



meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-H

4-H News

Meadowlark District

Nemaha County Fair Edition - June 2026

Dear 4-H Family,

With the arrival of this letter, the fair can't be too far away. Do you have your exhibits finished? The 2026 fairbook have been given to the club leaders. If you have not received yours yet, please contact your club leader.

This newsletter, and your fairbook, will be your guide to a successful fair season. It is a good idea to read the book carefully. **The fair book, as well as all forms, can be found on our website at <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/seneca.html>**

QUESTIONS

If you have questions that have not been answered in this newsletter, we are just call away at 785-336-2184. There are NO mindless questions!

WHAT IS NEW AT THE FAIR

There have been a few changes this year. Please check the divisions you are enrolled in to avoid confusion.

Some of the major changes are:

- YQCA is to be completed, and the certificate was to be submitted by May 1st
- Any animal that is not checked in before its designated time will not be eligible to win showmanship or class winner with that animal that was late to check in.
- Beef neckties will be checked following the livestock meeting. They must be on correctly. Members will be given one warning if not on correctly or if no neckties are on an animal, the 4-H members' ribbon premium will be withheld
- Sexually intact males are not eligible to be shown in the 4-H/FFA Beef, Dairy, Goat, Horse, Sheep, or Swine divisions. The exception to this rule is bull calves shown as part of a cow/calf pair or bucket calves.
- All flowers exhibited at the fair must be grown by the 4-H member in the current year.
- No-bake cookies or snack mix are only appropriate for members under the age of 9 years old.
- A perishable food class was added (county fair only)
 - Examples of Perishable Foods – any food item with custard & dairy-based fillings and frostings.
(Examples – fresh fruit or vegetable products, meat products, raw eggs, cream pies, “canned “bread)
- Self-Determined
 - Limit to 2 entries per class with no duplications
 - Class 707 – Building and Learning Exhibit (K-Nex, puzzles, Lincoln logs, kits, and model cars)
 - Class 708 – Agriculture/scale model display (outside dimension no larger than 4ft x 4ft)
- Moved Table Setting judging to Thursday with Foods judging
- Round Robin will be on Monday at 9:30 am, and Livestock judging will be at 1:00 pm.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- All members are to read, sign and return to the Extension Office a **Fair Participant's Code of Conduct** before **July 1st**. This can be dropped off, snail mail, or emailed.
- **Livestock Premium Auction Requirement Form** prior to **July 1st**. This is for anyone taking an animal, decorated cake, breadbasket, or cookie container through the auction. These must be signed by club leaders before turning into office.
- **Ambassador's applications** are due prior to **July 1st**. This includes renewals.

PRE-ENTRIES

All exhibits must be pre-entered online through FairEntry at <https://nemaha-ks.fairentry.com/> by **July 1st**.

Each exhibit needs to be entered individually. For example, if you plan to bring 5 visual arts projects, you'll need to enter all 5. Bringing 6 small vegetable exhibits? Be sure to enter all 6! As you complete your entries, please be realistic and only enter items you feel confident you can have ready by fair time. Exhibits not pre-entered will NOT be eligible for premiums, awards, livestock action, or State Fair.

A guide and pre-entry reference form are included to help you. It is a good idea to keep a list of what you enter for your own records.

Make sure to check under each division in your fairbook, for the maximum number of entries you may enter.

Duplicated entries will be disqualified.

CARDS AND LABELS

Entry cards will be printed from FairEntry and can be picked up at the Extension office after July 15th or will be given to you at check-in. You will need to attach them before judging.

You can also stop by the office and pick up all your entry cards after July 15th.

You MUST have a label attached to all exhibits except for food and livestock entries, with your name, address and class number attached. Labels do not have to be 4-H labels, they just need to have your name, address, and class number on the label. You can print labels from our website <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/seneca.html>

CLUB ENTRIES

If you are in charge of your Club Exhibit (Banner, Hay Bale or Display) please contact Deb to pre-enter them. With FairEntry those exhibits need to be entered differently. Club books can be entered by the individual 4-H members.

SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP

Set-up will be **Wednesday, July 22nd at 6:00 pm**. Assignments are by family. Please do your part or make arrangements if you cannot attend. Included in this packet are the setup/cleanup work lists. These can also be found on our website. It takes everyone to make the fair a success.

SUPERINTENDENTS

In this packet you will find a Superintendents list for adults. We have designated someone for each area as a chair. They will be in charge, and all helpers will be there to assist. Please check to see what superintendent assignment you have. You will be expected to help in the assigned area, which includes the check-in, weigh-in, judging process, display of exhibits and shows. If you cannot help where you have been assigned, please let the chair know ASAP. It takes everyone helping to have a successful fair.

We ask that all 4-Hers help in project divisions they are enrolled in. This is the best way to learn! We will need help checking in exhibits, handing out entry cards and assisting with attaching entry cards. Someone should sit with each judge and mark the entry cards with results. 4-Hers are also needed to help with weigh-in and shows.

Livestock Superintendents, please check in with the Chairperson. You will be helping with weigh-in and check-in as well as the shows.

4-H FOODS & NUTRITION RULES

Every food item must be brought to be judged in a plastic bag or non-returnable container. If you do not sit down with the judge with your food item in a container it will be lowered one ribbon.

If an item needs to be refrigerated it is perishable, which is class number 604. This will be included in the SIX food items.

Pies can be baked in a glass pie pan but they are not returned. Please contact the Extension Office if you need a glass pie pan if you cannot find one at a thrift store.

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. Examples on how to calculate this percentage are included in the publication located at: <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3544.pdf>. You can also watch a video on this at <https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/judging/index.html>

COPYRIGHT REMINDER

Reminder! Please make sure you are following copyright laws when preparing your exhibits for the fair. Refer to page 15 in the fair book. Copyrighted 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.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photo boards are available for purchase at the Extension Office for \$2.00 each. We will be placing photos in bags after judging for display. If you have old photo bags you are not using, the council would like to recycle them, so please bring them to the Extension Office or to the judging.

The theme for the Photography Kansas Pride Class is “**Kansas History**”. Reminder - these pictures need to be taken in Kansas!

CONSULTATION JUDGING

Monday, July 20th will be consultation judging for Banners, Books, Building Block Engineering (Legos), Entomology, Fiber Arts, Geology, Interior Design, Photography, Project Posters, Robotics, Rocketry, Self-Determined, Sewing & Textiles, Shopping in Style, and Visual Arts.

Each 4-Her will bring his/her exhibits and discuss them with the judge on the 20th. If you are unable to attend the judging, you may bring your exhibits to the Extension Office prior to **Friday, July 17th**, and we will get them judged for you.

1. We will be scheduling all judging once everything has been pre-entered. This schedule will be sent to you via snail mail and on our website.
2. When you arrive at consultation judging, you will need to sign in at a table for each division being judged. This will also be where you pick up your pre-printed entry cards, if you didn't pick up already. It will be your responsibility to attach entry cards to your exhibits before they are judged. You will be called to have your entries judged in order according to the sign-up sheet when all entry cards are attached.
3. All projects are to be labeled in the customary way and **must have a pre-printed fair entry tag and a sticky label with your name address and class number attached to them prior to being judged.**
4. Fiber and Visual Art Exhibits should have a short information card (3x5 index card) accompanying all exhibits. The card should state if a kit was used and how much was pre-assembled; if the idea was original; media used; process by which the item was made and approximate cost.
5. All matted or framed artwork must be framed and ready to hang with the appropriate hanger, rod, wire, or other mechanism to be properly displayed. **NO EASELS will be accepted for matted or framed artwork!**
6. To receive your premium(s) and ribbon(s), you must have exhibits judged at consultation judging on the 20th **AND** your exhibits must be displayed at the fair.
7. We will be keeping **ALL** exhibits that are judged on **Monday, July 20th** **except** for Visual Arts that **do not** receive a purple ribbon.
8. Judging for all Fashion Revue will start at **12:30 pm**. All contestants are asked to remain at the judging site until the judging of their division is complete.

CLOTHING / BUYMANSHIP / FASHION REVUE

1. For Clothing/Shopping in Style please bring all accessories with you to be judged and make sure to have your "Cost Per Wear" form. This form can be found on our website at <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/seneca.html>
2. If you are in the Clothing project and plan to model your outfit in the Fashion Revue, you must pre-enter the outfit in Clothing and Fashion Revue. Savvy Shopping must be entered in both divisions as well. Your Savvy Shopping exhibit can be counted as a Shopping in Style entry Class # 203.
3. Fashion Revue exhibitors – You must write a description of the outfit that you will be modeling. The description needs to be written in third person and should be long enough for someone to read while you are walking around the Community Building. There is a fill in the blank Modeling Script on our website page. **All descriptions must be typed on an 8 1/2 x 11" piece of paper, 16 font and double-spaced.** Be sure to include your name in the write-up. **This paper must be turned in on the morning of July 20th or you will be lowered one ribbon placing.**
4. Savvy Shopping class for Fashion Revue - You will need to have the receipt and the form which is on our website. You can also enter this outfit as a Buymanship outfit during Clothing judging, Class 203 <https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/seneca.html>

CLOVERBUD JUDGING

All Cloverbuds must pre-enter their exhibit prior to **July 1st** in FairEntry. Please check the Fair Book for exhibit rules. They will have the opportunity to have a project interview at the fair. Interviews for Cloverbuds will be **Friday, July 24th at 11:30 am** in the Community Building. There will be a sign-up sheet on the table next to the Cloverbud sign on Friday morning. Please sign up for a time to meet with the judge. Entry cards will be available on the check-in table, please attach these to the exhibits prior to interviews.

LIVESTOCK PROJECT MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE!!

If you have lost any ear tags from lambs, goats, swine, or beef, please notify our office so they can be replaced before the fair. These ear tags are part of the weigh-in process.

Do you know what you will be doing with your animal after the fair? It is your responsibility to find a buyer and/or locker. We do know that some lockers are already getting appointments made. So don't put it off, call now!

LIVESTOCK WEIGH-IN

- * When pre-entering your animals please enter the **5 digit 4-H tag number** given at weigh-in
- * **All livestock are to be checked in by 10:00 am Friday, July 24th**
- * Swine will be weighed from **8:00 am - 9:00 am.**
- * Sheep/Goats will be weighed between **9:00 am – 10:00 am**
- * Beef will be weighed and carcass scanned at the fairgrounds beginning **10:00 am. But must be in assigned place with neckties on before 10:00 am.**

POULTRY TESTING

Per the state we do not have to test poultry this year. It is now every 3 years. So, there will be no testing of poultry before the fair.

SHOWMANSHIP

4-Hers are asked to please pre-enter for showmanship of each species that will be showing, so superintendents can plan for an approximate number. Showmanship classes will be at the end of the livestock shows, except swine.

LIVESTOCK ITEMS TO NOTE

Please read carefully and make special notes on dates.

1. All fair entries must be pre-entered prior to **July 1st on the online FairEntry website.** As approved by the Nemaha County Fair Board, all exhibits not pre-entered will **NOT** be paid premiums, able to go through the auction or receive any special award.

2. All livestock stalls reserved and not entered will be subject to a fine of blue-ribbon rate if not canceled by **Monday, July 20th**.
3. Intent to sell cards are due **Saturday, July 25th before 8:00 pm** for all livestock going through the auction.
4. The success of the livestock auction is up to you, the 4-H and FFA members. If you want a good premium for your livestock, you must contact bidders and ask them to attend the auction!
5. Livestock not going through the premium auction will be released at 3:00 pm on Monday, July 27th.
6. Please be sure to read the General Health Regulations for all livestock. Health certificates are not required but there will be certified veterinarians on site at check-in to evaluate all livestock.
7. It is the members' responsibility to contact lockers for slaughter appointments.

PARADE THEME

The parade this year will be held on **Sunday, July 26th at 6:00 p.m.** in downtown Seneca. The theme this year is **“Stars, Stripes and 4-H Forever.”** 4-H Floats will need to be at the Community National Bank **before 5:30 pm** for the judging of floats.

FAIR EXHIBIT PICK UP

Please plan to pick up all your exhibits **Monday, July 27th between 3:00 – 5:00 pm.** If you are unable to pick up your exhibits, please ask someone to do this for you. It is always a great idea to have a list of all the exhibits each member has at the fair.

AS PARENTS AND LEADERS, A REMINDER OF WHAT'S IMPORTANT

No ribbon or award will last as long as the things young people learn. This event is just one part of the learning process. When fun is the focus, young people learn and grow. This is the 4-Hers event! Work with them, not for them. Assist and support them in a positive way. Each young person is a winner for trying. Encouragement from one adult can make a big difference in a child's life. Kids are watching you today. They are learning from your words and examples. Winning is NOT the most important thing that happens at this event. Focus on their efforts, not the outcomes. No matter what the member's project is, the focus of the volunteer, the parents, and the superintendents must be the 4-H MEMBER! Youth themselves are more important than the items they make or grow.

Sincerely,

Abbie Burger
Abbie Burger
4-H Agent

Debra O. Henry
Deb Henry
4-H Program Manager

ENCL:

- *Detailed Fair Schedule *Superintendent List *Set-up / Clean-up List *Food Stand Work List
- *Pre-entry Reference Forms *MED Fair Participant's Code of Conduct *MED Premium Auction Requirements
- *Fair Entry – Tips for Exhibitors making online entries *Premium Auction Buyer letter example



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