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4-H News

River Valley District

**November &
December
2023**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Achievement Celebrations 2
- AIR Contest..... 2
- Ambassadors..... 4
- District Club Day..... 2
- 48 Hours of 4-H..... 6
- Horse Panorama 3
- Record Books 3
- Scholarships..... 3
- Shooting Sports..... 6
- Volunteers 4
- Weigh-In & Tagging..... 5
- YQCA..... 5

A Message from 4-H Agent—Macy Hynek

Happy New (4-H) Year! I am excited for the upcoming 4-H year and want to welcome all our new families to the River Valley District and say welcome back to all our returning families.

What an exciting 4-H year, 2022-2023 has brought us. Each year brings lots of success as well as challenges. Our youth work very hard the in their project areas, growing as an individual, learning from their mistakes, and making the world we all live in a better place. I am so proud of each and every one of our 4-H'ers and how far they came over the past twelve months.



Some of the highlights from the past year include, having our first River Valley Geology Field Trip and our 9th River Valley Rabbit Show—thanks to some awesome dedicated volunteers. We also had a fun filled summer with many workshops for youth to attend, including floral arranging, leatherworking, charcuterie board, sewing and much more. I look forward to next summer as we offer more exciting programs. River Valley youth competing with their project records had a year for the record books. Each year many 4-H'ers spend countless hours with their project, completing leadership and citizenship opportunities and taking their project to the next level. This past year we had 8 projects win at the Northeast area judging and qualified for state. Of those 8, four won at the state level. A special shoutout to this years Project Record Champions, Amber Kolle in Geology, Zachary Piroutek in Wood Science, Clayton Carlgren in Horse, and Aubrey Stahlman in Poultry. Another fun success is, Washington County brought home the All Breeds Dairy Herdsman Trophy for the seventh consecutive year. Fun fact, did you know that our 4-H'ers have won this trophy 17 different years since 1993.

On top of all that excitement, River Valley youth had a lot of success from District Club Day, to the fair and every event in between. Exciting things are happening here in the River Valley District and the future is bright for our youth. I am looking forward to the new year and cannot wait to see what all we can accomplish.

Happy New Year! I look forward to seeing you all at the Achievement Celebrations!



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Achievement Celebrations

Every November each county in the River Valley District comes together to celebrate the accomplishments of their 4-H'ers from the previous year. Below are the dates, times, and locations for each Achievement Night in the River Valley District. We hope you can join your County's Achievement Night as they recognize the achievements and hard work of their 4-H Youth.

Clay County	Saturday, November 4th	5:30 p.m.	Clay County Events Center
Cloud County	Sunday, November 5th	5:00 p.m.	Cloud County Fairgrounds
Republic County	Sunday, November 12th	5:30 p.m.	Republic County Fairgrounds
Washington County	Saturday, November 18th	6:00 p.m.	Washington Co. High School

District Club Day

District 4-H Club Day will be held Saturday, February 10, 2024 at the Republic County Jr./Sr. High School in Belleville. 4-H Club Day is an opportunity for youth to showcase their abilities in performing arts, public presentations, parliamentary procedure, and so much more.

Youth will also have the opportunity to participate in many different judging contests. We will be offering Photography, FCS, Crops, Horticulture, and a Livestock Skill-a-thon. The top-scoring individuals will then qualify for RVD Judging Teams, which will compete at the Kansas State Fair in September 2024.

4-Hers will be able to sign up for District Club days with their Club Leaders. Each Club will be given a printed sign-up form for the Junior and Senior Divisions. Club Leaders need to pick up forms from your local Extension Office.

You can find the District Club Rule Packet at the following link: <https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h/club-day.html>

After we have received all registration forms, the 4-H Staff will schedule out each event, Once completed, we will mail and e-mail families the schedule and additional information as soon as possible, including being able to sign up as door monitors.

If you have any questions regarding District 4-H Club Day, please contact any of the 4-H staff members.

AIR Contest

A-application **I**-interview **R**-resume

For the 5th year the River Valley District Annual AIR Contest will be held at the 4-H District Club Day. Studies show that 4-H members are four times more likely to contribute to their communities. Regardless of the career they choose or whether they are applying for scholarships, the life skills of filling out applications, going through an interview, and creating a quality resume are very necessary life skills to have.

The River Valley District offers many career options for young people and many businesses will be seeking the right candidates, such as 4-H members. This year, the contest will feature businesses in Republic County. Even though this contest is hosted by Republic County, 4-H'ers from across the district are encouraged to participate. Taking the time to learn about these businesses and having the opportunity to interview with them, can open a door to the future and help strengthen the life skills you will need to be successful as an adult!

Senior 4-H members (4-H age 16 to 18 as of January 1, 2024) are encouraged to participate in this contest. You will apply for 1 of the 4 job opportunities offered by filling out an application, interviewing with a panel built of the 4 business representatives, and submitting a resume that shows off the best part of yourself. The applications, cover letters, and resumes will be due to your local Extension Office on **Wednesday, February 1st, 2024**, and interviews will be held on **Saturday, February 10th** during 4-H District Club Day.

The AIR contest has cash prizes for the top four individuals, first place- \$80.00, second place- \$60.00, third place, \$40.00, fourth place- \$20.00. More details, including job descriptions and the process, will be available in early December on our website (www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h), in your local Extension Offices, and mailed to all eligible 4-H members! If you have any questions, please contact your local 4-H Program Manager.

Horse Panorama

Calling all horse lovers! Mark your calendar and make plans to attend this year's 4-H Horse Panorama.

When: January 27th, 2024

Where: Rock Springs Ranch in Junction City, KS

Who Can Attend: 4-H Members 7-18 (as of January 1st, 2024) and Adult Volunteers

Why Should I Go: Youth will gain knowledge about the 4-H horse project through educational activities for 4-Hers of all ages. Horse Panorama is made up of a variety of contests that are specifically designed for the horse project. The list of contests includes Horse Quiz Bowl, Hippology, Public Speaking Presentations, Photography, and Educational Posters.

If you aren't already, be sure to get enrolled in the horse project on 4-H Online so that you will get emails and updates on 4-H Horse events.

State 4-H Scholarships

If you are a senior in high school, or have a family member in college, this article may be of interest. State 4-H has just updated information on their website. Here is the link about the 2024-25 Kansas 4-H Scholarships <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html>

It clarifies the information about the two types of scholarships available through the state 4-H office - State 4-H Scholarships and the Vanier Family Scholarship Program. There is a chart so you can see which scholarship you are eligible for and what you will need to do to apply. They strongly encourage applicants to look over the evaluation score sheet as a reference while preparing your application. These are usually due after the first of the year.

Don't forget to check with your local extension office for available county scholarships as well.

Setting Personal Goals for Your Record Book

A new 4-H year has started! Now is the time to start thinking about your Project Goals. By defining your goals early before you get started in a project you are more likely to be successful in achieving the goals you set for yourself and your projects.

Your goals do not have to be great in number, they just need to have depth and show detail of what you are wanting to gain from your project. By planning ahead, you can make a list of what projects you can give a project talk for, events you can attend at local, county, district, and state levels. Even at a national level depending on the project area. Also, make note to take photos as you go to put in your record book to support your project goals.

Learning how to keep accurate and complete goals is a necessary lifelong skill. By keeping accurate records kids can look back and reflect on their year with their projects. Reflecting will help kids see their strengths and the areas where they did well but maybe could have done better. 4-H offers the opportunity to try again next year and to improve from year to year. The kids will feel successful and proud of themselves when they see that they have accomplished their goals.

As the new year gets off and rolling, set your 4-H'er up for success by looking at their next Pin Application, be it the Clover Pin, Leadership Pin, or the Key Award. Go over their list of projects and decide which projects they want to do a Project Record Form for and record their goals now. Update their Permanent Records as the year progresses, do not wait until September to enter everything into their Permanent Records. Also, look over the Auction Requirement Form and see what is required for that.

We wish all of our River Valley District 4-H'ers and their families a great 2023-2024 4-H year!

Have you ever wondered... What a 4-H Ambassador is?

The 4-H Ambassadors are a group of high school aged 4-H members that have a desire to help promote 4-H in their county. They also are willing to interact with the general public by speaking in front of groups that want to learn more about 4-H. They also commit extra time and energy by organizing a Cloverbud daycamp during the year. The Ambassadors also enjoy talking with the Cloverbuds at the fairs when they bring in their projects to be displayed.

Here is the list of the 2023-2024 River Valley District 4-H Ambassadors and their devoted Advisors.

Clay County: Aiden Argo, Joni Begnoche, Austin Burr, Kaley Chambers, Jenna Fickes, Ryan Geer, Slade Griffiths, Gentry Hartman, Maci Jefferis, Chayla Maichel, Isaiah Melton, Sierra Stewart

Advisor—Judy Stitt

Cloud County: Jacob Barr, Megan Barr, Bricen Benyshek, Daeggan DeGraff, Bethany Demars, Noah Demars, Jori Letourneau, Katelyn Reedy, Aubrey Stahlman

Advisors—Stacy Letourneau and K'Lynn Barr

Republic County— Chesnie Dickinson, Kadence Henke, Kash Henke, Emma Hubert, Tallyn Melton, Aden Morris, Breckyn Reynolds, Farmer Snapp, Frankie Snapp, Avery Stindt, Kylie Stone, Emma Strnad, Wyatt Strnad, Elly Williams

Advisor—Lauren Field

Washington County Jordi Fahey, Gillian Minge, Elgin Sinn

Advisor—Katlin Bruna

4-H Volunteers

A huge thank you to all of our River Valley District 4-H volunteers! Our district has so many opportunities for youth throughout the year, and it would not be possible without the help of our dedicated volunteers. While the RVD has been fortunate to have wonderful volunteers, there is a constant need for more adults to lead our 4-H youth. Take a moment to think about what skills and passions you possess that you could share with our district 4-Hers. Maybe you have a neighbor, family member, teacher, or friend who would be a great volunteer with 4-H. Help us recruit them to assist with our youth development program! You can share with them the enrollment process, or they can contact your local 4-H Program Manager to discuss volunteer options.

Steps to Enroll:

- If you are a returning 4-H Volunteer and have completed a criminal background check (CBC) within the last 3 years, you will simply have to reenroll each year through 4-H Online ([https:// v2.4honline.com](https://v2.4honline.com)). Your local 4-H Program Manager will contact you if additional information is needed.
- If you are a first year 4-H Volunteer, your local 4-H Program Manager will be contacting you regarding completing a CBC and to follow up with the training process.

Please reach out to your local extension office if you have any questions regarding volunteer enrollment.

Weigh-In and Tagging Dates

Mark your Calendars with the 2024 Spring Weigh-In and Tagging Dates. You may choose to tag/weigh-in your livestock at any of the offered times and locations for that species in the River Valley District. No tagging will be allowed to be completed at home for any species, for any reason. All tagging must be completed at one of the following dates and times.

Beef Weigh-In

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

Small Animal Weigh-In (Sheep, Goat, and Swine)

Monday, April 15 th	5:30 pm-6:30 pm	Washington County Fairgrounds	Washington
Tuesday, April 23 rd	5:30 pm-6:30 pm	Clay County Fairgrounds	Clay Center
Thursday, April 25 th	5:30 pm-7:00 pm	Cloud County Fairgrounds	Concordia
Saturday, May 11 th	9:00 am- 11:00 am	Republic County Fairgrounds	Belleville

YQCA—Youth for the Quality Care of Animals

Each 4-H member that plans to show market or breeding animals must go through this course each year. This course focuses on food safety, animal well-being and life skill development for our youth. This program has different learning modules each year. This class is offered in each of our River Valley District counties or online.

Here are the scheduled dates for the in-person classes

Clay County	June 6th	5:30 pm
Cloud County	March 11th	5:30 pm
Republic County	May 11th	11:00 am
Washington County	April 15th	7:00 pm

Shooting Sports

River Valley District Shooting Sports is set to begin soon! This year there will be a couple of slight changes to keep in mind when participating in the Shooting Sports program. Registration will happen after you have attended the Safety Meetings at each Discipline. We will start each meeting, or shoot in the Hosie Building to get signed in. All Safety Meetings, Practice Shoots, and Fair Shoots will be held in Concordia at the Cloud County Fairgrounds.

4-Hers must be 8 years old before January 1st, 2023 to be eligible. All youth must be enrolled in the Shooting Sports Projects through 4-H Online and attend one of the two safety meetings. A parent or Guardian **MUST** accompany the youth to each shoot.

There will be no shooting at any of the disciplines during both of the safety meetings. You must attend one out of the two safety meetings.

Safety Meetings and Practice Shoot

Safety Meeting – November 19, 2023	Safety Meeting – December 10, 2023
Practice Shoot – January 14, 2024	Practice Shoot – January 21, 2024
Practice Shoot – February 18, 2024	Practice Shoot – February 25, 2024
Practice Shoot – March 17, 2024	Practice Shoot – April 7, 2024
Practice Shoot – April 28, 2024	

Fair Shoot

Fair Shoot – April 28, 2024	Fair Shoot – May 5, 2024
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48 Hours of 4-H

On October 7th and 8th, 4-H Clubs from across the River Valley District participated in 48 Hours of 4-H. It's a weekend set aside during National 4-H week for 4-H'ers to give back to their communities. Our 4-H organization takes a lot of pride in the importance of giving back to our community, country, and world. Below is a glimpse of some of the activities that were happening across the district. #4HProud



Clyde Roadrunners 4-H Club

The Clyde Roadrunners 4-H Club located in Cloud County hosted a free meal to serve local farmers and farm hands during the 2023 harvest.



Lincoln Creek 4-H Club

The Lincoln Creek 4-H Club located in Clay County cleaned up the local Utility Park by weeding and mulching.

Stick-To-It 4-H Club

The Stick-To-It 4-H Club located in Washington County held a bed sheet drive where all items were donated to the Orphan Grain Train.



Merry Meadowlarks 4-H Club

The Merry Meadowlarks 4-H Club located in Republic County re-stained the equipment at the Agenda city park and then headed to the Methodist Church to work in the flower bed.

Hopewell Corners 4-H Club

The Hopewell Corners 4-H Club located in Cloud County gathered pet food and cat litter for the local animal shelter.



Linn Livewires 4-H Club

The Linn Livewires 4-H Club located in Washington County made wreaths and cards for the local nursing home residents.



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

Address Service Requested

River Valley 4-H 2023-2024 Calendar



Be sure to check out the new annual 4-H calendar. The calendar is full of friendly reminders, dates and times of events for the 2022-2023 4-H year. Please note that all dates and times are subject to change.

If you have not received a copy yet, please ask your 4-H Club Leader for a hard copy, or contact your local extension office. You can also scan the QR code to the left to view a digital copy.

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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