



RILEY COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER January 2025

New Riley County Extension Director

This week our office welcomed Daniel Skucius as the new Riley County Extension Director.

Skucius earned his bachelor's degree in wildlife and outdoor enterprises management from Kansas State University. He has most recently been employed as a watershed extension specialist for K-State Research and Extension's Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and Environment (KCARE). Before that, he served as the 4-H Youth Development agent in Pottawatomie County.

Stop by anytime to say hello and introduce yourself.

4-H Showcase Event 2025

Our 4-H Showcase event date will be **February 22, 2025**. Once again we will be at Riley County Grade school, with events beginning at 8:30 am and we should be done by 3:00 pm. As part of the event we will have photography, horticulture, and FACs judging. Breakfast items will be available. Registration is now open. [4-H Showcase and 4-H Trivia Registration Link](#). Start the planning process now for the February event. See you there!

Riley County 4-H Scholarships Available

State and local scholarships are now available at www.riley.ksu.edu —> 4-H Youth Development —> Forms and Resources —> Scholarships

All state and local scholarships need to be turned into the Riley County Extension office **by 5 pm on Thursday, February 6**. If you have questions about filling out the applications, please do not hesitate to call John at the Riley County Extension Office for assistance 785-537-6350.

State 4-H Scholarships Available

The Kansas 4-H Scholarship for the 2025 academic year should be posted after the first of the year <https://www.kansas4-h.org/resources/awards-and-recognition/scholarships.html>

Youth who should be applying for this scholarship should be in their Senior year in High School OR OLDER (there are scholarships available for former 4-Hers who are Freshman-Senior in Post-Secondary Education and some that are available to Vet Med Students).

How to Reach Us:

Riley County Extension
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Manhattan, KS 66502
785-537-6350

John: jajobe@ksu.edu
Brandy: brandymarie@ksu.edu
4-H Info: 4hinfo@rileycountyks.gov
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 7:30 am -5 pm
Friday 7:30 am - noon

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The Riley County Extension Office will be closed on Monday, January 20.



If you have something for the 4-H newsletter, please submit it to jajobe@ksu.edu by the 10 of the month.

4-H Council Dates for 2024-2025

Monday, November 4, 2024; Monday, January 6, 2025; Monday, March 3, 2025; Monday, May 5, 2025; Monday, June 30, 2025; Monday, August 18, 2025 (Labor Day is September 1)

Each club is allowed to have 5 voting representatives: 3 youth and 2 adults. .

Citizenship In Action

What: Would you like to have more influence in laws and rules that affect your life? Then you'll want to go to Kansas 4-H Citizenship in Action! This two day event is sponsored by the State 4-H Youth Leadership Council. The purpose of the event is for Kansas youth to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in their local communities. The legislative visit will not only familiarize youth with the capitol building, but will also show them how they can affect the legislative process.

When: February 16-17, 2025

Where: Topeka KS - Hotel Topeka at City Center (formerly Capitol Plaza)

Who: Youth 13-18 years old by January 1 of the current year

Registration: [Here](#)

Registration Deadline: January 24, 2025

Riley County 4-Hers Participate in the American Rabbit Breeders' Association in Louisville

Cooper Nemacheck (Leondardville Hustlers)

Cooper won the 1st place individual award in Breed Identification for the Intermediate level as well as being on the 1st place Intermediate Breed ID team with other KS 4-Hers. He was also awarded 1st place for the Management contest for District 5 (includes Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois) for an Average Size rabbitry, and 3rd Runner Up nationally for the Intermediate age division for the Achievement Contest.



Amaree Wiebers (Bonfire)

Amaree was on the 4th place Junior Quiz Bowl team. She won 1st place in the Princess royalty contest.

Alena Wiebers (Bonfire)

Alena won 1st place in the District 5 (includes Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois) Management contest for a Limited Size rabbitry and placed 4th Runner Up overall nationally in that contest. She also won 4th Runner Up for her individual score in the Senior Division of the Breed Identification contest and was a member of Kansas's Senior Judging Team that placed in the top 6 nationally.

Jayde Mongeau (Leonardville Hustlers)

Jayde was on the 1st place Junior team for Breed Identification and the 5th place Junior Quiz Bowl Team.

All four of these kids also participated in the national Royalty contests for their respective age divisions. This contest combines their scores from a written application, Breed Identification contest, Showmanship (for juniors) or Judging Contest (for intermediates and seniors), a written test, and an interview. Jayde received 3rd Runner Up in the Princess (age 8-10) category and Amaree was the national winner of that contest. Cooper was the 1st Runner Up for the Duke category (age 11-14), and Alena was 4th Runner Up for the Queen category (age 15-18).

Leaders and Parents

Consider in January

- Encourage families enroll/re-enroll via 4-H Online
- Make sure families are receiving emails from the Extension Office (at least weekly)
- Create club goals for the new year
- Start talking to families about attending the Annual Showcase event (February 22; RCGS)
- Encourage seniors to apply for county and state 4-H scholarships
- Invite Mr. Jobe to a club meeting
- Make sure 4-H Council Reps are attending meetings as voting representatives of your club
- Check on progress/needs of committees & parent volunteers/leaders
- Encourage project leaders to begin hosting project meetings
- Start the conversation about exhibiting at county fair with new families
- Encourage older 4-Hers to run for Fair Royalty (info coming soon)

Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC) 2025

Are you a high school-age youth living or attending school in Riley County? Have you ever had an idea for a business or product, but haven't had the outlet or guidance to put together a business plan or prototype? Well HERE is your chance to make it happen...and earn some MONEY!

In partnership with the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, Riley County Extension, Network Kansas, SPARK and generous donations from local donors, we will be hosting our 8th Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC) event on Wednesday, March 12th at the Manhattan Town Center Mall. Participants will have the opportunity to compete against other young entrepreneurs for \$3,000 + in cash.

The competition consist of (3) components including; the submission of a simple business plan, the creation of a tabletop trade show booth, and finally a 5-6 minutes formal presentation in front of a panel of judges. All three of these components will be judged based on a specific set of predetermined criteria.

If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, I would love to get you started by sharing event specifics, including the scoring rubrics use by judges, but also the template for creating a solid business plan.

To recap, if you're high school age, living or attending school in Riley County, are interested in business or entrepreneurship, and are willing to create a business plan, tradeshow booth, and present a 5-6 minute presentation, you will have the chance to win a portion of the \$3,000 + in cash. Call the Riley County Extension office or email me at jajobe@ksu.edu to get started today.

Welcoming New Families

As new families come into your club, please make sure you have assigned someone to greet these families and make them feel welcome. Feeling welcome can be the difference between a family staying with the 4-H program for years to come, or dropping out after a few meetings. New Family Handbooks are available at the Extension Office to share with your new families.

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals Scholarship

YQCA is excited to announce the 2025 Scholarship Program available to high school seniors and students enrolled in a 2-4 year university or certification program.

You must be a high school senior up to 21 year of age. You also must have an active YQCA certification at the time of application (2025) and have had active YQCA certification the previous two years (2023, 2024). As a high school senior, the essay question regarding your future plans to enter the agriculture industry or commitment to a university will be considered for eligibility.

Applications open January 1, 2025 and close February 17, 2025. For more information, visit <https://yqcaprogram.org/local/scholarship-program.php>

2024-2025 4-H Enrollment and Re-Enrollment

Enrollment and re-enrollment will opened on **October 1** and will be done via [4-H Online](#). If you have forgotten your password, 4-H Online can set you up with a temporary one.

Riley County Fair 2025 Open Class Challenge “Scenes of Riley County”

Join us for the Riley County Fair 2025 Open Class “Scenes of Riley County” Challenge. This year the Riley County scene will focus on “**People of Riley County**”. All pictures must be taken in Riley County and a description of the person(s) and location must be included on the back of the photo. The winning photo will receive a special ribbon and will be hung in the Riley County Courthouse for one year. Cropping is allowed, but no digital manipulation. Only **ONE** entry per person. Please refer to the 2025 Riley County fair book for additional requirements when it comes out. Contact the Riley County Extension office with any questions about the challenge 785-537-6350.



2025 Riley County 4-H Calendar

January

- 2 Project Report Forms DUE to Office
- 2-3 4-H Baking Workshops
- 6 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- 9 NE Area PRF Screening, Pottorf Hall
- 20 MLK Jr. Day, Extension Office Closed
- TBA 4-H Showcase Pre-Entry DUE

February

- 6 Local Scholarships DUE by 5 to Ext. Office
- 16-17 Citizenship in Action, Topeka
- 15 Beef Weigh-In; Fairgrounds 1-3 pm
- 17 Presidents Day, Extension Office Closed
- 22 Riley County Showcase, RCGS
- 22-23 Horse Panorama, Rock Springs
- TBA State Horse Judging
- TBA 4-H Ambassador Training, Rock Springs

March

- 1 State 4-H Scholarship and State PRFs DUE
- 1 Red Wheel Sales Begin
- 3 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hal
- Late March Red Wheel Sales DUE to your club
- TBA YQCA, 6-8 pm, Clover Room

April

- 19 Red Wheel Pick-Up, Pottorf Hall 9-9:30 am
- TBA State Shooting Sports Match
- TBA Discovery Days Registration DUE
- TBA Fair Royalty Applications DUE

May

- 1 Project Add/ Drop Deadline
- 3 Sheep & Goat Weigh-In/ Tagging, Hurlburt Arena, 5-7 pm
- 5 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- TBA Discovery Days, KSU Campus
- TBA Fair Royalty Interview; Pottorf Hall
- TBA Emerald Circle Banquet

June

- 1 Horse ID Papers DUE
- 7 Dog Show (Disciplines TBA)
- 28 Dog Show (Disciplines TBA)
- 30 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- TBA State Geology Field Trip

July

- 1 Fair Pre-Entries DUE
- 4 Independence Day, Ext Off. Closed
- 15 State Fair Livestock Entries DUE
- 17 Fair Fashion Review
- 19 4-H Horse Show
- 21 Fair Work Night, Pottorf Hall
- 22 4-H Photography Judging
- 22 4-H and Cloverbud Pet Show
- 23 4-H Visual Arts Judging
- 23 4-H and Cloverbud Foods Judging
- 24-28 Riley County Fair, Cico Park
- 29 Fairground Cleanup

August

- 1 State Fair Entry Forms DUE
- 15 KJLS Entries DUE
- 18 4-H Council, 7 pm Pottorf Hall
- TBA State Horticulture & Livestock Judging

September

- 1 Labor Day, Extension Office Closed
- 4 State Fair Project DUE to Extension Office
- 5-14 Kansas State Fair
- 19 Project Report Forms & Awards DUE

Updated 10/7/2024