



Audrain County 4-H celebrates National 4-H Week with youth features

To kick off the new 4-H Year, several Audrain County 4-H members were asked to tell their 4-H stories – because who better to share the value of 4-H than the members who are reaping the benefits of their involvement. While these stories are also being shared on Facebook, we also wanted to take the time to share them in print, as we understand that not everyone is on Facebook. 4-H is the world’s largest youth organization which is offered locally as part of the youth development program through the University of Missouri Extension. Open to youth 8-18 years old, with a special introductory program for youth ages 5-7, 4-H brings together youth with caring adults to develop leadership, communication, and life skills as members of clubs and through project-based learning experiences.

Wyatt Gish

My name is Wyatt Gish, I am 11 years old and a member of the Busy Beavers 4-H Club. I was a Clover Kid for 3 years and have been a 4-H Member for 4 years. I joined 4-H because my brother was a member and had a lot of fun. I also like to show my animals and make new friends. I have done several projects over the last couple of years. I have shown by goats in 4-H and learned how to take care of them. I have also done woodworking, bicycles, bowling, and sportsfishing. Our club does several things to give back to our community. We have helped to pick up trash along the highway to help the environment, and we have rode in parades. We have also done food drives and donated food. I have learned how to set goals, how to problem solve, and made lots of new friends in 4-H. It has also taught me responsibility. Everyone should join 4-H to meet new people and learn how to take care of animals. You can also learn lots of different things and help your community.

Greenly Curtis

My name is Greenly Curtis, I am 11 years old and



a member of the F&L Hustlers 4-H Club. I have been in 4-H for 4 years now. I joined 4-H because I like getting to show my pigs and learning how to take care of livestock. In my swine project, I take care of, train, and show my pigs. This year, I am excited to do sewing and photography. My favorite accomplishment in 4-H was when I won showmanship at the Audrain County Fair and the Centralia Fair in 2023. The year before that, I won Champion Spot Barrow at the Missouri State Fair. As a club, we donate tabs to the Ronald McDonald House and give canned food goods to the Laddonia food bank. Other kids should join 4-H because you can join a project and learn about it.

Hopefully you have enjoyed a few of the stories of our Audrain County 4-H members and will be inspired to write a 4-H story of your own. 4-H Enrollment begins October 1st and Missouri State Dues are \$25. 4-H has opportunities for adults to

serve as project leaders working with youth around their interests, please contact the Audrain County Extension Office for more information on becoming a 4-H Volunteer.

4-H is a youth development program offered through the University of Missouri Extension for youth ages 5-18. For more information or to register and start a 4-H story of your own, contact the Audrain County Extension Office at (573) 581-3231. University of Missouri Extension provides equal opportunity to all participants in extension programs and activities, and for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information, disability, or protected veteran status.

Moments Matter.

THANK YOU, 4-H COMMUNITY
for educating the youth leaders of tomorrow and inspiring moments like these for over 100 years.

THE Callaway Bank
With You For The Moments That Matter

Text or Call - 7 Days a Week 800-446-2265 • callawaybank.com

MEMBER FDIC

We Support our 4-H Community!

ACHD
Audrain County Health Department

www.myACHD.org

Miller Tire
of Mexico, Missouri

Proudly supports our 4-H Community

71 Years... and Counting!

1212 East Liberty Street • Mexico, MO 65265 • 573-581-2890 • millertiremissouri.com

The H's



...To Make the Best Better.

- **Head** – Learn how to build knowledge, skills and attitude.
- **Heart** – Talk with other 4-H members and leaders about what is important.
- **Hands** – Have hands-on experiences.
- **Health** – Develop a healthy lifestyle.



Vicki Duenke

Audrain County


Recognizing outstanding volunteer service to Missouri 4-H

Duenke honored

Vicki Duenke has devoted more than 22 years of volunteer service to support youth in Audrain County. Vicki has been the club leader of the Merry Martins 4-H club as well as a volunteer for several other county events. Vicki has always been a leader with great ideas and fun projects for the kids. She never turns away from a challenge. Vicki is a great example of a 4-H leader and encourages the kids to be better people facing daily challenges with a positive attitude.



**Find Your Passion
Find Your Club**
extension.missouri.edu/audrain
573-581-3231



**B&G Hustlers
4-H Club**

Club Leader: Dawn Shellabarger & Amber Landis
Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm
at the Courthouse Community Room, Mexico




**Country Bumpkins
4-H Club**

Club Leader: Amanda Jung & Jessica Isgrig
Meets the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm
at the 4-H Center, Mexico



4H IS MORE THAN THE RIBBONS AND AWARDS
IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE EXPERIENCES LIFE-LONG SKILLS MEMORIES COUNTY FAIR
IT'S ABOUT BEING A ROLE MODEL GIVING BACK AND MAKING THE BEST BETTER




On The Move



We proudly support our 4-H!

Dedicated to Serving You!
123 W. Monroe • Mexico, MO • 573-581-8282
Betty Jo Sydenstricker, Broker/Owner



Consolidated Electric Cooperative

Proudly supports all area 4-H members



Like us on Facebook
Consolidated Electric Cooperative - Missouri



Paid For By Kent Haden

Proud Supporter of 4-H



District 43 Representative
Proudly Representing Audrain and Callaway Counties

the wrong bank holds you back.

The right bank pushes you forward.



Switch to a bank that's on your side.
bankofmissouri.com/business



THE BANK OF MISSOURI
Live well. Bank well.



Merry Martins 4-H Club

Club Leaders: Brook Poindexter & Nicole Stone
Meets the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm
at the Community Hall, Martinsburg





Top Projects:
Photography
Woodworking
Welding



Community Service:
Trash Pickup
Food Donations
Ringing Bells

F&L Hustlers 4-H Club

Club Leaders: Jacob Heimer, Robin Reynolds, & Beth Kable
Meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm
at the Centralia Intermediate School, Centralia





Top Projects:
Cake Decorating
Photography
Woodworking



Community Service:
Landscaping
Food Donations
Collect Soda Tabs

Be Bo Bouncers 4-H Club

Club Leader: Melanie Utterback
Meets the fourth Sunday of the month at 4:00 pm
at the Beagles Community Center, North of Mexico





Top Projects:
Clover Kids
Foods
Sewing



Community Service:
Adopt a Highway
Auction Meals
Nursing Home Activities

Busy Beavers 4-H Club

Club Leaders: Kay Gish & Rachel Iman
Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm
at the 4-H Center, Mexico



*"I enjoy our club because we know each other. We are like a family."
Dawson Deere, age 11*



Top Projects:
Woodworking
Goats
Arts & Crafts



Community Service:
Adopt a Highway
Ring Bells at Christmas
Angel Tree

A Deposit With Us is an Investment
in the Mexico Community!

NOW OPEN

222 South Jefferson St






Peoples Savings Bank

OurPSB.com





Support your local 4-H community!

WE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL 4-H!








Established. 2003

Complete automotive repair and diagnostics

Harold Fox, Owner

404 W. Promenade
Mexico, MO 65265



573-581-6392



Proudly Supporting 4-H!

Your Partner ✂ for the Land!

LET'S CUT A DEAL




0%

APR for **84** MO

OR

0%

APR for **60** MO

+UP TO \$4,000 OFF**

636-242-0767 SNPartners.com

*Offer expires 10/25/2024. Some exclusions may apply. See dealer for details. **Valid on select compact tractors.




JOHN DEERE SYDENSTRICKER NOBBE

4803 S. Clark
Mexico
573-581-5050

3691 US 54
Curryville
573-594-6493

4-H Answers the Call to Building a Ready Generation

By Jill Bramble
President and CEO

At 4-H, we've always believed in the boundless potential of young people. We know that when youth are given the tools, opportunities, and guidance they need, they are unstoppable. But today, as our nation's youth face increasing challenges in mental health, education, and workforce readiness, it's clear the stakes have never been higher. This is why 4-H, led by the work and leadership of 4-H Extension programs, is launching Beyond Ready—a bold, nationwide initiative designed to empower 10 million young people with the skills, resilience, and confidence they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

A Generation at a Crossroads

Generation Z is grappling with unprecedented pressures. Over 53% of Gen Zs report feelings of loneliness, while 52% say they feel like they're failing at life goals. Recent years have only intensified these challenges. Chronic absenteeism has doubled since the 2018-2019 school year, and math and reading scores have plummeted, marking the largest declines in student performance in 50 years. As academic achievement continues to drop, youth feel disconnected, less confident, and unsure of how to navigate the future.

These challenges aren't just academic; they're personal. Many young people feel they are falling short, unable to envision a successful future where they feel connected to their friends, families, and communities. Without the essential skills they need to adapt and succeed, they face an uncertain path. The result is a growing crisis in our communities—a crisis that requires immediate action.

Why 4-H Is Uniquely Positioned to Help

So, how do we ensure today's youth are prepared for tomorrow's challenges? While schools play a critical role in education, they cannot do it alone. Employers are increasingly focusing on skills that extend beyond traditional subjects, with 77% stating the need for analytical thinking, creativity, resilience, and adaptability. That's where 4-H comes in.

As the largest youth development organization in the country, reaching 6 million young people annually, 4-H is uniquely equipped to bridge the gap. 4-H is delivered by Cooperative Extension—a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation that provides experiences where young people learn by doing. Additionally, our 4-H alumni network reaches every industry and is 35 million strong.

We are also the only organization with a scientifically proven approach to developing young people, backed by more than 20 years of longitudinal research in partnership with Tufts University. The data is clear: youth who participate in 4-H programs are

more likely to succeed academically, engage civically, and contribute to their communities. They're also more prepared to enter the workforce and navigate the complexities of life with confidence.

At the heart of our success is the 4-H Thriving Model, which outlines key milestones and capabilities that youth should develop at different stages of their lives. From middle childhood, where teamwork and belonging are emphasized, to middle adolescence, where independence and future planning take center stage, the Thriving Model ensures that youth not only develop academic skills but also gain character traits—such as responsibility, social competence, and resilience—needed for lifelong success.

Preparing 10 Million Ready Youth

Through the Beyond Ready campaign, our goal is simple but ambitious: equip 10 million youth with the tools and mindset to thrive in a world where 85% of the jobs they will pursue in 2030 haven't been invented yet. Preparing youth for this future requires a multi-faceted approach that fosters not only academic success but also resilience, adaptability, and a strong sense of purpose. To achieve this ambitious goal, we've outlined three critical initiatives that will drive the Beyond Ready campaign:

Expanding academic and career readiness by scaling our most impactful programs and national events—such as Ignite by 4-H, Citizenship Washington Focus, and the True Leaders in Equity Institute—and deepening partnerships with land-grant universities to provide more college credit, apprenticeships, and credentialing programs.

Investing in educators through expanding Positive Youth Development (PYD) training opportunities and investing in resources like the CLOVER by 4-H digital platform to support educators and volunteers nationwide.

Mobilizing the 4-H network to accelerate impact by leveraging our partnerships with government agen-

cies, land-grant universities, and local coalitions.

Each of these initiatives is critical to ensuring that young people across the country are not just ready but Beyond Ready for whatever the future holds.

Join the Movement

Beyond Ready is more than a 4-H initiative—it's a national movement to prepare young people for the challenges and opportunities of the future. But we can't do it alone. We need you—parents, educators, community leaders, business and philanthropic partners, and volunteers—to join us in this critical effort. By supporting Beyond Ready, you can help empower the next generation with the skills, resilience, and leadership they need to thrive in work, life, and beyond. Will you join us? Visit 4-h.org to learn more.

About 4-H

4-H, the nation's largest youth development organization, grows confident young people who are empowered for life today and prepared for career tomorrow. 4-H programs empower nearly six million young people across the U.S. through experiences that develop critical life skills. 4-H is the youth development program of our nation's Cooperative Extension System and USDA, and serves every county and parish in the U.S. through a network of 110 public universities and more than 3000 local Extension offices. Globally, 4-H collaborates with independent programs to empower one million youth in 50 countries. The research-backed 4-H experience grows young people who are four times more likely to contribute to their communities; two times more likely to make healthier choices; two times more likely to be civically active; and two times more likely to participate in STEM programs.

Learn more about 4-H:
Facebook at FACEBOOK.COM/4-H
Twitter at TWITTER.COM/4H

Korman Auction Services
Charles & Bart Korman, Auctioneers
Montgomery City • 573-564-2312
Bart Korman 636-359-0000



PROUD TO SUPPORT 4H!



Sparkly PIG CLOTHING BOUTIQUE



HOURS:
Wed - Fri: 10A-6P
Sat: 10A-3P

105 N. WASHINGTON
MEXICO, MO
(573) 567-4083



WE SUPPORT 4H!



PRECISION EYECARE

Dr. Carl Abbott • Dr. Teresa Stice
TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU BETTER:
1235 W. Monroe, Mexico
573-581-8668
205 W. Highway 54, Vandalia
573-594-2525

www.precisioneyecaremo.com

WE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL 4-H!



MIDWEST Heating & Cooling

1703 E. Liberty - Mexico, MO 65265
Visit us at www.midwestheatingcooling.com

MEXICO: 573-581-4215 HVAC Emergency Service
BOB HUNN, Owner 573-406-9211





Wishing all area 4-H'ers a Great Week!




Pearl MOTOR COMPANY

Since 1916,
We Treat Everyone Like Family

3100 SOUTH CLARK • MEXICO, MO
573-581-3392 • PearlMotor.com







GRAF'S RELOADING SUPERCENTER



Proud supporter of 4H!

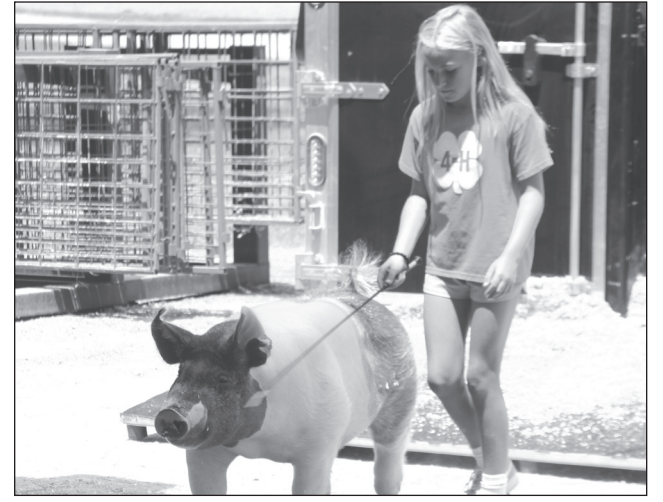







(573) 581-9777 4132 S. Clark Mexico, MO 65265
facebook.com/grafsreloadingsupercenter

4-HERS AND THEIR WORKS TAKE SPOTLIGHT AT 2024 AUDRAIN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR



GIVING YOU THE STEPPING STONES TO SUCCESS!

Proudly supporting 4-H!




TERESA ALLEN
Audrain County Recorder of Deeds

GO 4-H!



B&G Hustlers 4-H window display at Webber Pharmacy.



Jacob Shellabarger
Audrain County Prosecuting Attorney

Paid for by Shellabarger for Prosecutor, James T. Dye, Treasurer



PROUD AREA 4-H SUPPORTERS!



Mommens
Heating and Cooling

573-581-7970
1320 Paris Road, Mexico, MO 65265
www.mommenshvac.com



We Support Our Local 4-H!

Serving Mid-Missouri builders, contractors and homeowners since 1975!

- Complete line of flooring
- Carpet
- Hardwood
- Laminate
- Tile & Vinyl Flooring Products
- Backsplashes, Paint and Stone




Erdel & Wood
HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER, INC.
North Side of the Square
109 W. Monroe, Mexico, MO 65265
573-581-7064 • erdelandwood.com

Perfect for those 4-H trips!

Teen Wallet
a debit card that makes money easy, for young teens & parents!

- ▶ Kids ages 10-15
- ▶ Daily Spending Limits
- ▶ Card Off/On Feature
- ▶ Mobile App
- Check Balance



Call or stop by your local branch for more info.

HOME BANK 2977 S. CLARK STREET, MEXICO, MO
573.975.8005
myhomebank.bank
MEMBER FDIC · NMLS#45000

PROUDLY SUPPORTS ALL AREA 4-H MEMBERS

MFA OIL

We live where you do.

We are proud to support our 4-H community!

573-581-7909
1808 E Liberty St.
Mexico, MO

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Locally owned by farmers in your community.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

www.mfaoil.com