

Clover Connection

Chisholm Trail District - Dickinson County
4-H Youth Development News & Updates
July - August 2026

K-STATE
Research and Extension



FRIENDS OF 4-H PICNIC

Wednesday, July 8th at 6:30 p.m. at Sterl Hall

- Fried chicken, baked beans, rolls, and drinks will be provided
 - **All 4-H families will bring homemade salad and dessert to feed 15 people**
 - 4-H clubs will be charged for West's fried chicken (\$10 per family)
 - 4-H families please bring your own table service
- This event is a way to say "thank you" for the many ways our businesses and individuals across the county support the 4-H youth development program. This is our time to let 4-H supporters know how much we appreciate them! There will be a free swim for all supporters and 4-Hers from **8:00 to 9:30 p.m.**, courtesy of Abilene Parks and Recreation and the City of Abilene.
- We will have activities for the entire family in the time between the end of the picnic and the free swim. Please plan to participate!
- EACH CLUB IS TO PROVIDE A DOOR PRIZE and check it in at the front table. Check with your leader for your club work assignment!***

Favorite Food Show

The Family Living Committee has scheduled the Favorite Food Show for **Saturday, July 18th** with online entries due via ckff.fairentry.com by **July 10th**. The theme for this year's event is Happy Birthday, America! More information may be found on our 4-H events page at: https://www.chisholmtrail.k-state.edu/4_h/events/Events.html

County Committees

The county committees have been showing outstanding leadership and producing some high-quality events! Thank you to those who have chosen to be active committee members!

Photos Needed for Achievement Celebration

Please submit photos of your club activities and members for our Achievement Celebration slide show in November. Go ahead and send us some good ones! Drop them into the Google folder at <https://bit.ly/DKAchievement> or email to chisholmtrail@listserv.ksu.edu with DK Achievement Celebration in the subject line.

Welcome to Shelby, Bailey and Kenna!

Working hard as part of our office team this summer are 4-H program assistants Bailey Woody and Kenna Wesner, and our summer engagement intern Shelby Neal. Please introduce yourself when you have a chance and make them feel welcome! All of them will be out at fairs and other events this summer and will be able to help with questions.

Tri-County Free Fair

The Tri-County Free Fair will be held **July 9th – 11th** in Herington. Schedule and the link to pre-enter via FairEntry may be found at <https://www.chisholmtrail.k-state.edu/fairs/tri-county/Tri-county.html> with additional fair info at: <https://www.tricountyfairks.com/>

4-H Leadership SQUAD Meeting

When: Monday, August 24, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Extension Office, Conference Room

Who: Any 4-Her (middle school and up) who's interested in learning about and practicing leadership and promoting 4-H! Let us know if you'd like to be on the email list!

SQUAD sign-up to help with CKFF activities: <https://bit.ly/squadckffsignup>

Discovery Days Leaders

Congratulations to Josslyn DePew, Eyley Holt, and Cady Marston who were selected to serve as small group leaders at 4-H Discovery Days on the K-State Manhattan campus. They represented us well at this state event and look forward to having more DK 4-Hers join them at Discovery Days in June 2027!

CKFF Photographer!

The Dickinson County 4-H Foundation has contracted with Abi Lillard Creative to provide photography services, including candid and backdrop photos, for 4-H events during the Central Kansas Free Fair. Free digital downloads of these photos will be available to DK 4-H families. We look forward to seeing Abi and members of her team during the fair!

CKFF Horticulture Judging Contest

The CKFF Horticulture Judging Contest is scheduled for **Saturday, July 18, 10:00 AM** at Sterl Hall. All 4-H/FFA members are invited to participate in the contest, you do not have to be enrolled in plant science or have a specific SAE to participate. The contest will consist of plant identification, judging classes, and a written test. Contest Superintendent, Jessica Murphy, will be hosting a workout (practice session) prior to the event. Please email her if you have questions at murphyjrenae@gmail.com. You do not need to be enrolled in a plant science project to participate.

Review Work-Out: There will be a work-out to review the plants for the Plant Identification portion of the test on **Friday, July 17, at 6:30 PM** at Sterl Hall.

Helpful Links & Resources available at

<https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/contests/horticulture-judging/>

Photography Mounting Boards and Bags Available

In addition to photo mount boards for **\$1.25** each, our office has display bags available for **\$.25** each. These should be used for the photos you plan to exhibit at TCFE and CKFF.

CKFF 4-H Helpers List

The list of 4-H helpers for the CKFF is included with this newsletter. Please check it over carefully. If you did not get signed up and would like to help, please contact our office. We can't guarantee helper passes for those not on the original list. The superintendents are counting on your assistance at the fair!

Electrical Code Reminder for CKFF

Only electrical devices with a commercial grade 3-prong electrical cord may be used at the fair. NO 2-prong cord with a 3-prong adapter!

Ice Available at CKFF

Bags of ice will be available at the fair. Visit the CKFF office to purchase your bags.

Wood Chips NOT Available at CKFF

All livestock exhibitors are required to provide their own bedding. The fair board will not have wood chips available for sale this year.

CKFF Fair Guide

Your fair guide with CKFF information is included in this mailing. Some reminders:

- * **July 10th** – ALL 4-H/FFA exhibits must be entered online at ckff.fairentry.com
- * 4-H market livestock owner certification and drug withdrawal form **plus** feed and care record for market beef will be submitted with **Livestock Sale Intent to Sell Cards** following livestock shows. Please turn them in **promptly** following shows.
- * All 4-H/FFA market livestock entries will require the exhibitor's YQCA certificate number. Have that number handy when entering.
- * Conference judging times will be scheduled by our office based on pre-entries. You will not be asked to select judging times this year.
- * See our District Fairs page for CKFF information: <https://www.chisholmtrail.k-state.edu/fairs/ckff/CKFF.html>

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals *REQUIRED for ALL market livestock exhibitors*****

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) training is required for all 4-H/FFA members exhibiting market livestock - beef, sheep, swine, and meat goats - at the Central Kansas Free Fair and all youth exhibiting livestock at the Kansas State Fair and Kansas Junior Livestock Show.

This training may still be done online and must be completed by the CKFF July 10 entry

deadline. Complete the online request form at <https://bit.ly/registeryqca> ASAP to receive an online coupon code and instructions if you have not yet completed this training that is provided free of charge to Dickinson County 4-H members through a donation from MKC.

Decorated Cookie Jar Auction

The following clubs will be making cookies and decorating a cookie jar to be auctioned at the CKFF livestock sale this year: **Chapman Shamrocks, Detroit Ramblers, Fragrant Hilltoppers and Holland Sunflowers.** Proceeds go to the Dickinson County 4-H Council to fund the county-wide program. **Keep in mind that cookies sell best when lots of club members are there to display their jar!**

CKFF Food Sales

Sterl Hall – Saturday, July 25, during foods judging. Proceeds to Dickinson County 4-H Council.

Hints on Exhibiting Horticulture and Floriculture

K-State Research & Extension publications [Exhibiting Fruits and Vegetables](#) and [Preparing Cut Flowers for Exhibit](#) are excellent resources for 4-H members and adults that are planning to exhibit their vegetables or flowers. These publications are often used by judges as they evaluate fair entries and may be found by visiting: <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/>. The University of Illinois Extension has prepared a series of YouTube videos on how to prepare produce for the fair. These videos give step by step instructions on how to select and groom various types of vegetables for exhibit. Available at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/UIExtension>.

CKFF Special Baking – Layer Cake

Enter your layer cake made with King Arthur flour in the annual Special Baking Contest from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., **Saturday, August 1,** at Sterl Hall. Prizes are being sponsored by the King Arthur Flour Company with youth and adult divisions. Complete rules (i.e. must UPC from King Arthur flour!) are listed in the premium guide. Layer cake and ice cream will be served after the judging.



Reminders on Club Banners from Joetta Nagely, CKFF Banner Superintendent

- Colors: light on dark or dark on light.....when standing at a distance, letters or whole words can be lost if there is not a contrast in color.
- Cover several areas of 4-H don't duplicate by saying the same thing twice.
- Balance for the male and female audience make it appealing for both.
- No 3-D..... please check the rules in the fair paper.
- Lettering.....not too small. Must be able to read from a distance.
- Background when using felt, be careful it stretches. Smooth edges look nicer.
- Enter your banner at the Tri-County Fair. Making a banner costs money and one more premium check will help pay for the supplies.
- Club name **may not** be on the front of the banner as part of the design.

2026 CKFF Theme: Let Freedom Ring!

Foods and Clothing Labels

Labels are required in clothing and fiber arts exhibits. Exhibitors can make their own label on a piece of cloth with a permanent or laundry type marker. Labels should be about 3" x 2½" in size and include exhibitor name, class number, county and number of pieces in exhibit, i.e. 1 of 2, 2 of 2. **The Food Preservation Labels have been updated – be sure you are using the newest labels.** For Foods items, there is a label template available for download at: <http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/fairs/kansas-state-fair/index.html> under "Foods and Nutrition" and "Food Preservation." We have some printed and available at the office.

Food Safety of Frostings and Fillings

Research has been done and resources are available as you make decisions about frostings and fillings to use with fair exhibits. Food safety is essential and not all frostings and fillings are safe to store at room temperature. Information and a calculation worksheet may be found at: <https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/judging/index.html>. For food safety purposes, any entries with frostings and fillings must calculate the amount of sugar in the frosting/filling recipe only. **Calculation must be attached to entry, or the placing will be lowered one ribbon when judged.** Frosting and fillings need to contain more than 65% sugar for safety.

CKFF State Fair Intent to Exhibit Form

Please have the Intent to Exhibit Form for eligible Kansas State Fair exhibits completed by **Wednesday, August 5th**. This online form (QR code) will be available to all eligible participants at the CKFF. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to make sure that this online form is submitted. This form will ensure proper data entry for the Kansas State Fair. Each 4-H participant will receive one free ticket to attend the fair instead of a ribbon premium. *Non-perishable exhibits will be due in our office by or before Tuesday, September 8, while non-perishable exhibits must be at our office before 4:30 PM on Wednesday, September 9.*

CKFF Livestock Sale Reminders

The sale committee reserves appointments with local butchers for animals that are sold IN THE SALE and kept local by the buyer. Families are responsible for making their own locker appointments and transporting to the locker any animals they plan to keep or sell privately. Appointments reserved by the CKFF livestock sale committee for sale buyers WILL NOT be used for animals that did not go through the sale. In case there is a gap between the sale and when the locker can accept sale animals, families continue to be responsible for animal care and feeding.

CKFF Livestock Auction

- * Sale will be on **Monday, August 3rd**, starting at **9:00 a.m.**
- * We will have rotation of the species. Grand and reserve champions will be sold first.
- * Drinks (tea and water) will be served by 4-H youth. The clubs are on a rotation schedule so that only four clubs each year are needed to serve drinks. Two to three 4-Hers per club are needed.
- * **Sale Serving Schedule:**
 1st shift – 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
 2nd shift – 10:30 a.m. to end of sale

Drink Table:

- 1st shift – Navarre Boosters
- 2nd shift – Newbern Wideawakes
- Bleacher Servers:**
 1st shift – Sand Springs Rustlers
 2nd shift – Solomon Wranglers

Hints for CKFF Beef Exhibitors

- Stall Cards need to be up for each animal by Thursday (you can get them at the weigh-in table by the scales)
- The feed alley is where all of the hay, straw, feed, etc. should go, not behind the cattle
- Blocking chutes should be down after the show and removed from the cattle area
- Keep the stalls clean and the animals clean while in their stalls
- Have your animals tied correctly and use a neck rope
- Water the animals extra when it’s very hot
- After feeding your animals, pull the feed pans so they are not getting stepped on
- If you pull your animals out to feed them around the trees, don’t walk away – you need to attend to them until they are done and clean up behind them

Remember the goal is a safe and clean area to work in as well as a nice place for fair visitors. The beef superintendents award an individual herdsman award to one person that does an outstanding job during the fair taking care of their animals as well as helping their club try to win the stall award. Please see beef superintendents Roger Forsyth or Greg Acheson with questions.

DK 4-H Leadership SQUAD Activities for 4-H Families at CKFF

Barn Dance

When: Saturday, August 1, 8:00 – 10:00 PM
 Where: Small Livestock Arena

Root Beer Floats

When: Sunday, August 2, 3:00 PM
 Where: Large Livestock Arena

Special Champions Meat Goat Show

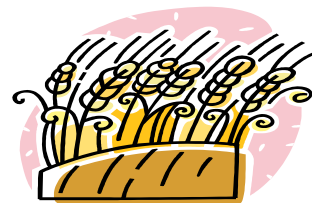
The Special Champions Meat Goat Show is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 29**, during the Central Kansas Free Fair. This event allows kids with special needs to work with a 4-H member in showing a goat. Volunteers and meat goat project “coaches” are needed. Coaches and participants will meet at **6 PM** with the show scheduled for **7 PM**.

[Coach/Volunteer Sign-up](#)

Special Champion [Participant Sign-up](#)

Kansas 4-H and FFA Wheat Variety Plot Enrollment

It is time to enroll for the 2027 Kansas 4-H and FFA Wheat Variety Plot program. The program begins in the fall of 2026 and goes through September 2027. Contact our office if you are interested in participating, we will need to complete an online enrollment for you by **July 15**. New participants receive a large plot sign, and five individual variety signs along with wheat seed.



Kansas State Fair Information

Livestock Entry Deadline: Kansas State Fair 4-H/FFA Beef, sheep, swine meat goat, dairy goat, dairy cattle, and horse entries are **due July 15!** Check the [Kansas Youth Livestock Page](#) for entry links.

State Fair Volunteers Needed: The assistance provided by Extension staff, teens, and adult volunteers is vital to the success of the 4-H Division at the State Fair. This is a great leadership and citizenship opportunity! To volunteer and receive a free admission ticket, let the Extension Office know what division you would like to help with by **August 5**.

Tickets: Discounted tickets may be ordered for 4-H families at the Extension Office. Please plan to pay for the tickets when you place your order. The deadline to order advance tickets from the Extension Office is **August 5**.

48 Hours of 4-H in 2026

The weekend after National 4-H Week is the perfect opportunity to plan a service project. Invite your friends, clubs, adult volunteers and 4-H Alums too! Find all the information on the state 4-H website and start planning your projects.

When: October 10-11, 2026

Who: 4-H Members, 4-H Clubs, Friends, Adult Volunteers, Parents, 4-H Alumni

It's time to make plans for your club to participate. www.Kansas4H.org/484H

**Livestock Sweepstakes**

The 2026 Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes is scheduled for **August 22-23** on the K-State campus in Manhattan, KS. The 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes event includes the state 4-H livestock judging contest, meat judging contest, livestock skillathon, and livestock quiz bowl.

Make It with Wool Competition

The Kansas Make It with Wool Competition will be **November 1, 2026**, and the entry deadline is **October 1, 2026**. All wool must be tested for wool percentage before the event. More information is available by contacting the state director, Kristine Goosen, kansasmiww@gmail.com. Consider using wool for one of your sewing projects this year and compete at this fun event!

Summer Programming – DON'T MISS OUT!

Shelby Neal is in our office this summer as our 4-H Engagement Specialist. She is offering multiple hands-on learning opportunities throughout the summer. She is also available to come to your club, community group, or event to share hands-on learning. Please share events when you see them pop-up on social media. For more information or to schedule a program with Shelby, please call the office at (785) 263-2001.

Livestock Record Keeping App

The goal of BarnBuddy. is to make it easier for students and families to keep their animal records organized in one central place. The app is being built to help track things like animal information, health records, vet visits, vaccinations, and herd notes by Gage Billinger, junior at Herington High School. He has the app available for free and would appreciate testers who will give him honest feedback. Access the app at barnbuddy.pro and email feedback to barnbuddyapp@gmail.com.

Online ZBooks Available for 4-H Record Keeping

Record keeping and Project Reporting are valuable skills taught to members of the Kansas 4-H program. Members are encouraged to keep a permanent record of all 4-H and non-4-H experience and are encouraged to summarize their project experiences on the Kansas 4-H Project Report Form for project recognition. To help you through this process, please refer to the [Guide to Kansas 4-H Project Recognition](#). Couple of items to make note of:

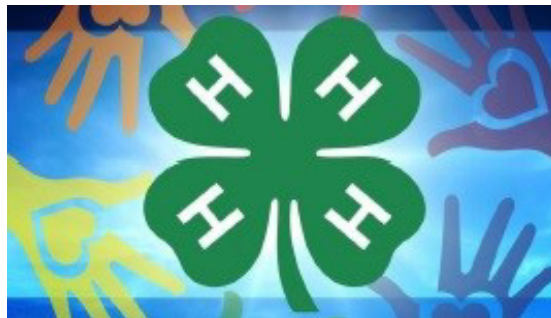
- Youth may choose to use either record keeping option: a.) the fillable PDF Project report forms or b.) the online ZBooks software. **Using ZBooks is highly recommended!**
- The Permanent Record is included in ZBooks. If you choose to keep records with ZBooks, do not feel like you have to transfer over all of your previous years' activities into the online Permanent Record. Start with this year and attach it to your previous document.

Click [here](#) for instructions and video tutorials for using ZBooks

2026 Family Fair Guide

Central Kansas Free Fair

Entry Information and Judging Schedules



Please keep these tips handy, but remember the **Fair Premium Guide is the official reference.** The Premium Guide is available online at <https://www.chisholmtrail.k-state.edu/fairs/ckff/CKFF.html>. This “Family Fair Guide” is designed to help your family prepare for the fair. Please review it carefully for rule changes, entry deadlines, judging schedules, and other important information.

Best of luck in preparing your fair exhibits! Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

*We have ordered each DK 4-H family a hard copy of the CKFF Premium Guide. We will send an email when they are available.

Ways to Enhance Your Fair Experience

- Keep a positive attitude, help others, and have fun.
- Keep livestock stalls neat and presentable.
- Think safety first at the fairgrounds. Keep livestock securely tied.
- Watch out for all fair visitors, especially children.
- Always be considerate of other 4-Hers and animals.
- If you have any concerns, talk to the proper division superintendent. If the matter cannot be resolved, then speak to an Extension Agent.
- Youth and parents are encouraged to submit signed suggestions for future fairs in writing. These may be left at the Fair Information Office or the CKFF Office. The CKFF Board has a grievance policy that must be followed for complaints.
- Read your CKFF Fair Premium Guide.

***Exhibit Release** – All 4-H and Open Class Exhibits will be released on Sunday at 3 p.m. CKFF will not be responsible for exhibits left after 4 p.m.

Premium Checks – 4-H and Open Class checks will be available after August 24, **at the Extension Office**. Checks must be picked up within 30 days and cashed within 90 days of the close of the fair. No premium checks will be mailed. After 90 days, any premium checks not cashed will be considered a donation to the Central Kansas Free Fair.

Livestock Sale Checks – Will be available as soon as the animals pass slaughter inspection and have been proved to comply with all CKFF rules. (For livestock sold in the premium sale and any other animals sold for slaughter.)

REMINDER: You must show proof of thanking the buyer(s) before you will receive your livestock sale check. Please do this right after the fair.

4-Hers must still refer to individual department for entry and exhibit information. If there is a discrepancy, the Fair Premium Guide is the final word.

Judging Contests

You do not have to be enrolled in the project area to participate in the contest. All 4-Hers are encouraged to participate in the learning experience. Club teams, in most contests (3 top participants), are eligible for cash club awards.

Horticulture – Saturday, July 18, 10:00 a.m. at Sterl Hall

Photography – Saturday, July 25, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Sterl Hall

Life Skills – Saturday, July 25, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Sterl Hall

Livestock – Sunday, August 2, 9:00 a.m. at Small Livestock Arena

ONLINE PRE-ENTRY REQUIRED

- **All entries** are to be submitted on-line **by July 10** using FairEntry at ckff.fairentry.com
- Instructions are posted at: <https://www.chisholmtrail.k-state.edu/fairs/ckff/CKFF.html>

CHECKLISTS

- **Market Animals (Beef, Goat, Sheep, Swine) and Breeding Animals**
 - Review all special instructions in department
 - On-line entry using FairEntry (will need tag/tattoo/ear notches and breed)
 - Owner Certification of Market Animals will be included with Intent to Sell cards. Make sure cards are completed immediately following livestock shows.
 - Enter showmanship. Reminder: animals used in showmanship classes must have been entered in either a 4-H market or breeding class by the showmanship exhibitor.
 - Beef: Proof of breed is required to show in purebred classes.
 - All 4-H/FFA **market livestock** entries will require the exhibitor's YQCA certificate number. Have that number handy when entering.
- **Equine**
 - Review all special instructions in department
 - On-line entry using FairEntry for each class you wish to enter (halter, pleasure, western horsemanship, showmanship, all timed events, and horseless horse showmanship) (will need horse common name)
- **Dog**
 - Review all special instructions in department
 - Must have attended at least 3 dog project meetings for showmanship/obedience and 3 project meetings for agility to be eligible
 - Present current vaccination record at show.
 - On-line entry using FairEntry for each class you wish to enter (showmanship, obedience, agility, and rally) (will need dog name, size, and predominant color/breed)
- **Cat**
 - Review all special instructions in department
 - Must have attended at least one county cat meeting to be eligible
 - Present proof of current vaccinations at show.
 - On-line entry using FairEntry (will need cat's name)
- **Bucket Calf**
 - Review all special instructions in department
 - On-line entry using FairEntry for both Bucket Calf and Decorator Bucket Calf (will need animal's name)
- **Dairy/Dairy Goat**
 - Review all special instructions in department
 - On-line entry using FairEntry, (will need breed, animal name, birthdate, and tag number)
 - Enter showmanship on-line also

**Club Officer Books must be checked in
Saturday before fair by NOON at Sterl Hall**

FASHION REVUE JUDGING & PUBLIC REVUE

Monday, July 27 – Emmanuel Church

- Pre-Fair Judging for Fashion Revue by schedule on Monday, with the public Fashion Revue held that evening at 7:00 p.m.
- **Pre-entry required by July 10 on-line through FairEntry.** A schedule will be emailed with attachments which must be completed and presented at the time of **check-in** for judging: Script Card, Cost Per Wearing Sheet, **printed** photo of 4-Her wearing outfit.
- Projects are now named Shopping in Style and Sewing and Textiles instead of purchased and constructed. For Shopping in Style, the boys and girls classes have been combined but are still divided by age divisions (junior, intermediate, senior). Both senior AND intermediate champions and reserve champions will be eligible to compete at the Kansas State Fair.

SEWING & TEXTILE DESIGN, SHOPPING IN STYLE (posters/displays) & FIBER ARTS JUDGING

(Includes crochet, knitting, needle arts, patchwork and quilting, rug making, spinning, weaving, ethnic arts, and macramé)

Wednesday, July 29, starting at 1:00 p.m., Sterl Hall

- Judging times will be assigned based on pre-entries.
- Each garment/item must have an identifying clothing label sewn into the article prior to judging.
- **Wool Garment Competition** is open to any 4-Her enrolled in a clothing, knitting, or crochet project who has constructed a garment with at least 60% wool fiber content. No pre-entry required; tell the judge your entry is eligible for the wool garment awards.
- **Other Important Clothing Note** – Only constructed clothing will be exhibited at the fair.

FOODS JUDGING

Saturday, July 25, starting at 9:00 a.m., Sterl Hall

- Judging times will be assigned based on pre-entries.
- Check classes and rules in the Fair Premium Guide.
- Approximately 5 minutes is allotted to each exhibit.
- 4-H leader and/or parents are welcome to sit with the 4-Her and **listen** to the judge's comments. Please allow the 4-Her to do the talking.
- **Educational Exhibits** will be judged at the same time food is judged. 4-Hers are encouraged to make an educational exhibit; you can also exhibit 3 food items and 1 flop.

4-H Food Sale
During foods judging
Sterl Hall – Proceeds go to 4-H Council



Special Baking Competition – Layer Cake

- **Adult and Youth Divisions and must use King Arthur Flour and provide UPC label from bag or opened bag of King Arthur Flour**
- 4-Hers can enter the Special Baking Competition (using King Arthur Flour)
- See Open Class Foods Division for details.
- Entries are checked-in **Saturday, August 1, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.** Judging begins at **2:00 p.m.**
- Cake and ice cream will be available after the contest.

FOOD EXHIBITING TIPS

FREEZING – Freezing baked products before the fair is acceptable. Be sure they are completely thawed before judging. Use good storage containers; airtight plastic containers are recommended. Thaw baked goods slowly (in the refrigerator) in the container, bag, or wrap in which they are frozen. This minimizes moisture loss.

BAKING TIPS

- Practice making baked entries several times before the final preparation of your fair entry.
- Start early so you can improve your skills and make changes to recipes.

- Drop cookies are dropped from a spoon onto a cookie sheet. They may or may not be flattened.
- Bar cookies may be cake-like or compact and chewy. They are cut into bars when cool.
- Do not overmix muffin or cupcake batter; overmixing causes tunnels.
- Foam cakes should have a rough, slightly cracked top crust. Exhibit in upright position with top crust showing.
- Use solid shortening to grease pans rather than oil or spray.
- Whole wheat products are to contain at least 50% whole wheat flour.
- Quick breads do not contain yeast.
- Grease muffin pans and quick bread pans on the bottom only to avoid a “fry line” around the top edge of the baked product.
- Use hydrogenated shortening instead of butter or margarine in cake frostings. It has a melting point of 127° F and produces a better product in hot weather.
- **Follow guidance on Frostings and Fillings provided at <https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/judging/index.html>. Calculations must be made prior to judging, or you will be dropped one ribbon placing.**

Remember to thank the sponsors of the fair awards. Sponsors are listed in the Fair Premium Guide.

Thank-you postcards will be traded for special awards earned. A sincere personal note is expected on each thank-you. Be sure to include information about yourself and your project as well as what you’ve learned, etc!



Department	Check-In	Weigh-In	Judging	Release
4-H Beef	Wednesday 8 a.m. -1 p.m.	Wednesday 7 p.m.	Friday 8 a.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Beef	Wednesday 3 p.m. -7 p.m.		Friday following 4-H	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Bucket. Calf	Wednesday 8 a.m. -1 p.m.		Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Dairy	Wednesday 8 a.m. -1 p.m. (In milk on show day)		Friday, 8:30 a.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Dairy	Wednesday 3 p.m. -7 p.m. (In milk on show day)		Friday, after 4-H	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Dairy Goat	Wednesday 8 a.m. -1 p.m.		Friday following Dairy Cattle	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Dairy Goat	Wednesday 3 p.m. -7 p.m. (In milk on show day)		Friday following 4-H	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Meat Goat	Wednesday 8 a.m. -1 p.m.	Wednesday Exhibitor Meeting 3:45, Weigh-in 4 p.m.	Thursday 6 p.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Meat Goat	Wednesday 3 p.m. -7 p.m.		Thursday following 4-H	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Equine	Wednesday 8 a.m. -1 p.m.		Thursday 8:30 a.m.	Saturday after 8 AM /Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Equine	Sunday 8:00 a.m.		Sunday 8:00 a.m.	After judging
Department	Check-In	Weigh-In	Judging	Release

4-H Cat	Thursday, July 23, 6 p.m.		Thursday July 23, 6:30 p.m.	After judging
4-H Dog	Tuesday, July 21, 8:30 a.m.		Tuesday July 21, 8:30 a.m.	After judging
4-H Poultry	Wednesday 8 a.m. -1 p.m.		Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Poultry	Wednesday 8 a.m. -1 p.m.		Thursday morning after 4-H	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Rabbit	Wednesday 8 a.m. -1 p.m.		Thursday 8:30 a.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Rabbit	Wednesday 3 p.m. -7 p.m.		Thursday morning after 4-H	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Swine	Wednesday 8 a.m. -1 p.m.	Thursday 8 a.m.	Saturday at 8 a.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Swine	Wednesday 3 p.m. -7 p.m.	Market Thursday 8 a.m.	Saturday morning after 4-H	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Sheep	Wednesday 8 a.m. -1 p.m.	Wednesday Exhibitor Meeting 3:45, Weigh-in 4 p.m.	Friday Breeding 5:30 p.m. Market. 6:30 p.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Sheep	Wednesday 3 p.m. -7 p.m.		Friday following 4-H Breeding	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Round Robin			Sunday, 2:00 p.m.	
4-H Agronomy	Thursday by schedule		Thursday by schedule	Sunday 3 p.m.
O. C. Agronomy	Thursday 9 a.m.- 11 a.m.		Thursday following 4-H	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Floriculture	Thursday 9 a.m.- 11 a.m.		Conference Judging by schedule	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Floriculture	Thursday 9 a.m.- 11 a.m.		Thursday following 4-H	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Horticulture	Thursday by schedule.		Conference Judging by schedule	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Horticulture	Thursday 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.		Thursday after 4-H	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Clothing, Shopping in Style Posters & Fiber Arts	Wednesday starting at 1 pm		Wednesday by schedule	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Electricity & Woodworking	Saturday before fair as scheduled		Saturday before fair as scheduled	Sunday 3 p.m.
FFA Ag Mechanics	Wednesday 3-7 p.m.		Thursday 10 a.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
Special Baking	Saturday 1-2 p.m.		Saturday 2 p.m.	
4-H Fashion Revue	Monday, July 27	At Emmanuel Church	Monday, July 27 as scheduled	Public Revue – July 27 @ 7:00 p.m.
4-H Foods	Saturday before fair as scheduled		Saturday before fair as scheduled	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Foods	Wednesday 3 p.m. -7 p.m.		Thursday 9 a.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Interior Design...	Saturday before fair as scheduled	Judged with Visual Arts	Saturday before fair as scheduled	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Craft	Wednesday 3-7 p.m.		Thursday 9 a.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Needlework	Wednesday 3-7 p.m.		Thursday 9 a.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Art	Wednesday 3-7 p.m.		Thursday 9 a.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Visual Arts	Saturday before fair as scheduled		Saturday before fair as scheduled	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Banner	Turn in Saturday, July 18 10 AM to noon or 4-6 PM at Sterl Hall		Saturday before fair **NO CONFERENCE JUDING**	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Forestry, Geology, Entomology	Saturday before fair as Scheduled		Saturday before fair as scheduled	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H STEM	Saturday before fair as Scheduled		Saturday before fair as scheduled	Sunday 3 p.m.

Department	Check-In	Weigh-In	Judging	Release
4-H Other Projects	Saturday before fair as scheduled		Saturday before fair as scheduled NO conference judging for club officer books. Officer books due by noon on conference judging day.	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Photography	Saturday before fair as scheduled		Saturday before fair as scheduled	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Photography	Wednesday 3-7 p.m.		Thursday 9 a.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Fiber Animal	Wednesday 8 a.m. -1 p.m.		Saturday 10 a.m.	Sunday 3 p.m.
O.C. Fiber Animal	Wednesday 3 p.m. -7 p.m.		Saturday following 4-H	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Vet Science	Saturday before fair as scheduled		Saturday before fair as scheduled	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Shooting Sports	Saturday before fair as scheduled		Saturday before fair as scheduled	Sunday 3 p.m.
4-H Wildlife	Saturday before fair as scheduled		Saturday before fair as scheduled	Sunday 3 p.m.

Conference Judging

Purpose: the judge wants to learn more about you and your project

What to expect: conversation and questions about your project

- Tell me about how you selected this exhibit to complete for fair.
- What was your favorite part of this exhibit?
- What was the most important thing you learned?
- If you had the chance to do this exhibit again, what would you change?
- Where did you learn how to _____?
- Tell me more about _____.
- What part was the most difficult?
- What was the easiest?
- How will you use what you learned next time?

Hints

- Keep eye contact with the judge.
- Sit attentively in your chair, try not to wiggle around.
- No gum!
- Speak to the judge, answer questions directly.
- Even though they may be sitting nearby, avoid looking to your adults for information.
- Listen carefully to the feedback the judge gives.
- Ask questions!

PRACTICE!

2026 Central Kansas Free Fair Theme



Let
Freedom
Ring

Central Kansas Free Fair 4-H/FFA Division Fair Helpers Superintendents/Assistant Superintendents

This is the **ONLY** notification you will receive

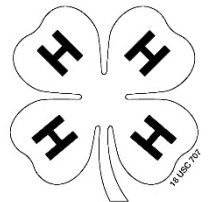
Helpers should be age 10 or older. Your job as a helper will be outlined for you by your department superintendent(s). It will consist mainly of helping with entries on entry day, watching exhibits at assigned times through the week, and any other items required in a particular department as requested by the superintendent(s). You will need to work at least **4 hours** to receive a fair pass good for one night of grandstand entertainment. Your pass will be given to you by your department superintendent **AFTER** you have completed your work assignments. We are counting on you and if there is any reason you cannot work at your assigned time, please call the Extension Office or the superintendent of your assigned department to plan for another work time.

Most livestock helpers should report on Wednesday during check-in times. Other departments, please be there just before the check-in or judging times. Check in with your department superintendent as soon as you arrive.

For Fair Entry, Winners Walkway, Foods, and Photography divisions, the superintendents of those projects will contact the 4-H Helpers prior to fair to set up a work schedule for fair week.

Find your name on the following list. If you do not find your name and you want to volunteer, check with department superintendents to see if they need any more help. Fair passes are not guaranteed if you were not signed up by the deadline.

Enjoy yourself and thank you for your help with the Central Kansas Free Fair!



2026 CKFF Helper List

Rocketry, Ag Mech, etc.	Connor Overturf, Steven Bogart	Cat	Riley Schremmer	Winners Walkway	Eyer Holt, Brogan Woody
Saturday, July 25, 9 am - 2 pm, Superintendent: Jon Norton, Asst. Superintendent: Augustus Anders		Thursday, July 23, 6:30 pm, Superintendent: Bailey Woody		Various, as scheduled, Superintendent: Melody Baetz, Barbie Woody	
Visual Arts/Interior Design	Charlotte Laughlin, Katy Gans, Kaylee Livingston	Clothing/Fiber Arts	Joss DePew, Vera Rankin, Clara Collins	Floriculture	Grace Hanback
Saturday, July 25, 9 am, Superintendent: Leah Hern, Asst. Superintendent: Lynne Murphy, Michele Livingston		Wednesday, July 29, 1-3 pm, Superintendent: Becky Dibben		Judging Thursday, July 30, 12:00, Superintendent: Laura Hoffman	
Banner	Elliot Rock, Jace Latzke	Agronomy/Horticulture	Landen Beary, Dalton Davidson, Blake Mystic	Foods Display	Branch Gans, Tatum Gentet
Check In Saturday, July 25, 12 PM, Superintendent: Joetta Nagely		Thursday July 29, 10:00 a.m. Superintendent: Michele Snowball		Saturday, July 25, Superintendent: Robin Schlesener	
Beef	Axie Shrack, Kinsey Acheson	Fair Entry	Kierstyn Coup, Adeline Laughlin, Quincy Coup	Foods Judging	Hadley Haverkamp, Janessa Latzke, Jade Wilson, Josie Wilson
Check In Wed. July 29, 8-1, Weigh In Wed 7 pm, Show Friday 8 am, Superintendents: Greg Acheson, Roger Forsyth, Asst. Superintendents: Jensen Woodworth, Elizabeth Perks		Various, as scheduled, Superintendents: Shawna Riffel & Becky Chase		Saturday, July 25, Superintendents: Lori Foth, Asst. Superintendent: Katie Wieters, Kerby Chase, Heidi Schlesener	
Bucket Calf	Lorelai Kuntz, Savannah Witt, Reatta Lefert	Dog	Bentley Strickland, Dylan Hemmy	Food Sale	KaAnn Baetz, Emil Pickerign
Check in Wed. July 29, 8-1, Show Saturday 4:30, Superintendent: Jennifer Wilson, Asst. Superintendent: Rodney Wilson, Dawn Wilson		Tuesday, July 21, 9:00 am, Superintendent: Natalie Strickland		Saturday, July 25, Superintendent: Jennifer & Jacob Andres	
Dairy	Colt Dester, Dally Emig	Photography	Layla Pickerign, Jordan Bartlett, Jace Loucks, Dodge Loucks, Wakeen Whitehair, Cady Marston	Sheep	Asher DePew, Wade Bathurst, Wyatt Bathurst, Alice Hill
Check In Wed. July 29, 8-1, Show Friday Cattle 8:30, followed by Goats, Goat Superintendent: Ashley Dester, Asst Superintendent: Bill Jackson, Cattle Superintendent: Jo Emig		Saturday, July 25, 9-1:30, Superintendent: Ashley Loucks		Check In Wed. July 29, 8-1, Weigh In Wed 4:30, Breeding Sheep Show Friday 5:00, Market Lamb Show Friday 6:30, Superintendents: Kevin Harris, Sherry Reinhardt and Mason Fink	
Meat Goats	Laney Hartman, Rhett Tiernan, Anna Holt	Poultry	Brogan Woody, Brianna Hill	Swine	Nolin Hartman, Ruby Kohman, Kynlie Phillips, Kaesen Phillips
Check In Wed. July 29, 8-1, Weigh In Wed. 7-8, Show Thursday 6:00, Superintendents: Garrett Bulk & Mackenzie Riffel, Asst. Superintendents: Laird Riffel & Tom Lehman		Check In Wed. July 29, 8-1, Show Thursday 9 a.m. Superintendent: Carrie Hill, Asst Superintendent: Barbie Woody		Check In Wed. July 29, 8-1, Weigh In Thursday 8 am, Show Saturday 8 am Superintendents: Loran Lefert, Nathan Zook, Kris Bogart, Trevor Martin	
Equine	Gabe Boyd, Kyland Vanover, Charlie Purdue	Rabbit	Victoria Jackson, Audrey Dester, Keaton Gentet, Delaney Stenger	Other Projects	Roper Lefert
Check In Wed. July 29, 8-1, Show Thursday 8:30 am, Report by 8:00 am, Superintendent: Katie Purdue & Susan Buckley		Check In Wed. July 29, 8-1, Judging Thursday 8:30 am, Superintendents: Marion & Dwight Kamm, Susan Mueller		Saturday, July 25, 9 - 2, Superintendent: Susan Hettenbach	
Photography Judging Contest	Godric Baetz, Wesley Whitehair	Round Robin	Addison Acheson	Woodworking/Electricity/ Forestry/ Entomology/ Geology	Justin Latzke, Colten Stenger, Stockton Bogart
Saturday, July 25, 9-1:30, check-in with Jill Martinson		Report Sunday by 1:00 pm, Superintendent: Paula Acheson, assistants: Nick Acheson, Ross Freeman		Saturday, July 25, 9-12, Superintendent: Jody Ehrich	
Fiber Animal	Brogan Woody	Fashion Revue	Reese Whitehair, Joss DePew, Kierstyn Coup, Quincy Coup, Ruby Kohman	Favorite Foods Show	Ava Hedstrom, Carleigh Abeldt, Janessa Latzke, Dean Felbush, Ty Cornell, Cora Hedstrom
Saturday August 1, 10:00 am, Superintendent: Barbie Woody		Monday July 27th as scheduled. Superintendents: Kelly Coup and Katie Kohman		Saturday July 18, 4:00 p.m. Superintendent: Shawna Riffel and Jennifer Latzke	



Beyond Ready

Extension
Chisholm Trail District

K-State Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Discrimination based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, ancestry, disability, genetic information, military status, or veteran status is prohibited. Program participants may request information in languages other than English. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means for communication (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape, and American Sign Language) may also be requested. Language access services, such as interpretation and translation of vital information will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

- To request a disability accommodation, complete the [Reasonable Accommodation Request Form](#). For those requesting accommodations for a local extension program, please work with the extension agent in your [local office](#) to complete this form.
- Formal complaints related to discrimination, harassment and bullying can be submitted to [KSU's Office of Institutional Equity](#).

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