

News Release for Immediate Use or Next Issue  
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River Valley Extension District  
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## **Inaugural 4-H AIR Contest Held**

The River Valley Extension District held its first 4-H AIR Contest during District 4-H Club Day on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 at the Republic County High School in Belleville. AIR is an acronym for Application, Interview, and Resume. District Extension Agents collaborated with local businesses to create this opportunity for our 4-H members.

4-H members are four times more likely to contribute to their communities. The idea behind the contest was to create an opportunity for 4-H members to learn about potential employers in our District. We want our 4-H members to be community members here whether they enter directly into the workforce or return after furthering their education.

Since District 4-H Club Day was being held in Republic County, four companies around the County were invited to sponsor and participate in the 4-H AIR Contest. Lambert Vet Supply, Mahin Insurance, Nesika Energy, and Polansky Seed provided an actual job description and a list of additional positions within their company, as well as financial support for the awards.

4-H members then choose one of the four job descriptions to apply for and submitted cover letters, applications, and resumes in January. During District 4-H Club Day, the 4-H members interviewed in front of a panel of four people, including a hiring representative from each of the four sponsoring companies.

Congratulations to our top four individuals who received a financial prize for winning. First place – Hayley Piroutek, Discovery 4-H Club, RVD-Belleville. Second place – Blake Aurand, Republic Pioneers 4-H Club, RVD-Belleville. Third place – Jessica Jensen, Eager Beavers 4-H Club, RVD-Belleville. Fourth place – Ethan Benne, Sherdahl Boosters 4-H Club, RVD-Belleville.

This contest allowed 4-H members the opportunity to gain real-life experience in completing application paperwork, interviewing, and learn about potential future employers. 4-H provides youth with skills they will utilize for a lifetime and this contest is just one example of the opportunities within 4-H.

The River Valley Extension District would like to thank our four companies and their representatives that assisted through the process; Jillian Couture and Jaime Lambert-McDaniel with Lambert Vet Supply, Caleb Mahin with Mahin Insurance, Lisa Strnad with Nesika Energy, and Brett Grauerholz with Polansky Seed.

Congratulations again to our first winners in the 4-H AIR Contest.

To learn more about 4-H and its opportunities for youth, please contact Jordan Schuette, District 4-H Agent, at 785-527-5084 or [jschuette@ksu.edu](mailto:jschuette@ksu.edu). For information about the 4-H AIR Contest, please contact District Family Resource Management Agent Monica Thayer at 785-527-5084 or [mthayer@ksu.edu](mailto:mthayer@ksu.edu).