


NATIONAL
4-H WEEK
OCTOBER 1-7

The following pages feature articles and photos from Montgomery County 4-H members. Congratulations to all members for their dedication, hard work and commitment they show.



Kountry Kids members compete in tug-o-war.



The Fair Social group poses for a picture.

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Beef Cattle

Shea Stille, Bellflower Boosters

Showing beef cattle has always been on my bucket list, but I didn't realize that until about three years ago. In 2021, I showed my first steer at the county fair. Heifers are a little difficult to deal with sometimes, especially when they kick and head-butt you. But after you show them who you are, they'll never forget it. It takes them a while to warm up to you. But if you do something wrong, you will find yourself starting from scratch. You can ruin the relationship in seconds, but it will take you weeks to put it back together. Furthermore, I have found myself showing heifers, bulls and cow/calf pairs at the state fair for the last three years and don't regret any of it. A lot of things can't be learned from a book. Working with and understanding livestock is one of them.



Tractor

Jonah Happe, Big Spring Busy Beavers

My dad purchased an old wagon running gear over 15 years ago at an auction close to home. I thought it would be cool to redo it. I talked to my grandpa and we dragged it out of the shed and got to work. We took it apart, sanded and painted it. He did a lot of research to see how it should be put back together. We wanted to keep it correct. We used wood that was cut from Old Threshers to build the floor. It took many hours to put it back together, but I am really happy with the way it turned out. I also enjoyed the time I got to spend with my grandpa working on it.

My year in rabbits

Anna Johnson, Kountry Kids

My name is Anna Johnson. This is my fifth year in 4-H and my projects this year are archery, rabbitry, foods, sewing and scrapbooking. This year, I got my rabbit from my leader, Tammy Teeter. It was a male Californian rabbit. The rabbit was small when I got it. It was just after it was weaned from the litter. I started a new feed with my rabbits this year and I added multiple things to the new feed like hay, bits of treat and clover. I found that a variety of things helped my rabbit grow best. By the time the fair rolled around, my rabbit was weighing 4.2 pounds. I'm very proud of how far it came. I ended up placing sixth overall. It was the best rabbit I ever had!

Hiking gear

Kolton Craven, Middletown Meddlers

My name is Kolton Craven. I am a member of the Middletown Meddlers. This is my third year in 4-H. I decided to make some goals this year in 4-H. One of my goals this year is to be able to speak out in front of others. I am also working on building my confidence. This year will actually be my first year in selling livestock. I didn't have a true project leader, but my dad helped me. This year will also be my first year in hiking. I knew nothing about hiking, but I always watched shows that included hiking. This is where watching TV shows helped me on my hiking gear. I had no idea that all people can go hiking in different weather. Some people like to go hiking in the winter and snow and have to have extra comfortable clothes. Some others like to go camping when it is very hot out and have to take extra water cases. Some others like to go camping in the pouring rain and have to wear different clothes, too. Some of these clothes can be made with different materials for that season or weather. When you are planning a hiking trip, always watch the weather so you know your clothes to bring. At times, the weather can change, so always be prepared for your season.



Members of the Big Spring Busy Beavers participate in the hula hoop.

Pigs

Jacquelynne Hans, Jonesburg Kountry Kids

This was the first year I was able to keep my pig at my own house. My dad and I spent all last fall and early spring building a pig house and fence so my pigs would have a place that was safe and where I could care for them all the time. I got my pigs in March, and it was a very cold weekend, so we had to get heat lamps to put in the house to help keep them warm and a heated water bowl. I spent lots of time with my pigs this year and taught them to do lots of tricks for marshmallows including sitting. I could get them to follow me anywhere when I had marshmallows.

I also learned that keeping a pig on a dirt floor versus a concrete floor can affect their rate of gain. I learned this because my cousin raised my pigs on a concrete floor and I raised mine on a dirt floor. We bought our pigs the exact same day and I purchased 10 less bags of feed than he did and my pig weighed 30 more pounds.

I am looking forward to raising my pigs again next year.

Foods

Emma Vomund, Bellflower Boosters

My name is Emma Vomund. I am 8 years old. It is my first year as a member of the Bellflower Boosters 4-H club. This year, my projects are Swine I, Cake Decorating I, Foods I and Exploring 4-H. I decided to take Foods this year to learn how to help my mom in the kitchen more and prepare meals.

At my project meetings, I learned a lot of kitchen skills like measuring wet and dry ingredients properly, preparing vegetables and kitchen cleanup. I learned how to wash vegetables, shred zucchini and make stromboli, enchiladas, zucchini bread and M&M cookies.

For my project exhibits at the county fair, I made M&M cookies, zucchini bread and beer bread. My M&M cookies received a blue-gold ribbon and were exhibited at the state fair. My zucchini bread received a blue ribbon. I learned that you have to cut bread loaves in half to exhibit at the fair. I also learned that you measure wet and dry ingredients differently. Shredded zucchini in bread helps make it moist.

I am happy I now can do more in the kitchen to help my mom. I am excited to learn what else I can make.

Poultry

Waylon Deeker, Bellflower Boosters

My name is Waylon Deeker. This is my second year of 4-H and I show poultry. Chickens are really fun animals to show. I learned a lot of stuff about them. They like to take baths and they have to be taken care of. I also learned that they will get sores on their feet if you don't change their bedding. They are very messy. They eat and drink a lot, so you have to feed them and give them water. I had a lot of responsibilities during the fair. I had to check on them a couple of times a day the whole week and had to give them a bath twice.

Scratch programming

Carl Smith, Montgomery Progressors

This was my first year of doing Scratch Programming 1. I've done some of the tutorials and even made my own game, "The Bat and the Bird." You play as the bat and try to avoid the parrot. The bat follows the mouse every millisecond and the parrot lunges every second. Every second you get a point. If the parrot touches the bat, then the score resets and makes a bird sound.



Sportfishing

Thomas Happe, Big Spring Busy Beavers

On the last weekend in April, my parents took a sport fishing group to Bennett Springs. We camped close by and enjoyed time fishing in the river and at Bennett Springs Trout Park. Lots of kids had luck catching trout in the river and in the park. It was a fun weekend fishing and spending time with my family and friends. We also attended a local fly-tying class. We learned a lot and now tie some flies at home which I entered at the fair and the fly got to be exhibited at Old Threshers in the 4-H exhibits.

Photography

Mariah Miller, Bellflower Boosters

This was my second year in photography. I love taking pictures of different things. One of the key things I learned this year was taking pictures from different perspectives. It was neat to get on the ground and take a picture like a bug would see things.

Another fun thing I did was take maternity pictures of my big sister. It was fun and sweet. And now I get to take pictures of my cute little niece.

I learned about putting items in the foreground and background more this year. That makes your pictures look better, too. I had a lot of fun in photography this year.

Air rifle

Jackson Harris, Bellflower Boosters

This is my first year in air rifle. I had to take a shooting class. I learned how to safely handle a firearm.

Gardening

Harrison Vomund, Bellflower Boosters

My name is Harrison Vomund. I am 11 years old. It is my fourth year as a member of the Bellflower Boosters 4-H club. This year, my projects are Swine I, Woodworking II, Foods I and Gardening I. This year, I decided to take Gardening as a 4-H project again because I enjoy helping my mom and grandparents grow vegetables and herbs in the garden. My favorite vegetables are cucumbers and tomatoes.

This spring, I helped prepare the garden for planting. We made rows, dug holes for plants and weeded. In the garden, we planted tomato and pepper plants and a variety of seeds. We had some trouble getting the garden in with the rain and cool weather. We had a lot of trouble with the raccoons eating our sweet corn this year.

Our garden crops were harvested a little late this year, so I was unable to exhibit at the fair, but I have been enjoying my tomatoes and cucumbers.

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Wooden clock

James Hans, Jonesburg Kountry Kids

I built a wooden clock from cedar wood I got from the woods at my house. My dad helped me cut the wood down to size for a clock. Then, I sanded it down using a hand sander. We then used epoxy to finish the clock to give it the shine. I learned that there are two different types of epoxy – the fast drying and the one that takes 48 hours to dry. The one I got was 48 hours which caused some bubbles in my work, so I had to re-sand the clock again and make sure there were no air bubbles under the wood. Once I was finished, we super glued the clock arms to it. I took it to the Montgomery County Fair, and I got a blue ribbon. My project was chosen to go to the Missouri State Fair.

Small bore rifle

Carl Johnson, Kountry Kids

Hi, my name is Carl Johnson. This is my third year in 4-H. My projects are small bore rifle, rabbitry and woodworking. This is my second year in small bore rifle. My instructors were Larry Brown and Maria Stille. For my project, I made a practice target and did a practice round.

Rabbits

Samantha Politsch, Jonesburg Kountry Kids

I got my rabbits from the Stille Farm. I bought the rabbit cages from the swap shop on the radio. I showed my rabbit named Liam. My rabbit's breed is a New Zealand Broken. I practiced flipping him over. I made sure he had food and water. My favorite part was spending time with my rabbit at the fair. I am hoping to do rabbits again next year.

Poultry

Madeline Politsch, Jonesburg Kountry Kids

This is my first year in 4-H. For one of my projects, I did poultry. I was the grand champion. I got my chickens from Stover Hatchery. Every day, I moved my chickens to a grassy spot and made sure they had food and water. When it was about time for the fair, I had to bathe my chickens and roll them up like a little burrito. We butchered 21 chickens. I helped pull feathers and clean the gizzards. I hope to do poultry again next year.

Rabbits

Keagan Rakers, Montgomery Progressors

My name is Keagan Rakers. This is my first year with the Montgomery Progressors. I showed a rabbit at the fair. I loved being able to show my rabbit and have fun. It did make me nervous to show my rabbit and answer questions. I hope to do better next year and feel more confident in showing my rabbit. I enjoyed meeting other kids showing their animals and hanging out with them.

My vacation scrapbook

Adrianna Craven, Middletown Meddlers

I have been in 4-H for four years. Scrapbooking has always been fun for me. My mom and I scrapbook a lot in our free time. We do this on the weekends and sometimes in the evenings. I love to take pictures. I like to have my mom take pictures of my events, too. As I am getting older, I am learning new scrapbook tricks. I watch a lot of YouTube videos on how I can get better. This year, I started making my own stickers. Sometimes these stickers can take time. This page I was able to add glitter. Making glitter is something that I personally like doing. It makes a mess everywhere. Sometimes my mom does not like a mess. I was able to blend in colors on this one. I had to switch my background a ton of times due to my stickers not popping out. I also had to cut letters on my circuit. Last year, I had to buy a new needle for my circuit so I could make smaller stickers. This can be hard to do if the needle is not sharp. This page will hang in my new craft room when I am done painting it. We can add more of my scrapbook pages.



Sewing

Ella Hans, Jonesburg Kountry Kids

This is my first year in sewing. The things I learned this year are winding the bobbin, threading the machine and how to use a hem gauge. I made a backpack, headband and a pillow. I made the pillow using scraps from my baby quilt. My favorite thing was getting fabric. I had fun sewing this year. I hope to do it again next year.

Rabbits

Abigail Cobb, Kountry Kids

My name is Abigail Cobb. I am nine years old and a member of the Jonesburg Kountry Kids 4-H Club. This is my first year in 4-H. I finally got to raise rabbits to show and sell at the fair. I learned a lot about rabbits this year.

I started off helping my dad make a stand for my rabbit cage. Then, I picked out my rabbits and brought them home. I was so excited. After having them for a few days, my favorite one died. We looked for another rabbit to get and another girl who had rabbits gave me one of hers so I could have two. That was so nice for her to do. I fed and watered my rabbits every morning and night and held them. I definitely want to keep raising rabbits.

Rabbits

Kendra Stille, Kountry Kids

Hi, my name is Kendra Stille and I have been in 4-H for three years. I also have been in rabbits for three years. I don't get my rabbits from someone else. I raise mine. This year, I bred my two white New Zealand does – Angel and Sugar – to my broken New Zealand, George, on April 10, 2023. And 33 days later, the bunnies were born. Sugar had four bunnies and Angel had seven. Three weeks later on June 3, I removed the nest box. Three weeks after I removed the nest box, I weaned my bunnies on June 24, 2023. Then on June 25, my uncle Roger came and helped me pick out my fair rabbit. I really enjoyed spending time with my rabbits. This year at the fair, I got a blue ribbon for my rabbit and I won showmanship this year. I am looking forward to having rabbits as a project next year.

Arts and crafts

Carmen Stille, Kountry Kids

This year, when I decided to take arts and crafts again as a project for 4-H, I didn't really know what I was going to make. My trusty friend Pinterest helped me get some ideas. After I had decided what I was interested in doing, I had to order the kits. Then, I made sure to read the instructions very carefully so that the projects turned out like I wanted them to. After I was finished, I stood back to look at my work. I was proud of it. I really enjoyed making all of the projects. I entered all of my creations in the fair. They did OK. But all that I cared about was that I had a fun time making my creations. I learned that it doesn't matter what ribbons you get on your projects as long as you have a fun time making them. I hope to make more fun projects next year for arts and crafts.



Horse

Emelia Hans, Kountry Kids

This is my second year of 4-H. This is my second year of doing a horse project. This year, my project leader taught me how to ride a horse. It was really fun. Before she taught me how to ride a horse, she taught me how to saddle the horse and explained the different parts of the saddle. We talked about the different breeds of horses. I looked up more information about those breeds and what certain breeds are known for. I really enjoyed riding horses this year and I look forward to taking horses again next year.

Air rifle

Lucy Politsch, Jonesburg Kountry Kids

My name is Lucy Politsch. This is my second year in 4-H. This year, I tried a new project of Shooting Sports – Air Rifle. At first, I was not excited about doing it, but I grew to love it. I also had the best teachers, Mr. Larry Brown and Mrs. Maria Stille. They taught me how to compensate when your gun is shooting too high or too low. I will use this information when I go to the deer stand this season. There are also three positions you could shoot from. They are called prone, kneeling and standing. Prone is lying on the ground, kneeling is positioned on your knees and standing is standing on both feet with your hip out while shooting. I look forward to another year of shooting sports, and encourage anyone interested in guns to give it a try.

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4-H HISTORY

Since 4-H began more than 100 years ago, it has become the nation's largest youth development organization.



Since 4-H began more than 100 years ago, it has become the nation's largest youth development organization. The 4-H idea is simple: help young people and their families gain the skills needed to be proactive forces in their communities and develop ideas for a more innovative economy.

Late 1800's: Making connections

In the late 1800's, researchers discovered adults in the farming community did not readily accept new agricultural developments on university campuses, but found that young people were open to new thinking and would experiment with new ideas and share their experiences with adults. In this way, rural youth programs introduced new agriculture technology to communities.

The idea of practical and "hands-on" learning came from the desire to connect public school education to country life. Building community clubs to help solve agricultural challenges was a first step toward youth learning more about the industries in their community.

1902: Youth clubs are formed

A. B. Graham started a youth program in Clark County, Ohio, in 1902, which is considered the birth of 4-H in the United States. The first club was called "The Tomato Club" or the "Corn Growing Club". T.A. Erickson of Douglas County, Minnesota, started local agricultural after-school clubs and fairs that same year. Jessie Field Shambaugh developed the clover pin with an H on each leaf in 1910, and by 1912 they were called 4-H clubs.

1914: Cooperative extension system is created

The passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914 created the Cooperative Extension System at USDA and nationalized 4-H. By 1924, 4-H clubs were formed and the

clover emblem was adopted.

The Cooperative Extension System is a partnership of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), more than 100 land-grant universities and more than 3,000 county offices across the nation. Cooperative Extension combines the expertise and resources of federal, state, and local governments and is designed to meet the need for research, knowledge and educational programs.

4-H today

Today, 4-H serves youth in rural, urban, and suburban communities in every state across the nation. 4-H's are tackling the nation's top issues, from global food security, climate change and sustainable energy to childhood obesity and food safety. 4-H out-of-school programming, in-school enrichment programs, clubs and camps also offer a wide variety of STEM opportunities – from agricultural and animal sciences to rocketry, robotics, environmental protection and computer science – to improve the nation's ability to compete in key scientific fields and take on the leading challenges of the 21st century.





Grayson Gerding and Carl Smith



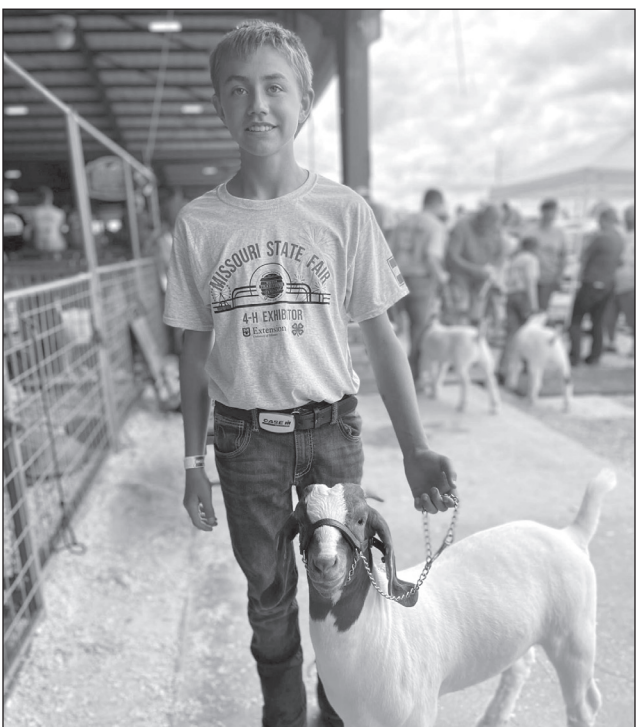
Grayson and his arts and Crafts turtle.

Cats

Grayson Gerding, Montgomery Progressors

Hi, my name is Grayson Gerding and I am from the Montgomery Progressors 4-H Club. This is my fifth year of 4-H, and I was a Clover Kid before that. I was a council representative for our club this year. Our club did some fun things, like painting pumpkins and hiked with a scavenger hunt at Graham Cave State Park. We also had a pool party at the end of July. Our club helped out the community, by packing NRG Bags, making cards for veterans, collecting canned foods and collecting scarves and gloves for a local charity. I attended the Zoo Apprenticeship Day Camp at Dickerson Park Zoo. I also helped promote the 4-H Zoo Apprenticeship camps and presented animals at the State Fair in the 4-H building. This year, my projects were: Archery, Smallbore .22 Rifle, Sewing I, Arts and Crafts, Cats, Welding and Breads. My favorite project once again was Breads.

This year, I decided to take Cats as a project because I was getting a new cat. I didn't realize there were so many cats and kittens in the shelters. I also didn't realize that each shelter has different adoption fees and guidelines. An interesting fact I learned was that cats lick their lips when they are nervous or scared. I also learned that spaying or neutering was super important because cats can spread like wildfire, and it expands their life span. I also made a hand-crocheted cat bed, which earned blue gold ribbons, and my cat loves it.



Goats

Lucas Oliver, Coon Creek Cronies

My name is Lukas Oliver and I'm a five-year member from the Coon Creek Cronies 4-H Club. This was my second year showing a market goat and my first year showing at the state fair. I enjoy learning about goats. I learned how to raise them and show them. I spent time with my goat named Vincent Van Goat. I am thankful for my experiences with 4-H allowing me to have opportunities to try something new.



Chickens

Matthew Oliver, Coon Creek Cronies

My name is Matthew Oliver. I've been involved with 4-H since I was a Clover Kid and it helped fuel my love of chickens. I've always enjoyed raising chickens, collecting eggs and processing meat chickens for our family, but this year I started hatching my own eggs and branching out the breeds of chickens in my flock. I constantly have a chicken at every stage from ones that are about to hatch, in the chick stage, pullet to laying hens. I love being able to teach others about poultry and hope to own a hatchery one day.



Sheep

Kinzey Ebker, Kountry Kids

Hi, my name is Kinzey, I am 11 years old and I am in sixth grade at Montgomery County Middle School. I go to Kountry Kids 4-H. This is my third year in 4-H. This year, I have learned so much about 4-H and trying to be more involved in stuff. Over the years, I learn more and more about it and how to get better. Like this year, I learned how to brace the sheep better. But the support and help comes from my family, mainly Mom and Dad. I try to watch what they teach me. I also appreciate them spending their time to help me with my project. So thank you for helping, mom and dad.



Rabbits

Jett Beattie, Big Spring Busy Beavers

Hi I'm Jett Beattie and this is my third year in 4-H. I have made a lot of cool things in electricity like a circuit that could play music from the Montgomery City radio station. I've also made a robot that can move! I've done things on bicycles like a hand signal poster, a bike parts poster, junk drawer robotics, a catapult and rabbits. I have been raising rabbits for a few years now. I learned a lot from 4-H but my favorite was electricity. I hope to see you at the fair.

Cake decorating

Annalise Gerding, Montgomery Progressors

My name is Annalise Gerding. I decided to do cake decorating because I had done it previously when I was in 4-H a few years ago. I also love baking. I looked around online for a little bit for someone to teach me cake decorating and ended up with Shari Gerding, the leader of the Montgomery Progressors 4-H Club. I met with Shari a total of three times. The first time I met with her, I learned the basics of cake decorating and what I could make with different icing tips. When I left the first meeting, Shari told me to think about a design. In the second meeting, I had my design. I wanted to make a crochet-themed cake.

We practiced decorating a real cake in the second meeting. I learned how to do a basket weave design. The third time I practiced on another real cake, but I did a crochet theme. After the third meeting, I started decorating my cake dummy at home. But I learned that royal icing is much different than buttercream icing, and I should make a bigger batch of icing at first because I ran out and couldn't make the new icing the same consistency or exact same color.



Rabbits

Cohen Beattie, Big Spring Busy Beavers

Hi my name is Cohen Beattie. This is my fifth year in 4-H. My 4-H projects this year are beekeeping, sportfishing, outdoor adventures, photography, rabbits and foods. Next year, I look forward to finding new projects and making some awesome baked goods. This year I enjoyed showing my rabbit and learning new things. I got to do a fun project spending \$10 or less on supper at the store and then making dinner for my family. 4-H is a big part of my life, and I love it. Anyone thinking about joining 4-H, please do it. It is very fun and teaches you important skills and how to work hard.

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