



NEWSLETTER

Oklahoma 4-H'ers compete at Shooting Sports National Championships

Oklahoma 4-H'ers showcased their skills on the national stage during the 2026 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships, earning multiple team and individual top-10 finishes against the nation's best competitors.

A delegation of 34 club members and nine volunteers, traveled to Grand Island, Nebraska, for the annual event. The competition drew 775 youth ages 14 to 18 from 42 states.

Oklahoma finished eighth overall and qualified for the sweepstakes award, said Ruth Pratt, OSU Extension specialist and coordinator for the Oklahoma 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

"This is the major shooting sports competition in the nation," Pratt said. "Our 4-H members work hard and set goals year after year to be a part of the National 4-H Shooting Sports team. We send the top four participants from our qualifying contests to the national competition, where they compete against the best youth from around the country."

The Oklahoma shotgun team led the state's team performances, placing third on Day 2, second on Day 3 and second overall. The hunting skills team placed fifth on Day 2, while recurve archery and air rifle each earned fifth-place finishes on Day 3.

Several Oklahoma 4-H'ers also posted strong individual performances.

In shotgun competition, Garrett Schoonover of Logan County placed third on Day 1 and third overall. Clay

Culver of Craig County placed first on Day 2 and finished fourth overall, while Kooper Pryor of Jackson County placed 10th on Day 3 and ninth overall.

Eli Bensch of Garfield County placed second on Day 2 in .22 rifle. In recurve archery, Blake Duncan of Pawnee County placed first on Day 3 and finished ninth overall. Paige Kelly of Creek County placed ninth on Day 3 in air rifle.

"Our delegates had a full schedule while in Nebraska competing, and they learned so much and had a chance to make new friends," Pratt said. "I'm so proud of each of them and their hard work to make it to this national competition."

Like other Oklahoma 4-H programs, shooting sports emphasizes personal growth and development. Participants build life skills that can be used in all areas of life.

"All of our shooting sports coaches are certified and go through extensive training to prepare them for introducing safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment to Oklahoma youth," Pratt said. "These leaders also help instill self-discipline, sportsmanship, ethical behavior and an appreciation for the outdoors."

Pratt said the program's focus extends beyond scores and competition.

"It's all about education, positive youth development, working with caring adult volunteers and having fun," she said.

Dewey County Extension Office

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Social Media

Facebook: Dewey County 4-H

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County 4-H Notes

4-H Leaders and Volunteers Training meeting

August 18, at 5:30 ~ County Fairgrounds

All 4-H Leaders and volunteers are welcome to attend the meeting. Agenda items will include enrolment and trainings for 2026-27 year, county and state fair, county fund raiser, and other upcoming events.

Annual County 4-H Fundraiser

The annual county 4-H fund raiser – Dinner and auction - will be held on Wednesday, September 9th. It is important that everyone works together to make this fund raiser successful.

Auction items will be displayed through out the county fair for bids. The auction will kick off on September 9th at the fairgrounds. Bids will be accepted from 4:30 on September 9th through 3:00 on September 12th. Winners will be announced and items ready to pick up about 5:00 on the 12th.

A dinner, open to the public, will be served at the fairgrounds on September 9th. It will begin at 5:30.

All funds raised during this event will directly benefit the county 4-H program and county youth. Funds will provide leadership training, workshop supplies, awards, assistance with camp and other expenses for county youth.

You can help Dewey County youth and 4-H by

- donating and/or collecting items for the auction
- Preparing or donating food for the dinner
- serving dinner
- cleaning up after the dinner

Contact your local club leader or the county extension office to sign up for your part in the annual county fund raiser.

County Awards Program August 23, 2026 ~ Vici Community Building 2:00 P.M.

All 4-H members, parents, volunteers, and guests are invited to the annual county awards program. The program will begin at 2:00.

Members and clubs will be recognized for their accomplishments during the 2025-26 year. The county officers for 2026-27 will be installed.

- Contact your local leader to sign up to bring -
- light refreshments
- small door prize item (two per club)
- silent auction item (3-4 items per club)

Funds raised through the silent auction benefits the county scholarship fund.

Speech Contest at the county fair Friday, September 11th Times will be assigned after registration

Contact the County Extension Office or County Conservation District for additional information.

Dewey County Conservation District
Speech Contest-September 11, 2026-at the Fair – TBA
Registration by September 8, 2026, to Jean Bailey

Division I: Grades 8-9-10

Division II: Grades 11-12

Division A: Grades 3, 4, & 5

Division B: Grades 6 & 7

Theme: Natural Resources: Participants may choose any current subject that deals with topics such as soil, water, air, rural water, wildlife, forestry, aquaculture, conservation, recreation, recycling, environmental issues, agronomy, etc.

Speech contest is open to all Dewey County School students.

Speech rules will be taken to FFA School Advisors and 4-H Leaders in August. But if anyone needs them before school starts contact the district at:

deweyccd@conservation.ok.gov/580-328-5366, 306 S. Broadway, Taloga, OK 73667



Oklahoma City State Fair Opportunities

Contact the county extension office if you are interested in participating in Cupcake Wars or Interactive Booths at the State Fair in OKC.

OKC Cupcake Wars:

The 2026 Oklahoma State Fair Cupcake Wars contest will be held on September 19th, 2026.

Teams are 2-3 4-H members and rules for the contest can be located at:

<https://4h.okstate.edu/events/okc-tulsa-state-fair>. Registration is \$20 per team.

OKC Interactive Booths:

We will once again be offering Interactive Booths at the OKC State Fair. Interactive booths are 2-5 youth and an adult teaching about a project to the public. Days available are September 19th, 20th, 26th, and 27th and times are 11:00-1:00, 1:00-3:00, and 3:00-5:00. To sign up contact your county office.

Fairest OF THE FAIR
Under the Neon Lights
 Wednesday, **SEPTEMBER 9TH** 7:00 PM
 Calling all **DEWEY COUNTY GIRLS**
5 YEARS – 12 YEARS!
 THREE DIVISIONS
 Little Miss (5 YEARS – 12 YEARS, NON-COMPETITIVE, NEW THIS YEAR!)
 Junior Miss (7TH – 9TH GRADE)
 Miss (10TH – 12TH GRADE)
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **AUGUST 25TH**
 PLACEMENT AWARDS:
 1ST PLACE \$250, 2ND PLACE \$150, 3RD PLACE \$100
 CONTACT A FAIREST OF THE FAIR COMMITTEE MEMBER OR THE **DEWEY COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE** to pick up your packet! ♥

Dewey County 4-H Entrepreneurship Project & Contest

4-H Market - September 9, 2026
 REGISTRATION DEADLINE - AUGUST 31, 2026

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.



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

Get started today!

- ✓ Contact the County Extension Office and get your beginning business plan form.
- ✓ Turn your business plan in at the extension office by August 31st.
- ✓ September 9th - 4-H Market - Set up your business booth from 4:30-6:30 P.M. at the fairgrounds in Taloga.

4-H Market will be part of the activities to kick off the county fair on September 10, 2026. 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.

There is no charge to participate in the project. Participants will keep all the money from their booths sales. Participants are responsible for any taxes that may be due.

Oklahoma 4-H Virtual Rally Dog 🐾

The third quarter of the Oklahoma 4-H Virtual Rally Dog Competition is now open! Whether you're just getting started or have competed before, this is a great opportunity to practice your skills, work with your dog and receive feedback from judges.

Set up your course, record your run and submit your video by **Sept. 15**.

Register now: 4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/43562

2026 Tuesday Tool Time Schedule

The OK 4-H Volunteer Board has planned another year of timely topics for parents, volunteers, and Extension educators. **Each session has its own registration link** and scheduled from **6:30 – 7:30 pm**.

Nov 3 - [STEM in Your Club and Project Areas](#) – Learn simple ways to incorporate STEM into any 4-H project area using hands-on activities and leadership opportunities.

Dec 1 – [Next Steps of Leadership](#) - Wondering how your 4-Hers can achieve one of those 4-H green jackets? Join us for information, details, and tips to help your 4-Hers take those next steps of leadership. We'll discuss State Ambassador, Shooting Sports Ambassador, Healthy Living Ambassador, and Science Innovators, as well as running for District and State leadership positions.

We will also discuss state-level civic engagement opportunities like 4-H Day at the Capitol and out-of-state trips to be able to visit with your county educator about how to encourage youth to travel with 4-H.

STEM Storytime

STEM Storytime is a new program we are piloting this school year. In this program Teen Leaders will be trained on two STEM-themed books and hands-on activities that they will then be asked to go out and teach to elementary youth in their communities.

This program is open to any Teen Leader interested in learning more about teaching STEM activities. Teen participants will take home copies of each book as well as the materials needed to teach the activities to up to 30 children.

Each training session will take place from 6-8pm. Dinner will NOT be provided, but snacks will be available. Four identical training sessions will take place in different regions across Oklahoma:

- September 1 in Pontotoc County
- September 8 in Dewey County
- September 10 in Grady County
- September 22 in Tulsa County

Teens can register for a training session on Z-suites: <https://4h.zsuite.org/event-registrations/52262>. Each location is limited to 10 teens. Cost is \$10 to cover snacks and materials.

Certified Adult Volunteers and Extension Educators are welcome to attend so they can support Teen Leaders they are mentoring, but only teens will receive the kits. Adults should register via Microsoft form:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/8ZTme3GZfa>.

Registration closes one week before each training, or when full.

2026 ZZZ's Under the Seas

Ever dreamed of dreaming with sharks or sea turtles? Come join us at the Aquarium for our ZZZs Under the Seas overnight event! You will get to see thousands of salt and freshwater fish and animals. See the LARGEST bull sharks in captivity through a one-of-a-kind walk-through tunnel, plus thousands of other captivating creatures, including sea turtles, seahorses, jellyfish, and eels. If sharks aren't your idea of a relaxing night's sleep, then feel free to slumber in any of our other approved areas. The fun-filled night begins with check-in on Friday at 7:00 p.m. and includes a light snack, drinks, a self-guided tour, and then sweet sea-themed dreams, a light breakfast is provided before you depart on Saturday at 7:00 a.m.

Date:

September 11th to 12th

Location:

Oklahoma Aquarium, 300 Aquarium Dr., Jenks, OK

Cost: - \$50 per person*

Registration fees are paid by credit card through ZSuite <https://4h.zsuite.org/external-event-registration/50782>

*There will be no refunds for cancellations or no shows. Registration for this event is limited to 150 participants, first come/first served. Registration will close on September 4 at 4:30 p.m. or once capacity is reached, whichever comes first.

All participants will register online and have a current health form uploaded to their ZSuite account; this includes all adult chaperones (chaperones must be at least 21 years old). Chaperones are not provided.



2026-2027 Cattleman's Choice Contest

The registration for the 2026-2027 Cattleman's Choice contest is live.

This contest is designed to allow clubs and chapters a monthly educational opportunity to think about bull selection and EPD's. This contest will be held for the academic year of 2026-2027. A few notes:

- Registration link: https://secure.touchnet.com/C20271_ustore/s/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=5335
- Registration Deadline to compete in full contest is August 31, 2026
 - You may register after this but will only be eligible to compete in the months following registration.
- There will be 6 months of contest this year
 - September, October, November, January, February, March/April (will run as 1 contest)

Contact the extension office for more information.

Horse Science Academy

November 14th

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Cline Center, Stillwater

Horse Science Academy is a one-day STEM workshop focused this year on equine limb anatomy. This workshop is designed for high school students - 9-12 grades. This year's activity includes limb dissections and is limited to 30 youth. Registration will be open until we reach capacity.

2026 FAIR SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

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
7:00 PM	Fairest of the Fair Contest

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

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 Stirewalt's)
5:00 PM	Horse Show Begins
6:00 PM	Poultry and Rabbit Judging

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

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, Goats)
	Check Heifer Papers
	Weigh in barrows, market lambs, goats
9:00 AM	Tractor Driving Contest, Written Test
10:00 AM	Tractor Driving, Operating of Tractor
10:00 AM	End Heifer Paper's Check in
10:00AM	End Weigh In's
12:00 PM	Livestock Judging Contest
4:00 PM	Bucket Calf Show
4:30 PM	Peddle Tractor Pull
5:00 to 6:00 PM	FREE HOT DOG AND WATERMELON FEED (Sponsored by Northwestern Electric Coop., Inc., Woodward)
6:00 PM	Homemade Ice Cream Contest
	Buildings Closed
	Poultry and rabbits released

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

8:00 AM	Buildings Open
8:30 AM	End Steer Weigh In's
9:30 AM	Swine Show (gilts followed by barrows)
10:00 AM	Heifer Show
11:00 AM	Prospect Steer Show, Market Steer Show (following Prospect Steer Show)
1:00 PM	Goat Show (Does followed by wethers)
3:00 PM	Sheep Show (ewes followed by wethers)
4:30 PM	Tailgate cooking contest
5:00 PM	Release Exhibits

Livestock exhibits released at the conclusion of their species shows

There's a place for you in 4-H!

ENROLL FOR 2026-2027

Whatever sparks your interest,
Oklahoma 4-H offers opportunities
to learn, lead and grow.

4h.zsuite.org



The new 4-H year began August 1st, bringing new opportunities to explore your interests, build valuable life skills and connect with 4-H'ers throughout Oklahoma. Whatever sparks your interest, Oklahoma 4-H offers opportunities to learn, lead and grow.

Register for the 2026-27 year at

<https://4h.zsuite.org/>

Or contact your county extension office.



OSU EXTENSION
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Dewey County Extension Office

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Taloga, OK 73667

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