the state of Kansas.

The two 4-H members who attended this year were Slade Griffiths (Clay County) and Chesnie Dickinson (Republic County).



Rock Spring 4-H Camp

For over 75 years, Rock Springs Ranch has been the host of generations of campers and families. Nestled in the Flint Hills, on one of the last remaining areas of the Tallgrass Prairie, Rock Springs is excited for some summer fun.

Campers can come for an overnight stay to unplug, explore, play, and learn life skills. Rock Springs offers numerous activities for youth to do while there such as, the ropes course, stream study, shooting sports, horseback riding, aquatics, recreational activities, and more.

Youth who will be 3rd through 12th graders in the fall of 2024 can attend Rock Springs for 3 or 5 nights. They just created a mini camp that is just two night for youth entering the 1st through 3rd grade. They will also be offering their Leaders in Training for 10th and 11th graders, as well as their Counselors in Training for 12th graders.

Registration is now open for 4-H youth to attend 4-H camp at Rock Springs in the summer of 2024. If you register by December 31st you can get the early bird discount and save 10%. For more information or to register, please visit <https://www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org>.

Horse Panorama

Calling all 4-H Horse project youth. Come check out all the fun and participate in contests related to the horse project, such as, quiz bowl, hippology, public speaking presentations, photography, and educational posters.

When: January 27, 2024

Where: K-State Salina Campus

Who: 4-H Members ages 9–18 and adult volunteers

Registration: Now Open—Closes January 2

For more information or to register for the event please visit, <https://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/horse/horse-panorama.html>.

Key Award Winners

The Key Award is one of the highest honors awarded to 4-H members across the State of Kansas. The applicant must have met three basic requirements along with nine out of the other eleven requirements. The events must highlight 4-H related activities and achievements accomplished within the 4-H Club, County, District, or State.

Like all Achievement Pins 4-Hers should start looking over the Key Award Application early so you know what you need to achieve. All Achievement Pin Award Applications can be found on the RVD Website: <https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h/awards.html>
A Big Congratulations goes out to all of the Local 4-H Members that received their Key Award during the Achievement Day Celebrations held in November.

Clay County

Brody Kramer – Sturdy Oak

Sarabeth Martin – Countryside Crusaders

Lainie Sleichter – Lincoln Creek

Cloud County

Daegen Degraff – Hollis Hustlers

Aubrey Stahlman – Hopewell Corners

Bricen Benyshek – Hopewell Corners

Megan Barr – Hopewell Corners

Sheyenne Kesley – Miltonvale Hustlers

Republic County

Chesnie Dickinson – Eager Beavers

Kadence Henke – Merry Meadowlark

Emma Hubert – Republic Pioneers

Washington County

Hope White - Hanover

Aliyah Sinn - Hanover

Carissa Kolle – Linn Livewires

Payton Fahey – Lucky Four

Grace Baxter - Stick-to-It



River Valley Extension District
Washington Office
214 C. Street, Courthouse
Washington, KS 66968-1928

Address Service Requested

RVED Offices Closed

All River Valley Offices will be closed the week between Christmas and New Years. If you need anything or have questions, please stop by your local Extension Office by Friday, December 22nd. Otherwise, we will be back in our offices on Tuesday, January 2nd.

The 4-H Staff would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT 4-H STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION				
Macy Hynek 4-H Agent RVED – Belleville 785-527-5084 mhynek@ksu.edu	Diane Kussman 4-H Program Manager RVED – Belleville 785-527-5084 dkussman@ksu.edu	Melissa Baxter 4-H Program Manager RVED-Clay Center 785-632-5335 melissabaxter@ksu.edu	Brianna Hake 4-H Program Manager RVED – Concordia 785-243-8185 bmhake@ksu.edu	Brooke Ohlde 4-H Program Manager RVED-Washington 785-325-2121 brooke6@ksu.edu

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Clay Center Office • 322 Grant Avenue • Clay Center, KS 67432-2804 • 785-632-5335

Concordia Office • 811 Washington, Suite E • Concordia, KS 66901-3415 • 785-243-8185

Washington Office • 214 C. Street • Courthouse • Washington, KS 66968-1928 • 785-325-2121

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