



August 2009 Smith County 4-H News



K-State Research and Extension

Extension Budget Cuts



We would like to thank all of our Smith County citizens for your continued support of our educational programs.

It seems that our nation's economic crisis is in the news everyday affecting every person in some way or another.

Kansas State University has suffered significant cuts and therefore this has also affected K-State Research and Extension and Smith County Extension.

We not only received budget cuts from KSU, but

also budgetary cuts from Smith County. A portion of our funding is from KSU and from Smith County.

The KSU portion funding cut included postage along with publications. The Smith County cut will affect our overall operating budget.

With this budgetary situation, we will no longer be able to continue mailing our newsletters to the citizens of Smith County. However, we feel it is extremely important to continue to pro-

vide research-based information through our newsletter, so we will be using "other creative methods" to distribute our newsletter.

The new methods of distribution will include using our Smith County website: www.smith.ksu.edu; to simply pick up a copy in our Extension Office along with placing the newsletters around the county at local businesses.

We hope that our Extension newsletters provide "Knowledge for Life" for Smith County citizens.



THANK YOU!
Thanks for all you did to make the 2009 Smith County Free Fair a successful event. We couldn't do it without each of you!!!

August 2009

Fair premiums checks are ready. Any one who has not received their fair premiums check needs to come to the Extension Office or check with your club leader/advisor to pick them up.



4-H Awards



The last phase of the 4-H year is the award application process.

****New for 2009 is the Kansas 4-H Award Portfolio or KAP. The concept for this program is essentially the same as for the Kansas Award Application or the KAA.**

Since this will be a "transition" year with the new process, for Smith County you may choose the KAP or the KAA. In order to be eligible to apply for the NW Area 4-H Awards or the State 4-H Awards you must be 14 years of age by January 1, 2009.

Smith County project awards will be selected on the KAA or the KAP and the winners will be announced at the Achievement Celebration in the fall. **The forms do not have to be typed.** Each member may select which project(s) they want to apply for awards in. Sample forms are available for check out from the Extension Office. **The key changes in the 4-H Awards program application:**

- 1. The Permanent Record is not included in the portfolio. It can be used to complete the portfolio, but should not be submitted with the ap-**

- plication.**
- 2. The Photography project no longer includes 10 additional pages of photos.**
- 3. Communications project (public speaking) no longer includes a speech.**
- 4. Interviews will be included in the final selection of the State 4-H Project winners.**

The KAP is available online at www.kansas4h.org. On left hand side, click on "Awards" and all necessary forms you need to complete for the KAP are available. (continued on page 2)

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In Appreciation



Thank-you notes are a polite way of expressing gratitude, but more importantly they are an effective means of building strong relationships and creating good will for you and your organization.

It is surprising how many times those deserving of special thanks are forgotten. Unfortunately, individuals sometimes stop doing good deeds because they have never received a thank-you note for their generosity of time, money and support.

Writing a thank-you note is an expression of one's personality, and each individual will express thoughts differently - thus, developing a distinctive style of writing. While there is not a right or wrong way to write a thank-you letter, there are a few

guidelines to follow:

- Write the thank-you on nice paper.
- Notes should be handwritten and should be an automatic reaction to the nice things people do for you.
- Always find out the person's name if you don't know. Never send a thank-you to "Dear Sir or Madam."
- Tell the individual what you are thanking them for.
- Explain what their help or sponsorship meant to you.
- Make it a personal note so the person receiving it feels you're sincere about the thank-you. Believe it or not, the receiver of a thank-you can tell if your mom or dad is standing over you forcing you to write it.

- Short and simple thank-you is the best.
- The stilted, long-winded style of writing thank-you notes make you sound insincere.
- Always write a personal hand written message. Never just sign a printed thank-you card.
- Deliver the card in person if it goes to a local person. Baked goods or craft items are a nice touch and are always appreciated by the recipient.
- Learn to write other kinds of personal notes to reinforce your personal friendships. React to what happens to people. Write to congratulate someone on good news and console on bad news.
- Remember, the written work puts your appreciation on record.

Pin Applications

Everyone is encouraged to fill out a pin application for the next level of achievement. Pins do not have to be completed in order. Apply for the pin that you qualify for this year. You can always go back and pick up other pins.

Tag-A-Long members are eligible for a Tag-A-Long pin. Applications are available at the Extension Office. All pin applications are available online at the website mentioned on page 1. All pin applications, including Key Awards, are due on Wednesday, September 30, to the Extension Office.



4-H Awards (continued from page 1)

If you choose to complete the KAA, only hard copies of the application are available from our office. The KAA is no longer available online at the 4-H KSU website. If you have completed the KAA on your computer, then you should be able to use that copy.

***If you are eligible to compete on the Area or State Level, only the KAP will be accepted.**

The Kansas 4-H Award Portfolio consists of the following:

- Kansas 4-H Personal Page
- Signed KAP, includes photos
- 4-H Story, does not need to be signed.

Put all this information into a folder according to the instructions on the form.

Turn your KAA or KAP into your Club leader. Club leaders must have checked and signed the KAA or the KAP forms. Forms need to be turned into the Extension Office by **Wednesday, September 30.**

Contact the Extension Office if you have any questions.

Kansas State Fair

4-H'ers eligible for the State Fair should have received a letter from the Extension office. The Extension Staff will transport your exhibits to the State Fair.

Perishable food/horticulture items need to be at the office by 7:45 a.m. (at the latest), Friday, September 11.

Please have all other entries at the Extension Office by September 9.

State Fair Tickets Available

We have ordered extra gate tickets for the Kansas State Fair. So for those of you

interested in going and would like tickets at a reduced rate please call us. You will save \$2.00 on adult tickets and \$1.00 on youth tickets. These are limited and will be on a first come first serve basis. If interested call the Smith County Extension Office at 785-282-6823.

Come and join the "Party on the Prairie!"

September 11-20, 2009



4-H Enrollment

The new 4-H year will soon be here. Leaders may come in and pick up enrollment cards and Kansas 4-H Participation form **after September 1**. Remember, all 4-H members need to fill out a new enrollment card and Kansas 4-H participation form.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining, invite them to your meeting or better yet pick them up and take them. Sometimes all they need is a little bit of encouragement. Let's try to make this a record enrollment year.



4-H Calendar

Aug. 26 Fair Board meeting
7:00 p.m.—courthouse mtg. room

Sept. 9 All State Fair entries need to be at the Extension Office except for food and horticulture items

Sept. 11 Perishable food/horticulture items need to be at the office by 7:45 a.m. (at the latest).

Sept. 11-20 Kansas State Fair

Sept. 30 KAA/KAP & Pin Applications due to Extension Office

Oct. 4-10 National 4-H Week



For more details on any of the events listed, please call (785-282-6823), email sm@lists.ksre.ksu.edu or stop by the Extension Office.