WEST PLAINS EXTENSION DISTRICT

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Thank you for joining us, Ken!





MONDAY - FRIDAY | 8 AM - 5 PM

FINNEY COUNTY OFFICE: 620-272-3670

SCOTT COUNTY OFFICE: 620-872-2930

OFFICE PROFESSIONALS:COZETTA O'DEA & JESSICA LOPEZ



JANET HARKNESS

4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
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H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

SPRING 2024

Print or screenshot this page to keep up to date with all of our upcoming activities! (* indicates a pre-registration is required.)

- 3/3: Scott County 4-H Shooting Sports First Responders Food Shoot (SCCC Building)
- 3/4: Walk Kansas Registration Opens (walkkansas.org)
- 3/6: Farm & Ranch Transition Conference (Clarion Inn., Garden City)*
- 3/7: Elder Abuse and Neglect Seminar (12-1PM, Scott Extension Office)*
- 3/11: West Plains Extension District Board Meeting (7 PM, Finney Extension Office)
- 3/11, 3/12, 3/19 & 3/21: YQCA Training (See pg. 6 for details.)*
- 3/13-3/15: 4-H Quilting Class*
- 3/28 & 3/31: Grant Writing Basics Online Workshop (1:30-4:30PM, Online)*
 - Registration: https://ksre.learn.com/grant-writing-basics



Enjoy your Spring Break and come have fun with West Plains 4-H! From quilting, to communications training, to YQCA, there is something for everyone!

See graphics below for information and be sure to check your e-mail for details. Questions? Call the Finney (620-272-3670) or Scott (620-872-2930) office today!





Scorr county:

March 11, 9–10:30am, Wm Carpenter Bldg March 21, 6–7:30pm, Wm Carpenter Bldg

Finney County:

March 12, 9–10:30am, Grandstand Room March 19, 6–7:30pm, Grandstand Room



All 4-H & FFA members exhibiting animal projects are required to take the course in-person or online to exhibit at the Scott & Finney County Fairs, Kansas State Fair and KJLS.

Cost is \$3 for in-person; \$12 online

To register and pay for the course: https://yqcaprogram.org/







Finney County 4-H Livestock Tagging Dates

Beef: Thursday, April 11 Small Livestock: Monday, April 22 Make-Up Tagging: Monday, April 29



2024 LIVESTOCK TAGGING DATES

Scott County 4-H Livestock Tagging Dates

Beef: Sunday, April 7 Small Livestock: Sunday, May 5 Make-Up Tagging: By Appointment

K-State Research and Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may be requested by contacting the event contact West Plains Extension two weeks prior to the start of the event at 620-272-3670/620-872-2930. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.



FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Hello from the West Plains Extension District Staff! In our newsletter, we hope you find something that will be of interest to you. Our agents are busy working on bringing timely and relevant information and events to help address the needs in our communities.

In February, we hosted a Program Development Committee meeting where agents visited with our committee members on topics or events that they would like to bring to our communities. If you have a need for a class or an information session, please reach out to our offices. We would be happy to help you with your needs!

I would also like to invite everyone to wish Renee Tuttle, Agriculture and Natural Resources Ágent, best wishes as she will be leaving the West Plains District to pursue a role with the K-State Western Research & Extension Centers. A Best Wishes/Farewell Event will be held at the Finney County Extension Office on March 12th from 3:30-5:30PM. Come and enjoy some refreshments and wish her well in her in endeavor!

- (arof Ann

Join us in wishin<mark>g</mark> Renee well on her new adventure

We A-Peach-iate everything you did for the **West Plains Extension District**

> Come say good-bye! March 12, 2024, Come and go from 3:30 pm-5:30 pm **West Plains Extension Office** Finney Co

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:





What You Should Know

- What is elder abuse?
- What are the warning signs of abuse?
- Who is at risk for abuse?
- Who perpetrates abuse?
- How can it be prevented?
- How can I report suspected abuse?

March 7, 2024 | 12 - 1 PM CST

Scott County Extension Office 210 W 4th St | Scott City

> **RSVP by March 6, 2024:** 620-872-2930 cozetta@ksu.edu

Grant Writing Basics

Online Workshop

Grants are a vital piece in your community's funding... and you can do it.

Join Us March 28 & 30, 2023

1:30 - 4:30pm

Cost: \$60

Register Today

https://ksre-learn.com/grant-writing-basics

K-STATE

Research and Extension

JOYFUL LIVING WITH JENNIFER | JENNIFER LASALLE



LEARN MORE ABOUT NUTRITION DURING NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH!



Throughout March, celebrate

#NationalNutritionMonth

by going Beyond the Table!

Dive into the farm-to-fork aspect of nutrition, explore the various ways and places we eat, and learn about the great work RDNs and NDTRs do:

http://sm.eatright.org/NNM



Gardeners are planning what they want to plant this season, and eager to plant early season crops. It's also time to plan for how to preserve your bounty. Food preservation education is essential to preserving food safely. Using the most upto-date recipes and methods can lead to success. The following K-State Research and Extension publications have been updated and are available in Spanish. Also, the 'Ball Blue Book Guide to Preserving' has been updated too. It includes over 500 recipes with 40 new recipes. It is updated with the latest research to ensure safe and successful canning for all. Look for this new edition at major retailers such as Walmart, Target, Kroger stores, Ace Hardware and other retailers.

PRESERVATION PUBLICATIONS:

- Preserving Strawberries, MF1178
- Preserving Beans, MF1179
- Preserving Cherries, MF1180
- Preserving Vegetables, MF 1181
- Preserving Peaches, MF1182
- Preserving Sweet Corn, MF1183
- Preserving Cucumbers, MF1184
- Preserving Tomatoes, MF1185 (Coming Soon!)
- Preserving Peppers, MF1186 (Coming Soon!)
- Preserving Apples, MF1187



https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/publications/food-preservation.html





TOPICS FROM THE TROWEL TO THE TURNROW | RENEE TUTTLE

MARCH GARDENING CALENDAR

Do these warmer temperatures have you itching to get in the garden? While we may have seen a few days of 'false spring' at the end of February, there are many warmer days to come! Listed below are tasks to get accomplished this March to prepare for Spring.



Prepare soil for spring planting.

- It is best to perform a soil test before fertilizing to determine needs. If there are no soil test results, fertilize the garden with 1 to 2 pounds of 10-10-10 per 100 square feet.
- Plant potatoes, peas, onions, lettuce, other salad crops, asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries, broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage in late March.
- Start seeds indoors for tomatoes, peppers, and other warm season vegetables.
- Apply dormant oil to fruit plantings to reduce scale and mite insects.
- Make a fungicide application to control peach leaf curl.
- Finish pruning fruit trees, grapes, raspberries, and blackberries.
- Remove mulch from strawberries when growth begins.



Plant pansies, snapdragons, calendulas, and other cool-loving annuals.

- Clean up the perennial bed by cutting back foliage and removing winter mulch layer. Divide and plant perennials in the garden.
- If dry, prepare soil for planting by adding compost or other organic matter.
- As growth begins, fertilize gardens with a balanced fertilizer.
- Start seeds indoors under lights for transplanting in the garden.
- Plant new roses. Remove winter mulch from existing roses and prune.
- Cut ornamental grasses back to within 3-5 inches of the ground.
- Fertilize spring flowering bulbs such as tulips and daffodils.
- Cut seed from spent bulbs.
- Help control iris borers by destroying old foliage before new growth begins.
- Unwrap mail order plants immediately and keep them cool and moist until planting.



Spot spray for weeds.

- Apply crabgrass preventer in late March through mid-April for best results.
- Seed thin areas in bluegrass and tall fescue lawns.
- If no fall application of fertilizer was made, fertilize bluegrass and tall fescue.
- Mow grass 1/2 inch lower to remove winter debris. Do not scalp.



Prune trees, except birch, maple and walnut. Those are best pruned after leafing out.

Wait to prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom.

- Mulch tree and shrub planting up to 4 inches deep, keeping mulch away from trunks.
- Fertilize trees and shrubs.
- Plant new trees in the landscape.
- Remove tree wraps from young trees for summer growth.
- Rake and clean groundcover plantings.

Information from the K-State Research and Extension Garden Calendar Publication.

As you may have heard, I will soon be leaving the West Plains Extension District to pursue an amazing career opportunity at the Southwest Research-Extension Center as an Extension Associate focused on the TAPS (Testing Ag Performance Solutions) Farm Management Competition project. This decision was certainly not an easy one, but I am excited to be able to stay in the area and work on this new project that is so important to the future of agriculture in Southwest Kansas.

All excitement aside, I did truly want to thank each of you for your camaraderie, support, help, and most importantly laughs over the past 3.5 years! McCoy and I have been made to feel like family and we look forward to continuing to be a part of the many West Plains Extension District Happenings!



4-H DISTRICT ROUNDUP | JANET HARKNESS | TORI MOCK



4-H PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNICATIONS & PERFORMING ARTS

4-H gives kids unique hands-on opportunities to learn by doing and gain valuable life skills.

The 4-H Communications Project helps youth better interpret verbal and nonverbal information and enhance written and spoken communication, but the goals of the project don't stop there. The Communication Project also aids youth in developing effective public speaking skills, learning how to defend a point, learning how to design and present a presentation and learning how to correctly run meetings. We want to give youth the skills and confidence they need to make all forms of public speaking an enjoyable experience. Being a better communicator, writer and speaker will help youth throughout their lives both personally and professionally. Youth who enjoy being in the spotlight on stage or being creative off stage may enjoy this next project. The 4-H Performing Arts Project is all about youth learning to express themselves in front of a crowd. Youth can learn to do this through many different mediums: dance, vocal, instrumental and theater are a few of them! This project introduces youth to other kids in their clubs, communities and region with similar interests as them. It also encourages their creativity with opportunities to create and present an original composition, dance, theatrical play or musical performance; create costumes, sets and props and enter the final product in their local club days or other contests.

At 4-H District and Regional Club Days this February, 4-Hers showcased their communication and performance abilities through events such as illustrated talks, demonstrations, gavel games, model meeting, dance, vocal and musical performances and club skits. District Club Days was held in Scott City at the First Baptist Church on February 10th and had participation from eleven 4-H Clubs with 137 entries. The West Plains District hosted the Regional Club Days competition this year. It took place at the Scott City United Methodist Church on February 24th. The district was represented well at the regional competition competing against 4 other counties and taking home medals in 12 out of 17 events.













All you have to do is say: "I second it".





CONGRATULATIONS CLUB DAY PARTICIPANTS!

DISTRICT CLUB DAY RESULTS

CLOVERBUDS

Hope | Scott Reid | Scott

JUNIOR DANCE

Audrey | Top Blue | Finney

JUNIOR INSTRUMENTALS

Kealie | 1st Top Blue | Finney
Grady | 2nd Top Blue | Scott
Kinley & Paxton | 3rd Top Blue Duet | Finney
Addison | Blue | Scott
Bethany | Blue | Finney
Chase | Blue | Scott
Ella | Blue | Scott
Hailey | Blue | Finney
Kealie & Perry | Blue Duet | Finney
Bryn | Red | Scott
Kinley | Red | Finney

JUNIOR DEMONSTRATION

Audrey | Top Blue | Finney Baily | Top Blue | Scott Paxton | Top Blue | Finney Rylee | Top Blue | Scott Archer & KJ | Blue | Finney Bethany | Blue | Finney Josiah | Blue | Finney Maya | Blue | Scott Trace | Blue | Scott

JUNIOR ILLUSTRATED TALK

Kealie | 1st Top Blue | Finney
Madelyn | 2nd Top Blue | Finney
Macy | 3rd Top Blue | Finney
Hudson | 4th Top Blue | Finney
Piper | 5th Top Blue | Scott
Cooper | Blue | Finney
Landon | Blue | Scott
Perry | Blue | Finney

JUNIOR READING

Braeden | 1st Top Blue | Finney Piper | 2nd Top Blue | Scott Lainey | 3rd Top Blue | Finney Madyn | 4th Top Blue | Finney Audrey | 5th Top Blue | Finney Ella | Blue | Scott Gentry | Blue | Finney Trace | Blue | Scott

PROJECT TALK

Marin | Top Blue | Scott Statler | Top Blue | Scott Asher | Blue | Finney Cassidy | Blue | Finney Conrad | Blue | Scott Henry | Blue | Finney Jake | Blue | Finney Rylee | Blue | Scott Zoey | Blue | Scott Aubrey | Red | Finney

SHOW AND TELL

Colton | Blue | Finney Gage | Blue | Scott Olivia | Blue | Finney Weston | Blue | Finney

SENIOR DEMONSTRATION

Keri | Blue | Scott

SENIOR ILLUSTRATED TALK

Marin | Top Blue | Scott Marly | Blue | Scott

SENIOR INSTRUMENTALS

Kenzie | Blue | Scott

SENIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

Taylor | Blue | Finney

SENIOR VOCAL

Aleah | Top Blue | Finney

CLUB NOVELTY

Rising Star | Red | Scott

CLUB SKIT

Kourageous Kids | Top Blue | Finney New Horizons | Blue | Scott Sherlock Strivers | Blue | Finney Lake Wide Awake | Red | Scott

MODEL MEETING

Happy Hustlers | Top Blue | Finney

GAVEL GAMES

SENIOR

Happy Hustlers| Top Blue | Finney Grady, Grayson, Kennan, Kealie, & Hailey

JUNIOR

Happy Hustlers | Top Blue | Finney Kealie, Audrey, Mason, Molly & Paxton

REGIONAL CLUB DAY RESULTS

GAVEL GAMES

SENIOR

Happy Hustlers | 1st | Finney Grady, Grayson, Kennan, Kealie, & Hailey

JUNIOR

Happy Hustlers | 2nd | Finney Kealie, Audrey, Mason, Molly & Paxton

CLUB SKIT

Kourageous Kids | 2nd | Finney

MODEL MEETING

Happy Hustlers | 1st | Finney

CLOVERBUDS

Hope | Scott Reid | Scott

SHOW AND TELL

Olivia | 1st | Finney Colton | 3rd | Finney Weston | Blue | Finney

PROJECT TALK

Asher | Blue | Finney Cassidy | Blue | Finney Henry | Blue | Finney Jake | Blue | Finney

JUNIOR ILLUSTRATED TALK

Kealie | 1st | Finney Madelyn | 2nd | Finney Hudson | 3rd | Finney Landon | Blue| Scott Piper | Blue | Scott

JUNIOR READING

Braeden | 1st | Finney Audrey | 2nd | Finney Piper | 3rd | Scott Trace | Blue | Scott

JUNIOR DEMONSTRATION

Audrey | 1st | Finney Bethany | Blue | Finney Baily | Blue | Scott Trace | Blue | Scott Rylee | Blue | Scott Josiah | Red | Finney

CLUB DAY RESULTS | CLUB REPORTS | ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLUB DAY RESULTS CONTINUED:

REGIONAL CLUB DAY RESULTS

JUNIOR INSTRUMENTAL

Kealie & Perry | 1st Duet | Finney Kealie | 3rd | Finney Kinley & Paxton | Blue Duet | Finney Hailey | Blue | Finney Bethany | Red | Finney

JUNIOR DANCE

Aubrey | 2nd | Finney

SENIOR ILLUSTRATED TALK

Marin | 2nd | Scott

SENIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING

Taylor | Top | Finney

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES JUDGING

JUNIOR

Bethany | 1st | Finney Trace | 5th | Scott Kealie | 11th | Finney Paxton | 16th | Finney Perry | 20th | Finney Josiah | 25th | Finney Piper I 26th I Scott

SENIOR

Taylor | 4th | Finney

JUNIOR PHOTOGRAPHY JUDGING

Braeden | 2nd | Finney Hudson | 6th | Finney Trace | 9th | Scott Kealie | 10th | Finney Perry | 11th | Finney Piper | 12th | Scott Madelyn | 14th | Finney Paxton | 15th | Finney Cassidy | 16th | Finney Audrey | 23rd | Finney Colton | 30th | Finney Weston | 34th | Finney

CLUB REPORTS:

FINNEY COUNTY 4-H HAPPY HUSTLERS

It's the time of year when the Happy Hustlers 4-H club is preparing for Club Days. These 4-Hers are practicing for model meeting, Gavel games, and so many more solo projects. The whole club is trying to perfect their roles for the Model Meeting, from making motions to learning about parliamentary inquiry. With all of their members, they are training hard. This club also has two teams that are training for the Gavel Games. They have a senior team and a junior team. No matter the outcome, this club will have fun while working hard. For the club's regular meeting on February 4th, they practiced for model meeting. They are making three motions, rising to the point of order, parliamentary inquiry, and amending a motion. They are excited, and even though they aren't completely ready, they're working hard to get there. This year the club is prepared to bring their A-game. The model meeting has been part of the Happy Hustlers 4-H club for a long time, so they are ready to go hard, or go home. The model meeting is a big part of this club's Club Day vision. The model meeting agenda is no joke, so this club worked hard to perfect it. Their president Grady starts off the meeting, members Josiah and Cody lead the club in the 4-H pledge and pledge of allegiance. After that, Paxton properly fixes time to adjourn. Following that motion, there were three others, the club's March meeting activity, the date of their June meeting, and the swimming activity of the August meeting. Once those were over, the club enjoys the program: demonstrations from Molly and Mason, and Josiah. Then the club sings to the February birthdays. Afterwards, the club gets some healthy exercise in, an over under relay led by Grayson and Perry. Then the meeting comes to an end, and they await the judge's final notes. Another part of the Happy Hustler's 4-H perfect Club Day is a new event, the Gavel games. The club's two teams, of seniors and juniors, are specially selected from the club, so those judges know that they are in for a big treat. This new event is forcing these kids to bring it to the next level, and they are practicing hard, and learning more and more. This club's members are expanding their minds with each day of practice. Even though the Gavel games are a new event, they are also a new way to test a club's members on their knowledge of how to run a meeting. Although the club is hard at work with their group events, the members are also busy working on their own projects. Some the members are working on musical events, while others are working on presentations. They are practicing at home, and two siblings are even showcasing their wonderful demonstrations in the club's model meeting. This club's kids are talented and ready for the judges. They will definitely do amazing, with or without the whole club cheering them on. Club Days is a fun way to help boost selfconfidence and allow kids to show off their natural skills.

Hailey U., Reporter

FINNEY COUNTY 4-H: BEACON BOOSTERS

The Beacon Booster President Brayden called the meeting to order on January 25, 2023 at 6:54 p.m. at the Robinson house. Roll call was "Did you have a good Christmas?" There were eight members and seven parents present. Ambassador Taylor discussed the new club day events: Pickle Power and Gavel Games. Community leaders discussed the upcoming YQCA trainings. Club exchange committee member Maggie discussed doing either paint ball or a zoo program. The club is hoping to do the exchange in March or April. During the club tour Brayden did his project talk on DNA testing for dwarfism in sheep. Kason did a project talk on docking lambs tails after they are born. The next Beacon Booster meeting will be February 12, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the Knoll house.

Taylor K,. Reporter

CLUB DAY RESULTS | CLUB REPORTS | ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINNEY COUNTY 4-H: SHERLOCK STRIVERS

The monthly meeting of the Sherlock Strivers 4-H Club was called to order on February 4th, 2024 at Hard Rock Lanes Bowling Alley. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Layla. There were 27 members, 1 leader, and 8 adults present. Secretary Katelynn called rolled which was "What toothpaste do you use?" The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Madyson I and the 4-H Pledge was led by Karson. The minutes from the January meeting were read by Katelynn. They were approved as read. The Treasurer's report was given by Madyson. The report was given by Madyson. The report was given by Madyson. Madyson. The reporter's report was given by Kayla. The report was published. The 4-H Council report was given by Kayla. For old business, the club discussed the best time to take snacks to the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center. McCoy will help Jill George deliver the donated snacks. For new business, Kayla talked to the club about being a 4-H Ambassador. It was moved by Kayla to pay Jill amounts for various activities such as snacks for the WKCAC and props for the club skit. It was seconded by Karson. It was announced that all members who plan to exhibit livestock must be YQCA certified for county fair, Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show. The training dates are March 12th and 19th. We sang Happy Birthday to the members with February birthdays. Parker moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:32pm. It was seconded by Blake . Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Kayla G., Reporter





Sherlock Strivers 4-H'er McCoy and Club Leader Jill George delivered snacks the club collected and delivered them to the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center.

FINNEY COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

On November 27, 2023, at 7:00 pm, the Finney County 4-H council meeting was called to order, and both the 4-H pledge and Pledge of Allegiance were said. All Finney County 4-H clubs attended the meeting. Previous minutes from September 18, 2023, were read and approved. Andrea Knoll had given the treasurer report from September 15, 2023, through November 27, 2023. The beginning balance was \$32,743.53. After 17 deposits were made, the total balance was \$4,806.53. Forty-eight checks cleared the account for \$13,373.39, leaving the ending balance of \$24,176.67. The council had watched a video on "4-H Council Representative" in new business. Officer elections were held. Grady is now the current President. Kayla is the current vice president. Taylor is now the current Secretary. Brayden is now the current treasurer. Lauren is the current News Reporter. Lauren is the current Parliamentarian. In other businesses, we have six new members and ninety-one returning members. 74% of members re-enrolled by October 31, 2023. Some club members shared about what they have done. Beacon Boosters, Finney Flyers, Happy Hustlers, and Sherlock Strivers participated in the Christmas parade. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm; next month's meeting will be held on January 29, 2024, in the 4-H building

On January 22, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the 4-H building. The 4-H council meeting was called to order by Treasurer, and Brayden stepped in as acting president. Acting president Brayden led the 4-H council in both the 4-H and pledge of allegiance. All clubs answered roll call. The 4-H council minutes were read by Secretary Taylor and approved as read. Baylee shared with the 4-H council about her experience going on the 4-H congress trip and sent a thank you letter to the 4-H council. Lauren shared a tip on adequately addressing the chair in a meeting. Janet shared designs she had made for the 2024 Finney County Fair; Andrea moved that we take Janet's designs to the Finney County Fair Board. Club Days location and date were discussed, and Lauren moved that the 4-H council pay \$200 for 4-H club days with 50% reimbursement. 4-H congress trip applications are being sent out for 4-Hers to apply and have a chance to go on the 4-H congress trip. The next 4-H Council meeting will be held March 18, 2024, at 7:00 pm in the Grandstand room at the Fairgrounds. Lauren moved to adjourn the meeting, and Hudson seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned

Lauren G., Reporter



K-STATE ANIMAL SCIENCE **LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

JUNE 5-8

APPLICATIONS DUE APRIL 15TH

https://www.asi.k-state.edu/kasla



