

THAYER JOINS RVED STAFF AS 4-H AGENT

I joined the River Valley District on Monday, April 13th as the new 4-H youth development agent and am very excited for this opportunity. I am looking forward to working with the youth, families, volunteers, and community members throughout our four counties.

I was raised on a farm outside of Mound City, Kansas, where I was a member of 4-H during my childhood and FFA during high school. After graduating high school, I was the intern at my local extension office in Linn County for two summers. I assisted the two county extension agents with almost everything 4-H and absolutely loved it. These two extension internships sparked my desire to become a 4-H agent. After attending Pittsburg State University for three semesters, I transferred to Kansas State University. There, I received my undergraduate degree in Family Studies and Human Services with the goal of becoming a 4-H youth development agent.

However, while attending college, I began working in the property management industry in Manhattan, Kansas and continued in this field for almost four years after graduation in Wichita, Kansas and Tulsa, Oklahoma. I have held many different positions while working in property management, including leasing agent, data entry, property manager, and internal auditor. While not directly related to my responsibilities as an extension agent, the property management industry provided me with many beneficial skills, including teamwork, time management, budget management, and communication skills. I feel like my previous experience as a 4-H member, a summer intern, and a professional will all be beneficial to me as the River Valley 4-H agent.



Moving to the River Valley District was a great opportunity for more than one reason. While becoming a 4-H agent is my dream job, it was also a chance to move home for my husband, Jordan, as he was raised farming in Republic, Kansas. After living in larger cities, we had decided that we wanted to be back in a rural area. With accepting this position, I was able to obtain my career goal, Jordan returned to working on the farm, and now, we are near our family.

With the summer quickly approaching, I know that I will be given ample opportunity to meet people with so many great events and programs coming up, such as the county fairs, 4-H Camp, and Junior Leader trip. However, I would like to invite our 4-Hers, their families, and our community members to feel free to contact me by stopping by the Washington office, calling me, or e-mailing me. I am excited to serve our district and look forward to working with our community members and youth.

FOOD JUDGES TRAINING

Do you love to bake? Do you enjoy kids and the county fair? Would you like to make a little extra money in the summer? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should consider becoming a food judge. It's not hard and you probably know more than you think you do. The River Valley District is hosting a foods judges training and you may be interested in attending.

Or maybe you're a 4-Her or a 4-H parent that has always wondered what exactly judges are looking for. If that is the case, a foods judges training might be just what you need also!

The judges training will be held on Thursday, May 28th in Clay Center at the 4-H Conference Center at the Clay County Fairgrounds. The evening will begin at 5:30 with a light supper and then move into the training. The training will be conducted by Karen Blakeslee who runs the Rapid Response Center at Kansas State University. She also judges every year at the state fair. Karen will show you what to look for and how to look for food safety issues.

Participants are asked to bring a baked item that will be used to demonstrate proper judging techniques. Cost for the training is \$5.00 per participant to cover the cost of supper and materials. We are asking participants to pre-register so that we have enough food for supper and a variety of baked goods to be judged. You can pre-register by calling the Belleville Office at 527-5084 or e-mailing gaurand@ksu.edu.

BABYSITTING 101

Youth ages 12 and older are invited to attend one of the babysitting clinics that RVD is sponsoring this summer.

"Babysitting 101" will be offered on Friday, May 29th at Clay Center in the RVD Extension office meeting room, Thursday, June 4th at Belleville's Astra Bank, and on Wednesday, June 10th at Washington's Colonial Acres meeting room. All classes will be from 9am to noon.

Topics we will cover include safety, children's ages & stages, activities, snacks, basic first aid, etc.

Pre-registration is requested by calling one of RVD Extension offices at least one week prior to the scheduled training. Youth younger than 12 may attend at the discretion of the parents.

KANSAS 4-H HORTICULTURE JUDGING CONTEST

The Kansas 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest is scheduled for Saturday, August 22nd on the campus of Kansas State University. The River Valley District is eligible to send four teams consisting of four persons each in both the senior and intermediate divisions. Seniors must be 14 through 18 and Intermediates must be 9-13 before January 1 of 2015.

To be eligible to compete for the River Valley District, the 4-H members must have judged at a RVED District Horticulture judging contest and must attend at least one horticulture judging workout. The District Contest was held at the RVED 4-H Day. If you were unable to participate in this contest, contact John Forshee and we will work to find you a qualifying event.

Study materials for the contests are located on the Kansas 4-H website: <http://www.kansas4-h.org/p.aspx?tabid=442>. On this site you will find the following:

- 2015-2016 Written Exam Materials
- Horticulture ID Scorecard (plant list for ID section)
- Plant Materials Study Site-- This site contains photos of many of the plants on the ID list.
- Link to "Kansas Garden Guide"
- Kansas 4-H Participation Form

The plant materials study site is new and has been put together specifically for the Kansas 4-H Horticulture Judging contest. When you go to the site, you see the entire identification list that we use for the horticulture contest. The list is alphabetical by common name and also has the scientific name. The common name is a link that you can click on for more photos and information on the plant. It is a great site for anyone in the horticulture project.

Those youth that are eligible will receive information when the summer workouts are scheduled. If you have any questions, contact John Forshee in the Clay Center Office.

2015 FAIR DATES

WASHINGTON COUNTY	JULY 14-19
CLAY COUNTY	JULY 15-19
CLOUD COUNTY	JULY 21-25
REPUBLIC COUNTY	JULY 28-AUGUST 1
KANSAS STATE FAIR	SEPTEMBER 11-20

PHOTO FUN DAY

Plan to attend Photo Fun Day on Friday, June 5th, 2015 at the Cloud County Courthouse Meeting Room. The day begins at 9:30am with a session on Photography Tips and Tricks by local photographer, Rick Radcliffe. At 10:30am, we will break to take photos around town. At noon, attendees will take their photos to Walmart to be developed and have lunch on their own. At 1:30pm, attendees will pick up their photos and will meet back at the courthouse at 2pm to critique the photos.

The main focus of the day will be on helping beginning and intermediate photography members, but all River Valley District 4-Hers enrolled in the Photography Project are welcome to attend.

RSVP to RVD - Concordia office by June 1st at 785-243-8185 or you may e-mail Denise at dswenson@ksu.edu.

4-H FOODS CLINIC

Have you not been happy with your 4-H foods in the past? Have you wondered what the judges look at? Maybe, you're not really sure what makes a good fair food item or you are new to the foods project and just really aren't sure about anything.

There will be four 4-H foods clinics to help answer all of your questions and provide you with information for having a successful year in the foods project. We will also have a foods judge at the training, so if you want to bring a food item or two for her to look at for you, we would encourage you to do that.

The food clinics will be held in the following locations:

1. **Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse meeting room at the Cloud County Courthouse**
2. **Tuesday, June 9th at 9:30 a.m. at the First National Bank meeting room in Washington**
3. **Tuesday, June 9th at 1:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Clay Center**
4. **Tuesday, June 23rd at 2:00 p.m. at the 4-H building in Belleville**

You are welcome to attend at any of the locations. If you could pre-register so that we have enough materials, that would be great but it is not mandatory for attendance. You can pre-register by calling the Belleville office at 785-527-5084 or emailing Kim at kkolman@ksu.edu.

PIONEER TRAILS 4-H CAMP

The Pioneer Trails 4-H Camp group will be June 12th to June 15th at Rock Springs. However, the registration deadline is quickly approaching. **The registration form and payment is due to your local office by Friday, May 15th.** Check with your local office to see if there are any county scholarships to help with the cost.

If you are too old to attend camp, but loved 4-H camp and like working with younger 4-Hers, then maybe being a camp counselor is for you. **Counselor applications are also due to your local office by May 15th.** We like counselors to be 16, but will consider responsible 15 year olds. The registration form and application can be found on the River Valley District website. This year, our camp group will welcome the Meadowlark District, Doniphan County, and Coffey County, so there will be lots of opportunities to make new friends. Come and join in the fun!

RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT DOG SHOW

River Valley 4-Hers in the Dog Project will show together to earn their county fair prizes on **Saturday, July 11th at the Cloud County Fairgrounds.** Registration will begin at 8am and the show will begin at 9am.

This is the second year for the joint dog show due to low numbers of dog project entries at each county fair.

Each class will show their dogs together and when the judge distributes prizes, the 4-Hers will return to the ring by county. Ribbons awarded will be the 4-Her's county fair ribbons.

ENTOMOLOGY & GEOLOGY JUDGING

Due to low project enrollment, any River Valley District fair project under Entomology or Geology is due to your local extension office on **Monday, July 6th by 4:30pm.** The fair judging for these projects will be conducted on **Friday, July 10th** at the Republic County Extension Office in the Courthouse. Time is to be determined.

Youth will have the option to either be physically present during the judging or to be on a conference call with the judge. If one chooses to do the conference call, it is highly suggested that a picture of your project is taken for easier communication with the judge.

4-Hers will receive their county fair ribbon when the project is displayed at the county fair. If you have any questions regarding this judging, please contact Monica at (785) 325-2121 or mthayer@ksu.edu.

4-H COUNCIL MEETINGS

May, June, July

CLAY COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

Monday, June 1st, 2015
7:45 P.M.
Extension Office Meeting Room

CLAY COUNTY JR. LEADERS

Monday, June 1st, 2015
7:00 P.M.
Extension Office Meeting Room

CLAY COUNTY 4-H AMBASSADORS

Monday, June 1st, 2015
6:30 P.M.
Extension Office Meeting Room

CLOUD COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

Monday, May 18th, 2015
7:00 P.M.—Executive Board
7:30 P.M. — Council Meeting
Courthouse Meeting Room

REPUBLIC COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 2nd, 2015
7 P.M.
4-H Building

WASHINGTON COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

Monday, June 8th, 2015
7:00 P.M.
First National Bank, Washington



**PLEASE REFER TO THE
4-H EVENTS DATE BOOK
FOR DATES OF MONTHLY MEETINGS**

PHOTOGRAPHY MOUNTING WORKSHOPS

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Cloud Courthouse Meeting Room	Thursday, May 21st	9am-4pm
Cloud Courthouse Meeting Room	Thursday, June 18th	9am-4pm
Washington—TBA	Saturday, June 20th	TBA
Cloud Courthouse Meeting Room	Wednesday, June 24th	1-7:30pm
Clay Center Extension Office	Thursday, June 25th	5:30-8:30pm
Washington—TBA	Sunday, June 28th	TBA

4-H HEALTH & WELLNESS PROJECT MEETINGS

All River Valley District 4-H youth enrolled in the Health & Wellness project are invited to attend these two project meetings. If anyone has questions, you may call the project leader, Andrea Chestnut, at 785-632-2018.

Dates: Monday, June 8th and Monday, June 29th

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: 1117 14th Rd.
Clay Center, KS

CLAY COUNTY POWER PUNCH CARD SALES

Clay County 4-Hers increased their card sales to 1,047. This is up 59 cards from last year's sales. The Lincoln Creek 4-H Club was 1st place in sales again this year. The Jason Smith family were the top sellers having sold 71 cards. Thanks to everyone who participated in this fundraiser! We truly appreciate it!

RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT FAIR ENTRIES DUE

Pre-Fair entries are due in each county on or before the date as indicated below:

- Washington County — Tuesday, June 9th
- Clay County — Tuesday, June 16th
- Cloud County — Monday, June 22nd
- Republic County — Wednesday, July 1st

REGARDING LATE ENTRIES: 4-H exhibits that are late for pre-entry or late for fair check-in will be dropped one ribbon placing, are not eligible for Grand or Reserve Champion consideration, and are not eligible for any Overall Champion or Supreme Exhibitor consideration. Late pre-entry is defined as any pre-entry received after the local extension office closes on the pre-entry deadline up until the day before the designated judging of that area.

SHOOTING SPORTS—FAIR SHOOTS

There are two Fair Shoots offered this year. Youth may complete their Fair Shoot on either **Sunday, May 31st** or **Sunday, June 7th** at 2 pm at the Cloud County Fairgrounds. Due to high participation in Shooting Sports, we are asking that all 4-Hers contact your local extension office to register for the specific date that you will attend.

Youth may use May 31st as a practice shoot if they are able to attend both weekends. However, you must designate one as the Fair Shoot, which will be scored. Youth **will not** be allowed to complete both Fair Shoots and use their best score over the two combined shoots. If you are unsure if your 4-Her qualifies for the Fair Shoot or have any questions, please contact your local extension office.

FASHION REVUES & NIGHT AT THE FAIR

- Clay County—Thursday, July 9th at 7pm—United Methodist Church Family Life Center
- Washington County—Friday, July 17th at 8pm—Gold Barn
- Cloud County—Tuesday, July 21st following Food Auction—Commercial Building
- Republic County—Wednesday, July 29th at 6pm—Entertainment Center

4-H PRE-FAIR JUDGING DATES

Washington County Pre-Fair Judging - Tuesday, June 30th at Washington County High School at 9am

- Arts and Crafts, Clothing, Fiber Arts, Fashion Revue, and **Photography**
- Family and Consumer Sciences Judging Contest—time to be announced

Cloud County Pre-Fair Judging - Wednesday, July 8th at Concordia American Legion at 8am

- Clothing Construction and Buymanship, Fiber Arts, Photography and Performing Arts

Clay County Pre-Fair Judging - Thursday, July 9th at United Methodist Church at 8:45am

- Clothing Construction, Clothing Buymanship, Visual Arts, Fiber Arts, and Photography

Republic County Pre-Fair Judging - Wednesday, July 22nd at Central Christian Church at 8am

- Clothing Construction, Clothing Buymanship, and Fiber Arts
- Family and Consumer Sciences will be held during the day.

SHOOTING SPORTS — VOLUNTEERS

As Shooting Sports is nearing the end of the season, we are looking ahead to next year. Due to the high volume of participation in Shooting Sports, we are seeking adults that are willing to be a volunteer for our district.

Since we do have such great participation, we are potentially interested in finding a co-coordinator and additional instructors. Again, this would be for the fall 2015 — spring 2016 Shooting Sports events. Please contact Monica at 785-325-2121 or mthayer@ksu.edu if interested.

4-H ART-IN

Date: Tuesday, June 9th
Time: 9am—Noon
Location: St. Paul's Episcopal Church
6th & Clark in Clay Center

Please check the RVD website for more details!

POULTRY TESTING CHANGES

ATTENTION ALL POULTRY EXHIBITORS! Due to the recent outbreak of avian influenza, there will **NOT** be poultry testing offered at the county fair this year. We are currently working with KDA to develop a time, location, and specific details as to how poultry testing will be done this year. The information we have thus far is that poultry testing must be completed at least 10 days prior to the county fair. As the details are being further discussed, we will let our poultry exhibitors know as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding. If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact your local extension office.

KSU HORSE JUDGING CAMP

The KSU Youth Horse Judging Camp – Beginners Section will be held Tuesday, June 2nd and the Advanced Section will be held Wednesday, June 3rd through Thursday, June 4th. Both camps will be held at Weber Hall on the K-State Campus and are limited to the first 30 registrants. Registration fees must be paid by May 10th. For information and registration forms, please visit www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu. You may also contact Dr. James Lattimer (785-532-2840 or jlattimer@ksu.edu) or Tasha Dove (tashakd@ksu.edu).

DISTRICT HORSE SHOW

The 2015 North Central 4-H District Horse Show will take place at the Saline County Expo Center, Ag Hall, in Salina, KS on Wednesday, July 1st. All entries will need to be made online at the following link. <http://tinyurl.com/http-NCDHS-2015> If you are unable to enter online, visit your local extension office for assistance. Entries must be completed by June 1st. **NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Horse level testing must also be completed by June 1st to compete at the District Horse Show and the State Fair. Please contact your local office if you are interested or need to complete your horse level testing so that a date for testing can be arranged.

AKSARBEN DEADLINES

Deadlines are fast approaching for the Aksarben deadlines. Nominations for breeding beef are due June 1st. Nominations for pigs, lambs, and goats are due June 15th. The entry deadline for all species is August 10th. Please contact Katelyn in the Washington office with any additional questions.

LIVESTOCK SWEEPSTAKES TEAMS

The Livestock Sweepstakes date has not yet been officially set for this year. However, it will be around its normal time in August with competitions in Livestock Judging, Quiz Bowl, Livestock Skill-a-thon, and Meats Judging. To join the River Valley Extension District Teams, you must judge at least one (1) county fair livestock judging contest and give reasons. This score, along with previous state competition scores, will be used to make the district teams.

We can take up to four teams for all of the events except for Quiz Bowl. If you are interested in being on a team, please fill out at official “RVED Livestock Sweepstakes Team” sign-up sheet, which is available at any of the four extension offices or on our website (www.rivervalley.ksu.edu) later this summer.

KSU LIVESTOCK JUDGING CAMP

KSU offers a three day, intense judging camp designed for 4-H and FFA members (ages 14-18) who are seriously interested in enhancing their livestock judging and oral communication skills. Prior livestock judging experience is necessary for this camp. Workouts will be conducted similar to those at a collegiate level. Chris Mullinix, KSU Livestock Judging Coach, will conduct the training for each camp. 2015 Livestock Judging Camp dates are June 8 – 10, June 12 – 14, and June 16 – 18. Each camp is limited to the first 35 registrants. Registration is due no later than Monday, May 18th. For information and registration forms, please visit www.asi.ksu.edu/students-and-programs/youth-programs/judging-camps.html. You may also contact Kristi Hageman at 785-532-2996.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Need the most up-to-date information about events and deadlines for our district? Would you like to share what your club members are doing throughout our communities? Please like our Facebook page—River Valley 4-H! We post about events, important reminders, and our 4-Hers! Please send us your pictures or stories to share!

STATE GEOLOGY TRIPS

Two State 4-H Geology Field Trips will be held June 12 – 14, 2015. The registration deadline is May 22nd. Please visit www.kansas4-h.org/p.aspx?tabid=431 for more information and to register.



4-H CALENDAR OF EVENTS RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT



May:

- 9 Tractor and Machinery Safety Training-CTI John Deere, Concordia, 8:30-4:30pm
- 15 Pioneer Trails Camper Registrations due
- 15 Pioneer Trails Camp Counselor Applications due
- 18 Consumer Judging Contest, Concordia Office, 4-7pm
- 18 Cloud County River Valley 4-H Council, Courthouse Meeting Room, 7:30pm, Executive Board 7pm
- 19 4-H Foods Clinic-7pm-Cloud County Courthouse Meeting Room
- 26-29 Discovery Days
- 28 Food Judges Training-5:30pm-Clay Center 4-H Conference Center

June:

- 1 Entries due for District Horse Show
- 1 Bucket Calf and Breeding Animal forms due
- 1 Clay County River Valley 4-H Council, Extension Office, 7:45pm
- 2 Republic County River Valley 4-H Council, 4-H Building, 7pm
- 5 Photo Fun Day, Cloud County Courthouse Meeting Room, starting at 9:30am
- 8 Washington County River Valley 4-H Council, 1st National Bank, 7pm
- 9 Clay County River Valley 4-H Art-In, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 9am—Noon
- 9 4-H Foods Clinic-9:30am-Washington, First National Bank Meeting Room
- 9 4-H Foods Clinic-1pm-Clay Center, St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- 10 Republic County Jr. Leader Day Camp for 5th –8th graders (Open to all RVD 4-Her's)
- 10-13 KSU Leadership Academy
- 12-15 Pioneer Trails Camp-Rock Springs
- 15 KS State Fair & KJLS Commercial Heifers, Market Lambs, Commercial Ewes, KSF Market Hogs, KJLS Barrows, Commercial Breeding Gilts, Market Goats, and Commercial Doe nominations due
- 17-20 KSU Leadership Academy
- 23 4-H Food Clinic-2pm-Belleville 4-H Building
- 30 Washington County 4-H Pre-Fair Judging-WS Co. High School, 9am

July:

- 1 Junior Leader Trip Balance Due to RVD offices
- 1 District Horse Show, Salina

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact John Forshee, Director, River Valley Extension District #4, 322 Grant Avenue, Clay Center, KS 67432. Phone 785-632-5335.

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