



Meadowlark District 4-H News

www.meadowlark.ksu.edu

Meadowlark Extension District

Holton Office

114 W. 5th
Holton, KS.

66436-1791

Phone: 785-364-4125

FAX 785-364-4775

Oskaloosa Office

Courthouse Basement

P.O. Box 326

Oskaloosa, KS.

66066-0326

Phone: 785-863-2212

FAX 785-863-3511

Seneca Office

1500 Community Dr.

Seneca, KS.

66538-1921

Phone 785-336-2184

FAX 785-336-6060

Dear New 4-H Families,

One of the largest events during the 4-H year is the county fair. The county fair is a very exciting time. You may feel like you've learned a lot in the past few months, but you can learn even more at the fair if you keep your eyes and ears open! The Fair provides an opportunity for youth to showcase their project work. Exhibits are evaluated by judges and receive a ribbon denoting its quality in comparison to a standard. Each county in the District holds their own 4-H fair in either late July or early August. Fairbooks are handed out in May or June with fair newsletters being sent out in the summer months. Be sure to read this information carefully! While Fair is a capstone event for many 4-H members, this should not be the sole focus or endpoint for the 4-H experience. 4-H youth development is so much bigger than the Fair! Good luck to all 4-Hers as you receive critique from qualified judges, in a positive learning environment, under the direction of caring volunteers.

Ross Mosteller – District Agent, 4-H Youth Development



Conference/Consultation Judging

Most counties or districts use a style of conference judging at the fair. The state fair also uses it for a few select 4-H projects. You can learn many new things from this type of judging. We want to tell you about it here because it can be a little scary at first!

Conference judging is a one-to-one talk between you and the judge about your exhibit. Other people may be listening, or it may be just you and the judge. Either way, the judge will ask you about your project.

Why did you choose to do this item (if you had a choice)?

How did you make it?

Did you have any problems?

What did you learn?

The judges may also talk to you about what they see. They should tell you what you did well and talk to you about what you could do better next time. At the end of the talk, the judge will tell you how you did.

Talking with judges who are "experts" can be a great learning experience. Don't be afraid to ask them questions, especially if you don't understand what they say. They can give you tips on how to improve your project. And they can tell you where to get information that you need. Just relax and smile!



K-State Research and
Extension
is an equal opportunity
provider and employer
www.ksre.ksu.edu



County Fair Survival Guide

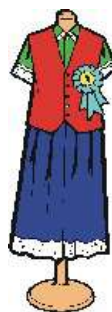
At the county fair, 4-H members bring items they have made or animals they have raised during the most recent 4-H year. Most 4-H exhibits are judged during the county fair, with a few minor exceptions. Some divisions are judged prior to the fair at a Pre-Fair/Consultation judging event.

You will receive information about what you should bring to exhibit for your project. This information is printed in what we call the "Fair Book." You may need to sew a garment, train your dog, make a poster or display, or make a food item. It all depends on what projects you're enrolled in. Read the descriptions for your projects carefully. Ask your club or project leader if you don't understand what to do.

You may also receive a mailing in June to pre-enter the correct "classes" during fair (*not applicable to Jefferson 4-H Fair*). Don't be afraid to ask your leader or an older member for help. If you sign up for the wrong class, they may not be able to judge your project when you get to the fair. Watch for the due dates and make sure you sign up on time. It's always a good idea to ask for help when you are in doubt!

At the fair, the first step is checking in. Instructions for check-in will either be in a special mailing from the Extension office, in a 4-H newsletter or in the Fair Book (*including check-in location*). In almost every case, a fair entry card will need to accompany the exhibit/entry. If you don't know where to go, ask! Everyone is busy during the fair, but someone will be able to help you get to the right spot. Sometimes, projects must be checked in by a certain time. Leave home early enough to get there and find where you are going. After check-in, people who know about your projects judge them. All 4-H projects receive a ribbon, critique or special award.

Judges give blue award ribbons for projects that meet 4-H standards. Red award ribbons are for projects that need some improvement, and white award ribbons are for projects that need much improvement. Purple ribbons are designated for the exhibits that exceed the standard.



In most 4-H shows and classes, everyone can get the same ribbon award, such as a blue. They are not given just to one person. In this part of the judging, members are not competing against each other. Projects are judged on their own merit.

Judges may select state fair delegates, class champions, or best of show for some classes. Judges compare the top award projects and the best ones are chosen as winners. At some 4-H shows, judges announce the winners at special times. If you are a special winner, you should be told about these events.

Animal exhibits are different from other project exhibits, especially if you are in any of the large animal projects. Depending on your 4-H show, the large animal classes may be judged by competition only. The judge puts the animals in order, from top to bottom of the class. Then members receive ribbons from first to last place. In other areas, judges rank the animals in the same way, but all animals can get similar ribbon awards (blue as an example) if they are deserving of that ribbon ranking.

Take the time to walk around and look at other 4-H members' projects. You may see one that you would like to take. Sometimes you can get an idea for next year's project. Remember, though, you shouldn't just copy what someone else has done. Let your creativity shine!

There will be a designated time to check out your exhibits. Please don't remove items from the fair without prior knowledge or approval. All of the Fairs within Meadowlark District have a "Fair Office" or place with Extension Staff and Fair officials gather. This is a great place to ask questions. Superintendents are assigned to each division and are an excellent first point of reference too.

Remember **READ YOUR FAIRBOOK AND FAIR RELATED NEWSLETTERS!** This is where important information will be found. Good luck and have fun at FAIR!

Kansas State Fair

4-H members from across the state who qualify at their county fair may take their projects to the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. However, you must be 9 years old by January 1 of the 4-H year in order to exhibit at this level. For action-type projects, you will have the chance to go to the fair and demonstrate your skills. Projects like Fashion Revue, Public Presentations and Life Skills Judging Contests are judged on specific days. A few select projects may also be judged by conference judging on designated days.

All livestock projects are shown on set days, depending on the type of animal. You must nominate market beef animals by May 1 and other livestock species by June 15. Livestock entries are then due on July 15 for the Kansas State Fair or August 15 for the Kansas Junior Livestock Show. All other 4-H entries are due to the local Extension office to enter by AUGUST 12th! Get a special entry form from the local Extension office. You can usually get these forms and information from the State Fair Book in early May. The KSF entry information & rules are also available on the Kansas 4-H website, www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/fairs/kansas-state-fair/index.html or the KSF website, www.KansasStateFair.com. Judging for animal classes is competitive and premiums are based on the final ranking of the class.

Most 4-H projects must be brought to the State Fair before the fair begins for judging. The local Extension office will coordinate the efforts to get projects to and from Hutchinson. You will need to listen or read guidelines from the Extension office carefully so you can follow all of the instructions necessary to get your project to the fair. Be sure to pack your item carefully so it will not be damaged along the way. You may want to plan a family trip to the State Fair to see your exhibit on display.



Twas the Night Before Fair

'Twas the night before Fair and all through the house
Not a person was sleeping – not even the mouse.

The unfinished clothes were hung with care,
In hopes to be finished in time for the fair.

The children were hustling, making mother see red,
While visions of blue ribbons danced in their heads.

As Judy sewed kerchief and Sue knitted cap,
Mom and Dad wished for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn, there arose such a clatter,
Those darn steers were out again! That was the matter.

Away to the window flew Mom like a flash,
Pulled open the drapes and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the lawn freshly mowed,
Gave a luster of mid-day to creatures below.

Bill ran for the halter, Dad put on his shoes,
The girls smelled bread burning -- there go the blues!

More rapid than eagles, the steers, running, came
As Dad whistled, shouted and called them by name.

Back to the barn, the steers quickly flew
Followed by Dad, Mom and all of us too.

Bill came in covered with hay from head to his boot,
So Mom quickly scolded and told him to "Scoot!"

"I'll finish the tags, you finish your sewing,
Dad'll help John wash sheep, where is this night going."

The bread is a bit brown, but preserves looked quite merry,
Sue iced coffee cake, topping it with a cherry.

Now blouses have buttons, skirts hemmed at last,
The dress looks better with seams pressed flat.

By two in the morning, the sheep clean at last,
John sat in the kitchen and took a short rest.

Bill said his tool box paint was still very wet,
But Mom said, "At this hour -- Too late to fret.

Go take your showers" -- and she tweaked his nose,
With yawns and a stretch, the children arose.

Mom cleaned the kitchen while Dad sipped iced tea,
Glanced at his watch and said, "You'll agree,

We've finally done it -- We've got time to spare
4-H really is a family affair."

With a wink of his eye and a nod of his head, he said,
"Let's go to bed, Mother, we've a big day ahead."

