New 4-H Year

October 1st kicked off the new 4-H year! 4-H is open to any youth ages 7-18. Ages 5 & 6 year olds can participate as cloverbuds. The program that manages project enrollment, volunteers, and family contact information is called 4-H Online. Enrollment for 2024 started October 1st and is open until December 1st.

Cloverbuds

To become a 4-H Cloverbud member, the child must be 5 years old prior to January 1 of the current 4-H year. The overall purpose of a cloverbud is to help aid in the development of life skills that are essential for cognitive, social, emotional, and physical maturation of five and six year olds by providing a unique educational opportunity.
Enrollment

This is the time of year to select projects that you wish to enroll in, start setting goals, and make plans to gain the most from your projects. The 4-H page on our website has great resources to help you keep track of your goals and progress throughout the 4-H year. We would like to remind everyone that enrollment is a 2 step process, and should be completed by the Coffey County 4-H enrollment deadline of December 1st!

1. Enroll by creating new account or Re-enroll using an existing 4-H Online account.
2. Sign an enrollment report (will be emailed to you) to turn into the Extension Office. Detailed instructions for enrolling in 4-H are on our website at http://www.coffey.k-state.edu/4-h/enrollingin4h/

4-H Program Books

4-H Program Books Club based program books are due to the Extension Office by December 1st, along with 4-H enrollments. After December 1st the Extension Office will update the 23-24 4-H Council Program which will include:

- Club Duties
- Local 4-H Events
- Statewide 4-H Events
- 4-H Council Representatives
- 4-H PDC Members
- 4-H Club Information.

The 4-H Council Program will be posted under the 4 -H Newsletters tab of the 4-H page on our website, and will be mailed to anyone on our newsletter mailing list or upon request.

Please turn in one copy of your club bylaws with your program book.
New volunteers will need to complete the State 4-H Volunteer Certification process and submit the application at the beginning of their first year of volunteer service. The volunteer screening process should be completed every 3 years. All club leaders and project leaders must be certified to continue in those roles. Other volunteers must plan to hold at least 2 project meetings throughout the year in order to certify and be recognized as a registered volunteer. Detailed instructions for becoming a certified volunteer, or renewing for the new 4-H year are provided on the “Volunteer Information” tab of the 4-H page on our website.
Following discussion about the schedule conflict affecting rabbits and bucket calf it was decided to alter start times for the 2024 county fair; Rabbits - 7:30 am; Poultry - 8:30 am; Dairy - 9:30; Bucket Calf - 10:00.

The suggestion to add another day to the fair was discussed. It was decided to propose this to the fairboard for their consideration / approval. The thought being to shift the current Wednesday’s schedule to Tuesday. This would allow for poultry and rabbit shows to be held Wednesday morning and possibly move the horse show to Wednesday evening and consider a rescheduling of sheep, meat goat and dairy shows. Fairboard’s response will dictate which option will be pursued.

Janelle announced that there is thought and preliminary planning for a spring rabbit show here in Coffey County.

Large livestock weigh-in dates were announced; Beef - Saturday, March 23, 2024; Sheep and Meat Goats - Wednesday, April 17, 2024; Swine - Wednesday, April 24, 2024. Decision was made to schedule two fairgrounds clean-up. First to be Wednesday evening April, 24th at 6:00 p.m. (in conjunction with swine weigh-in). Second will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. 2024 Spring shows dates are to be: Saturday, April 27, 2024 - Sheep, Goat & Beef Shows; Saturday, May 25, 2024 - Swine Show. 2024 Spring Show Committee Chairs: Sheep - Ashley Krueger; Meat Goats - Mary Lou Ponder; Bucket Calf - Megan Wilson; Beef - Todd Turner; Swine - Karen and Curt Sergeant. Awards Committee will now be Ashley Krueger, Mary Lou Ponder, Megan Wilson.

Following discussion it was decided to change spring shows entry and check-in procedures to “self-weigh-in” and “simple” posting of classes on poster / white board, writing only the breed and weight classes within that breed. Cards are collected from exhibitors once filled out then handed back in the holding area prior to going into the ring. There will need to be at least 3 individual animals of a breed checked in before a breed class will be created, otherwise will show AOB. Develop an online entry form for pre-entries for the show (Show Works app, Google forms, Qualtrics, FMS). Put breeding, market, and showmanship cards on different colored cards. No ribbons handed out only banners for class and overall winners. Additional spring show comments received were: show chairs need to meet with the assisting 4-H club’s leaders PRIOR to the show and clubs need access to planning schedule; Club help needs to be older 4-Hers or parents from a safety standpoint. Smilin Thru 4-H club volunteered to do spring show concessions again next year and there were no objections.

In discussion of County Fair it was decided to change the deadline for initial ID of breeding heifers and Cow/Calf pairs by moving it later to coincide with the date of Bucket Calf ID (April 17th this year). Pictures turned in to the Extension for ID’s will continue to be required. Nominations at initial weigh-in for county fair may now be done in the family name with individual exhibitor’s name to be declared at time of county fair entry. In addition, heifers “dual nominated” (market & breeding) at initial weigh-in MUST be declared one or the other at the time of county fair entry. Was suggested to have separate check-ins at the fair for breeding and market animals either a more “formal” check-in after market animals are weighed / checked OR possibly have two separate lines set up. Following discussion it was decided to leave the swine minimum weight to remain at 220 pounds. There is a need for awards for Reserve thru 5th overall placings (buckles RGC, banners 3rd - 5th ). Awards committee will be formed in 4-H council to offer suggestions to be taken to 4-H PDC for final approval. This consideration will be made for rabbits as well. These additional awards would require sponsorships be acquired. Discussion was held pertaining to designation of specific tie out space to specific clubs. Seemed some clubs had more space than needed while some did not get enough. It was decided to revert back to a first-come-first-served system rather than assigned space allocation based on club beef entry numbers. Requested additions to the fairbook for next year included: addition of Red Angus as a beef breed and “Natural” as sheep breed; Statement that use of halters for showing sheep and meat goats is allowed; possibility of moving the time of the horse show back an hour to start at 6:00 p.m. rather than 5.

No other items of concern were brought up for discussion. Meeting was adjourned.
2023 4-H Achievements

4-H Ambassadors

Key Award Winners

Tip Top: Outstanding 4-H Club

Ron Hoover, Friend of 4-H

Liberty: Herdsmanship Award

Overall Award Winners

Cloverbuds

Overall Achievement

Club Officers

Membership Pin

Bronze Pin

Clover Pin

View more images from the 2023 Achievement Banquet on our Facebook page, ‘K-State Research & Extension - Coffey County’
Looking Ahead...

November
- Nov 1 | 4-H Financial Audits due
- November 2 | Kansas 4-H Photography Shutterbug Event in Hays
- November 10 | Extension office closed in honor of Veteran’s Day
- November 18-19 | Kansas 4-H Youth Leadership and Volunteer Forum at Rock Springs
- Nov 23 & 24 | Extension Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- November 24-28 | National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA

December
- Dec 1 - 4-H Enrollments due

2023-2024 Club Assignments

Blue Ribbon: County Fair Horse Show
Liberty: Parade of Purples Set Up
Smilin Thru: Assist with Spring Show
Tip Top: Achievement Ceremony
Stringtown Bombers: 4-H Sunday
Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

Kansas State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Accommodations:

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 Jill or Darl two weeks prior to the start of the event at 620-364-5313. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.