



# January-February 2023 4-H Newsletter

## Junior Master Gardener Program



While historically known to focus on traditional agricultural projects, the Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development program has something for everyone. Something that many young people will find fun and exciting is the Junior Master Gardener Program.

This curriculum covers all aspects of horticulture and landscape architecture. It's not just about growing pretty flowers or tasty fruits and vegetables. The Junior Master Gardeners program incorporates soil and water conservation, ecology, plant growth and development, insects and diseases, and even nutrition. 4-H has a big emphasis on STEM activities and the JMG fits right in with that. There are two levels of the curriculum, including Level 1 for 3rd through 5th grade and Level 2 for grades 6th through 8th.

Level 1 covers plants and landscape architecture along with career exploration and life skills. There are supplemental curricula including literature activities to go with several popular children's books. Level 1 also covers basic gardening, nutrition and physical activity. Level 2 covers plant growth and development along with water and soil conservation. It also expands on the lessons learned in Level 1. The lessons can stand alone as needed or be used in conjunction with other programming and activities such as summer camps or after-school programs.

There is plenty of material available if someone wanted to start a JMG club. The materials for the activities are inexpensive and readily available. It takes just five youth and one adult to start an official JMG group. It's easy to get a group registered at [jmgkids.us](http://jmgkids.us). The lessons can also be incorporated into the classroom. Each activity has background information for the teacher or volunteer leader.

4-H strives to provide opportunities for club members to develop citizenship, leadership and other life skills through hands-on activities. The JMG program inspires youth to be of service in their communities through service-learning projects. Clubs could start a school or community garden. As part of a 4-H citizenship project, 4-H'ers can donate excess produce from their own gardens to a local food bank.

4-H'ers can get involved in exploring their world through meaningful activities that encourage leadership development, personal pride and responsibility. Through these activities, they'll develop critical thinking skills and the ability to identify community concerns and take action to address them through individual and group projects.

**For more information about the Junior Master Gardener program, contact the OSU Extension Center.**

## Blaine County

### Address

212 N Weigle, Courthouse Suite 101  
Watonga, OK 73772

### Phone

580-623-5195

### Email

Dana Baldwin-FCS/4-H  
[dana.baldwin@okstate.edu](mailto:dana.baldwin@okstate.edu)

### Website

<https://extension.okstate.edu/county/blaine>



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Blaine County OSU Extension

**Blaine County OSU Extension Facebook Page (THIS IS IMPORTANT)** Please like the Blaine County OSU Extension Facebook Page. Sometimes there are things we need to let you know about that we can not get out in a newsletter. If you like the page, you will see those posts. Thanks!

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## County Public Speaking Contest

The County Speech Contest will be Sunday, January 22nd, 2:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds. This is a great opportunity for you to take part in.

The contest is divided into 3 age categories; Juniors-grades 3-5, Intermediates- grades 6-8, and Seniors grades 9-12. The Categories for each age group are: Regular Talks, Illustrated Presentation, Team Illustrated Presentation and Power Point. Time limits are Speeches: Juniors- 3-5 minutes, Intermediates- 5-7 minutes and Seniors- 5-7 minutes and all Illustrated Presentations are Juniors- 3-10 minutes, Intermediate and Seniors are 5-12 minutes. Digital presentation time is 5-7 minutes for all age groups.

Cloverbuds can enter by saying the 4-H Pledge or the Pledge of Allegiance. Or you can also say a poem if you would like.

Entries are due by Tuesday, January 17th.



## District Public Speaking Contest

The West District Speech Contest starts at 9:00am on Saturday, February 11th at the Pleasant View Mennonite Church – 94948 N 2450 Rd., Hydro. The cost is \$5.00 per participant (team would be \$10). If we have youth participating in the speech contest, we will need to provide 2 adults to assist with the speech contest either as a judge or a room monitor. Blaine County 4-H will pay your entry fee for you; however, if you don't attend, you must reimburse the county. There are categories for Animal Science; Plants, Natural and Mechanical Sciences; Family, Consumer, and social Science; and Communication & Expressive/Visual Art. The types of presentations and the time limits are the same as our county contest.

Entries are due to the District Office by January 27th. Call the office for more information.

## District Volunteer Conference

A District Volunteer Conference will also be held Saturday, February 11th beginning at 12:00 Noon at the Pleasant View Mennonite Church in Hydro.

Workshops scheduled at this time are: Duds to Dazzle, Livestock Project Clubs, Club Activities for 4-H Leaders, State Record Books, STEM and Small Animal Project Clubs. The registration cost for the

Volunteer Conference is \$15.00 which includes lunch. This is a great opportunity for Leaders and Parents to take advantage of. Registration for this is due to the District Office by January 27th.

Please call the office if you are interested in attending.



## Blaine County Jr. Livestock Show

*The Blaine County Stock Show is Friday, Saturday, and Sunday February 17th, 18th and 19th and the Bonus Auction is Tuesday, February 21st. Swine, Goats and Sheep must be in place Friday by 5:00 p.m. and Cattle must be in place by 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.*

*The show schedule is:*

*Saturday: 8:00 a.m. Swine Show*

*11:00 a.m. Goat and Sheep Show*

*Sunday: 1:00 p.m. Cattle Show*

*The Bonus Auction schedule is:*

*Tuesday: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Dinner*

*6:15 p.m. Introductions and Special Awards*

*6:30 p.m. Auction*

## Blaine County Stock Show Concession Stand

Members: your club leaders will be in touch with you with the time for you to work in the concession stand. This is main fundraiser for Blaine County 4-H so please help out.

Each club is responsible for bringing 6 dozen snacks to sell. Please bring them prewrapped, example one brownie, two cookies, rice crispy treat.

Also, if you would like to donate any amount of ground beef to make the chili and taco meat for the concession stand, please let Dana know. We need a total of 35 pounds.

**REMEMBER** you must wear a collared shirt with a 4-H emblem while showing. If you do not have a 4-H Shirt, we have patches available at the Extension Office that can be sewn on a shirt. Just come by the office to purchase one for \$3.00.

## 4-H Day at the Capitol

4-H Day at the Capitol will happen on April 5th, 2023. 4-H Day at the Capitol is an excellent opportunity for members to meet with State Representatives and Senators to share their 4-H story.

Delegates are 13 years and older.

We have one spot available as each county can bring two delegates (we have Avery Fisher from Okeene serving as a State Ambassador that will count towards one of our two delegates).

Registration is due on February 3rd so let Dana know soon if you are interested (first come).



## ENID NWDJLS LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

This contest will be held on Thursday, February 9 at the Garfield County Fairgrounds in Enid.

The contest will be divided into a junior contest; those in grades 3 to 7 and a senior contest for those in grades 8 to 12. The contest will include reasons and questions for both age groups. The plan is to have eight classes of livestock and will include a class of goats. Two sets of questions and two sets of reasons will be given. If you are interested, please let us know.



## Blaine County 4-H Photography Contest

Entries are due to the OSU Extension Center no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. Judging will follow; then all photos will be on display during the Blaine County Jr. Livestock Show February 17, 18, 19 at the fairgrounds.

1st, 2nd, 3rd place certificates will be given in each age division. Each 4-H member may enter one photo. (Open to all currently enrolled Blaine County 4-H members.) Grade divisions: Junior (grades 3-5), Intermediate (grades 6-8), Senior (grades 9-12).

Photography must meet the following guidelines- Photo must be of a 4-H activity and member(s), in color or black & white with photo no smaller than 4"x6" and no larger than 8"x10". Photo must have been taken by the 4-H member entering it. Mount the photo on 14" x 14" black or white mat board or foam core and include a title and caption for the photo on the front of the board that briefly describes the activity pictured. Attach a label on the back of the mat board with the name of the member entering the photo, Blaine County, number of years in the 4-H photography project, camera type and megapixels if the camera is digital.

## National 4-H Conference

National 4-H Conference is a future-focused program that aims to build strong leaders through roundtable discussions, town hall meetings, group assemblies, and visits with national legislators. Being selected to represent our state at this conference is one of Oklahoma 4-H's highest honors.

- Through an application process, three to four Oklahoma 4-H delegates will be selected to attend National 4-H Conference.
- Applicants must be 16 years old as of January 1, 2023.
- Delegates are responsible for:
- \$500 Registration fee (Oklahoma 4-H and the OK 4-H Foundation will cover the remaining cost)
- Transportation to and from the airport
- Meals on travel days to and from Washington D.C.
- Lunch one day.

Applications are due no later than Midnight, Sunday, February 5- so let Dana know if you are interested.

## 4-H STATE AMBASSADORS- A Great Opportunity for Teens!

For over 25 years, outstanding 4-H members have been serving as State 4-H Ambassadors. Once again, the Oklahoma State 4-H Ambassador program is looking for self-motivated, enthusiastic youth leaders to promote 4-H using the skills, knowledge and leadership abilities acquired in 4-H. Applications for State Ambassador are due March 15th.

Being chosen as a State 4-H Ambassador entails the acceptance of great responsibility and a total commitment to the Oklahoma State 4-H Ambassador program. We need individuals who are not afraid of people or work. 4-H Members, please take advantage of this opportunity to apply.

## 4-H Day at OSU

Saturday, January 21- 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

We are Cowboys. We live by the Cowboy Code, which means “We dream only as big as the sky.” We know 10th, 11th and 12th grade 4-H members have big dreams too. The OSU College of Education and Human Sciences and the Ferguson College of Agriculture want to help you find your pathway for making their dreams a reality. OSU has a dedicated faculty, staff and student leaders who study and work in areas that 4-H members learn about through their projects, activities and competitions. You are invited as to attend the inaugural 4-H Day at OSU, where you’ll discover how to connect your 4-H passions to your dreams and future purpose.

Participation is free but limited to the first 125 4-H members. Registration is by individual. Have your members register now at [orange.okstate.edu/register/4-H\\_Day](https://orange.okstate.edu/register/4-H_Day)! Go Pokes!

### Citizenship Washington Focus 2023

Citizenship Washington Focus is a wonderful opportunity for 4-H members 15 and over to learn about our nation's history and government process while on the backdrop of our nation's capital. Citizenship Washington Focus 2023 will be June 15-24, 2023 and the cost will be \$2,500 per delegate. Counties may submit one delegate and one alternate. Information can be found: <https://4h.okstate.edu/events/citizenship-washington-focus/index.html>

### 4-H Volunteer Leaders Meeting

We will have a leaders and parents meeting on Thursday, February 2 at 6:00 p.m. at the fairgrounds. A light supper will be served. Please RSVP by 10 a.m. that morning. We need to set the schedule for the concession stand at junior livestock show and set other dates for upcoming events.



### Opportunities at NW District Livestock Show-Enid

Check out the Blaine County OSU Extension Facebook page for information about the Preston Roberts Memorial Scholarship and the Social Media Correspondents program available through the NWDLS.

Good luck to county, district and OYE exhibitors!

### State 4-H Record Books

If you are in the 8th grade and up, you can submit a State 4-H Record Book! They are due April 20th. Please call Dana if you need help. Scholarship money is available to record book winners. Don't miss out on this opportunity. You can look at the forms and guidelines at <https://4h.okstate.edu/members/record-book-and-scholarship-information/record-book-and-scholarship-info.html>

### 4-H Club Pen Pal Opportunity

Would your club be interested in teaching members how to write letters, address envelopes, and make friends across the state?

Adair County would like to invite your club to join us in starting an Oklahoma 4-H Pen Pal project, part of a pilot National Pen Pal program. We are looking for OK 4-H clubs to pen pal with. Student identity will be safe, all interactions will process through the club leader or Extension office and students will only use first names. No addresses or last names will be exchanged. Interested?

Contact Adair County 4-H Volunteer, Karen Shell - [kshell@maryetta.org](mailto:kshell@maryetta.org)

*OSU*  
*Oklahoma*  
*State*  
*University*

**Blaine County Cooperative Extension Service**

Oklahoma State University

212 N. Weigle, Courthouse Suite 101

Watonga, OK 73772

(580-623-5195)

Website: <https://extension.okstate.edu/county/blaine/index.html>

This letter is one way of communicating educational information to the citizens of Blaine County in the area of 4-H & Youth Development. For a free subscription, contact the office above.

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Editor:



**Dana Baldwin**

*Extension Educator-FCS/4-H*  
*Blaine County*