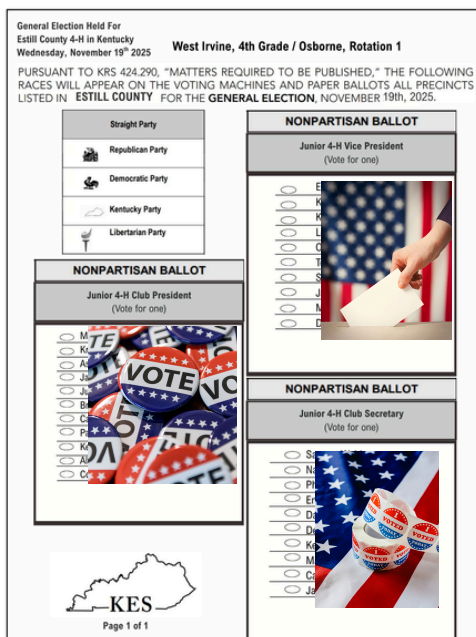




*Above: New Teen Club Officers.*

According to local 4-H youth, the month of November is generally a month where most people think of Thanksgiving, fall, pumpkins, leaves, and upcoming holiday festivities. However, for the Estill Teen Club and all the Junior 4-H Clubs, youth were challenged to also try to start including election day and thankfulness among things they think about. We supported this in club meetings by doing fun gratitude activities, and conducting officer elections. Nominees in clubs gave speeches as to why their peers should vote for them, and they learned about the election processes. They even got to vote on realistic Kentucky-style ballots. Youth in all groups reported that most of them had no idea of the election process in their community, but now have a better idea of how things work from start to finish.



*Right:  
All Jr. 4-H  
Club Youth  
got "I Voted"  
stickers  
after officer  
elections.*



*Above: Example of ballot used in club meetings.*

## Inside this issue:

- Program Highlights
- 4-H **Shooting Sports Fundraiser** information
- **Country Ham Project**
- **Summer Camp 2026**
- Dec/Jan 4-H **Calendars**
- **Teen Club Party**



*Extension Offices will be  
CLOSED  
Dec. 24<sup>nd</sup> thru Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
for holiday break.*

  
Erin Leach  
County Extension Agent  
for 4-H Youth Development

LaDonna Dawes  
4-H Program Assistant

# Recent 4-H Happenings

November 2025



## TEEN COOKING CLUB

Youth learned about keeping our families safe by fighting BAC. The steps are Clean, Separate, Cook, and Chill. They learned about cross contamination and the food danger zone. Youth prepared Turkey Tacos and used a meat thermometer to check the temperature for doneness. Youth learned knife skills while cutting peppers and chicken for our Sheet Pan Chicken and Veggie dish. It was a hit with even our pickiest chefs. December meeting we will be making foods for Entertaining and will have a guest presenter.

At left, Liam Turner and Kooper Hoffman work on their knife safety skills while cutting vegetables for the Sheet Pan Chicken and Veggie dish.



Above, Rowan Patton, Brisen Marcum and Keegan Willis worked together to create a cage to catch their turkey's during the November Homeschool Cloverbud Club meeting.



Above, (L-R) Michael Muncy, Noah Lee, Stella McGee, and Mallory Plowman show off their turkey cage at Estill Springs Cloverbud Club.



Above, Mason Gray and Landry Browning created a cage using toothpicks and marshmallows (STEM) to cage their turkey's at the West Irvine monthly Cloverbud Club meeting.

## CLOVERBUD CLUBS

Estill County 4-H Homeschool, West Irvine, and Estill Springs Cloverbud Clubs- Our November meeting was based off the book, "How to Catch a Turkey," read by our NEP Assistant, Mrs. Jessica. Paper turkeys were placed around the room and youth went on a turkey hunt to find the turkey with their name on it. Once caught, youth became engineers and worked together as a team to identify the problem(the turkey was loose), brainstorm solutions, build a cage for their group of turkeys to fit in(using marshmallows and toothpicks), test it out, and figure out what they could do to improve it. They continued working until their turkeys couldn't escape! Such a fun meeting.



Jessica Webb, Estill County NEP Assistant read "How to Catch a Turkey" to all the Cloverbud Clubs this past month for their STEM lesson.



## CREATIVE COOKS

Estill County 4-H Creative Cooks(Junior Cooking)-Our Creative Cooks chose pancakes for their November meeting. Mrs. Sherry and Mrs. LaDonna made it more educational than just cooking pancakes. Dividing into 4 groups, each group made a different pancake for the entire club. We had store brand, name brands, and homemade mixes. After all pancakes were made, they were placed beside a number on a plate. Youth rated the pancakes on first impression, texture, smell, and taste. Surprisingly the store brand was a favorite among most. We also had homemade syrup and premade. After tasting, we talked about ingredients, and which was better for us. The homemade had brown sugar(sugar and molasses), butter(cream and salt), water and vanilla. The premade had ingredients we struggled to pronounce, and it also listed that it may contain traces of anchovies. Anchovies in syrup, no thank you.



Above, Ellory, Lillian, Cass, and Hammer work together making homemade pancakes from scratch during Creative Cooks monthly meeting.

# GRINCH themed fundraiser

**\*with special guest appearance, too!**

Come help support an Estill youth organization & have some fun with the family along the way!!

**When:** Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>,  
drop in between 12:00 & 5:00 PM

**Where:** Estill County Extension Office  
76 Golden Court  
Irvine, KY 40336

**What:** Supporters bring family to meet and take pictures with Grinch themed characters. After the pictures, guests can enjoy cookies and milk, or other treats in the spirit of Christmas and Grinch-mas!

## Donation:

\$10.00 will include up to 4 digital images for personal use.

\*Other picture package options may be available on site.

Questions?

Erin.Leach@uky.edu  
606-723-4557



**All donations go to help fund activities and supplies for Estill County 4-H Shooting Sports Club members.**

# Favorite THINGS PARTY



## Teen Club Event:

Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
5:30 to 8:00 PM

Teen Club members can come to hang out, eat, play games, and participate in a "Favorite Things" gift exchange. (Optional)

**"Favorite Things" gift exchange:** Each teen can bring 3 of the same item that they love from the Dollar Tree. Each will leave with 3 different things that they did not come with. Anything goes! (Assuming it's appropriate and reasonable).

**Attire??** Wear one of your favorite things!

PJs? Go for it! A cool hat? Why not?!? Comfy slippers? Bring 'em!

**Food** - Potluck style. Bring favorite finger foods or snacks!

*Teen Club is for Middle and High School aged youth. Roughly ages 12 through 18.*

*Questions about joining the fun? Call 606-723-4557*

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## NOVEMBER Grateful!

### Communications Activity

Look at the candy, and tell the group the answer to the question that matches the candy color.

-  Anything you are thankful for.
-  A person you are thankful for.
-  A place you are thankful for.
-  A thing you are thankful for.
-  A food you are thankful for.

Try this!

In November meetings, Junior 4-H Clubs did this activity using candy such as Skittles. Try It with family and be reminded we have so much to be grateful for.

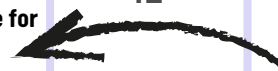
**To play:** Participants draw a candy at random. Group goes around and talks about the question assigned to the candy color. Candy colors in order on activity include: **purple, red, yellow, orange, and green.**



# 2025 December



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 3:30 Middle School Horticulture Club 5:30 Horse Club	2	3	4 4:00: Teen Cooking 6:00: Shooting Sports	5	6 12:00 to 5:00 Grinch Themed Photo Mini Sessions
7	8	9 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Jr. 4-H: Estill Springs 1:00 Cloverbud: Homeschool 3:30 Cloverbud: West Irvine	10 1:00: Homeschool Junior 4-H 4:00 Photography Club	11 Final Deadline for Country Ham Project Registration 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Jr. 4-H: Estill Springs 3:30 Cloverbud: Estill Springs	12 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Jr. 4-H: West Irvine	13 12:00 to 5:00 Grinch Themed Photo Mini Sessions
14	15	16	17 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Jr. 4-H: West Irvine 3:45: Teen Club Extension Office	18	19 Favorite THINGS PARTY Teen Club EVENT 5:30 to 8:00	20
21	22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27
28	29	30	31 NEW Year's EVE			



← No School - Holiday Break →


← No School - Holiday Break →

# january

2026



# Beyond Ready

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Country Ham Project Day is Monday, January 19 <sup>th</sup>	 <div> <div>1</div> <div>happy new YEAR</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> <div>No School - Holiday Break</div> </div>					
4	<div>5</div> <div>No School</div> <div>*Note: No Hort Club at Middle School Due to no school</div> <div>5:30 Horse Club</div>	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		1:00 Cloverbud: Homeschool		1:00: Homeschool Junior 4-H		
		3:30 Cloverbud: West Irvine		6:00: Shooting Sports		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	<div>MLK DAY</div> <div>No School</div> <div>Country Ham Project Day!!</div>		4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Jr. 4-H: West Irvine		5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Jr. 4-H: West Irvine	
			3:45: Teen Club Extension Office			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Jr. 4-H: Estill Springs			4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Jr. 4-H: Estill Springs		
	4:00: Creative Cooks (Jr. Cooking)					



# 4-H Summer Camp

# SAVE the DATE

**July 2026**

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
28 4-H Camp	29 4-H Camp	30 4-H Camp	31 4-H Camp

**CAMPERS - CIT'S - JC'S - ADULT LEADERS**

Camper participants must be at least 9 years old and no older than 14 on the first day of camp.  
Teens 14 to 15 are considered CIT's (Counselors in Training).

Youth 16-17 are JC's (Junior Counselors), and will have leader responsibilities.

Adult Counselors will be 18 and older and are considered Cabin Leadership Partners.

**QUESTIONS?**

**CALL 606-723-4557 OR  
ERIN.LEACH@UKY.EDU**

*Erin Leach*

Erin Leach  
County Extension Agent  
for 4-H Youth Development



**Beyond  
Ready**

LaDonna Dawes  
4-H Program Assistant

Cooperative  
Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Sciences  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

Estill County  
76 Golden Court  
Irvine, KY 40336

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# 2026 4-H Country Ham Project

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER  
AND PAY FEE:  
DECEMBER 10, 2025**

- 4-H Age youth: \$75.00, includes 2 hams, cure mix, and supplies
- Adult Participants: \$55, includes 1 ham, cure mix, and supplies

**For more information see inside this newsletter or contact  
the Estill Extension Office: 606-723-4557**

