

[rivervalley.k-state.edu](http://rivervalley.k-state.edu)

# 4-H News

## River Valley District

**January &  
February  
2021**

### Wade Reh To Fill District Director Position

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Hello to everyone in the River Valley Extension District community! I am Wade Reh and I'm the new director of River Valley Extension as well as the Community Vitality Extension Agent. I'll be assuming the duties previously performed by John Forshee. I'm extremely excited to join the community, get to work, and learn more about the area.

I grew up in Inman, Kansas with three brothers and two hard working parents who ensured all four of us got a good education. After graduating from Inman High School, I spent four years in Stillwater earning my BS in Animal Science from Oklahoma State University. I then moved on to the University of California, Davis, where I got a MS in Animal Science and a Ph.D. in Genetics. My research during that time was on improving the efficiency of genetic engineering of the mammalian genome.

After the University of California, I worked two years doing cancer research at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Research Center then five more years at the University of Texas's Dell Pediatric Research Institute in Austin. My research investigated the contribution of molecular DNA repair mechanisms to the prevention, causes, and cures of cancer.

In 2017, I joined K-State Research and Extension as an Agriculture-Natural Resources/ 4-H/ Community Vitality Agent in Kiowa County (Greensburg). Throughout my time there, our main focus was on revitalizing and growing Extension in the county and developing stability in rural communities.

One might ask, "So with that past, why are you now in Extension?" There is a lot to the answer of that question, and I invite you to come by and get all the details. It boils down to having a desire for knowledge as well as a desire for service. I've found that K-State Research and Extension is one of the few instances where sound knowledge is imparted to patrons as a service to individuals, families, and communities to make lives better.

I met my wife Shelley while in Stillwater. We got married the summer after we graduated OSU and promptly moved to Davis, California. She's also a scientist by training and has a MS in Comparative Pathology. Most of our spare time we've had over the last 20 years was spent raising and enjoying our now teenage daughters. We also like to vegetable garden and hike in the mountains. We have enjoyed our time in all the places we've lived, but we always missed Kansas and are thrilled to be back in the state.

I'm thankful for the unique experiences I've had and the path that has brought me here. I look forward to getting to know the area, and I'm eager to meet and get to know you. Please don't hesitate to reach out. My office is in Clay Center, so drop by or give me a call. I would also be happy to make arrangements to chat with you a little closer to your home as well.



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Research and Extension

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[Kansas4-H.org](http://Kansas4-H.org)

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

## ***Shooting Sports Update***

The Shooting Sports Project is off to a great start this year! We have already had two Safety Meetings and shoots in November and January. As a reminder, face masks and social distancing are required at Shooting Sports practices – as well as hand sanitizing during practices.

Upcoming shoots are:

Sunday, January 31, 2021	1:00 p.m. Final Safety Meeting & Shoot
Sunday, February 21, 2021	1:00 p.m. Shoot
Sunday, March 21, 2021	1:00 p.m. Shoot
Sunday, April 11, 2021	1:00 p.m. Shoot
Sunday, May 2, 2021	Make-Up for any previously cancelled shoots due to weather
Sunday, May 23, 2021	1:00 p.m. Fair Shoot #1 or practice shoot
Sunday, June 13, 2021	1:00 p.m. Fair Shoot #2
Sunday, August 8, 2021	Practice Shoot for Shot Gun State Qualifier (Time TBA)
Saturday, August 14, 2021	Shot Gun State Qualifier (Time TBA)

Should a shoot need to be cancelled due to inclement weather, we will put the information on local radio stations, our River Valley District 4-H Facebook Page, and we will send out an e-mail to those enrolled in Shooting Sports. Shooting Sports information can be found online at [https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h/project\\_information.html](https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h/project_information.html). If you have any questions, please contact Diane Kussman at 785-527-5084.

## ***Citizenship in Action– Virtual***

Would you like to have more influence in laws and rules that affect your life? Then you will want to attend Kansas 4-H Citizenship in Action (CIA)! This virtual two-day event is sponsored by the State 4-H Youth Leadership Council. The purpose of the event is for Kansas youth to learn how the state legislative process works and how their voice and participation in decision-making can make a difference in their local communities. The legislative visit will not only familiarize youth with the capitol building, but will also show them how they can affect the legislative process.

This event is February 14-15, 2021, via Zoom. Registration is \$35.00. Please sign up at [Kansas4-h.org](http://Kansas4-h.org) under Events by **February 1, 2021**.

## ***Jr. Producer Days***

This year, the junior producer days will be hosted virtually as a week-long educational series. A few sessions will be presented on week-night evenings, with the program wrapping up on Saturday morning. Please note this is **NOT** a 4-H event.

### **Virtual Kansas Junior Swine Producer Week**

February 15-20, 2021

Register Online by February 8<sup>th</sup>: <https://bit.ly/KSUJrSwineWeek>

### **Virtual Kansas Junior Meat Goat Producer Week**

March 15-20, 2021

Register Online by March 8<sup>th</sup>: <https://bit.ly/KSUJrMeatGoatWeek>

All ages and knowledge levels are invited for both events! K-State faculty members, graduate students, and guest speakers will cover topics including selection, nutrition and feeding, meat science, livestock guard dogs, health, grooming and clipping, showmanship, and the state livestock nomination process. The program will be FREE this year, but all attendees, including youth and adults, must register online.

## 4-H Scholarships

The Kansas 4-H Foundation and many donors give numerous scholarships to excelling 4-H youth across the state that are seniors or attending college. We encourage all youth eligible to complete these applications. The 2021 State 4-H Scholarship Applications are posted on the River Valley District Website under 4-H Youth Development > Forms & Resources > Scholarship. Please note there are some local scholarship opportunities posted as well.

Submission of all applications are virtual for 2021. Please make sure you follow ALL required steps asked of each scholarship you may be applying.

**NEW 2021: Provide a URL from a pre-recorded short (4 minutes maximum length video of you answering the following question - Take time to dress appropriately and answer professionally**

How has 4-H impacted you?

**Applications MUST be submitted by *March 1, 2021*- this is a changed date from previous years.**

## Interested in 4-H Quiz Bowl?

4-H Quiz Bowls provide an opportunity to learn more about the 4-H organization. While a 4-H Quiz Bowl is semi-competitive, the experience is designed to be a fun, educational opportunity for 4-H members! Participants are asked questions about 4-H history, projects, opportunities, and more.

Clubs may have a quiz bowl experience to add fun and learning to a monthly meeting. Project focus quiz bowls help members increase project-specific knowledge.



If you are looking to develop a quiz bowl experience for your club, county-wide, or if you would like to identify opportunities to participate in, please contact your local Program Manager about how to be a part of this opportunity!

## Horse Panorama

The Horse Panorama is taking a little different turn this year. Instead of it being held at Rock Springs in January. The State Horse Action Team will be hosting Hippology, Public Speaking, a Model Horse Show and other events virtually. The exact dates are yet to be determined, so be watching for some updates as we are notified.

In addition, tentatively, Quiz Bowl will join Horse Judging and be hosted with Kansas Horse Council partners at Equifest March 5-7 in Salina. If COVID-19 restrictions prevent us from hosting these contests in the spring, the Horse Action Team is exploring virtual options. Announcements will be made as plans are finalized.

## ***Regional Club Day***

Regional 4-H Club Day will be held on March 27, 2021.

If you receive a Top Purple in an eligible division at District 4-H Club Days, you may compete at Regional 4-H Club Day. If you are eligible to compete, you will be contacted by your local 4-H Program Manager following District 4-H Club Day.

Please watch for an email from our RVD 4-H staff with more information about Regional Club Day.

## ***Judging Schools***

The River Valley District Judging Schools are being offered via zoom this year, from February 1 through February 14, 2021. The five judging schools available are: Crops, FACS, Horticulture, Live-stock Skill-a-thon and Photography. This is a great contest to test your knowledge, mark off a pin application requirement, and to have fun.



**Like us on Facebook!**



**River Valley 4-H**

@RiverValley4H · Nonprofit Organization

Make sure to like us, River Valley 4-H, on Facebook for local, state and national 4-H event information, to see what our local 4-Hers are up to and so much more. The River Valley 4-H page is the place to stay informed and to get the latest information. Check us out!

## ***Robotics***

Do you love to build, program, create, and work on a team? 4-H Robotics may be for you!

The River Valley 4-H Staff is excited to announce the new STEM project, robotics. We have three robots in each of our four counties. These robots will get to compete in competition at a county, district, and even a regional level.

If you are interested in being a 4-Her or a volunteer in the Robotics projects, please reach out to your local 4-H Program Manager.



## ***Market Beef Weigh-in and Tagging Dates***

This year sure is flying by fast, so it won't be long before you select your Market Beef animals. Here are the dates, time and places of the weigh-ins and tagging across the River Valley District.

### **Beef Weigh-in Dates**

Washington	Saturday, March 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00-11:00 am	Animal Health Center
Clay Center	Saturday, March 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00-10:30 pm	Salava Vet Clinic
Belleville	Sunday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>	2:00-4:00 pm	Belleville 81 Livestock
Concordia	Sunday, March 21 <sup>st</sup>	5:30-7:00 pm	Cloud Co Fairgrounds

## ***Discovery Days***

Hey 4-Her's 13-18 years old, pencil in the dates of June 1-4 on your calendars now for Discovery Days! What is Discovery Days you may ask, it is when teenagers across the State of Kansas come together to the KSU campus to listen to speakers and take various classes of your choosing. Unfortunately it has been decided that it will need to be held virtually again this year. As we get more information on the classes being offered and when Discovery Days registration opens up we will let you know. So, be watching your emails and the River Valley 4-H Facebook posts.

## ***Rock Springs 4-H Camp***

Are you thinking about this coming summer activities yet?? Are you 7 yrs. old thru completing the 7<sup>th</sup> grade this year?? Well, mark your calendars for June 12-15! Those are the dates set for the Pioneer Trails Camp Group to attend Rock Springs Ranch near Junction City, KS.

At Rock Springs Ranch, you will have a lot of fun experiences. You will meet your counselor in your housing area and other campers in your unit. Some of the activities during your stay may include horses, crafts, canoes, archery and shooting rifles plus more.

Oh, don't forget the delicious meals that are served family style, swimming in the cool pool and the movie/dance night!

If you 16 or older, camp counselors will be needed as well. We should be learning more details about attending camp by the end of March, so be watching for an email from your 4-H Program Manager.

## ***Fair Dates Set***

Fair dates for the four county fairs in the River Valley District have been set. As we have more judging dates, locations, and fair information available, we will share those with the families for their county fair.

Cloud County Fair	July 6 – July 11
Clay County Free Fair	July 20 – July 25
Washington County Fair	July 20 – July 25
NCK Free Fair (Republic County)	August 3 – August 8

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming fairs, please contact Diane Kussman at 785-527-5084.

## ***RVD Key Award Winners***

The Kansas Key Award is one of the highest honors awarded to 4-H members across Kansas. This award highlights 4-H related events, activities, and achievements accomplished by the 4-Her on a club, county/district, regional and state level. It is never too early to look ahead at the requirements for this award and have this as a 4-H goal. Check it out on our River Valley District website <https://www.rivervalley.k-state.edu/4-h/awards.html>.

**The River Valley District is proud to announce their 19 Key Award Recipients.**

### **Clay County**



Logan Fickes



Luke Musselman

Not pictured: Colby Sherbert and Magie Sleichter

### **Cloud County**



Hana Cool



Cole Stahlman

### **Republic County**



Kaylee Bray



Terin Rundus



Tyler Stindt



Ethan Benne



Blake Aurand

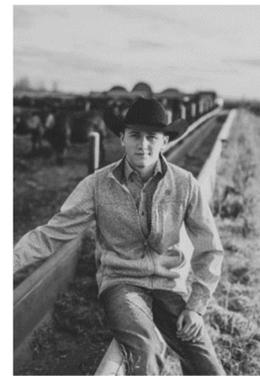
**Washington County**



Carly Kolle



Coy Stamm



Jack Gilliam



Mandy Simmons



Jacob Klipp

Not pictured:  
Wyatt Lange



Mia Cardenas



Shailyn Zenger



# RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT 4-H CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**Highlight, circle, underline, etc. the important dates for your family to remember!**

**Then, use this calendar as a reminder – place it on your fridge, with your calendar, on your bulletin board, etc.!**

Date	Time	Event	Location
<b>January</b>			
1/25	7:00 pm	Cloud Co 4-H Council Meeting	Zoom
1/31	1:00 pm	Shooting Sports – Practice Shoot	Fairgrounds – Concordia
<b>February</b>			
2/01	6:30 pm	Clay Co Ambassador Meeting	Zoom
2/01	7:00 pm	Clay Co Jr Leader Meeting	Zoom
2/01	7:45 pm	Clay Co Council Meeting	Zoom
2/06		RVD Club Days	Zoom
2/06		RVD Club Days Videos Dues	Qualtrics Survey
2/08	7:30 pm	Washington Co 4-H Council	Zoom
2/13		RVD Club Days	Zoom
2/14-15		Citizenship–In-Action	Zoom
2/15-20		KS Jr Swine Producer Week	Zoom
2/21	1:00 pm	Shooting Sports – Practice Shoot	Fairgrounds – Concordia
<b>March</b>			
3/01		KS 4-H & Vanier Scholarship Due	Qualtrics Survey
3/01		State KAP Submissions Due	Qualtrics Survey
3/01	7:30 p.m.	Republic Co 4-H Council	Zoom
3/05-07		Horse Quiz Bowl & Judging	Equifest – Salina OR Zoom
3/13	9-11am	Beef Weigh In & Tagging	Animal Health Center
3/13	9-10:30am	Beef Weigh In & Tagging	Salava Vet Clinic
3/15-20		KS Jr Meat Goat Producer Week	Zoom
3/21	1:00 pm	Shooting Sports – Practice Shoot	Fairgrounds – Concordia
3/21	2-4pm	Beef Weigh In & Tagging	Belleville 81 Livestock
3/21	5:30-7pm	Beef Weigh In & Tagging	Cloud Co Fairgrounds
3/22	7:00 p.m.	Cloud Co 4-H Council	Zoom
<b>April</b>			
4/05	6:30 pm	Clay Co Ambassador Meeting	TBA
4/05	7:00 pm	Clay Co Jr Leader Meeting	TBA
4/05	7:45 pm	Clay Co Council Meeting	TBA
4/11	1:00 pm	Shooting Sports – Practice Shoot	Fairgrounds – Concordia
4/12	7:30 p.m.	Washington Co 4-H Council	TBA
<b>May</b>			
5/02	1:00 pm	Shooting Sports–Practice Shoot	Fairgrounds – Concordia
5/23	1:00 pm	Shooting Sports–Practice Shoot/Fair Shoot #1	Fairgrounds – Concordia
5/24	7:00 p.m.	Cloud Co 4-H Council	TBA
<b>June</b>			
6/1-4		Discovery Days	Virtual
6/12-15		Pioneer Trails 4-H Camp	Rock Springs Ranch
6/13	1:00 pm	Shooting Sports–Fair Shoot #2	Fairgrounds – Concordia

# RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT 4-H CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **July**

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7/6-10	Cloud Co Fair	Fairgrounds – Concordia
7/20-25	Clay Co Fair	Fairgrounds - Clay Center
7/20-25	Washington Co Fair	Fairgrounds - Washington

## **August**

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8/3-7	NCK Free Fair	Fairgrounds - Belleville
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**River Valley Extension District**  
**Washington Office**  
214 C. Street, Courthouse  
Washington, KS 66968-1928

Address Service Requested

## *Pin Applications*

Be checking your pin applications now, so you can plan your 4-H year of what you need to achieve instead of finding out in September what you should have done!

There are opportunities this year, although they might be virtual. Take advantage of what is offered.

If you have a goal of getting your Key Award, (which we hope you all do) we would recommend looking at that a few years in advance!

RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT 4-H STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION				
Diane Kussman 4-H Program Manager RVED – Belleville 785-527-5084 <a href="mailto:dkussman@ksu.edu">dkussman@ksu.edu</a>	Rachel Footit 4-H Program Manager RVED – Clay Center 785-632-5335 <a href="mailto:rachelvalleyacres@ksu.edu">rachelvalleyacres@ksu.edu</a>	Melissa Swenson 4-H Program Manager RVED – Concordia 785-243-8185 <a href="mailto:mswenson19@ksu.edu">mswenson19@ksu.edu</a>	Macy Flory 4-H Program Manager RVED – Washington 785-325-2121 <a href="mailto:macy22@ksu.edu">macy22@ksu.edu</a>	

**Belleville Office** • 1815 M Street • Belleville, KS 66935-2242 • 785-527-5084

**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

***RiverValley4H@ksu.edu*** • ***Facebook.com/RiverValley4-H***