

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER/OSKALOOSA OFFICE

This newsletter covers information pertinent to Jefferson County 4-H families. As our Jefferson County fair approaches rapidly, we want to keep you informed of the events and deadlines coming up. As always, if you have questions, please contact the office at 785-863-2212. Wishing you the best as you work on your projects and learn many life skills in the process. It's not all about the ribbons at the fair. It is about the lessons you are learning and the memories you are making are all important too!

Presentation Bootcamp opportunity!

Mark your calendars for **Monday, June 29** at **6:30 p.m.** for a highly informative "Presentation Bootcamp" led by Marcia Harmelink, DVM that will be held out at the Fairgrounds. This session is open to all 4-H members and covers speaking stance, gestures, voice projection, and more to offer tricks of the trade in giving a standout presentation. Whether advocating for your hard work at consultation judging or competing in a Club Day or Royalty contest, public speaking is an essential skill at the core of the 4-H program.

Each participant is asked to come with a prepared speech of some form to conclude the training by working in small groups to practice the tactics Marcia will share. The idea is to record yourself speaking and note behaviors to correct in future presentations. The prepared speech can be recycled from a project talk, Club Day talk, school presentation, or anything else; there is no need to reinvent the wheel.

Fair Books

The digital version is on our Oskaloosa webpage. Please review the general rules and your project areas closely. Reading carefully and contacting the office or your club leader with questions will help you be more prepared for the fair. There is a limited amount of spiral bound copies available. Contact the office or club leaders if interested.

Code of Conduct and Showing Code of Ethics

If you haven't turned these forms in already to your club leaders, NOW is the time to do so! The Code of Conduct form is required yearly for ALL members, and the Showing Code of Ethics (for all livestock exhibitors) once in your 4-H career. If you are not sure whether you have completed it, check with your club leader. Clubs turn into the office by **July 1st**.

Office Drop Box Available

Normal office hours are **Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.** If you can't make it to the office during this time, there is a drop box outside the south main entrance that forms can be left in. Email the office at mpentlin@ksu.edu to notify the office if you left something in the drop box.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR PROJECT WORK!

All 4-H Families

Recording your project work is important! Keep record of expenses, time spent, lessons learned, project meetings attended, etc. Take lots of pictures of you working on/with your project throughout the year, and with your fair entries. This information and pictures will be wonderful assets for you as you work on project records later.

Don't wait until the last minute to start and finish your fair entries. Read and understand the fair book now, and find someone who can help you with your projects and questions if needed. Make a list of items you will be entering and all supplies you need to bring to the fair. Allow time to take pictures and have them developed where needed. Experienced 4-Hers - Take time to help and encourage other, less-experienced 4-Hers.

FAIR REMINDERS AND INFORMATION

- **Fair Entry** must be completed **July 1**. Questions about class designation, the registration process, or anything else fair or project related may be directed to the Oskaloosa Extension office.
- **Ice Cream Rolling:** this is the second year of this contest which takes place **Tuesday, July 28 at noon**. Participation is not tied to project enrollment, so any two 4-H members can team up to enter (cross-club included). Only those participants pre-entered through Fair Entry are eligible to receive ribbons, and the accompanying premiums, for their efforts.
- **Foundation Pie Contest:** a wonderful open class opportunity that supports a significant cause! Non-perishable pies may be entered by 4-H members, 4-H alumni, or Jefferson County residents on **Wednesday** of the fair, are judged and awarded, then auctioned off after the parade to support the 4-H Foundation. Pre-entry accepted as well as walk-ins.
- **Keep an eye out for a sign-up** requesting volunteers for different odds-and-ends jobs throughout the fair. Staff has been building a list of tasks where additional hands would be needed and plan to share that in the coming weeks.
- **Judging:** Club judging schedules by the hour should be released in **early July** for Photography, Visual Arts, Fiber Arts, and Foods and Nutrition. Shopping In Style, Sewing and Textile Design, Bucket Calf Consultation, and Table Setting utilize **SignUpGenius** to schedule judging; those links are to be sent direct to exhibitors.
- Non-animal exhibits judged **Tuesday**. Agronomy, Horticulture and Landscape Design, and Notebooks, Posters and Displays – **use a drop-off system** with presence at judging encouraged but not required. STEM and adjacent project areas judged **Monday morning** are first-come-first-served consultations within each category's designated judging time frame.
- **The Concession Stand** is set to operate under scheduled club shifts. That schedule is published in the fair book. Each club is responsible for coordinating its own workers during designated shifts.
- **Rules:** Be sure to thoroughly review rules for each project area you or a youth in your household is involved in. Each area has specific rules to be followed that failure to complete may result in a lowered ribbon placing. Many exhibits require additional materials to be provided at the time of judging.
- **Photo boards and sleeves** are at our office for **\$2.00** each. Plastic sleeves are provided at the time of judging.

- **Current Fair T-shirt inventory:** 2 YM, 2 YL, 2 YXL, 3 Adult S, 3 Adult L, 1 Adult XL (all \$9.50 each), 2 Adult XXL (\$11.75). Any family or individual who missed ordering or would like additional shirts are welcome to purchase from this inventory.

GENERAL LIVESTOCK INFORMATION

- **Livestock Premium Sale Requirement Form** - If you plan to sell an animal at the auction, make sure you complete the Livestock Premium Sale Requirement Form and turn it into your club leader for their required signature. Clubs must turn in forms to the office by **July 1st**, so don't wait until the last minute to get it to your club leader.
- **Bucket Calf Parade Script** - If you are writing your own script for the Bucket Calf Parade, please send it to Morgan Gleason, Fair Superintendent, by **July 29**. If you are not writing your own script, costume ideas should be set in stone by **July 26** & given to Morgan at the consultation judging, along with name of 4-Her, parent names, calf name, and 4-H club. If you know your costume well in advance, please send that to Morgan so she can get a head start writing scripts.
- **Spring Weigh-Ins**-We appreciate all of the Livestock Superintendents and committee members who helped with spring weigh-ins. **Thank you** for your time and efforts!

FOODS PROJECT MEMBERS

Check AHEAD of the fair to be sure that any item containing questionable food products (cream cheese, fresh fruit, etc.) meets food safety guidelines. Check the fair book or call the office with any questions. See the rules in the Foods section of the fair book regarding ingredients or products that could cause disqualification. There is a new rule that requires sugar calculations for all frostings and fillings. Being disqualified would be a big disappointment, so please do your part to ensure that this does not happen. Practice makes perfect, so start baking now!

BAKED GOODS FOOD SALE

All 4-H members enrolled in the Foods & Nutrition Project are invited to donate their entries after judging to the bake sale following judging. This includes all non-perishable entries and decorated cakes, cupcakes, and cookies. The food sample, for non-perishable items, will be kept for display during the fair. The remainder of the product can be donated to the bake sale. If a product is selected as Champion or Reserve Champion, a picture will be taken and displayed instead of the product. All funds raised will go to the foods project to purchase new display cases.

PREPARING HORTICULTURE FAIR ENTRY RESOURCES

As fair season approaches, Horticulture 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=6H5dIS-kgLI>

2026 KANSAS 4-H WHEAT EXPO

▶▶▶ TUESDAY, AUGUST 4TH | BUTLER COUNTY COMMUNITY BUILDING
206 W. GRIFFITH; EL DORADO, KS



AG TOURS

- BRUCE'S BULLEYE FARMS
- BLUESTEM FFA/SCHOOL BARN
- BLUESTEM MERCANTILE
- ROBIN'S PANTRY
- LOVESEE PIZZA



CONTESTS & EXHIBITS

- BIN RUN WHEAT SAMPLES
- CLEANED WHEAT PHOTOGRAPHY
- FOODS
- EDUCATIONAL POSTERS/DISPLAYS
- CLOVER BUDS
- CROPS ID CONTEST



LUNCH & NETWORKING

 [HTTPS://BIT.LY/4HWHEATEXPO](https://bit.ly/4hwheatexpo)

 785-532-5800



This institution is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact (Kelsey Nordyke) four weeks prior to the start of the event (July 7, 2026) at (785-532-5800, knordyke@ksu.edu). Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request. Kansas State University is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2026 Jefferson County Fair Schedule of Events

Saturday, July 11

9:00 a.m. 4-H Horse Show.....Horse Arena

Saturday, July 18

10:00 a.m..... Dog Obedience, Rally-O, Showmanship..... Main Fair Building

Monday, July 20

9:00 a.m.-finish..... Consultation Judging Delaware Township Hall, Valley Falls
..... Fashion Revue, Shopping in Style, Sewing & Textile Design

Tuesday, July 21

4:00-8:00 p.m..... Food Preservation Judging..... LV County Fairgrounds

Wednesday, July 22

1:00-6:00 p.m. Consultation Judging
..... Fiber Arts, Performing Arts, Visual Arts Main Fair Building
..... Photography Delaware Township Hall

Friday, July 24

7:00 p.m..... Public Fashion Revue & Royalty Crowning..... Delaware Township Hall

Saturday, July 25

8:00 a.m. Fairgrounds Set Up..... Fairgrounds
8:00 a.m.-finish..... Bucket Calf Consultation Delaware Township Hall
6:00 p.m..... Dog Agility Show Conser Residence

Monday, July 27

7:30-9:00 a.m..... Swine weigh-in and entry Barn Entry
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m..... STEM Consultation Judging Horticulture Building
9:00-10:30 a.m..... Goats and Sheep weigh-in and entry..... Scale House
10:00 a.m.-finish Foods & Nutrition. . judging Main Fair Building south
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m..... Clothing exhibits entered..... Main Fair Building north
1:00-9:00 p.m..... Bake Sale..... Main Fair Building north
3:00-5:00 p.m..... Table Setting Consultation Main Fair Building south
4:00-8:00 p.m..... Rabbit Check-in..... Horticulture Building
5:30 p.m..... Flag Raising Ceremony by Ambassadors..... near Concessions
6:00 p.m..... Swine Show Show Arena
7:00-8:00 p.m..... Club Exhibits Set Up/Entry Main Fair Building
..... Poultry Check-in..... Horticulture Building

Tuesday, July 28

8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m..... Ambassador Day Camp Entries Main Fair Building north
8:00-9:45 a.m..... Decorated Cakes Check-in Main Fair Building south
9:00 a.m.- finish Decorated Cakes Consultation Main Fair Building south
9:00 a.m..... Poultry Show Horticulture Building
10:00 a.m..... All entries in place
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m..... Judging Horticulture Building
..... Agronomy, Horticulture & Landscape Design, Notebooks/Posters/Displays
10:00-10:30 a.m..... Heifer Check-in Scale House
10:30-11:30 a.m..... Beef Steer weigh-in and ultrasound..... Scale House
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Cloverbud Entries/Show and Tell Main Fair Building north
11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Bake Sale..... Main Fair Building north

12:00 p.m..... Ice Cream Roll..Lions Club Shelter
 12:00 p.m..... Bucket Calf weigh-in Scale House
 1:30 p.m..... Bucket Calf Show Show Arena
 5:00 p.m..... Sheep Show followed by Meat Goat Show..... Show Arena
 6:00 p.m..... Cake and Ice Cream, PEO Chapter DK..... Concessions
 7:00-8:00 p.m. Pinewood Derby.....Main Fair Building north
 Lions Club Bingo in Evening

Wednesday, July 29

8:00 a.m. Rabbit Show Horticulture Building
 8:30 a.m. Beef Show..... Show Arena
 9:30 a.m. Rabbit Showmanship..... Horticulture Building
 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m..... Foundation Pie Contest Entries.....Main Fair Building south
 10:30 a.m..... Pet Show..... Lions Club Shelter
 12:00-2:00 p.m. Ambassador Games.....Horse Arena
 5:45 p.m..... Parade Line Up
 Floats, Motor Vehicles.....Maple Street
 Horses Riverside Park
 6:00 p.m..... Parade Float Judging
 6:30 p.m..... Parade sponsored by Valley Falls Chamber of Commerce
 Following Parade..... Foundation Pie Auction; Parade Winners Announced; Bucket Calf Parade;
 Pedal Tractor Pull sponsored by Farm Bureau..... Show Arena
 Free watermelon from Valley Falls Chamber of Commerce • Lions Club Bingo

Thursday, July 30

9:00 a.m. Dairy Goat Show Show Arena
 9:30 a.m. Dairy Cattle Show Show Arena
 10:30 a.m..... Round Robin Showmanship..... Show Arena
 Followed by Small Animal Round Robin..... Show Arena
 12:00 p.m. State Fair entries due Fair Office
 1:00-6:00 p.m..... Exhibit Release
 1:45 p.m..... Flag Lowering Ceremony by Ambassadors near Concessions
 6:00 p.m..... Livestock Premium Sale Show Arena
 7:30-8:30 p.m..... Dance Set Up.....Main Fair Building north
 8:30-11:00 p.m. Dance.....Main Fair Building north

Friday, July 30

8:30 a.m. Fairgrounds Clean-up.....Fairgrounds

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE FAIR!

WHY DO WE RECEIVE PURPLE, BLUE, RED AND WHITE RIBBONS IN 4-H?

4-H uses the Danish judging system at county and state fairs. This means that exhibits are judged against a “standard” rather than against other exhibits. For example, a dresser that has been refinished by a 4-Her is not compared to other dressers. Rather, it is judged according to what characteristics of the dresser meet standards of quality for refinished furniture.

- A purple ribbon means that the exhibit meets superior standards and quality.
- A blue ribbon shows that the exhibit meets high standards & good quality work is shown.
- A red ribbon represents average quality work; improvement is needed in some areas.
- A white ribbon signifies below average quality, and the exhibit does not meet standards.

You’ll notice that the Danish judging is very different from a contest where there is one “winner” whose exhibit is the best of all those present. In the Danish judging system, there could be any number of purples, blues, reds or whites because one exhibit is not compared to another. In 4-H, we believe that using the Danish judging system gives every 4-H member the recognition deserved for the work that was done. It also helps young people recognize the need to improve their skills within a non-competitive atmosphere. Relevant to judging of exhibits, we believe:

- 4-H members are more important than 4-H exhibits.
- Learning how to do a project is more important than the project itself.
- There is more than one good way to do most things.
- A balanced program of work and play, geared to individuals’ needs is more important than winning.
- Every youth needs to be noticed, to feel important, to experience success and to be praised.
- A blue ribbon 4-H member with a red ribbon exhibit is more desirable than a red ribbon 4-H member with a blue-ribbon exhibit!

STATE FAIR VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

If you are an adult or older teen, please consider volunteering at the State Fair in September. There is a great need for volunteers to help with the check-in process, judging, running between buildings, check-out process, and other fair wrap-up. Please consider helping in this way, and let the office know if you are interested.

**STATE FAIR DATES:
SEPTEMBER 11-20, 2026
IN HUTCHINSON**

Oskaloosa Office

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Address Service Requested

