



# NEWSLETTER

## Summer is a great time to hone natural resources skills

We're halfway through summer vacation and it's likely many parents have heard "I'm bored" more than once from their children.

There are many things youth can be doing this summer that relate to 4-H projects in the natural resources project area, said Kevin Allen, [Oklahoma State University Extension](#) youth wildlife specialist and professor in the [Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management](#).

"These are activities that will get kids up and active and will help them develop life skills," Allen said. "While many of them are geared toward outdoor activities, there are some that can be enjoyed from the comfort and air conditioning of your home. Whether you're into entomology, camping, fishing, birding, hiking, wildlife, environmental sciences or other things related to natural resources, there are 4-H projects for your interests."

Do you like fishing? Check out the Wildlife and Fisheries section on the [Environmental Science Curriculum](#) page on the [4-H Youth Development](#) website. Even if there isn't a lake, pond or river nearby, 4-H'ers can still work on fishing skills such as casting or knot tying.

Oklahoma has received quite a bit of rain this year, especially compared to last year. Club members can make a rain gauge and compare the amount of rain collected to what the weatherperson says on the local news.

Allen said another fun activity is mapping the land. This could be as simple as mapping your backyard, or perhaps mapping the neighborhood or even several acres. Youth can map anything, including the types of trees in the area, streams or rivers, birds they find or wildlife habitat.

"Working on a mapping project is a good time to learn how to read a compass. This is an important skill to know because technology isn't always available in some areas," he said. "If you're on a camping trip in a remote area, the GPS on your phone may not work."

Take a close look at the leaves from the various trees in the area and observe their similarities and differences. Make a [leaf press](#) to preserve the leaves for a 4-H project that can be entered into the county fair. Club members can learn about the various characteristic of trees to help them with their tree identification skills.

Are there a lot of birds in the neighborhood? Learn [how to use binoculars](#) to help with [bird identification](#). Add a birdhouse and

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different types of birdfeeders to attract more feathered friends to the area. Look at the different beaks on birds to help determine what they eat.

Who doesn't like a creepy, crawly insect? Capturing insects for an insect board is a great entomology project and could also be a fair entry.

"Summertime is a great time for camping but check your equipment to make sure it's in good condition before heading off into the great outdoors," Allen said. "You don't want to set up camp and get ready to cook supper only to discover your camp stove doesn't work."

Geocaching, learning about geology, looking for animal tracks, planting wildflowers or growing a garden can be a lot of fun. Take a day trip to one of Oklahoma's state parks or take advantage of parks and other natural areas in your hometown.

"Summer is going by quickly, so get outside and enjoy some of these natural resource projects. It's a great chance to learn something new and get a head start on that fair project," he said.

### **Canning Workshop August 4, 2023**

There will be a canning workshop at the fairgrounds on August 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The workshop will include safety and procedures to can using the water bath and pressure canner methods.

Participants will have the opportunity to preserve a jar of food for future use.

Registration deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup>.



### **County 4-H fund raiser Dinner and Silent Auction September 6, 2023**

All 4-H members, leaders, and parents need to participate in the annual county 4-H fund raiser. There will be a dinner (by donation) and silent auction on September 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:30. This is part of the kick-off for the county fair.

There are a variety of ways you can choose to participate. Some will need to be at the fund-raising event on September 6th. Other tasks can be accomplished ahead of time (if you are unable to attend the event). Contact your local 4-H club leader or the county extension office to volunteer for a task, including:

- Collect items for the silent auction.
- Set up and monitor silent auction
- Assist with meal preparation
- Set up and serve dinner
- Clean up after dinner and silent auction

Remember we need everyone's participation to make this annual fundraiser successful

### **4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training**

There will be a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor training session on August 26 -27 at Creek County Fairgrounds in Kellyville, Oklahoma.

4-H volunteers must have completed the 4-H certification process at the county level before attending the shooting sports instructor training.

Any certified Dewey County leader that would like to attend the shooting sports instructor training must contact the county extension office to register. Deadline to have all registration materials to the county office is August 7, 2023



## **County Public Speaking and Demonstration Contests August 16th at Fair Grounds in Taloga 4:00 p.m.**

### **Demonstration Contest**

This is an opportunity for 4-H members to practice their public speaking skills while showing how to do something learned in their 4-H project. Each member may present an individual and/or team (2 members) demonstration.

### **Public Speaking Contest**

The County Public Speaking Contest has three categories.

**Speeches** – no props or illustrations

**Illustrated talk** – must include a prop or illustration (Think “show and tell”)

**PowerPoint Presentation** – 4-7 minutes presentation using 5 or more slides.

### **Clover buds**

Clover buds may do a demonstration or speech, but they will not be judged competitively, they may do an individual team, or group presentation.

## **County 4-H Awards Program August 19, 2023 Camargo Community Center at 6:30**

We are wrapping up another 4-H year, and it has been a great one! So, it's time to celebrate.

The county awards program will be held on August 19, 2023, at the Community Center in Camargo. The program will begin at 6:30 with dinner, followed by the presentation of individual and club awards. 4-H members, parents, and guests are welcome to attend.

There will be a delicious potluck meal. The county 4-H boosters will provide the meat. Each family may bring a side dish or dessert.

There is no fee to attend, but families should RSVP by calling the extension office (580) 328 5351. Deadline to RSVP is August 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **County 4-H Officer Elections**

The county 4-H officer elections will be held on August 16th, following the public speaking contest at the fairgrounds in Taloga, following the public speaking contest. Each club will have five voting delegates for the election of each office. Club leaders may rotate the delegates to allow more members to experience the electoral process.

Qualified candidates may submit applications to the extension office by 4:30 on August 10th. Each candidate will have 2-4 minutes to present a campaign speech before the elections. If a candidate is unable to attend the officer elections, a fellow club member may speak on his/her behalf.

Candidate qualifications: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer -must be 14 years old with 4 years as a 4-H member and must have turned in a record book for the 2022-23 year.

Game and song leaders -must be 12 years old with 2 years as a 4-H member and must have turned in a record book for the 2022-23 year.

\*Ages as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

## 4-H FFA Wheat Show - July 18, 2023

### Requirements

Fill out a report form including the story and the entry form certifying involvement and return it with a 10-pound sample of wheat.

For shipped samples, ship them to Payne County Fairgrounds, 4518 Expo Circle East, Stillwater, OK 74075, Attn: 4-H/FFA Wheat Contest.

No entries, either delivered or mailed will be accepted after the deadline. Samples will be judged at Heritage Hall, Payne County Fairgrounds.

### New Mexico 4-H Senior Leadership Retreat

Oklahoma 4-H is pleased to announce that we will once again be taking an Oklahoma delegation to the New Mexico Senior Leadership Retreat **January 18-22**. This year, we will be traveling to Las Cruces, New Mexico and are making plans to see Carlsbad Caverns and White Sands National Park along the way. Cost of the trip will be \$900 for youth participants. Last year's delegation strongly urged us to continue this opportunity as they felt that the workshops were worthwhile and enjoyed interacting with 4-H youth from a different state. As NMSLR provides different opportunities each year, we are going to allow participants who previously attended to return, if space allows. We are also seeking adults (volunteers or Educators) who would like to serve as chaperones on the trip. Registration and payment are due to the State 4-H Office **November 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please see the attached information for more details.



## Keep Oklahoma Beautiful – Steve Beck

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful has reached out to encourage 4-H youth to participate in their Litter Education programs.

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful is a state-wide environmental beautification non-profit. They work in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Quality, to put on 3 Litter Education contests each year for Oklahoma students in PreK through College! Our Litter Education programs teach students about the harmful effects of littering and the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling. Here is a brief overview of each program:

- The **UnCapped** program is for *elementary school* students and challenges them to create a piece of art out of bottle caps. Students are also required to write a short essay describing what they learned by making their project, why it is important to recycle, and the harmful effects of littering. Finalists chosen by public vote on our website. The top 3 finalists will then be judged by their work and the accompanying essay to select a winner. Winner will receive a pizza party amongst other prizes!
- The **UpCycled** program is very similar but it is for *middle school* students and allows them to use more than just bottle caps to create their work. They are able to reuse anything their imagination can come up with to create their project! Additionally, the students are also required to write a short 300-500 word essay explaining the harmful effects of landfills, the benefits of reusing products, as well as provide research on their community's landfill processes. A public vote on our website will determine the top 3 finalists, who will then be judged by the accompanying essay to select a winner. Winner will receive a pizza party amongst other prizes!
- The **End Litter** project has two separate divisions one for *high school* students and one for *college* students. The students are tasked with creating a 25-45 second video clip that conveys that littering is costly, deplorable, illegal, and just downright wrong. The winning video clips will appear on the KOB website and social media platforms as well. The winning project in each division will also receive a \$1,200 cash scholarship.
- You can visit the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful website at <https://www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com/what-we-do/litter-education.html> for more details and to see some of the past submissions for each contest.



## 2023 DEWEY COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

4:30 PM	4-H Market and silent auction open to the public
5:30 PM	Dinner by donation, served by county 4-H boosters
6:30 PM	Youth Inspiration
7:00 PM	Fairest of the Fair

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Noon-6:00 PM	All Entries Taken (Except Livestock)
3:00 - 6:00 PM	Poultry Testing and Poultry and Rabbit Entries Taken
4:00 PM	Horse Show Entries Taken ( Horse Show will be held In Leedey at Stierwalts)
5:00 PM	Horse Show Begins
6:00 PM	Poultry and Rabbit Judging

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

9:00 AM	Flower entries must be in place Judging of 4-H, Open, Crops & Horticulture Exhibits
9:00 AM	Livestock to be in place (Swine, Sheep, Beef, Goats) Check Heifer Papers Weigh in steers, barrows, market lambs, goats
9:00 AM	Tractor Driving Contest, Written Test
10:00 AM	Tractor Driving, Operating of Tractor
12:00 PM	Livestock Judging Contest
4:00 PM	Bucket Calf Show
4:30 PM	Peddle Tractor Pull
5:00 to 6:00 PM	<b>FREE HOT DOG AND WATERMELON FEED</b> (Sponsored by Northwestern Electric Coop., Inc., Woodward)
6:00 PM	Homemade Ice Cream Contest Buildings Closed Poultry and rabbits released

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

8:00 AM	Buildings Open
8:00 - Noon	Registration for tailgate cooking contest
9:00 AM	Swine Show (gilts followed by barrows)
11:00 AM	Heifer Show
1:00 PM	Prospect Steer Show, Market Steer Show (following Prospect Steer Show)
3:00 PM	Goat Show ( Does followed by wethers)
4:30 PM	Tailgate cooking contest
5:00 PM	Entertainment & Music (Featuring Alvarado Road Show)
6:00 PM	Sheep Show (Ewe Lambs followed by wethers)

**All 4-H, open class, crops, & horticulture exhibits released  
after the conclusion of the Sheep show.  
Livestock exhibits released at the conclusion of their species shows**



## 2023 Dewey County 4-H Entrepreneurship Project - Contest

A recent study shows that 60% of youth want to start their own business someday. Are you one of them? Now you can! The 4-H Entrepreneurship Project will allow you to start a business and provide a marketplace for you to show / sell your products.



### Get started today!

- Register at the county extension office and get your beginning business plan form
  - Turn your business plan in to the extension office by September 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Set up your business display booth at the 4-H Market on September 6<sup>th</sup> by 4:30 P.M.
  - Start making money with your business

Plan and launch your own business. You can provide a service (babysitting, lawn mowing, etc.) or a good (quilted potholders, fishing lures, etc.).

September 6<sup>th</sup> will kick off the county fair with the 4-H Market and silent auction. Followed by the Miss Fairest of the Fair contest.

Entrepreneurship project participants will set up their business display booths by 4:30 P.M. The public will be invited to shop, along with “secret shopper” judges. Participants will tend their booths and serve their customers. Judging will be based on – business plan - product or service provided - display set up - customer service. Awards will be presented to the top ranking participants at the end of the evening.

The County 4-H boosters will provide dinner for all attending, for a donation of \$8.00 or more per person. The County 4-H will also host a silent auction. 4-H clubs, members, and families are encouraged to donate items for the silent auction.

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### Schedule for Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

4:30	4-H Market and silent auction open to the public
5:00	Dinner, by donation, provided by county 4-H boosters
6:30	Inspiration time by local youth pastor / group
7:00	Fairest of the Fair contest

The Dewey County 4-H newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Dewey County Extension Office. It is intended to provide educational materials as well information about 4-H and youth programs. Office is located at 107 N. Sexton St at the fairgrounds in Taloga.

**Office Hours**

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM Monday – Friday Closed  
for lunch from 12:00 noon – 12:30 PM

Editor: Jean Bailey

Dewey County Extension Educator FCS/4-H &  
CED



Enroll in 4-H for the 2021-2022 year:

- Sign up at [4h.zsuite.org](http://4h.zsuite.org)
- Using your email and password (you create)
- Make a household account
- Enroll your 4-H member(s)

Contact your local 4-H leader or the county extension office 328-5351

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OSU EXTENSION  
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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