November 2019

It’s hard to believe Thanksgiving is just around the corner! It doesn’t seem like I’ve been at this job for four months already. Time flies when you are having fun and having fun, I am! I have loved every minute of this life change, and I am very thankful for the people who have made this job fulfilling. I am thankful for my family, who has learned to adjust to my new responsibilities and supported me along the way. I am thankful for coworkers who have the same mission and vision and truly want to, “Make the Best Better!” I am extremely thankful for all of the volunteers who have given their time to make my transition a smooth one. This year, I have a lot to be thankful for. What do you want to give thanks to this holiday season? Make sure you let those around you know why you are thankful.

A few ideas to celebrate Thanksgiving…

1. Gratitude Garland: Have your kids trace or draw leaf shapes onto construction paper, then cut them out. Place the leaves in a basket with some markers. Encourage each family member to write one thing that they’re thankful for on a leaf (the more the better!) As guests arrive, have them do the same. Before the meal, tape the leaves to your front window or hang them on a piece of twine (mini clothespins or binder clips work well) for some festive and meaningful dining room décor.

   What you need: Construction paper, pens, child-safe scissors, mini clothes-pins or clips, twine or ribbon for hanging.

2. Jar of Thanks: It doesn’t get much easier than this. Make a label for a recycled jar that reads “Jar of Thanks” or “Gratitude Jar.” (You can even have kids make this on a piece of paper, then adhere to jar with packing tape. Extra points for adding a festive ribbon around the top.) Place slips of paper and pens in a couple of spots where people will gather: the kitchen counter, the coffee table, and the dining room. Encourage all guests to write a few entries and place them in the jar. When dessert is served, pass around the jar and take turns reading the answers. You can even make it a guessing game by having guests try to figure out who said what!

   What you need: Recycled glass jar, paper, pens.

3. Thankful Badges: This one is especially good if you’re hosting a crowd. Print out a sheet of name-tag style labels that read “I’m Thankful For.” Instead of their names, guests write one thing they are grateful for, whether that’s mint chip ice cream, their new kitten, or good health. This activity serves double-duty as a terrific ice-breaker.
2019-20 EW County 4-H Council Officers:
President: Rebekah Vague
Vice Pres: Anna Theilen
Secretary: Macey Homeier
Treasurer: Kason LaMont
Reporter: Caleb Hays

4-H Council Meeting
Dec. 9 @ 6:30pm
Be prepared for these meetings with officer and committee reports!

ECFA Board Meeting
Nov. 4 @ 6:30pm

Junior Leaders
Nov. 17 @ 4pm
Ellsworth Fire Station
Join our Leadership Road Trip!

We had great window displays for National 4-H Week! The winner will be announced at the Ellsworth Achievement Banquet on November 2.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
2018-19 RS County 4-H Council Officers:
President: Lauren Myers
Vice Pres: Gracie Karst
Secretary: Grace Lumpkins
Treasurer: Braden Mai
Reporter: Rhett Pospichal

4-H Council Meeting
Nov. 11 at 7:00pm
Be prepared for these meetings with officer and committee reports!

Russell Fair Board Meeting
Nov. 11 at 7:30

4-H Junior Leaders
Nov. 24 @ 5:30

4-H, A Whirlwind of Fun was a great theme to celebrate the many accomplishments of Russell 4-H members!

The planning committee, 4-H Council Officers, and Junior Leaders did a great job of planning and hosting a fun afternoon and evening!

Farm Olympics, complete with the Cow Patty Throw, Boot Scramble, Cow Milking, Egg Toss, and several other events provided a lot of laughs to start us off. A wonderful dinner provided by YNOT BBQ set the stage for a large number of awards and pins!
It was great to see Facebook posts about National 4-H Day and 48 Hours of 4-H from our Midway District!

There were lots of neat activities from painting Clovers and speaking to schools to food drives and building cleanups. Club Leaders—be sure to register those activities at http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/conferences-events/48-hours-of-4-h/.

Service activities for 4-H members aren’t limited to October so be sure to let us know about other fundraising and community service activities your club has planned.
Many of the events and paperwork—most definitely the paperwork—for 4-H can be overwhelming for new 4-H families! This page will be used to highlight things that may be helpful to know in regard to upcoming events, deadlines, and necessary documents. Your Club Leader is also a great resource!

When should we start keeping track of projects, activities, meetings, learning?

NOW! Seriously though, pull a copy of the record book and pin application that is appropriate and keep them easily accessible. At my house, this is always in a folder where we collect all other 4-H information for the year. You can also place them on the fridge, in a file drawer or wherever they will be handy to update during the year. Every year, we get a little better at keeping track of this information and it pays off in the end! It is much easier to keep track along the way than trying to recreate the year’s activities in September!

What are some of the record keeping tools we should be using?

- The 4-H Record (Personal Page, 4-H Story, Permanent Record).
- KAP (Kansas Award Portfolio) is a project specific record and a great way to showcase a favorite project or two.
- Pin Application—pins begin with the membership pin. Only one pin may be awarded each year and are awarded in order (if you skip ahead, you cannot go back to apply for a previous award).
- Cloverbuds have their own optional recordbook, it can be found at [http://www.midway.k-state.edu/4-h/resources/forms/record_keeping.html](http://www.midway.k-state.edu/4-h/resources/forms/record_keeping.html)
- Resources are available at [http://www.midway.k-state.edu/4-h/resources/index.html](http://www.midway.k-state.edu/4-h/resources/index.html)

What resources are available for project areas?

The Extension Offices in both counties have a wide variety of 4-H curriculum books that are available for check-out. There are resources on everything from Beef to Leadership to Woodworking.

What can Cloverbuds participate in for Club Days?

Cloverbuds can present a Show and Tell and participate in a club skit for Club Days. They will receive a participation ribbon for their involvement.
LEADERS’ LEARNING CENTER

Review
- 4-H Update Important Dates/Deadlines (Calendar)

To-Do
- Check Club Mailbox at Ext Office
- Report from 4-H Council Meetings
- Provide any leadership changes to Extension Office ASAP
- **Update Volunteer Renewal Information!!!!**

Promote/Recruit
- 4-H members ask a friend to attend a 4-H meeting with them
- Encourage current 4-H members to review and complete applications for KYLF, Citizenship In Action, Citizenship Washington Focus
- **Remind all 4-H members and parents who volunteer to enroll via 4-H Online!**
- The Extension Office has a copy of the Cloverbud handbook for each club—please provide this resource to your club Cloverbud leader.
- Invite non 4-H families to attend 4-H events.
- **Provide officer and clubs’ leadership updates as soon as possible to the Extension Office**

You can find this great goal setting resource [http://www.midway.k-state.edu/4-h/resources/forms/index.html](http://www.midway.k-state.edu/4-h/resources/forms/index.html)

SMART Goals:
Specific
Measurable
Attainable
Relevant
Timely

Leaders:
This would be a good tool to review regularly at meetings with 4-H members!
UPCOMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

NOVEMBER

1—Club Officer Worksheets Due
2—Ellsworth County Achievement Banquet
11—MIDWAY DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED FOR VETERAN’S DAY
15— Officer Training
23/24—KYLF/Kansas Volunteer Forum
28/29—MIDWAY DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

DECEMBER

1—4-H Online Deadline to Participate in Club Days
14— Ambassador Training
25— MIDWAY DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

JANUARY

1—MIDWAY DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE NEW YEAR’S DAY HOLIDAY
10—Favorite Foods Recipe/Entry Deadline
26—Favorite Foods Show
31—Beef Tagging Requests Due (this is for 4-H members who are unable to attend weigh-in and need to make alternate arrangements)

FEBRUARY

10—Club Day Entries Due
23—Midway District 4-H Club Day
29—Beef Weigh-In (Russell) 8:00-11:00 am

MARCH

1—Beef Weigh-In (Ellsworth) 2:00-5:00 pm

Upcoming Events—Be sure to regularly check the Midway District website for upcoming shows and clinics! We receive notifications about many different opportunities and make every attempt to keep this current. http://www.midway.k-state.edu/area-shows/index.html
Are you a new officer for your 4-H Club? Plan to attend 4-H Officer Training on November 15 at the Russell County 4-H Building.

If you are an experienced officer and would be willing to share your talents with new officers, please let Marcia know!

It’s time to start thinking about enrollment for the next 4-H year! 4-Hers can enroll for the 2019-2020 4-H year on or after October 1st at:

https://kansas.4honline.com/Login.aspx403D4065476E5551444A414B68513D

Be sure to choose projects as you enroll. If you are interested in trying some new project areas please check out the Midway District website for project guides here: https://www.midway.k-state.edu/4-h/get-involved/projects.html
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If you would prefer receiving the newsletter via mail (in addition to the email and posted version), call the Extension Office at 785-483-3157 and we will add you to the mailing list.

**4-H GROWS HERE**

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