

NEWS

**July 13- July 17, 2026**

**It's County Fair Time! This newsletter has valuable fair info in it, so please be sure to read it.**



### Dates At A Glance

- June 24** – Horse Show, **6:00 PM**
- June 26** – All Pre-Entries Due Online
- July 1** – Ambassador Applications Due
- July 1** – Dog Show, **5:00 PM**
- July 5** – Building Superintendent Meeting @ **4:00 PM**
- July 5** – Livestock Superintendent Meeting @ **5:30 PM**
- July 7** – Pre-Fair Judging
- July 10-11** – Jackson County Fair Rodeo
- July 13-July 17** – Jackson County Fair

**All fair pre-entries are due online at FairEntry.com by June 26. No late entries will be accepted after June 26.** Please check the fair book for time and rule changes for your specific project. You may find the Jackson County Fair pre-entry site at <https://jackson-ks.fairentry.com/>

**DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!!!!!!!**

Any questions or need help, please let me or the office know and we will gladly help you out. **Club leaders have your fair packets!** But you will need to stop in the office for the stickers, photo boards & sleeves.

Hard copies of the fair books will be distributed to all 4-H families.... There is an electronic version on the Jackson County 4-H webpage. Please review the general rules and the project rules closely. Contact our office or your club leader with any questions.

### **Note few fair book changes....**

- Few Schedule Changes to judging times. Please look at schedule.
- All swine need to have a 4-H ear tag (includes market, breeding & open class).
- Breeding animals must be owned by **May 1** of the current 4-H year.
- Foods – NO 4-Hers over the age of 9 can make a No Bake Cookie/Snack Mix.
- Banners – NO 3-D objects, glitter or digitally printed materials.
- Photography – Do Not have any writing/labels of any kind on the back of the photo boards.

Be sure to like the [Northeast Kansas Heritage Complex \(NEKHC\)](#) and [Meadowlark District 4-H](#) on Facebook for Fair Updates.

Fair book & Project Information:

<https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/holton.html>

**Please check the divisions in which you are enrolled in to avoid any confusion.**

**Remember that there are NO mindless questions!**

**So please be sure to ask if you don't understand something.**

## What are pre-entries?

We pre-enter ALL 4-H projects so we can be sure to have enough stall space and exhibit space. We also schedule judging times based on the pre-entries for some of the building projects. The projects in which you were enrolled in are the projects you will need to pre-enter online. You can pre-enter at <https://faireentry.com>

Once the office receives all the pre-entries, judging schedules will be mailed out for the following projects: Arts/Crafts, Foods/Table Settings, Photography, Bucket Calf Consultation Judging and All Clothing. Please be watching your email for these schedules or check for them on our district website.

## Labels

- **Entry Cards** – These will be printed by the Extension office after all pre-entries are received. We will have them ready for you at pre-fair judging or Sunday evening of the fair for you to attach to your fair project.
- **Labels** – These need to be placed on the bottom or back side of **ALL** Static Exhibits. Labels are included in your packet or you can be pick more up at the Extension Office or print off our Meadowlark District Website.
- **Cloth Labels** – Need to be around 3"x2 ½" in size and include Exhibitor Number, Class Number and District. These may be made out of a piece of cloth with a permanent or laundry type marker. Please attach to all Clothing Exhibits and Fiber Arts Exhibits.
- **Food Preservation** – Labels are available at our office or you can print them off yourself on District website.

**BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR FAIRBOOK FOR JUDGING TIMES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
ALL 4-HER'S NEED TO SIGN THE MEADOWLARK CODE OF CONDUCT  
and have on file at the Extension Office!!!!!!!!!!!!**

## Jackson County Farm Bureau Meal Coupon

Jackson County Farm Bureau has once again sponsored a \$5 meal coupon. Please check with your club leaders to get your meal coupon.

## Fairground Cleanup

We need all hands-on deck, **Saturday, July 11** starting at **9:00 AM** at the fairgrounds. We will be setting up all the tables, exhibit cases and photo stands in the building as well as cleaning the barn and setting up rabbit/poultry cages. This is one of your fair requirements.

## Important Project Information:

### **Arts & Crafts/Fiber Arts (All will be judged Tuesday, July 9 at Holton Elementary School)**

- You may enter up to 6 entries total for arts & crafts and 5 entries total for fiber arts and crafts.
- Only 3 entries are allowed in class 4501 Fine Arts due to space.
- Ribbons will be given to 4-Her at pre-fair judging. It is the 4-Hers responsibility to bring the item with ribbon attached to the fair during the designated fair check-in times.
- Check In time: Sunday, **July 12** from 4:00-6:00 PM
- Fiber Arts Labels - use a piece of cloth with a permanent or laundry type marker. Labels should be about 3"x2 ½" in size and include Exhibitor number, Class Number and District.
- Each exhibit will need a sticker.
- If your item needs to be hung up, please be sure to have a wire hanger with it.
- Judges will select the Visual Arts & Crafts that will go on to the State Fair.

## Banners

- Need to be brought to fairgrounds by **Sunday, July 12**. Please be sure to read rules in fair book!!! To pre-enter a club banner please contact the Extension Office. No 3-D objects, glitter or digitally printed materials.

**Be sure to invite family, friends and business owners to the Annual Food Auction & the Livestock Sale. Flyers are available in your fair packet or on our website.**

### **Photography (Judged Tuesday, July 7 at Holton Elementary School)**

- 4 entries per class
- During pre-fair judging we will form a line at one end, and you will go to the next available judge. There will be no picking and choosing of which judge you can go to. A time for your club to have their photos judged will be mailed out after pre-entries are received.
- Photos can't have live subjects on railroad right away or taken from railroad right of way property. They will be disqualified.
- Photo mount boards are available at the office for \$2.00 a board and plastic sleeve. We also have mounting instructions.
- Entry cards will be placed with photo after the judging.
- **DO NOT place any labels/writing on the back of the photo boards this year. Only label you will have on your photo will be on the front side, the strip you receive at the Extension Office.**

### **Clothing (All judged Tuesday, July 8 at Holton Elementary School)**

- Consultation outfit needs to be a separate outfit from the Shopping in Style Display outfit.
- Consultation exhibitors will need to fill out a Cost Per Wear form and a Consultation Form. Please read rule 1 in fair book on page 68. Bring this all to pre-fair judging with the outfit.
- Clothing Shopping in Style Displays will be 3'x4'.
- Clothing Shopping in Style Displays may be set up **Saturday, July 11 from Noon-4:00 PM** and **Sunday, July 12 from Noon-4:00 PM**. Superintendent will assign spaces.
- Clothing Shopping in Style Display outfit **MUST** be a separate outfit from the Fashion Revue outfit. Display outfit **MUST** stay on display for the whole duration of the fair.
- **Fashion Revue participants please bring a photo of yourself in your outfit to pre-fair judging!**
- Fashion Revue participants need to turn in their Fashion Revue scripts by the end of Pre-Fair Judging on **Tuesday, July 7**. They may be e-mailed to Carol at [cmcmnigal@ksu.edu](mailto:cmcmnigal@ksu.edu) anytime.
- Fashion Revue exhibitors need to fill out the Fashion Revue form and a Cost Per Wear form and bring with you to the pre-fair judging along with your photo.
- A schedule of judging times will be emailed to you for Clothing Construction, Fashion Revue and Shopping in Style Consultation Judging.
- Clothing labels – use a piece of cloth with a permanent or laundry type marker. Labels should be about 3"x2 1/2" in size and include Exhibitor number, Class Number and District.

### **Foods/Table Settings**

- A time for Foods judging will be mailed to you after pre-entries are in.
- All foods with frostings and fillings must have the amount of sugar calculated and calculation must be attached to entry. For more information please visit <https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/judging/index.html>
- If your item is chosen for the Food Auction, please be sure to attend. Check back after Foods judging to find out if your item was selected. **FOOD AUCTION is on Monday, July 13 at 6:00 PM.**
- Table Settings will be judged at pre-fair judging on **Tuesday, July 7**. Please bring your own card table! Time will be assigned to you.

### **Food Auction**

- If your food item is a purple cake, pie, decorated cake, fancy bread or a cookie jar, please be sure to be present during the Food Auction on **Monday, July 13** to help sell your food item. Not all purple items are chosen for the auction. Please check back to see if your item was selected.
- Money from the Food Auction goes to 4-H event scholarships.
- Please be sure to invite buyers. We have flyers available to pass out.

### **Club Entries**

If you oversee your Club Exhibits (Banner, Hay Bale or Display), please contact the Extension office to pre-enter them. With FairEntry those exhibits need to be entered differently. Club books can be entered by the individual 4-H members.

**All exhibits must stay in place until their assigned time.  
Livestock at 2:30 PM and Building at 7:00 PM on Thursday.**

## County Fire Bans and Rocket Launches

This is a reminder about Kansas 4-H rocketry rules as they relate to fire bans in Kansas. While much of Kansas is currently floating in water, we know that weather conditions can change rapidly, often in 30 days. The 2026 Kansas State Fair rocketry rules state "if a fire burn ban is in effect for any county in Kansas, exhibitors in any Kansas county are not required to launch their rocket(s). All requirements for the launching of rockets for the state fair and the documenting of the launching are suspended for the duration of the ban. We advise everyone to always be cautious and use good judgment in planning and conducting rocket launches and consider cancelling them if dry conditions warrant.

## Livestock Project Information

- Superintendents will be around to do animal checks as you unload your animals.
  - All animals need to be on the fairgrounds between 4:00-6:00 PM Sunday night (exception is dairy animals in milk).
  - There will be 2 different unloading areas. Unloading will be from **4:00-6:00 PM on Sunday, July 12.**
    - **SHEEP/GOATS** – Unload on the west side of the building (lead them in).
    - **CATTLE/SWINE/Mixed load** – Pull through the barn from north to south
- We ask everyone please be patient and courteous to others. Please just pull up and unload your animals only. All equipment will need to be unloaded either before or after.
- Pictures with your animals may be taken at the designated area. There will be a banner with decorations for pictures. Grand and Reserve Champion animals will take them at the end of the show over in this area with the judge.
  - Superintendents will have the final say in their area.
  - If your market animal has lost an ear tag, please notify our office so we can get them replaced.
  - All animals must be kept in place until **Thursday at 2:30 PM**. If left before this time, all ribbon premium for that species will be forfeited.
  - Blocking chutes may be brought to the fair but they must stay outside of the barn in designated area.
  - Livestock Shows will be a "No Fit" show. Means it will be a wash/blow dry/brush your animal. Major clipping must be done at home, touch up clipping may be done at the fair. No paint, glue or bloom sprays may be used. Please refer to page 20 in the fair book for more information.
  - You must provide your own bedding (**wood chips only**). Bring your own or fair board will have a few bags for sell during the fair.
  - No animals are allowed outside of livestock building for any reason once checked in on Sunday. The only exception is to go out to the wash rack or area to the south of the barn but must stay inside the fenced area.
  - **Make sure to sign and turn in your Fair Participants Code of Conduct & Livestock Premium Auction Requirements Form.**
  - You will receive your back number during the week of the fair. Please be sure to find it in the Livestock Meeting Room before your livestock show! This will be your only number so be sure to hang onto it for the duration of the fair!

## Open Class Livestock Entries

If your little one is showing an animal in open class, they can't be housed at the fair unless there is room in their sibling's animal's pen. Otherwise, they need to be brought in the day of the show and will show right after the showmanship classes unless otherwise announced. Please let the office know by **July 1** of any Open Class Livestock Exhibits.

## Poultry Testing

Jackson County is not on the rotation for testing this year. All Poultry needs to be in place by **Sunday, July 12** between **6:00-7:00 PM**.

## Horse Show

We will have the Halter, Showmanship, Western Riding and Racing events on **Wednesday, June 24** starting at **6:00 PM**. All horses must have a current coggins test within the last year. Please bring the day of show to check in.

## Livestock Weigh-In Times

- Meat Goats/Sheep – **Sunday, July 12** Weigh-In from 5:30-6:30 PM
- Beef – **Sunday, July 12** Weigh-In from 7:00-8:00 PM (carcass scanning at this time)
- Swine – **Monday, July 13** Weigh In from 8:00-9:30 AM

Meeting is at **6:30 PM**

Meeting is at **7:00 PM**

Meeting is at **7:50 AM**

## Bucket Calves

- All bucket calves must be weaned by fair time.
- All age divisions will be judged.
- Conference Judging will be **Tuesday, July 7**. Scheduled time will be posted and emailed out after fair entries are done.

## Beef

- Market Steers will be able to participate in the Market Steer Carcass Scanning which will be **Sunday, July 12** from **7:00-8:00 PM**. They will be looking at the following areas of your market steers: Ribeye area, Backfat, Percent Intramuscular Fat (objective measurement of marbling in live cattle), etc. We will have an Overall Carcass award & Reserve Overall Carcass.

## Swine

- You don't need to be present for the weigh-in. We will write all weights down for the 4-Hers, if they are not able to attend.
- No feeding hogs in the wash area.

## Livestock Shows are No Fit

"No Fit" shows explicitly forbid external products that change the natural appearance of the animal. Exhibitors found using these products may be disqualified.

- Adhesives & Glues: Any substance used to hold hair in place or alter animals' conformations (leg boning products)
- Paints & Coloring Agents: Products that change or enhance the color of animal's hair (sprays, chalks or white out)
- Powders & Creams: These can be used to alter color or add artificial bulk.
- Hairspray/Anything Stiff or Sticky: Products that make hair stiff or uncombable, a comb must be able to run through.
- False Hair/Materials: The use of false tail heads, hair extensions, or foreign material to enhance appearance.

## Livestock Sale Options

4-Hers who want to sell their livestock in the Premium Livestock Sale **MUST:**

1. Fill out and have their club leader sign off on the 4-H Premium Sale Requirements.
2. Complete an Intent to Sell form and have it turned into the dropbox at the livestock office building by **Tuesday, July 14** by **10:00 PM** or **30 minutes** after the conclusion of the beef show.
3. There is a Livestock Sale fee of \$10.00, per animal, that goes through the auction. Livestock Sale checks will be available for pick up at the Extension Office after **August 31**. *Remember - there will be no flooring of Over or Underweight animals.* Families will need to find their own buyers or take the animals back home.

**\*\*\* Please be sure to pick up some Buyer Invites at the Extension Office. There are a few in your packets, but it never hurts to ask more than 1 potential buyer.**

## Herdsmanship Winners 2025

The following are the Herdsmanship winners from last year's fair. Please have a representative from your club contact the office before **July 1** to give us your stalling preference.

- Beef – Mayetta Mustangs
- Swine – Lucky Stars
- Sheep – Pleasant Valley Rustlers
- Bucket Calf – Straight Arrows
- Dairy – North Jackson Jets
- Meat Goat – Hoyt Livewires

## 4-H Concession Stand

Our concession stand managers will be Megan Montgomery & Toni Kucan.

Shifts were drawn at the April Council Meeting. The 4-H Food Stand is a great way for youth to help raise funds for Jackson County 4-H Council while practicing safe food handling, interacting with the community and working collaboratively with their club members! Be prepared to work a short shift at the 4-H Food Stand during the fair on your club's assigned day. The funds raised help sponsor county events such as Club Day and Achievement Celebration. Please send club schedules to Cara at [carar@ksu.edu](mailto:carar@ksu.edu) or drop a copy off at the office before Friday, **July 10**.



## Trash Clean Up Schedule

Trash needs to be picked up every morning between 7:30-9:00 AM and then again from 3:00-4:00 PM before the livestock shows and evening rush. Trash bags are located in the fair building inside the janitor closet or stop by the livestock meeting room.

- **Sunday evening, July 12** – North Jackson Jets (This needs to be done around 8:00 PM.)
- **Monday, July 13** – Soldier Boosters & Lucky Stars
- **Tuesday, July 14** – Denison Builders & Hoyt Livewires
- **Wednesday, July 15** – Ontario Busy Bees & Mayetta Mustangs
- **Thursday, July 16** – Straight Arrows, Delia Early Birds & Pleasant Valley Rustlers
- **Friday, July 17** – All Clubs

## Building & Livestock Exhibit Award Winners

All 4-Her's who have won a class during the 2026 fair will receive a piece of paper which has their option of awards. They may choose their award they would like for the 2026 fair. They must turn this piece of paper in by the end of the fair. Awards will be awarded in **November** at the 4-H Achievement Program.

## Fashion Revue

The Style Revue will be held on **Wednesday, July 15** starting around **8:30 PM** (following the parade) at the Margaret Hund Memorial Amphitheater. Only 1 outfit will be modeled per 4-Her. Please bring your lawn chairs as seating is limited.

## Copyright Reminder

Please make sure you are following copyright laws when preparing your exhibits for the fair. Refer to page 16 in the fair book. Copyright and/or trademarked materials for endorsement or promotion instead of educational purposes will be disqualified and will not be displayed or receive ribbons or premiums.

## Preparing Horticulture Fair Entry Resources

As fair season approaches Plant Science members, please be aware of some resources available to you. 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. <http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/bookstore/pubs/C405.pdf>

Some of you may be more visual learners. The University of Illinois Extension has prepared a series of videos on YouTube, about how to prepare produce for the fair. These videos give step by step instructions on how to select and groom various types of vegetables. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6H5dlS-kgLI>

**State Fair Entries are due in the Office by August 7. Don't forget to get those purple awarded projects signed up for the State Fair! Please see the additional handout on State Fair.**

## Kansas State Fair Entry Deadlines

- **July 15** - Grand Drive Entries (4-H Livestock)
- **August 1** - 4-H Horse Show Entries (must have qualified at District Show)
- **August 8** - All other State Fair 4-H Entries due to Extension Office Visit the State 4-H Website for links and information about the 2026 Kansas State Fair at: <http://www.kansas4-h.org/events-activities/fairs/kansas-state-fair/index.html>
- **August 15** – KJLS entries due

## 4-H Horticulture Judging

The State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest will be held on **Saturday, August 15** in Manhattan, Kansas. Registration is due on **August 5** to the local Extension Office.

## State Livestock Nominations Due June 15

All small livestock and commercial breeding heifer state nominations are due **June 15**. This includes commercial breeding heifers, market swine, commercial breeding gilts, market lambs, commercial breeding ewes and ALL meat goat families that would like to be eligible for the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and/or KJLS. Animals must be submitted online through ShoWorks by this date, as well as the completed and signed official DNA envelopes being postmarked. Please don't wait until the last minute to do this. The 2026 state livestock information is available from the [KSU Youth Livestock Program](#) website. No paper forms will be accepted, all nominations must be submitted online.

## Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and KJLS Entry Information

The entry deadlines for the state youth livestock shows are approaching. Remember that a complete nomination does NOT constitute entry; it is only the first step in animals being eligible for the state fair and KJLS. Entries for the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive (4-H/FFA youth livestock show) are due **July 15**. Entries are being accepted now through their website. All animals must be entered directly through the state fair using the online system, which is ShoWorks. Only online entries will be accepted. For more information, visit <https://www.kansasstatefair.com/p/participate/grand-drive>.

Entries for KJLS will be due by **August 15**, also using ShoWorks. However, they are separate shows, so families will need to create a new account when entering KJLS. All exhibitors must register online, using the link found on the KJLS website: <https://kjls.org/>.

Families are encouraged to enter early in order to avoid missing the deadline and experiencing technical difficulties. Exhibitors also need to read the rules for each show before submitting their entries. Questions regarding entries need to be directed to each show, as they manage their own entry processes.

## Livestock Sweepstakes

The 2026 Kansas 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes is **August 22-23**. The 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes event includes the state 4-H livestock judging contest, meat judging contest, livestock skillathon, and livestock quiz bowl. Updates will be announced as more information from the University regarding events becomes available. Regardless of the format, an opportunity for youth to display their knowledge of the livestock industry will be held. Contact local office before **July 31**, if interested! grapEntry deadline is **August 1**.

## Communication Opportunities at the State Fair and 2026 Public Speaking Topic

Remember that 4-H Members ages 9 and older who participated in 4-H Day and received a Purple or top blue ribbons can take their project talks, demonstrations, and illustrated talks to the Kansas State Fair. Poetry entries can also be entered. Public Speaking entries can come to the State Fair; however, regardless of the topic used locally, all contestants at the State Fair will use the same topic: "How has your journey in 4-H contributed to being Beyond Ready for current challenges and future goals?" More information can be found in the 2026 State Fair Book.

**Kansas State Fair Dates 2026**  
**September 11-20**





**Meadowlark Extension District**  
**Holton Office**  
114 W 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
Holton, KS 66436

**Address Service Requested**

## **The Power Is In Your Hands**

**We know lots of things are going on and it is sometimes hard to keep up. It is your responsibility to be sure to read the emails, newsletters, and anything else that comes your way. During this time, things are continuing to change quickly. Be sure to check your email and READ messages from the Extension Office and your Club Organizational Leaders.**