

News Column for use the week of August 8, 2022  
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River Valley Extension District  
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## **Goodbye for Now**

Goodbyes never seem to be easy, no matter the circumstances that accompany them. Most of us know that saying goodbye is necessary even if we try and avoid it. Saying goodbye allows us to put our feeling into words, shape the memory of that person, and allows us to close this chapter of life. For River Valley 4-H, we are doing just that this week. It is time to send off our summer intern youth development educators.

River Valley 4-H was fortunate to have not just one, but three outstanding interns. The past 12 weeks seem to pass by in a flash but were full of smiling youth across Clay, Cloud, Republic, and Washington counties.

Kansas 4-H Youth Development collaborated with the Kansas Department of Education to provide hands-on summer learning opportunities that were lost as a result of COVID-19. The collaboration was carried out in over 60 counties across the state of Kansas.

Our River Valley interns carried out that mission during their time with us this summer. They provided over 60 programs in 9 local communities across their district. The summer activities were developed from research-based curriculum in areas of Aging, Food and Nutrition, S.T.E.M., Photography, Animal Science, Plant Science and much more. River Valley offered the summer programs to youth participating in their school program or to youth in local and surrounding areas ages 5 to 18. These in-person summer engagements reaching over 2,200 youth – simply incredible.

Now, it's time to say goodbye to Faith Beikman, Terin Rundus and Mandy Simmons. These ladies were fun, energetic, and hardworking. They brought a lot of laughs and accomplished tremendous growth in bringing new opportunities to our district. As they close this chapter for the summer, and head to college, they leave behind an enormous impact. The River Valley staff and our local communities thank you.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding River Valley 4-H youth development, please contact Macy Hynek at 785-527-5084 or at [mhynek@ksu.edu](mailto:mhynek@ksu.edu).

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