

K-STATE

Research and Extension

Sumner County 4-H

New Family Resources



Sumner
County

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Welcome Letter

Dear 4-H Family,

Hello, and welcome to the Sumner County 4-H Program! We are so excited that you have chosen to become a part of the nation's largest youth organization. As you begin this new adventure, we have created this booklet, inspired by the Southwind District, to be a resource to help answer any questions you have about our program.

The mission of 4-H is to help our youth build the skills necessary to succeed in the world today. We will accomplish this by:

- Building lifelong skills that will help youth prosper both personally and professionally
- Create Positive relationships with peers and mentors
- Develop self confidence
- Grow as a family through experiences and events
- Instill a love for continuous growth

In Sumner County, we accomplish the items listed above by having various learning activities and events throughout the year. This booklet will help explain the structure of the organization, terminology, explanation of projects, and general 4-H information. First off, our Extension Office is located at:

Sumner County Extension
320 N Jefferson Ave
Wellington, KS 67152
620-326-7477
sucoext@gmail.com

Our main form of communication is email. We also post information on our website, Facebook, and YouTube as well. Below you will find QR Codes that will take you to each communication source we utilize.



We look forward to working with each of you to "Make the Best Better!" If you have any additional questions, please reach out to us. Welcome to the Sumner County 4-H Family!

Sincerely,

Randy V. Hein
CEA, Agriculture and Natural Resources

Gavin Beesley
CEA, 4-H Youth Development

Meet the Staff



Hello I'm Randy Hein the Agriculture & Natural Resource Agent for Sumner County as well as the County Director for the Sumner County Extension Council. I grew up in various places and eventually graduated high school from Hill City High School in Hill City, KS. I am a Fort Hays State graduate and have been the Sumner County Agent since April of 2010. I'm married and have two grown sons as well as three grandchildren.

Randy V. Hein
CEA, Agriculture and Natural Resources
rvhein@ksu.edu



Hello, my name is Gavin Beesley and I am the 4-H Agent for Sumner County. I grew up here in Sumner County in Conway Springs and am a life long 4-Her. I was involved in many static project but most notable in the meat goat project. After home schooling for my junior and senior year of high school and taking college courses through Cowley College, I stayed for a year to livestock judge and get my Associates Degree. Then I went onto K-State to finish my Bachelors Degree in Animal Science. After college I worked briefly for a livestock reproduction company in Easter Kansas before getting the opportunity to come back home and be your 4-H Agent.

Gavin Beesley
CEA, 4-H Youth Development
gbeesley@ksu.edu



My name is Samantha Milton and I am the Office Professional for the Sumner County Extension Office since 2020. I grew up off and on in Sumner County, but ultimately graduated from Derby High School in 2014. I moved back to the Wellington area the same year, and a few years later met my now husband and we eventually moved to Mayfield. We now have our son, our pets, and a collection of vehicles (not by MY choice to say the least) that my husband likes to work on. Since working for the Extension Office, I've had the opportunity to meet new people and learn several new things. I can honestly say that I had no idea what 4-H was until working here and certainly plan to enroll my child(ren) when that time comes!

Samantha Milton
Office Professional
sucoext@gmail.com

What's What in 4-H?

Local Club Level

Cloverbud: Any child 5-6 years old who enroll through 4-H Online and meets club requirements. Cloverbuds are not full members but can still participate in their own category.

4-H Member: Any child 7-18 years of age who enrolls through 4-H Online and meets the club requirements

Club Leader: A volunteer who is responsible for the organization of the local club.

Project Leader: A volunteer who helps teach 4-Her's about projects. This person is often a 4-H parent who agrees to help out. It may also be Junior Leader or a community member who has knowledge about particular subject matter.

Project: A learning experience for 4-H members. Each member must take at least one project. He or she also has many other project activities such as; exhibiting at the 4-H Fair, participating in 4-H Club Days, and completing Project Report Forms.

My Part as a Parent

As a parent you are responsible to get your child to club and project meetings. You also need to know important meeting dates and attend those meetings with your 4-Her. You also need to be willing to take on short term responsibilities such as:

- Furnish transportation for tours and other activities
- Share refreshments and fund-raising responsibilities
- Help the club with community projects

As a parent, you also need to encourage and guide your 4-Her in project work, but not do the work for them. Learning projects requirements and helping your 4-Her keep up-to-date records are also important aspects of being a 4-H parent.

County Level

4-H Council: 4-H clubs each have two youth representatives in this group. The Council plans 4-H activities, events, and fundraising efforts that take place on a county-wide scale.

4-H PDC: PDC stands for Program Development Committee. This is an elected body of six people from within Sumner County. They are responsible for the advising the Extension Agents and offer direction for the 4-H program.

Executive Board: A board elected from the four Extension PDC. Their job is to be the authority over the Sumner County Extension Office and 4-H program.

Extension Agents: They are the professionals who carry out the PDC's objectives.



4-H Program Overview

What is 4-H?

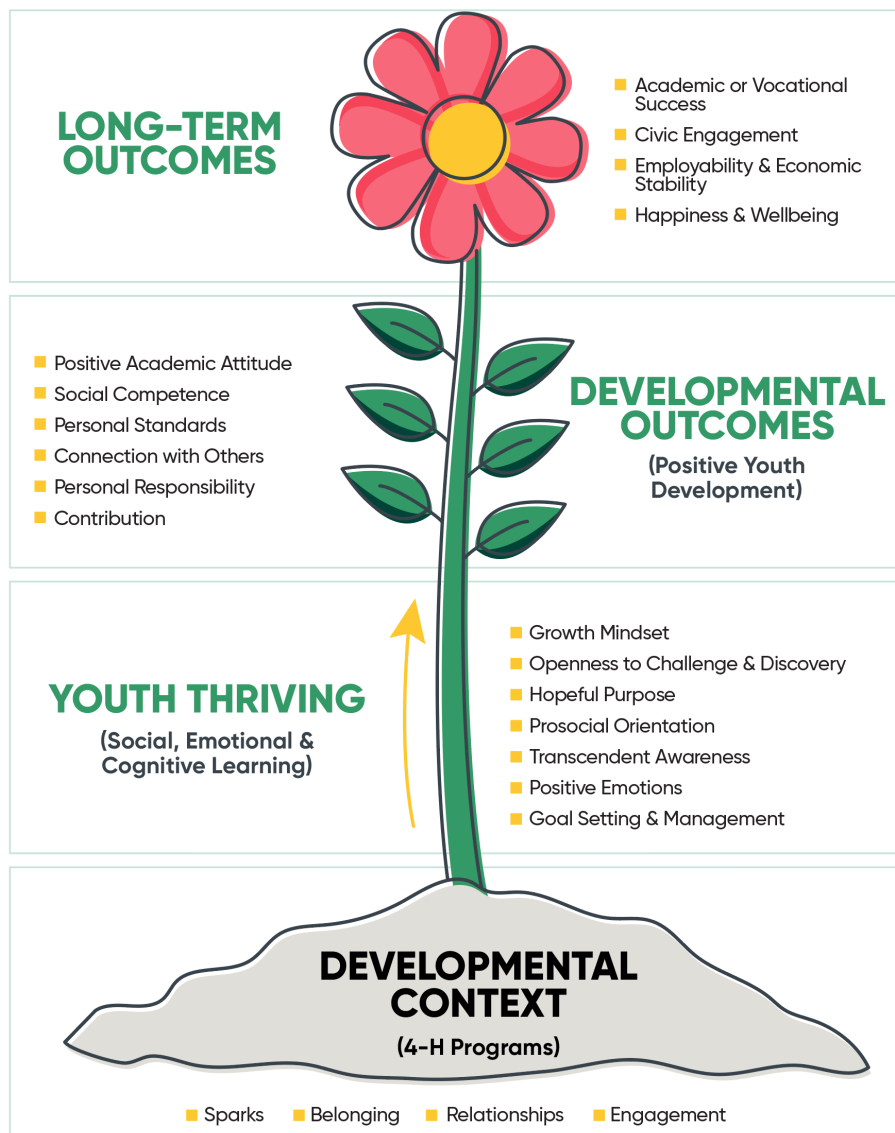
- 4-H is a volunteer led, Cooperative Extension supported, educational program that supplements the teaching of home, church, and school.
- 4-H is an informational educational program administered by the Cooperative Extension Service for all youth ages 7-18 years old regardless of if they live in town, county, or on a farm. 4-H is for everyone.
- 4-H is about having fun and learning with your friends.
- 4-H is having older members share their experiences by teaching younger 4-Hers the things they have learned.

4-H Year and Age for Membership

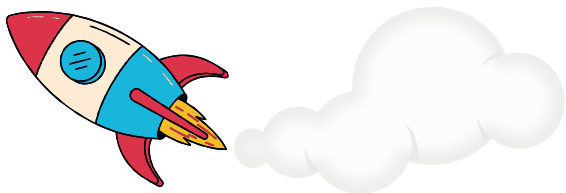
Youth who are 7 years old before January 1 and not older than 19 may enroll. 4-H age is what we call your age as of January 1st. An example would be if your birthday was July 4th, and you were 10 turning 11 your 4-H age would still be 10 for that 4-H year. 4-Hers must re-enroll annually by the posted deadline, if not they will be ineligible to compete at any level. New members who have never been in 4-H may enroll anytime of year.

What is the Primary Objective of 4-H?

The basic philosophy of 4-H is to strengthen then mental, physical, moral, and social development of all youth, therefore helping develop more desirable citizens and leaders. The main objective is the development of youth through participation in projects, events, and various activities. The flower to the right is called the “4-H Thrive Model” it is a picture of the goal of 4-H. We want youth to start in the soil and develop a sense of belonging. Next move to the stem as they grow and start developing goals. The leaves are showing both personal and academic growth. Lastly the flower at the top is long-term success. Whether that success is academic, vocational, civic, or employability. The goal of 4-H is to start in the soil and progress to the top of the flower and reach your individual goals.



Project Selection



The selection of 4-H projects has expanded greatly. There are now more than 50 different projects. Most of the projects have been planned with several phases so that a member can advance to more difficult and challenging opportunities within the same subject area.

4-H projects take on a wide variety of interests and activities that are designed to attract youth regardless of their gender, age, residence, economic status, etc.

How Do I Select Projects?

Parents and 4-H members should fully understand what is expected of the 4-Her before they enroll in a project. Check with the Extension Office regarding project curriculum.

Projects are selected in the early fall when 4-H Online enrollments are filed out or as soon as a new member joins. Usually, younger members should limit their number of projects. As 4-Hers get older, they may choose to take on more projects.



Some factors that should be considered when selecting projects are :

1. Is the project within my ability or age level?
And will I be challenged educationally by it?
2. How much time do I have to dedicate to the project?
3. Is the project acceptable to my parents, and does it fit with my family situation?
4. How much will the project cost?
5. Is there adequate space and equipment available for me to complete my project?

How Are Projects Conducted?

Project work is conducted through various activities and events such as:

- Project meetings (both in the local and county-wide)
- Regular club meetings (demonstrations, project talks, etc.)
- Tours - to see projects of other members
- Field Trips
- Workshops (both in the local club, county-wide, and state-wide)
- Family activities at home
- Exhibiting projects at shows, fairs, etc.
- Record keeping



4-H Records

Each 4-H member must keep a record of their 4-H work. Records are not an extra task, but part of regular 4-H work. Few young people (adults are no exception) enjoy record keeping. However, in our society the ability to keep good records is incredibly valuable.

What Records Should Be Completed?

4-Her's are asked to complete the minimum of a MIG (Member in Good Standing) form and are encouraged to complete at least one Project Report Form (PRF) every year. As 4-Her's get older we also encourage them to increase the number of PRF's they do each year. The MIG forms should be placed in a folder and contain the following:

- **4-H Personal Page:** This page contains space for a picture of the 4-Her, list of projects they participated in, and their 4-H story. A new annual record sheet is issued each year.
- **Permanent Record:** This is a summary of all projects, exhibits created, offices held, events attended, and other participation the 4-Her had throughout the past 4-H year compiled into one permanent record. Only one such record sheet is necessary for all the years that a child may be a member.
- **4-H Story**
- **General Pictures From 4-H Events or Projects**
- **Achievement Plan Form**

For local project recognition, a 4-Her must complete a Project Report Form (PRF). There are 3 levels of PRF's based on age: Junior (7-9), Intermediate (10-13), and Senior (14 & older). 4-H age is used for all age based categorization. 4-H age is a 4-Her's age as of January 1st of the current calendar year. Only PRF forms in the Senior Division are eligible for regional judging. All PRF forms must be in a plastic folder with brads/prongs and contain:

- **A Copy of the 4-Her's Personal Page**
- **Completed Project Report Forms for the Appropriate Age Division, printed on Regular Copy Paper**
- **Photos Printed on Regular Copy Paper**

When Should 4-H Records and Project Report Forms Be Completed?

4-H members are strongly encouraged to work on Project Report Forms (PRF) and other records throughout the year as they complete project work. This makes the completion of Member in Good Standing (MIG) and PRF forms easier at the end of the 4-H year. You can find resources to help you complete forms on our website and YouTube channel. 4-Her's in the Junior Division are encouraged to use pen/pencil to fill out their record keeping forms. Intermediate and Senior 4-Her's may use a computer to complete their forms.

Many of the record keeping forms require local club leader signatures. It is asked that you complete all record keeping forms and turn them into your local club leader for their signature by the designated date. All deadlines will be sent out via email or announced by local club leaders at club meetings. Once you have your club leader's signature, make sure to submit your record keeping forms to the Extension Office by the designated date. The completion of record keeping forms will also help local clubs to earn the top Purple Seal award every year.

4-H Trips, Awards, and Scholarships

What 4-H Awards Are Available For Me?

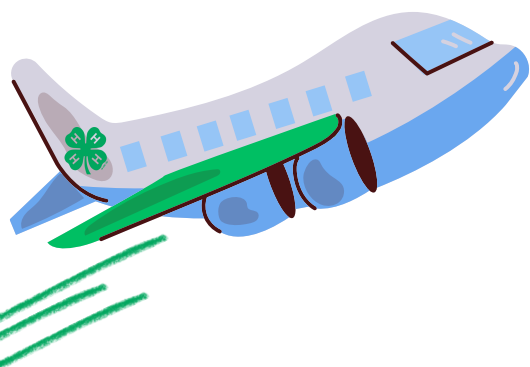
Achievement Pins: Membership, Bronze, Clover, Emerald, Silver, Silver Guard, Leadership, Gold, and Gold Guard, are all honors 4-Her's can earn. 4-Her's need to fill out an application form for these awards. Details about what 4-Her's must do to qualify for the awards are available on the Sumner County Extension website and from your club leader.

Key Award: This is the highest award given to only the top 10% of 4-Her's who are 16 years old and older. Special attention is given to leadership and achievement in all project areas. A special application form is required for this award.

County Project Awards: Awards are given to outstanding 4-Her's who complete Project Report Forms in each project area (Visual Arts, Foods & Nutrition, Sheep, Rocketry, etc.).

Area Awards: The top Project Report Forms (PRF) for 4-Her's 14 and older in each project area are sent Regional judging. At Regional Judging the top PRF forms from other counties in the Southeast Region are judged against one another. No prizes or special awards are presented, but the top two seniors in the region can earn the honor to compete at the State Level.

State Awards: The top two PRF forms from the regional judging are sent to the State Level. There they are judged against other top PRF forms from across the other 4 Regions of Kansas. The top winner in each area receives a medallion at the Emerald Circle Event.



What 4-H Scholarships Are Available?

Local Level: You can write a letter to the Sumner County 4-H Council and the Sumner County Development Fund requesting scholarship. Contact the Sumner County Extension Office for more details.

State & National Level: Scholarships ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 are available to outstanding 4-H members. Contact the Sumner County Extension Office for more details.

What Trips Are Available?

National 4-H Conference (Washington D.C.): Four outstanding 4-Her's from Kansas are selected to represent the state at the conference. Participants must be high school seniors or college freshmen and excel in leadership, achievement, and citizenship.

National 4-H Congress: 4-Her's who are chosen as State Project Award winners are given the opportunity to travel with other State Project Award winners to Atlanta for a 4 day fun-filled trip.

Citizenship Washington Focus: All 4-Her's who meet the age requirements are eligible for this trip. 4-Her's from across the state level travel together.

4-H Clubs and Leaders

Buccaneers:

- Meet the first Monday of every month at the Belle Plaine Community Center at 7:00pm.

Leader:

- Carrie Cyr - (316)-226-6900

Cardinals:

- Meet the second Sunday of every month at the Conway Springs Community Building at 4:00pm.

Leaders:

- Mary Steffen - (316)-207-4215
- Patti Haskins - (316)-371-0323

Happy Hustlers:

- Meet the second Sunday of every month at the South Haven Fair building at 6:20pm (No April Meeting).

Leaders:

- Casey Cullens - (620)-660-9382
- Lisa Kuchar - (620)-218-1113

Redwing:

- Meet the second Tuesday of every month at the Raymond Frye Complex at 7:00pm.

Leaders:

- Kelly Basinger - (620)-440-1197
- Kamden Basinger - (620)-440-7437

Trail Blazers:

- Meet the first Sunday of every month at the Fair Building in Caldwell at 7:00pm.

Leaders:

- Julia Strnad - (620)-863-2471
- Angie Baker - (620)-845-6630

