

4-H News *for New Families*

Meadowlark District

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It's County Fair Time!!!



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. Fair Books are available 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



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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! Let's take a quick look at some of the parts of conference judging.

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?

What did you want to learn or do with the project?

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 - in their opinion, against the standard.

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, smile and sell yourself!



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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. Please read your 4-H newsletter and check the fair books closely to make sure you know when, where and how your project area exhibits are judged.

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 bake a food item. It all depends on what projects you’re enrolled in. Read the descriptions for your project area 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 for the fair. There may be other similar forms such as stall reservations for animals that need to be turned in. PLEASE DON’T MISS A DEADLINE! Don’t be afraid to ask your club 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, judges critique or special award.

Judges give blue award ribbons for projects that meet 4-H standards well. Red award ribbons are for average 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 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 judging events, judges announce the winners at special times. If you are a special winner, you should be told about these events and plan to attend! Don’t forget to thank the sponsors of special prizes and the event staff. A small showing of appreciation can go a long way in continued support of 4-H 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’ project exhibits. You may see a new project that you would like to try in future years. Sometimes you can get an idea for next year’s exhibits. 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.

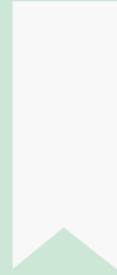
Remember READ YOUR FAIRBOOK AND FAIR RELATED NEWSLETTERS! This is where important information will be found. Good luck and have fun at FAIR!



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Danish Ribbon Placings—What the Ribbons Mean



Champion Rosette

(purple)

The top exhibit as determined by the judge in a category. A category may be a class, age group within a class or a subgroup within division.

Reserve Champion Rosette

(lavender)

The second place exhibit as determined by the judge in a category. A category may be a class, age group within a class or a subgroup within division.

Purple

These are outstanding exhibits in a category that were considered for the champion rosettes. Exhibits exceed the standards of the project. This is as high of quality work as can be done, with nearly no improvements noted.

Blue

The exhibit meets standards and expectations of the project. Exhibit shows high-quality work and needs little or no improvement. Excellent Exhibit.

Red

The “base” placing. The exhibit meets most standards and expectation of the project. The exhibit shows high-quality work; however, some improvements can be made in workmanship design or expression. Good Exhibit.

White

The exhibit meets few standards and expectations of the project. Exhibit can be improved in workmanship, design or knowledge shared about the project. White is often the exhibit where much learning takes place.

Kansas State Fair

4-H members from across the state, who qualify at their county fair (purple or state fair blue), 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 live, in-person, projects, you will have the chance to go to the fair and demonstrate your skills. Events like; Fashion Revue, Public Presentations, animal shows and Judging Contests are judged on specific days. A few select projects may also be judged by conference judging.

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. Dog and Horse have their own qualification processes. Rabbits, Poultry and Dairy qualify through county fair.

All other 4-H State Fair pre-entries are due to the local Extension office to enter by AUGUST 10th! Get a special entry form from the local Extension office. You can usually get these forms and information from the State Fair Book in the spring.

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.

Most 4-H projects must be brought to the State Fair before the fair begins for judging. The local Extension office staff will coordinate plans to get qualified, entered 4-H Exhibits to and from Hutchinson (*not animals or large items*). You will need to listen to or read guidelines from the Extension office carefully so you can follow all of the instructions necessary to get your project to the fair. Exhibits are due to the Extension office (*or other designated place*) by NOON the Tuesday before the State Fair, if not before!

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 4-H exhibit on display.



