

meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-H

4-H News *for New Families*

Meadowlark District

NFN#4 Sept 2023

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You've Made it Through Your First Year!

New 4-H Families,

Congratulations are in store! You have made it through your first year in 4-H! As you look back and reflect on your first year, I hope that you can understand a few things. The first, I hope your family recognizes the opportunities that 4-H offers to build the leaders of tomorrow. I also hope that you recognize why everyone refers to 4-H as a family affair. 2023 was an exciting year as we were able to return completely to face to face delivery. We look forward to you continuing to your second year of 4H and becoming even more involved!

Your first 4-H year can be a bit confusing at times, and there is a strong possibility that you missed a deadline or opportunity you wanted to participate in. Just know it takes around 3 years to fully understand the 4-H program. I, myself, am still becoming acclimated to the Meadowlark District. This year was certainly a learning experience for your family and the 4-H family as a whole.

This is the last New Family Newsletter that you will receive, but this information can be reached through the district website, https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/new_to_4H.html. Remember to read the monthly newsletter to stay informed about happenings in the Meadowlark 4-H program. The newsletter is meant to help you to continue to succeed, as a family, in the 4-H program. This is our means of monthly communication from our offices to you. Additionally, make sure that you are checking your email to find any other information or opportunities that didn't make the newsletter!

October marks the new year for 4-H which means new families will be joining your club. I encourage you to reflect on the past year, and how much you have learned. With all this powerful information, use it to help integrate, include, and help the new families as you were hopefully helped. Your family probably knows that it can be overwhelming, so please help those that are new so they can also be successful in their first year in 4-H.

It is cliché, but PLEASE keep asking questions. Often more seasoned families and the 4-H offices take information for granted; therefore, we need your help in asking questions to disseminate vital information to everyone. Please do not feel like a hindrance and ensure that you are asking all the questions you need to ask! Everyone in the offices is more than willing to help, so I will say it again, PLEASE keep asking questions!

Clay Roland – District Agent, 4-H Youth Development

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4-H Achievement Event

4-H Achievement Events is held after the end of the 4-H year to honor the youth for their hard work in the prior 4-H year. At the Achievement Event local awards are given including achievement pins, scholarships, volunteer recognition, and project awards. The awards at the Achievement Event are based upon the review of record books and applications. These are different than awards given at events throughout the year (such as fair), as they look at the completion of written summary of work done in the 4-H Record Book. All 4-H families are invited to attend the local achievement event to help celebrate the success each has had! Make sure you read the monthly 4-H newsletter to receive all the details, so you don't miss out on celebrating success with others!

4-H Enrollment Time–4HOnline

Enrollment is the start of your 4-H year and shares basic information on your 4-H family. This information helps us help you to be an informed 4-H family. All returning member **MUST** have your 4HOnline enrollment completed by **November 1st**. **Restrictions are placed on a returning member who re-enrolls after this date!** We need your family’s contact so you can start receiving the monthly newsletter full of 4-H information.

At one of the first 4-H meetings of the year, the Club Leader should share 4-H enrollment information. It is very important to re-enroll in 4-H each year. Youth select projects and activities they are interested in taking part in and update any changes in contact information. Enrollment in 4-H asks for important details about yourself, but this data is only as useful and accurate as the information you provide.

All 4-H members are asked to complete 4-H enrollment online via the Kansas 4HOnline enrollment system. Details on this process will be highlighted in the monthly 4-H newsletter. Enrollment will not be complete until entered online by the 4-H member/family via the Kansas 4HOnline site **AFTER** October 1st **AND** the Kansas 4-H program fee of \$15 is paid. Additional enrollment information can be found on our webpage: www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/enrollment.html.

If your family has multiple phone numbers, email addresses, or mailing addresses please list those that are most often checked or used by the youth and parents. The office uses a variety of ways to contact youth, so if a phone number or email is not used often, please do not list it in your 4HOnline account. Rather, use an email that you actually utilize!

Club leaders and Extension staff will use the projects and activities youth sign up for as a way to inform your 4-H family of resources, events, etc. that youth are specifically interested in. 4-H members will be directed toward or given materials and information on specific project workshops or deadlines based on the projects they signed up for. If you forget to sign up for a certain project you may not be informed of critical dates or important changes.

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4-H Participation Form Information

A big piece of annual 4-H enrollment is completion of a Kansas 4-H Participation form. The completion of this “form” and the information contained within is just as important as enrollment information itself. This information is electronically submitted via the 4HOnline enrollment system.

You may be asking yourself why the Extension office or club leader needs my child’s medical information? You may be reluctant to fill a form out completely because of confidentiality or because you don’t fully remember the last time your child got a tetanus shot. The 4-H Participation Form is another important document the Extension Office and your Club leader needs to give your child a fun, but safe experience.

When your participation form is completed in the 4HOnline account, information is kept completely confidential. Club Leaders may look at the information to find out food allergies when planning snacks, or so they are informed of health concerns and prepared in case of an emergency.

The information is used in the same way at the Extension Office. If your child attends any event that is put on by the State or the Meadowlark District, the Participation Form information is used to plan according to your child’s medical needs.

The form needs to be filled out completely. We only use the information on the form in case of an emergency. The required information will not be shared with anyone, but do need to be completed fully. Otherwise, you will get phone calls and/or emails from the Extension Office until the necessary information is provided. Enrollment will not be complete without this information and puts you in an “Incomplete” status in 4HOnline.

Please know your child’s safety is of the highest importance to us! A complete and accurate 4-H Participation form is one way we keep your child safe, and in case an accident does happen, we can get them the best care possible.



Who Runs the 4-H Club Meeting???

Your 4-H club has probably been meeting once a month. Be sure to attend club meetings so you know what is going on in your 4-H club. You will also learn what's happening in 4-H at the local, District and state levels. There are lots of things to do in 4-H, but you have to attend meetings to learn what is happening. Parents, your attendance at these meetings is as equally important as the 4-H member! This includes any meetings happening virtually as well.

At least one adult volunteer club leader attends meetings to answer questions and make sure things go smoothly. This Community Club Leader(s) is the first place to turn when you have 4-H questions. Really, each club is run by its members, by electing club officers. Here are some things that each officer does:

- **President:** The president leads the club meetings. Usually, the president has been in 4-H for quite a few years. An effective president works with the officer team and club leader to run an efficient meeting.
- **Vice President:** This person helps the president. He or she takes over when the president cannot be there. Many clubs also make the Vice President in charge of the program portion of the meeting.
- **Secretary:** This person writes a report of everything that happens at a meeting. This report is called the minutes. The secretary reads the minutes at the next meeting to remind members what happened the last time they met. Minutes are the historical record of the club's activities and decisions.
- **Treasurer:** This person keeps track of the club's money. He or she takes money to the bank, writes checks, and gives a report at club meetings. They are responsible for an annual financial audit report.
- **Reporter:** This person writes short news articles and sends them to the local newspaper. That way, everyone in the community knows what the 4-H club is doing.

Most clubs have other officers, too. Sometimes, there is a member in charge of games after the meeting or leaders for the pledge and songs. There may also be a historian. The historian keeps a scrapbook of the club's history. Clubs also need help planning special events and activities. This often is accomplished through committee work. You should consider, and probably would enjoy, being on one of these committees.

Planning Your Second Year of 4-H



The first year of 4-H is a time to explore and experience. 4-H offers a lot of projects & activities. You can't do them all in one year. That's why 4-H is for kids from 7 to 18 years old. There is something new for you to do each year that you are a 4-H member. Early this fall, your 4-H club will likely be having an organizational meeting. This is a time for you to think ahead to your second year of 4-H.

The first thing to think about is: What projects will I take? Think about the projects that you took this year. Did you like them? You may want to take them again. You can take the same project and try some new activities. Or you can move on to another level. Maybe you would like to try some new projects. Your leader should have a 4-H Project Selection Guide. You can look through all the projects again. Be sure to look close, there might even be a few new projects listed. Sign up for the project load you can handle!!!

The next thing to think about is: What will I do in my 4-H club? Would you like to be on any club committees? What about being a club officer? Recreation chair, pledge leader, or song leader are good offices to start with. You'll have some leadership responsibility, but not too much. Also, start thinking about presentations and demonstrations that you could give this year. Hopefully, you have the first one under your belt, and they get easier the second time. Public speaking is a valuable life skill!

Now ask yourself: Would I like to become involved beyond the club level? The District 4-H program offers lots of different activities during the year. You can try workshops to learn more about your projects. You can take part in public speaking contests. You can learn about judging by being on a livestock, horse, horticulture, crops, photography, or consumer science judging team (*to name a few*). Try an overnight experience with 4-H camp. The possibilities are endless!! If you don't know what's out there, please ask your leader or inquire at the Extension office.

Get the most out of 4-H by trying new things and having fun! If you want to know more about projects, events, or activities, ask your leader, a member of your club, or call your local Extension office. Check out the Events page of our website: www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/events.html or the Kansas 4-H Website site at www.Kansas4-H.org Have a great second year!

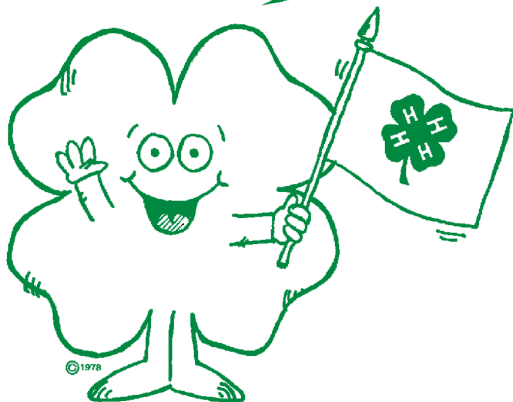


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Address Service Requested

Do you know the officers of the 4-H club?

Find the officers titles
hidden in the word find!



President
Treasurer
Vice-President
Reporter
Secretary
Recreation Leader

R F V G R U V Y G B H X V S K L
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