

## Junior Officer Night at Heartland 4H February Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Heartland 4-H Club was called to order February 17, 2026. Tonight was "Junior Officer Night" in which all junior officers were given full responsibility for conducting the meeting. The roll call was answered by "What is your favorite drink?" Devotion was read

by Alivia Grubbs as she discussed God's everlasting love and that he cares for each and every one of his children.

Business discussed this month was a unanimous decision to donate \$750 to the Gas Capital Livestock Show. All members participating in County Club Days were rec-

ognized for their efforts. Regional Club Days is scheduled for February 21 at Elkhart.

Project talks this month were given by Cassidy and Kamryn Kirkham informing members about the Rabies virus and the post-exposure treatment protocol for humans. Kori and Kole Kirkham taught club members about various cuts of beef. Adjournment was followed by an intense game of "survivor tag".

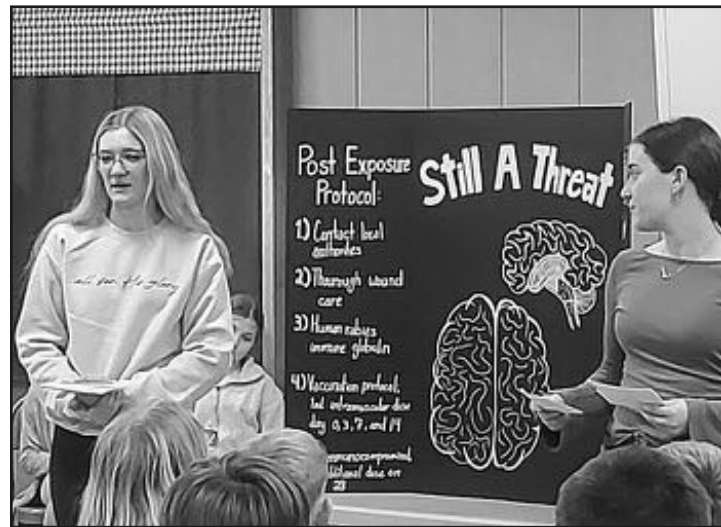
Kamryn Kirkham, Reporter



Junior Leaders Quinnlee Salmans, Gracelynn Johnson and Kori Kirkham conduct the meeting. Photo courtesy of Kamryn Kirkham.



Kori and Kole Kirkham give a talk on cuts of beef. Photo courtesy of Kamryn Kirkham.



Kassidy and Kamryn Kirkham give an informative talk on the recent finding of Rabies in Stevens County. Photo courtesy of Kamryn Kirkham.

### NAWG report calls attention to costly fertilizer tariffs impacting wheat growers

The National Association of Wheat Growers released a new report highlighting the significant financial burden that countervailing duties (CVD) on phosphate fertilizer imports have placed on U.S. wheat farmers. The report finds that these duties have greatly increased fertilizer costs, contributing to nearly \$1 billion in additional expenses for wheat growers – alone – between 2021 and 2025.

"Out on the farm, every dollar matters. When input costs like fertilizer spike, it's not just a line on a balance sheet, it shapes the decisions we make for our crops, our land, and our families. For years now, farmers have been dealing with stubbornly high input costs that

continue to squeeze farm budgets and make it increasingly difficult to maintain a family business." said Jamie Kress, NAWG President and Idaho farmer.

"We can't control global markets or supply disruptions, but we can take a hard look at policies here at home that are making it more expensive to grow the food Americans rely on. Countervailing duties on fertilizer have added real costs for wheat growers in Idaho and across the country. Rolling those back is a practical, immediate step to help farmers stay competitive and keep growing the highest quality wheat in the world."

Read the full report at [wheatworld.org](http://wheatworld.org).

### Hearing for planned changes to Noxious Weed Regulations

A public hearing will be conducted at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2026, to consider changes to regulations relating to noxious weeds, including additions to the designation list of noxious weeds.

The hearing will take place in person at the Kansas Department of Agriculture at 1320 Research Park Dr. in Manhattan, as well as via video conferencing system.

The KDA plant protection and weed control program is proposing an amendment to K.A.R. 4-8-27 to consolidate references to control methods for the Noxious Weed Act into one regulation and add

new control methods for proposed noxious weeds, followed by the revocation of the regulations which previously listed control methods separately. In addition, the program is proposing an amendment to K.A.R. 4-8-44 to add several plant species to the designation list of noxious weeds, including: adding spotted knapweed and diffuse knapweed as Category A noxious weeds; adding common teasel and cutleaf teasel as Category B noxious weeds; and adding Amur honeysuckle as a Category C noxious weed.

A copy of the proposed regulation

changes, control methods, and environmental benefit statement, as well as an expanded notice of public hearing, may be accessed on the KDA website at [agriculture.ks.gov/PublicComment](http://agriculture.ks.gov/PublicComment). Anyone desiring to participate via video conference must pre-register to be provided with a video link; the registration is available in the notice of public hearing. Written comments can be submitted prior to the hearing on KDA's public comment web page, or sent by email to [Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov](mailto:Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov) or by mail to the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Attn: Ronda Hutton, 1320 Research Park Dr., Manhattan, KS, 66502.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodations in order to participate in the public hearing and may request a copy of the regulations in an accessible format. Persons who require special accommodations should make their needs known at least two working days prior to the hearing. For more information, including how to request special accommodations or a copy of the regulations, please contact Ronda Hutton at 785-564-6715 or [Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov](mailto:Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov).

### Garden City Community College to host 2026 STEM for All Teacher Summit

Garden City Community College will host the 2026 STEM for All Teacher Summit on Monday, June 1, 2026, in the GCCC STEM Success Center from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. The one-day professional learning event will bring together educators, STEM professionals, higher education partners, and community leaders to explore innovative strategies for advancing STEM education.

The summit, organized through the GCCC Title III program, is designed for K-12 teachers, instructional coaches, administrators, and industry or community partners interested in strengthening STEM learning opportunities for students.

Now in its second year, the STEM for All Teacher Summit focuses on equipping educators with practical tools and ideas they can implement immediately in their classrooms. The event is guided by this year's

theme, Today's Educators. Tomorrow's Innovators., highlighting the vital role teachers play in preparing students with the creativity, resilience, and critical thinking skills needed for the future.

"The STEM for All Teacher Summit is about empowering educators with practical ideas they can take back to their classrooms immediately," said Misty Wren, Title III STEM Outreach Coordinator at Garden City Community College.

The summit will feature keynote speaker Steve Spangler, a best-selling author, two-time Emmy Award winner, and host of the nationally syndicated television series DIY Sci. Spangler gained worldwide attention as the creator of YouTube's first viral science video demonstrating the Diet Coke and Mentos geyser experiment, a moment that helped shape the future of online science communication. His

science videos have received more than 4.5 billion views globally.

Spangler currently serves as STEM Educator-in-Residence at High Point University and is a member of the National Speakers Association Speaker Hall of Fame. Through his work with educators and organizations around the world, he focuses on creating transformational learning experiences that spark curiosity, build engagement, and inspire innovation.

Registration for the summit is now open online. The registration fee is \$25, and all payments must be received by May 1, 2026, to secure a spot. Professional development points will be available for participants.

GCCC is also accepting session proposals for the summit. Educators, instructional leaders, and STEM professionals are encouraged to submit presentations focused on innovative class-

room practices, hands-on STEM learning, emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and immersive tools, expanding access to STEM education, and building sustainable STEM programs.

Sessions will be 45 minutes in length and may include workshops, demonstrations, presentations, or panel discussions. All accepted presenters will receive complimentary registration to the summit. The deadline to submit proposals is April 10, 2026.

For more information about the 2026 STEM for All Teacher Summit, including registration and proposal submission details, visit the Garden City Community College website.

For any questions, please contact Misty Wren, Title III STEM Outreach Coordinator, at [misty.wren@gcccks.edu](mailto:misty.wren@gcccks.edu) or 620-275-3288.

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## GCCC to be closed April 3-6

Garden City Community College will be closed and no classes will be Friday, April 3 through Monday, April 6 for Easter Break.

Normal business operations and classes will resume Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

### Market Report

At the Close Tuesday

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Milo	.....3.88
Corn	.....4.33

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