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4-H News

River Valley District

**May &
June
2026**

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NCK Lead

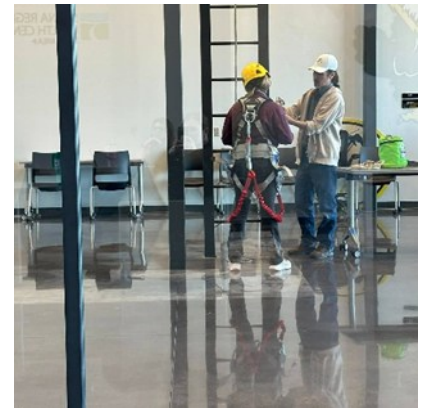
NCK LEAD was held on February 28, 2026, in partnership with Post Rock District and Cloud County Community College. This regional event, hosted by River Valley District, provides youth with a hands-on, mini college experience.

The day began with morning classes taught by CCCC instructors in areas such as Animal Science, Renewable Energy (Composites and Climate), Clinical Nursing, and Uncrewed Aerial Systems, with each 4-H member selecting two sessions to attend.

In the afternoon, participants engaged in a leadership and team-building workshop focused on working together to achieve a common goal. Through these activities, youth developed essential life skills including communication, patience, compromise, connection, and reflection.

The day concluded with a practical session on completing a job application as a group. Members learned what information employers value and how to highlight their 4-H experiences as strong examples of workforce readiness.

Thank you to those who attended and a huge thank you to our partners at CCCC! We hope to see you at NCK Lead next year!



River Valley Summer Programs

Exciting news; drum roll please! River Valley will once again be hosting summer interns this year! Be on the lookout for more information about fun and educational summer day camp and workshop opportunities that will be advertised soon!



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Pre-Fair Judging

- Clay County – Tuesday, July 14th at the Clay County Event Center includes:
Fashion Revue, Fiber Arts, Photography, Sewing and Textiles, Visual Arts, and Photography Judging Contest
- Cloud County – Wednesday, July 8th at the Cloud County Fairgrounds includes:
Fashion Revue, Fiber Arts, Sewing and Textiles, Individual Projects, Interior Design, Reading, Vet Science, Visual Arts, and Wildlife
- Republic County – Wednesday, July 22 at Republic County High School includes:
Fashion Revue, Fiber Arts, and Sewing and Textiles
- Washington County - Thursday, July 9th at Washington County High School includes:
Fashion Revue, Fiber Arts, Photography, Sewing and Textiles, and Visual Arts

Entomology/ Geology Judging

The River Valley District 4-H Entomology and Geology Judging will be held on Friday, June 26th at the Republic County Extension Office, located in the basement of the courthouse in Belleville.

Members planning to participate should make sure they are properly enrolled in the Entomology and/or Geology projects. Please check your member profile in 4-H Online and confirm enrollment in the projects by May 1st.

Additional details will be coming soon. Be sure to watch your email for a registration link and further instructions on signing up for judging.

We look forward to seeing our 4-H members showcase their knowledge and skills!

Horse ID Papers and Coggins Testing

Your Horse ID Certificate must be filled out and must be turned into the Extension Office no later than June 1st to qualify the horse for 4-H Horse Shows. This form will be signed by an agent and returned to the family. Bring this form to check in at any horse shows you attend, including your county fair. Please note that this form has changed as of July 2024. It can be found on our website at this link: [https:// www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/program-areas/4-h/fair_forms/horse/](https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/program-areas/4-h/fair_forms/horse/) It is suggested to list all siblings or stepsiblings that may share the horse on the form. Attach a standard size color photo of each side of the horse including all four feet and legs showing and a profile of the horse with the head turned a quarter turn towards the camera. All markings need to be clearly visible in the photos. No saddle or rider on the horse. Sharing the same horse with siblings and stepsiblings are allowed but they cannot participate in the same class in the same age division. Youth can be in the same age division, but will have to participate in different classes.

The Kansas Department of Animal Health is now requiring all horses to have a negative Coggins test for horses changing ownership or used for exhibition purposes. The new rule in the River Valley District fair book will state that "All exhibits in the 4-H Horse Show must present proof of negative Coggins test within the last 12 months." This paperwork will need to be turned into your local extension office no later than July 1st. Members planning to exhibit horses at the fair will still need to turn in horse ID papers by June 1st.

Identification papers and Coggins test paperwork are two different forms that will need to be turned in to have on record at the extension office.

Kansas 4-H Insect Spectacular/State Geology Field Trip

Keep your eyes peeled for more information for these two events coming soon! The 4-H Insect Spectacular will be hosted June 19-20 and you can register here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/8a1c9e54-dde5-466a-9415-1854d8966139/register>

The State Geology Field Trip will be hosted June 12-14. More information will be sent out when it is made available.

Favorite Foods Show

Have a favorite dish that you like to make at home, you are bummed you can't take it to the County Fair? Then the Favorite Foods Show may be the perfect opportunity for you and your special dish! See the guidelines below for this fun competition!

1. Choose YOUR favorite Food. Choose an item that is your favorite to eat/drink and that is age appropriate for you to make! The dish can be an appetizer/salad, main or side dish, dessert, or a beverage!
2. Pick a theme or event. Choose where you would serve your Favorite Food! Is it appropriate for a birthday party, backyard barbeque, or picnic? The themes and events are endless! Your theme should coordinate with your favorite food, menu, and table setting!
3. Plan the rest of the menu. You will only be making your favorite food but plan what else you would serve at your event! Your menu needs to be age appropriate with food that you have the ability to prepare. Include the basic elements: Appetizer/Salad, Main Course, Side Dish, Dessert, and Beverage but you may choose to have as many courses as needed to match your event. Things to consider: Nutritional Content: Is my menu colorful? Does it represent the food groups according to the My Plate model? Check out www.choosemyplate.gov for more information. Location/ Atmosphere: Would it be safe and appropriate to serve this menu at your event? Would you be able to keep your menu at the proper temperature? Check out www.foodsafety.gov for more information on food safety. Frostings and Fillings must have sugar calculations.
4. Set the table for judging. A table will be provided. If you would prefer to use a small card table, you are allowed to bring your own. You will need the following items to display on your table: Tablecloth and placemat, Table setting for 1 (Paper items are appropriate for informal themes and/or events), 1 serving size portion of your Favorite Food, Displayable menu, Displayable Recipe Card for your Favorite Food, Utensils to serve your Favorite Food (potholders, spoons, knives, etc.), Centerpiece (optional) .

Find all the rules and resources for the Favorite Foods Show on our website: https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/program-areas/4-h/fair_forms/favorite_food_show/ Please note that these resources were updated this year, so make sure to check them out. Reach out to your local Program Manager for more information regarding the Favorite Foods Show!

Premium Auction Requirements and YQCA Certification

4-H and FFA members planning to participate in the County Livestock Premium Sale or Project Auction must complete the following requirements:

- Attend a minimum of **three (3) club meetings**
- Complete **YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) training**—either online or in person
- Participate in **three (3) approved activities** listed on the District Form

First-year members are only required to complete two (2) approved activities

For members who have not yet completed YQCA training, there are still two in-person opportunities available:

- **Republic County** – May 2, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. (4-H Building)
- **Clay County** – June 2, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. (4-H Conference Center)

Online training is also available at yqcaprogram.org and may be completed any time prior to the **July 1 deadline**.

Livestock Requirement Forms can be found on the River Valley District website or picked up at your local Extension office.

All Livestock Requirement Forms and YQCA certificates must be submitted to your 4-H leader by July 1.

Photo Mounting Workshops

4-H members preparing photography exhibits are encouraged to take advantage of upcoming photo mounting workshops. These sessions are a great opportunity to receive guidance on properly preparing your photos for display and ensuring they meet exhibit requirements.

Please remember that all 4-H photography entries must be printed as 8" x 10" photos. Attending a workshop can help ensure your photos are correctly sized, mounted, and ready for judging.

You may attend any of the following workshops that best fit your busy schedule to take this opportunity to get your projects fair-ready!

Clay Co	July 9-10	8-12pm 1:30-4:30pm	4-H Conference Room
Cloud Co	July 1	8 am – 4 pm	Extension Office
Republic Co	July 10	1 pm – 4:30 pm	4-H Building
Washington Co	July 5-6	12:30pm-6:30pm ; 5:30pm-8:30pm	KSDS Building

District Dog Show

The River Valley District 4-H Dog Show will be held in Concordia at the Cloud County Fairgrounds on Saturday, July 11th. The show will be starting at 1:00 p.m.

If you would like a list of practice dates reach out to your local Program Manager. We wish all of our Dog Project members and their four-legged sidekicks the best of luck at the show.

Republic County Junior Leaders Day Camp

The Republic County 4-H Junior Leaders are excited to invite all youth currently in 1st through 4th grade to attend their upcoming Day Camp on Monday, June 15th. The event will be held at the Republic County 4-H Building in Belleville from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with lunch provided for all participants.

This fun-filled day will offer a variety of hands-on sessions designed to spark curiosity and creativity. Youth will have the opportunity to explore Foods and Nutrition, Photography, Arts and Crafts, Horticulture, Livestock, and Rocketry/Astronomy.

Be sure to watch the River Valley District 4-H Facebook page for additional details and registration information. This is a great opportunity for younger youth to experience 4-H and enjoy a day of learning and fun!

Dairy ID Papers

Dairy cattle project members, be sure to check in with your local Extension Office to double check that your Dairy ID paperwork is up to date. Please let us know of any changes that are being made or if new animals need to be added. The deadline to turn in paperwork is June 15th.

Fair Entry Deadlines

4-H members and families are reminded that fair entry deadlines are quickly approaching. It is important to stay on track and be prepared to complete all entries on time to ensure participation in this year's fair.

All 4-H exhibits must be pre-entered online using the FairEntry link. This process allows members to select their project classes ahead of the fair, helping everything run smoothly during check-in.

Be watching for an email from your 4-H Program Manager with important details, including the FairEntry link, instructions, and fairbook and links. Be sure to review this information carefully and complete your entries before the deadline for your county.

If you have questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out.

Clay Co	Monday, June 22 nd
Cloud Co	Wednesday, June 17 th
Republic Co	Wednesday, July 1 st
Washington Co	Monday, June 15 th

2026 River Valley District Seniors

The River Valley District is proud to congratulate its outstanding group of 4-H seniors on their high school graduation. These young leaders have dedicated countless hours to their clubs, communities, and personal growth, and their achievements are truly worth celebrating.

Throughout their years in 4-H, these seniors have demonstrated responsibility, leadership, and a strong commitment to service. Whether through community service projects, livestock shows, public speaking, or club leadership roles, they have made a lasting impact on those around them. Their hard work has not only strengthened the 4-H program but has set a strong example for younger members who will follow in their footsteps.

As these seniors begin an exciting new chapter, the River Valley District wishes them all the best. May their futures be filled with opportunity, growth, and success. Wherever their paths may lead, they will always be a valued part of the 4-H family.

Clay County
Aiden Argo
Lauren Benfer
Austin Burr
Alessia Carrales
Ryan Geer
Kelly Martin
Isaiah Melton
Ethon Wagner
Sabrina Wilder
Janae Wolf

Cloud County
Gunner Barnes
Catelin Benyshek
Jori Letourneau
Raelynn Moore
Grant Robinson

Republic County
Dakota Clausen-Peters
Becca Evert
Kash Henke
Kennison Isaacson
Aden Morris
Manuel Motto
Kylie Stone
Emma Strnad
Elly Williams

Washington County
Joree Bentz
Hayden Englert
Jordi Fahey
Gillian Minge
Alex Scheele
Elgin Sinn
Sofia Uffman
Jonathan Wright

State 4-H Scholarship Winners

The following RVD high school senior and college attending members across the district were recipients of the following Kansas State 4-H Scholarship Awards. **Congratulations to all of you** and for taking the time to apply!!

Sarahbeth Martin	RVD-Clay	June Beaver Scholarship
Daegen DeGraff	RVD-Cloud	Winter Family Grant
Natalee Bray	RVD-Republic	Glen & Marge Neely Family Scholarship
Natalee Bray	RVD-Republic	John C. Carter Memorial 4-H Scholarship
Sean Morgan	RVD-Republic	Donald E. Leu Scholarship
Elly Williams	RVD-Republic	Francis W. Dunbar Memorial 4-H Scholarship
Jonathan Wright	RVD-Washington	Gary & Lorraine Kilgore 4-H Scholarship

2026 RVD Cloverbud Day Camp

The Clay County 4-H Ambassadors are hosting a District Wide Cloverbud Day Camp on Sunday, May 31st from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Clay County Event Center.

There will be a variety of stations for the Cloverbuds to participate in, as well as making new friends from across the River Valley District! The Ambassadors hope lots of Cloverbud friends will be able to join us!

Contact your local Extension Office if your Cloverbud would like to join in the fun!

Fair Dates

Clay County	July 21 st – July 25	Clay Center
Cloud County	July 14 – July 18 th	Concordia
NCK Free Fair	July 27 – Aug 1 st	Belleville
Washington County	July 14 – July 18 th	Washington

4-H Camp

4-H Camp at Rock Springs Ranch continues to offer unforgettable camp experiences for youth, just as it has for generations. Registration is now open and spots are filling quickly, with multiple session dates available to fit busy summer schedules. The camp offers tiered pricing to help make attendance more affordable, and families are encouraged to connect with their local 4-H program manager about possible scholarship opportunities.

Older 4-H members can take part as Leaders in Training (LITs) or Counselors in Training (CITs), gaining valuable leadership skills while building friendships with youth from across the state. These opportunities also allow high school-aged participants to attend camp at no cost. Be sure to register early—registration for each session closes two weeks before it begins. For specific camp dates and pricing details, visit the Rock Springs Ranch website. <https://www.rockspringsranch4hcamp.org/sessions-rates/>.

FCS Judging

The Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) Judging Statewide Contest will look a little different in 2026. Instead of being held at the Kansas State Fair, the contest will take place on **June 4 in Manhattan** alongside Discovery Days. This opportunity is open to River Valley District 4-H members ages 9–18 who participated in FCS judging at District Club Day, with **no limit on participants** this year. The cost is **\$15 for the contest only** or **\$10 for those already attending Discovery Days**. This payment will need to be brought to your local Extension Office. Members attending Discovery Days must register for the FCS judging class during sign-up. Interested members should contact their local Program Manager or 4-H Agent by **May 1, 2026**. Registration will be completed after sign-up. For more information, visit:

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/contests/fcs-judging/>

Discovery Days

When: June 3rd – 5th

Who: Youth ages 13-18 before January 1, 2026 are invited to register

Cost: \$245 (some classes may have added costs) Registration is due by May 8th.

Discovery Days is a mini college experience designed to help youth explore their interests in a fun and engaging way. Participants will have the opportunity to expand their 4-H experience through hands-on learning activities, interactive tours, and exciting evening social events. Along the way, youth will meet new friends, build leadership skills, and grow both personally and academically.

Attendees can choose from a wide variety of classes offered across Kansas State University. This year's sessions include topics such as engineering, animal science tours, swing dancing, career readiness, meal planning, bird watching, charcoal drawing, and much more.

Discovery Days is a great opportunity for youth to begin exploring future career paths or deepen their knowledge in areas they are already passionate about. This is a summer experience you won't want to miss!

Registration:

www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-basedevents/conferences-events/discovery-days/

Scholarships may be available to help offset the cost of attending Discovery Days. Please contact your local 4-H Program Manager for more information on available opportunities.

Legos at the Fair

Any River Valley 4-H members who enter Lego Kits at the fair, this message is for you!

Any Lego Kits that were previously entered in the Building Models class in Visual Arts will now be entered in the Building Block Engineering Division in the kit class.

What changes does this mean for you?

1. **You will need to be enrolled in the Building Block Engineering project by May 1**
2. When entering at the fair, make sure you enter any Lego models in the BBE kit class
3. Read your fair book/STEM guideline book (coming soon!) for any rule changes!

If you have any questions, reach out to your local Extension Office!

Project Fest

Spring Break Project Fest was a fun-filled week of hands-on learning and strong community partnerships for our 4-H members. The week began with leadership and team-building activities led by 4-H Agent Marissa Hurst, where members developed skills like communication, patience, and teamwork.

On Tuesday, The Feathered Nest hosted an interior design session, teaching youth about color, texture, and room functionality while providing materials for take-home projects.

Wednesday featured a “Farm to Pizza” lesson with the River Valley Extension Staff. 4-H members learned about agriculture and created their own pizzas.

On Thursday, participants expressed their creativity by painting ceramic figurines with our community partner at The Purple Door.

The week concluded with a lesson on thrift and consignment shopping, where members learned smart shopping tips, cost-per-wear concepts, and then applied their knowledge during a local shopping trip. Thank you to all of our partners for helping make this week a success!





River Valley Extension District
Washington Office
214 C. Street, Courthouse
Washington, KS 66968-1928

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Record Books and Project Record Forms

It is never too early to start working on those Record Books and Project Record Forms. With Summer Break quickly approaching, now would be the time to update your Permanent Record and Record Books. The permanent record is a continuous record that grows with the 4-H member, as you add on to it year after year keeping track of everything you are doing, whether it is 4-H or non-4-H related. Your Project Record would be added to your Permanent Record and is geared toward your specific project.

We would like to continue to challenge each River Valley District 4-H member to complete at least one Project Record Form this year.

Please reach out to your Club or Project leaders, or your local Extension Office if you need assistance with your Record Books or Project Record Forms.

RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT 4-H STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Clay Center Office • 322 Grant Avenue • Clay Center, KS 67432-2804 • 785-632-5335

Concordia Office • 811 Washington, Suite E • Concordia, KS 66901-3415 • 785-243-8185

Washington Office • 214 C. Street • Courthouse • Washington, KS 66968-1928 • 785-325-2121

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