



2026 FAMILY FAIR LETTER

Dear Marion County 4-H Families,

This letter contains information on the upcoming Marion County Fair, scheduled for July 18-25, 2026. We will be highlighting some changes and information that we feel is most important. It is advised to give us a call at the Extension Office (620)382-2325 if you have questions – better to ask than to assume!

FAIR SCHEDULE:

A few changes have been made to the fair schedule from last year. Please review the fair schedule as a whole, but here is a few to make note of:

Sunday: Horse Show in Evening

Monday: Dog Show in the morning. Open Class Judging in the afternoon.

Tuesday: Judging will take place in the following project areas: Visual Arts, Photography, Posters/Notebooks/Displays, Exploring 4-H, Cloverbuds and STEM projects: Rocketry, Astronomy, Building Block Construction, Robotics, UAS & Woodworking.

Judging is split by Last Name, if your last name falls between A-M in the alphabet, you will be judged in the morning. If your last name falls between N-Z in the alphabet, you will be judged in the afternoon. We will give our judges a defined lunch break from 11:30 -12:30. Judges will evaluate multiple project areas, so it is quite possible to meet with the same judge for photography and visual arts for example.

Textile Fiber Arts/Style Revue/Shopping in Style/Sewing judging will occur on Tuesday afternoon with a judging schedule. Participants will receive this schedule prior to fair, so that arrangements can be made on your part.

Wednesday: Agronomy, Farmscapes, Horticulture/Floriculture, and the Natural Sciences (Entomology, Geology, Forestry & Wildlife) will be judged in the morning with no set schedule. Both Open Class and 4-H Foods judging occurs in the afternoon.

Livestock check-in occurs Wednesday morning in the following order: Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Sheep, Meat Goats, Swine, Beef Cattle. Poultry and Rabbit check-in will occur in the afternoon. Dairy Cattle & Dairy Goats show in the morning.

Public Style Revue/Static Project Auction will take place Wednesday evening followed by the Animal Costume Contest.

Thursday: Sheep & Meat Goat Show occurs in the morning. Poultry and Rabbit show in the afternoon, with bucket calf conference judging. Bucket Calf Showmanship and Beef Cattle show in the evening.

Friday: Swine Show in the morning, followed by Round Robin. Barnyard Olympics in the afternoon.

Marion County SAPC (Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition) is sponsoring a Hoedown Friday afternoon following the Barnyard Olympics. There will be refreshments, singing, dancing and lots of fun! Please plan to join us in 4-H building for a good time!

Friends of 4-H event in the evening.

MARION COUNTY FAIR BOOK:

You may notice the fair book has gotten smaller and some classes may not appear as they have before. We have made a decision to try to get down to the nuts & bolts in the book and only print the book every 3-5 years; there are a number of reasons we have decided to make that decision that I won't go into here but you can sure ask me about it if you're curious. All that being said, we removed a very small amount of classes, a lot of redundancy and tightened it up as best we could while still providing the detailed information that may be needed.

A couple things to note while using the fair book to make fair entries:

- The fair book is meant to be a stand alone document for the next 3-5 years, so you will not find the fair schedule in the book.
- EVERY 4-H PROJECT AREA can have a poster, display or notebook as an exhibit, some very specific ones have their own class within the fair book(Example: Entomology Notebook), but any others can be entered in Class 8002 (Poster), 8003/8004 (Display) or 8005(Notebook). There are some project areas where the only entries were a poster, display or notebook (Example: Veterinary Science). You won't find a Veterinary Science Class listed, if you have a Vet Science exhibit – it just needs to be entered in poster, display or notebook.
- Many classes will have subclasses broken by age, so when making entries make sure that you mark those subclasses (Example: Showmanship or Building Blocks Class – Subclass: Jr, Int, Sr).
- Some Project areas have been moved within the book to aid in making entries (Example: Textiles – Fiber Arts, Sewing, Shopping in Style and Style Revue)
- The fair book had some inconsistencies with entry maximums, especially in the animal project areas, please make note of them. (Example: All livestock have a maximum head entry of 3 market and 3 breeding animals per species. Another example: 5 photography entry maximum, with no more than two per class: 2 Color, 2 Black & White & 1 Portfolio.)

PRE-FAIR INFORMATION:

Fair Entry: 4-H Members are required to pre-enter ALL of their exhibits through the Fair Entry system. The Fair Entry system will open for entries on June 12th @ 12:01 AM through June 26th at 11:59AM. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED!

NEW CLASSES AVAILABLE:

- Class 1001 - Animal Costume Contest (This is an expansion of the Bucket Calf Costume Contest – and is open to all animals that are exhibited at the Marion County Fair. Please be reasonable with this, any unruly animals will be asked to not participate; example: a dog that gets excited around other animals.)
- Class 3220 – Poultry Showmanship (This class tests your knowledge of your bird, the appearance of the bird and your showmanship skills (handling).

- Class 8004 – Educational Digital Display (This could be a short video or digital poster you created describing your project and what you have learned. You will save it on a USB, sent into the Extension Office by July 10th, it will be viewed by the judge during conference judging. These will also be set to play on a loop during the fair.)
- Class 2441 – Farmscapes Display (Create your own mini-sized farm within a 4' x 4' area. Farmscape will need a label with Farm Name and Description and will meet with judge(s).)

REMINDERS:

- You must sign up on Fair Entry to participate in either the Project or Livestock Auction
- Make sure all exhibits are correctly labeled! There are specific labels for some projects. Examples: Foods, Clothing, Photography.
- Review exhibit rules, some are very specific. Examples: Photo mounting, Clothing cost per wear, Building Block Construction display, Visual Arts need metal sawtooth hangers or wire for display.
- Some Specific labels/items are available at the Extension Office. Examples: Photo mats, clothing hangers and garment bags/coverings. Contact the Extension Office if you have questions (620)382-2325.

FAIR WEEK INFORMATION:

- Fair Set Up: Saturday, July 18, starting at 8:00 AM (until we finish). Please make plans to help! Make sure to bring some extra buckets and towels, leaf blower, brooms, rakes, and a drill if you have one!
- STYLE REVUE WALK THROUGH: The stage will be set-up Saturday morning on the 18th. A table will be setup for you to fill out your cost per wear form or write your style revue script. All scripts and cost per wear forms must be turned in prior to 12 PM on the 18th. Forms are available at the Extension Office or online at the Chisholm Trail District 4-H Youth Development Events Page.
- PUBLIC STYE REVUE SET UP: Participants are invited to help decorate the stage for public style revue at 10AM on Wednesday morning in the 4-H building.
- Fair Clean Up/Project Release: Saturday, July 25th, starting at 8:00 AM static projects inside the 4-H Building will be released to go home. Livestock may be released **NO EARLIER** than 9:00 PM Friday, July 24th. IT IS EXPECTED TO COME BACK AND HELP CLEAN UP!
- Static Project Check-In: Static Project Check-In Table opens at 7:30 AM on Tuesday, July 21st. Static check-in will be in the 4-H Building. 4-H members will receive their entry cards at the check-in table. After checking in, you will make sure all labels/entry cards are attached to your exhibit. The member will then take their item to the judge's table for evaluation. The judge will mark the entry cards and official check-in will take place by superintendents and staff after that. There are no specific judging times, however the schedule for Tuesday, is broken by Last Name – please make note of this. Wednesday morning check-in table will open at 7:30 AM for Horticulture, Floriculture, Farmscapes, Crops, Entomology, Geology, Wildlife exhibits. The check-in table for Foods will be open at 12:30 PM. Labels are available in the extension office and will be available in the 4-H Building the day of check in.

- Livestock Check-In: Livestock Check-In will take place on Wednesday morning, in the following order: Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Sheep, Meat Goats, Swine and Beef Cattle. Poultry & Rabbit Check-In will occur Wednesday Afternoon. Livestock Exhibitors need to pick up Fair Entry Cards for each animal from the scales. Corrections need to be written on said card before check-in.
- Intent to Exhibit at State Fair: Judges will select State Fair Qualifying exhibits. They will place a label/tag on those exhibits. If your project qualifies for exhibition at the State Fair, you are eligible – not obligated to enter one per class at the State Fair. You will need to notify your intent to exhibit at State Fair by the end of **Friday, July 25th**. There will be a QR code posted at each project table that you can scan to enter information for State Fair Entries in those selected projects.
- Public Style Revue: The public style revue will take place on Wednesday evening in the 4-H building starting at 7:00PM. A short script will be read while 4-H members model their clothing projects; if you have questions or need help in writing a script please contact the Extension Office – remember these are due to the Extension Office by 12PM on Saturday, July 18th. Food items from our Foods exhibits will be available to our spectators while they enjoy the revue.
- Livestock & Static Project Auction Information: The livestock auction will take place on Friday evening in the livestock pavilion following the Friends of 4-H Meal as it has in the past. This auction will strictly be for livestock only and is still only a premium auction where the actual animal does not change ownership. A static project auction has been added to the fair schedule to take place on Wednesday evening; these items will transfer ownership to the winning bidder. 4-Hers intending to sell a food item in the project auction must sell a whole item, meaning you would need to make 2 cakes – 1 for judging and 1 for the sale. This auction will be a public auction (auctioneer calling for bids) and will occur during the intermission of the Public Style Revue, which starts at 7:00PM. 4-H members may participate in either the livestock auction or the project auction – **NOT BOTH!** The Static Project Auction is open to foods and any static project in the 4-H building. Please check the Static Auction Rules found in the fair book and call in to the office to ask any questions. Any 4-H member wanting to participate in either the livestock auction or the static project auction must make an auction entry in the fair entry system just like your other fair entries. They are:

Class 2000 – Pre-Entry to Static Auction

Class 1000 – Pre-Entry to Livestock Auction

Thank You cards will be available at the fairgrounds and need to be written for the Static Project Auction, prior to the Project Auction. Livestock Auction participants must drop off a printed 8" x 10" photo of the 4-Her working with their livestock project to the Extension Office prior to Friday July 10th. Any member who fails to write a thank you for the Static Project Auction or doesn't drop off a printed photo for the Livestock Auction will not be allowed to participate in the corresponding auction. Livestock Auction entries need to have species selection for auction turned in at the end of the Beef Show.

- Friends of 4-H Event: Friday, July 25th --All 4-H'ers and families are invited to come to this event. A meal will be provided by Happy Hustlers from 5:00 – 6:30PM. Each Club is responsible for a \$200 donation for the meal. We will be inviting all who support the 4-H program throughout the year to be our guests; we will also include information regarding the livestock and static project auctions! NOTE: As a 4-Her it is important to personally invite and thank a buyer.
- 4-H Member Volunteers Needed: Throughout the Fair we will need 4-H Members to assist with events and activities. Please reach out to the Extension Office to see how you can help. **Friends of 4-H Event**: Friday, July 25th –Volunteer to serve meal and drinks to 4-H Families and Supporters before the 4-H Livestock Auction. We will need a total of 10 youth from 4:30-6:30 PM. No age limit required.
- 4-H Concession Stand: This year we will have a 4-H Concession Stand that will operate Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The Concession Stand's goal is to provide a food option for families on the fairgrounds. Talk to your club about signing up for a time to work the 4-H Concession Stand. We will need 3 youth and 1 adult for each time slot. Please reach out to your club leader if you are able to help work the concessions. Feel free to donate the following items to the concession stand: Pop, Water, Hotdogs, Frozen French Fries & Assorted Single Chip Packs.

CONCESSION STAND SCHEDULE:

- Tuesday:
- 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM:
- 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM:
- 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM:

Wednesday:

- 8:00 AM-11:00 AM:
- 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM:
- 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM:



Thursday:

- 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM:
- 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM:
- 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM:

Friday:

- 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM:
- 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM:

Disclaimer: The schedule and Fair Book Rules are subject to change. If any changes need to be made, the Extension Office will exhaust all possible means to information families.

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Chisholm Trail District
Marion County