

Clay County

Clay County 4-H

February 2026

NEW!

4-H Flavorful: Dairy

Say Cheese! It's Dairy Month!

Your child will learn to make simple, tasty recipes like yogurt parfaits, mac and cheese, and cheesy queso dip while discovering how dairy helps build strong bones and bright smiles.

Parents love this theme because it builds:

- Kitchen independence
- Smart snack choices
- Healthy habits around calcium and protein

Kids love it because....CHEESE!

Dairy recipes available at: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/4-h-flavorful>

Be sure to share your experience! Scan the QR code when you're done.



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



4-H Flavorful

Hands in the Kitchen, Hearts at the Table.

2026 Antique Tractor Restoration Program

Titan International has opened its application process for 4-H or FFA members that are interested in the restoration of antique tractors. Those that qualify could receive a donation of front and rear antique tractor tires. More information on this unique program can be found here: <https://www.titan-intl.com/antique-tractor-restoration>

2026-2027 4-H Scholarship Application

The 2026-2027 4-H scholarship application is now posted on the SDSU Extension website: <https://extension.sdstate.edu/south-dakota-state-4-h-scholarship-application>.

Scholarship applications are due to the State 4-H Office the **first Monday in April**, which is April 6th this year. The county office is responsible for submitting the completed applications to the State Office, so please plan accordingly.

This year a new scholarship has been added to the application, the General 4-H scholarship. This can be awarded to a graduating senior attending **any** post-secondary school.



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



**2026-2027 4-H Scholarship
Application now available!**

National Western Heritage Webinar Series

Shipping on the “Misery” River

When: March 17th 7:00pm CT

Who: Bill Cantine, Acting Curator, DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, Beltrand Collection

What we have learned from the 250,000 artifacts excavated from the buried wreck of the Steamboat Bertrand. The Bertrand was a sternwheeler that sunk after hitting a submerged log April 1, 1865

Zoom Link: <https://arizona.zoom.us/j/86834121211>

Not every cowboy had a Colt and a Winchester.

When: April 7th 7:00pm CT

Who: Jason Schuber, JM Davis Arms & Historical Museum

We will take a look at some of the different, seldom talked about, firearms of the Old West and why we are unfamiliar with them

National 4-H Western Heritage Winter Webinar Series.

Previous Webinars

January 4-H Western Heritage Winter Webinar “Dressing Your Best in the Old West” by Karla Knoepfl, Senior Extension Specialist, Oklahoma State University:

<https://arizona.zoom.us/rec/share/bapfeJfjB2NH12xi7FhNZDf45dENS3tiyprg15gIVmblD7>

The link and upcoming schedule are now posted at: www.4-hwesternheritageproject.org under the Youth Activity Guide Companion tab.

State Fair 4-H Horticulture Skill-a-thon Contest

Each year, the written exam topics for Juniors and Seniors at the State Horticulture Skill-a-thon rotates. Test questions come from the National Junior Horticulture Association (NJHA) study guides. The topics for 2026 Horticulture Skill-a-thon exams will be as follows:

Juniors: Garden Flowers & Fruit and Nut Production

Seniors: Managing Trees and Shrubs & Vegetables

Study guide links and the Horticulture Skill-a-thon Handbook for 2026 have not yet been updated on the State Fair tab of the Extension website but should be shortly. All of this information will be found in the YIA section of the State Fair Landing Spot soon. The link to all study guides can be found under the "Study Manual" heading at the following link: <https://www.njha.org/horticultural-id-and-judging-study-materials-2.html>. Here is a Horticulture Tip Sheet that was put together to help answer common questions.

2026 Clover Classic

In December, a committee was formed to address the decreasing involvement in particular Youth in Action state-wide contests. After carefully considering different options, the Clover Classic Committee is excited to announce the **2026 Clover Classic** which will take place **Monday, June 15 - Tuesday, June 16 in Brookings, South Dakota.**

This event will host the national qualifying contests for livestock judging and livestock Skill-A-Thon and will also host a wide array of Youth in Action contests for 4-H'ers from across the state. Please see the TENTATIVE schedule below for information about how the event will be structured. Schedule and events offered may be subject to change. As the planning for the Clover Classic continues, be on the lookout for a contestant packet, volunteer needs, registration information and other announcements in the coming months.

Rangeland and Soil Days 2026

Save the Date for Rangeland and Soil Days 2026 on June 9th & 10th in Belle Fourche, SD!

What is this event?

- South Dakota State University Extension is co-hosting the event with the Butte and Lawrence county conservation districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the South Dakota Society for Range Management. The contest is for FFA and 4-H youth who are interested in learning more about rangeland or soils.

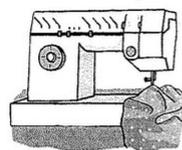
- In the Soil Days contest, youth will learn about soil texture and types, factors that limit soil health, land management recommendations, and understanding suitability for building infrastructure.
- For the Rangeland Days contest, youth can compete in three categories: display, talk, and judging. There are four age divisions: New Rangers (ages 8-10), Wranglers (11-13), Scouts (first-time attendees ages 14-18) and Go Getters (youth 14-18 with previous experience). Participants will learn about plant identification, ecological sites, and how to determine suitability for cattle and wildlife.

Who is this event for?

- Rangeland Days is for youth age 8-18 and educates them on South Dakota's most- threatened natural resource – grasslands.
- Soil Days is for 14-18-year-olds and educates them on one of South Dakota's most important resources – soil.
- Combined, the event provides 4-H and FFA youth with hands-on experience in understanding rangeland resources and a sense of stewardship in natural resource management. Don't be shy if your students haven't attended before. There is room for all levels of understanding!

Who do I contact with questions?

- Kaylee Wheeler, SDSU Extension Range Field Specialist, at Kaylee.Wheeler@sdstate.edu
- Emily Rohrer, NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist, at Emily.Rohrer@usda.gov
- For soil days specific questions: Lance Howe, NRCS Soil Scientist, at Lance.Howe@usda.gov



My Timeless Day Kid's Club

- **Beginners Kid's Camp** *Min. age 8*

For kids very new to sewing

June 16, 17, and 18 9:00 – 1:00

Projects: pillowcase, reading pillow, popcorn bag and scrunchies

Cost \$75 plus supplies

Bring a sack lunch

- **Intermediate Kid's Camp**

For kids that have some sewing experience

June 23, 24, and 25 11:30 to 3:30

Projects: backpack, bag, coasters, and scrunchies

Cost \$75 plus supplies

My Timeless Day Quilting and Sewing 119 E. 5th St. Canton, SD

mytimelessday@gmail.com 402 518 0220

Come join us for a fun time of sewing!!!

If youth are unable to attend either camp, private appointments can be set up. To schedule please email mytimelessday@gmail.com or call (402)518-0220



bomgaars
What You Need... When You Need It®

SUNGLO

BOMGAARS VIRTUAL SHOW EVENT
Featuring: Sunglo® Feed & Supplements

Topics include:
Animal Selection, Feed and Management,
Fitting/Hair Care, Showmanship

Event Details:
Date: February 25th
Time: 6:30–8:00 PM CST
Please register in order to
receive your Sunglo® gift package!



Scan here to register:



**Gift package included
for those that attend!**



Must attend the event to receive the gift package

©2020 Cargill, Incorporated. All Rights Reserved.

SOUTH DAKOTA SHOW CLINIC

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

9 AM - 1 PM | SDSU ANIMAL SCIENCE ARENA
1025 NORTH CAMPUS DR | BROOKINGS, SD 57007

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:00 AM** REGISTRATION + DONUTS
- 9:30 AM** WELCOME + INTRODUCTIONS
NICK TESCH TERRITORY SALES MANAGER, KENT NUTRITION
- 9:35 AM** BIOSECURITY: PROTOCOL TO HELP REDUCE DISEASE RISK TO YOUR ANIMALS
KELSEY VANDER WAL PROGRAM MANAGER, 4-H LIVESTOCK SDSU
- 10:00 AM** SPECIES FITTING CLINICS
ROTATING TO TWO STATIONS WITH 15 MINUTE BREAK
CATTLE WEBER BROTHERS CATTLE CO | LAKE BEAUFORT, IA
PIGS MATT WETTE, WETTE SHOW PIGS | MARION, SD
LAMBS HUNTER MILLER, MILLER FARMS | BRUCE, SD
GOATS WAYNE DWYER | CHAMBERLAIN, SD
- 11:30 AM** GENERAL SHOW ANIMAL CARE + NUTRITION: HOW TO HELP YOUR ANIMAL MEETS ITS GENETIC POTENTIAL
NICK TESCH TERRITORY SALES MANAGER, KENT NUTRITION
- 12:00 PM** LUNCH + Q&A
- 1:00 PM** ADJOURN

SOUTH DAKOTA 4-H YOUTH LIVESTOCK LITERACY PROGRAM CERTIFIED EVENT 

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RSVP BY MARCH 10, 2026
CONTACT JAMES GROTHE AT 320-333-8161 OR JAMES.GROTHE@KENTWV.COM, NICK TESCH AT 605-520-3992 OR NICK.TESCH@KENTWV.COM OR TARA JOHNSON AT 605-421-8254 OR TARA.JOHNSON@KENTWV.COM
WALK-INS WELCOME!

PREVIOUS

South Dakota 4-H Photography Challenge

Join us for the 2026 SD 4-H Photography Challenge. Open to all youth 8-18

Goal 1: Learn and sharpen your photography skills

Goal 2: Create a photo that is ready for Achievement Days

Goal 3: Have fun and connect with industry professionals across SD!

Sign up here: Start Date Jan. 15 - 2026: <https://forms.gle/ctoJgUeSA5b2fnVg9>



South Dakota 4-H

Photo Challenge



Starts January 15th

5 lessons (1 per month) of educational materials

5 photo challenges

Industry critiques

Open to all youth 8-18!



Questions:

Audra Scheel - 4-H Educator audra.scheel@sdstate.edu

Wendy Sweeter - 4-H Educator wsweeter@lincolncountysd.org

USDA-FSA Youth Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$10,000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

For help preparing the application forms, contact your local County USDA Service Center or visit fsa.usda.gov

Youth in Action Applications are Now Open

The 4-H Youth in Action (YIA) program celebrates young people who are creating real change in their communities. This national program amplifies the stories and leadership of 4-H youth, showcasing how 4-H has shaped their lives and equipped them to impact others.

Four Award Winners will receive a(n):

- \$5,000 scholarship for higher education, paid directly to the institution, including two-year and four-year colleges, trade schools, or other advanced learning opportunities.
- Year of professional and media development, training, networking, and national opportunities to serve as a spokesperson and thought leader.
- All expenses paid trips for each award winner and a chaperone to attend national events.
- Official reference letter from a National 4-H Council leader for educational or career purposes.

If you know a young person whose work deserves recognition, encourage them to apply today and share their story with a national audience!

[Apply Today](#)

Leadership Opportunity

The American Farm Bureau Federation is excited to offer a unique national opportunity for 4-H, FFA and Jr. MANRRS members on January 11th, 2026. From January 9-14, 2026, AFBF will host its 107th Annual Convention and Trade Show at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, CA. As part of this event, a special Youth Leadership Program will be held on Sunday, January 11th, exclusively for youth members.

This free program for 4-H members gives youth the chance to:

- Connect with farmers, ranchers, and industry leaders nationwide
- Network with other youth leaders and build leadership skills
- Attend the Empowering Young Leaders reception with AFBF President Zippy Duvall

More information can be found here [AFBF YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM](#)

* This event is not an SDSU Extension or SD 4-H sponsored event. We are sharing because there may be value to some of the youth in the SD 4-H Program

REMINDER TO RE-ENROLL IN 4-H

It may be past the "prime" time to join or re-enroll, but 4-H is open to anyone at any time!

Use the link to sign in [4-H Online](https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in) (<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>) for the 2025/2026 4-H Year!



Everything Friday Message

The State 4-H Office sends out an Everything Friday Message that is sent out every week.

If you are interested in signing up to this Listserv, please send them this link:

https://sdstateoira.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9STL1XLiYQpmIPE



**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION**

Dates for 4-H Summer Camp

Save the Date for Summer Camp 2026! Registration opening soon for the following camps:

- Lake Poinsett – Ages 8-12 - June 7-10
- Going Beyond – Ages 12-14 - June 10-12
- Storm Mountain – Ages 8-12 - June 14-17

New for Summer 2026

- Teen Adventure Camp @ Storm Mountain – Ages 15-18 - May 31-June 3

Important Dates

February

February 7 - Black Hills Stock Show Youth Day

March

March 1 - Fruit Sales End

March 11 - Fruit Delivery Day

June

June 30 - Clay/Union/Yankton County Horse Show

July

July 8 - Lennox Special Foods

July 13-15 - State Horse Show

August

August 12-15 - Clay County Fair and Achievement Days

Clay County 4-H Extension Office

Office Hours *Monday through Friday* 8-5 (closed over noon hour)

-Laurie Fritsch

4-H Educator

-Rali Sykes

4-H Administrative Assistant



Email: clay.county@sdsstate.edu

Website: <https://www.claycountysd.org/extensionoffice4h.cfm>

Location: [515 High Street, Vermillion, SD, USA](#)

Phone: [605-677-7111](tel:605-677-7111)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/19jWQKEPVq/>



Rali Sykes

Rali is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters