

November 6th, 2024

Country Ham season is upon us again! Attached to this sheet you'll find the 2025 4-H Country Ham Contract. The Country Ham project runs from our first cleaning in January to the Kentucky State Fair in August, with the opportunity to sell at the 4-H/FFA Youth Livestock Sale in September. Youth participants will spend time cleaning and preparing their hams, writing and giving a ham-related speech, meeting with community members to recruit buyers, and then selling their hams at the Sale.

- The cost for both hams is \$70 and the money is due when you submit the filled out contract. Keep in mind that if you do not complete your ham contract you must forfeit both hams, which are returned to the UK Meat Lab.
- **All 4-H ham participants must enroll in Woodford County 4-H through the 4-H Online enrollment process. We will not accept contracts unless this step has already been completed.**
- Curing/Cleaning the ham takes place three different times:
  - January 2025: TBD (Takes approximately 1 hour)
  - May 2025: TBD (Takes approximately 1 hour)
  - August 2025: TBD (Takes approximately 1 hour)
- Participants are required to give a 3-5-minute presentation at KY State Fair on the required topics:

**Junior (Born 2015-2011)** Steps to curing a country ham

**Senior (Born 2006-2010)** Design a country ham curing facility

- Must complete 6 hours of training under the supervision of a certified livestock volunteer. 3 hours are earned through the cleaning in January (1 hour), shucking in May (1 hour) and polishing in August (1 hour). The additional 3 hours can be earned by attending livestock club meetings each month, livestock skill-a-thon practices or additional pre-approved livestock related events.
- All ham participants will be required to participate in the Woodford County 4-H Communications Contest (TBD) by giving a speech, demonstration, or mock job interview. This could include a previously used ham speech or a ham speech for 2025 as well as any other speech/demonstration. More information on the contest will be available in the future.
- In order to participate at the Kentucky State Fair you will also need to provide participant social security numbers. This information is required by the Kentucky State Fair Entry Department and is necessary to register each participant for the Kentucky State Fair.
- For Adults/Cloverbuds – cost is \$50 for one ham. You are responsible for both cleaning and submitting your ham to the Kentucky State Fair if interested.
- Once the Kentucky State Fair is over, youth participants are invited to sell their ham as part of the 4-H/FFA Youth Livestock Sale. This will include recruiting buyers and helping with the Sale, which is typically held the week of Labor Day. More information will be available later regarding sale participation.

**Contracts are due December 11th, 2024 by 4:00pm.** Please bring the completed contract and check with full amount to the Woodford County Extension Office (184 Beasley Drive Versailles, KY 40383) by this date. Make the checks out to "Woodford County 4-H Council."

Thanks,



Beau Neal  
Woodford County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

**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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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.



## 2025 Kentucky 4-H Country Ham Project

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

**Please read each and initial you understand the requirements of the project:**

By taking part in the country ham project, I am responsible for the following:	4-H Member initial	Parent /Guardian Initial
Must complete 6 hours of training under the supervision of a certified livestock volunteer.		
Giving a 3-5-minute presentation at KY State Fair on the required topic: <u>Junior (Born 2015-2011) Steps to curing a country ham.</u> - Outline, discuss, and describe the steps you took to cure your ham for this year's country ham project. <u>Senior (Born 2006 - 2010) Design a country ham curing facility for your counties ham project.</u> - More and more counties are building their own country ham houses. You have an unlimited budget, design your counties dream country ham house and curing facility. (visual aids are optional, no digital/electronic, limited to one poster board, you can use both sides) <b>Please note – ALL SENIOR'S PRESENTATIONS MUST BE AT LEAST 2 MINUTES LONG OR THEY WILL BE DIS-QUALIFIED AND HAMS FORFIETED.</b>		
Pay \$70.00 fee – you will receive 2 hams – Hams are to remain at County Designated facility until state fair– Will NOT be allowed to be individuals homes/facilities. (failure to complete the project, fee will NOT be refunded, and you will forfeit both hams, Upon forfeit, if the two hams are not returned an additional \$70.00 fee will be charged and if the additional fee is not paid the 4-H member will not be able to participate in next years' country ham project).		

All winning hams will be placed on display at the Kentucky State Fair and will be returned its conclusion.

Parents Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

4-H'er Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Agent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Completion of the 4-H Country Ham project makes 4-Her eligible to apply for Country Ham Scholarship, applications are due July 2025.

**AGENTS NOTICE:**  
If your county misses the July 1 deadline to certify your county registration and your volunteer worker for state fair, you will NOT be allowed to participate in the Country Ham Project in 2026.

Agents please scan this document into 4-H Online when you sign up youth.

