

4-H Clover News

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension
Ford County



Ford County Monthly Newsletter

June 2026

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Check us out on the web!

www.ford.ksu.edu



FAIR UPDATES

and PRE-ENTRY DEADLINE...

“Follow the Red Brick Road to the Ford County Fair”, 2026 Ford County Fair, July 16-20! We hope your family, neighbors, friends, etc. will all come and enjoy the county fair this year at the Ford County Fairgrounds, 901 W. Park Street, Dodge City. This is a true County Fair as both 4-H/FFA members and the public are invited to exhibit and participate in activities!

We will have all **indoor fair (static) 4-H exhibits dropped off on Thursday morning, July 16** to the Fair Building. We plan to have drop off time from 7:30 am to 11:00 am this year. 4-H Families will have assigned times to drop off exhibits based on your last name. If those times do not work, you will need to call to make arrangements for a different time slot. Superintendents may bring exhibits and check them in when they come to help. The North middle room entrance (not the east), will be used for checking in exhibits prior to you attaching entry cards and before taking exhibits to the appropriate exhibit area. There will be consultative judging available or you can attach a card/paper with more information. The building will be closed to the public (except for superintendents and 4-H members doing consultative judging). Photography judging will be held on Monday, morning, July 13 and Fashion Review judging will be on Monday evening. See following pages for more details.

Livestock Shows will again be held on different days throughout the Fair. All livestock must be on the Fairgrounds by 5:30 pm on Thursday, July 16, with weigh in beginning for each species around 5 pm.

The 2026 Adult Celebrity Showmanship event will take place at 6:30 pm on Friday, July 17. The [form is available on our website](#) and can be found under the Ford County Fair Tab. Completed forms should be submitted to Mike Martinez **by July 1**. If you have any questions, please contact Mike at 620-338-6634 or mar-tinez.michael@usd443.org.

In place of the Livestock Sale will be the Pillars of the Community event again on August 8 at the United Wireless Convention Center at 5:00 pm.

The Ford County Fair Book and schedule are available online at our county extension website of www.ford.ksu.edu and can be picked up from your community leaders.

Enclosed with this newsletter is information on how to access the FairEntry program to do pre-entries. (see page 5) The Fair schedule and events are subject to change.

Open Class Exhibit Entries will be accepted between 11:30 am—1:00 pm on Thursday, July 16. If 4-H parents/superintendents have exhibits, they may bring them at the same time they bring 4-H exhibits.

Fair info continued...

INDOOR EXHIBIT DROP OFF TIMES—JULY 16

Drop off exhibits by exhibitor's last name:
If this time absolutely does not work, contact the Extension office to make other arrangements.
We will print your entry cards once you check in.
You will need to attach card to your exhibit and then take exhibit to the project department area in the Fair Building.

7:30-8:15 am — A—D	9:30—10:15 am — R—S
8:15— 8:45 am — E — H	10:15 am—11:00 pm — T—Y
8:45—9:30 am — J — P	

Consultative Judging will take place if we have enough division superintendents! You will have a chance to sign up for a time to visit with the judge after Fair set up on Tuesday evening or when you bring your exhibits on Thursday.

SHOPPING IN STYLE (FASHION REVIEW) JUDGING—July 13, 6:00 PM

We will have Fashion Review Judging for Constructed Garments and Shopping in Style (Buymanship) for Girls and Boys on **Monday evening, July 13, starting at 6:00 pm.** **Note for Shopping in Style: Youth may enter up to two entries – one in the Dressy Class and/or one in the Causal Class.**

If you have entered in Construction Style Review, bring your outfit to change into after purchased garment judging is done. Here is a tentative schedule. We will start shortly after the previous group is done.

6:00 pm	Seniors -- (Girls/Boys Shopping in Style & Constructed Fashion Review)
7:00 pm	Juniors -- (Girls/Boys Shopping in Style & Constructed Fashion Review)
7:45 pm	Intermediates -- (Girls/Boys Shopping in Style & Constructed Review)



PUBLIC FASHION REVIEW is Sunday, July 19 at 1:30 pm during the Fair.

These classes also require additional paper work which is due into the office by 5 pm on July 13. Completed paperwork must be turned in to the Extension Office by 5 pm or the exhibit result will be dropped one ribbon lower. These forms are available on our website and can be found under the Ford County Fair Tab — Script, score sheet and only Seniors need to complete the cost per wear form.

RABBIT AND POULTRY

All Poultry and Rabbits needs to be checked in and on the Fairgrounds between 7:30– 10:00 am on Thursday, July 16. The Fair's **Rabbit Show** will be on **Friday, July 17 at 11:00 am.** Rabbits will stay on the Fairgrounds this year. **Poultry Show** will be held on **Friday, July 17 at 11:30 a.m.** All Poultry and Rabbits will be housed in the Poultry/Rabbit Barn during duration of the Fair.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Sign up for Photography entries please use drop down quantity number menu and select how many you are planning to bring! Up to 10 per class unless limited to one by rules. You must enter for each entry.

Photography exhibits entered and judged on Monday, July 13, 8:30 – 10 am for entering, consultative judging starts at 9:30 am at the Fair Building.

LIVESTOCK EXHIBITOR MEETING will be Thursday night after weigh-in in the arena.

ROUND ROBIN SHOWMANSHIP—MONDAY, JULY 20, 9:00 AM

If one 4-H/FFA'er wins in more than one species, he or she must select the one species they want to represent. Participation & species **MUST** be declared by exhibiter to fair office by 9pm on Sunday, July 19.

No changes after this time.

FAIR SPECIAL CONTESTS

Ford County 4-H'ers are eligible to enter the Fair Special Contests, which are Barn Quilts, Building Creations (using Legos®, K'nex, toothpicks, popsicle sticks, etc), Flower Creations, and Photo contests (Photo Theme is "There is no place like Kansas") during the Ford County Fair. You do not need to be enrolled in the Arts & Crafts or Photography projects to enter Special Contests. Bring your entries when you bring your 4-H Exhibits on Thursday, July 16, see schedule/fairbook for entry times.

4-H KING & QUEEN CONTEST

It's time to nominate your club's King & Queen contestants for this year's contest! Contestants will need to decorate a coffee can to display at the Fair (be sure the lid can be removed so we can count the money in the can). The King and Queen candidate who earns the most money will be crowned King and Queen at the fair. ALL contestants are encouraged to ride on the 4-H Float at the Dodge City Days Parade on July 25. This is a fundraiser for the 4-H Exchange Group.

HELP NEEDED FOR FAIR SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP

How many volunteers does it take to run a successful county fair? The answer is: EVERYONE!! We need you and your family and all club members! Check with other club members and make sure your club is represented. Parents and 4-H members are needed to help Fair Board members with set up and clean up on Tuesday evening, July 14 at 5:30 pm and Wednesday evening, July 22 at 5:30 pm. Please bring rakes, brooms, hoses, buckets, rags, etc. to help clean out the barns, clean displays, racks, and other things in the fair building. It won't take long if everyone comes to help. Pizza will be provided for all who help on Tuesday for set up, and hamburgers/hot dogs will be provide for clean up, prior to the After Fair Swim Party for all who come to help.

CLUB BOOTH SET UP

Club booths may be set up starting on Tuesday night after Fair Set-Up is COMPLETED, around 7:30 pm till 10:00 pm. Booth set up is also scheduled for Wednesday morning, July 15, 8:00 am— noon. The building will not be open in the evening for booth set up. Booths must be completed by noon on Wednesday.

HAND PET SHOW—JULY 17

The Hand Pet Show is scheduled for **Friday afternoon, July 17 at 3 p.m.** Registration will start at 2:30 pm in the Pavilion area. Order of judging will be aquarium pets, dog, hand pets. Be sure to bring your health papers on cats and dogs. Animals must be kept in appropriate carrier or on a leash.

DOG SHOW

Please contact Tamara for more information on participating in a show in our area.

LIVESTOCK ENTRIES

Livestock Exhibitors please note you will need to put in several items when you pre-enter in FairEntry. You must put in your animal 5 digit Tag number, your YQCA number, and if you have a registered breeding animal, you will need to include tattoo and birthdate of the animal. You will not need to put in your RFID tag number, as this number will automatically be put in the system when you hit save for this entry because it is linked to the 5 digit tag number we use.

4-H FOODS RULE FOR FROSTINGS & FILLINGS AT THE COUNTY & STATE FAIR

Remember 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> . And it will be posted on our website.

FAIR SUPERINTENDENTS

We are still needing superintendents for assistance with inside exhibit judging on Thursday, July 16.

What is a SUPERINTENDENT? A Superintendent is someone who assists judges during entry day. They also assist in creating the display for the project area. We prefer youth to be 12 years of age or older to be a superintendent. These are great leadership activities for your record book!

What if I'm new and do not know what I'm doing? No problem! Jumping in and volunteering as a superintendent is a GREAT way to learn about 4-H and that project area! Questions are always welcomed! If you did not sign-up through your club, you can still help out, please give us a call at the office.

Some specific duties include:

- **Judging begins at 11:30 am.**
- Welcome and introduce yourselves to the judge. Periodically check to see if they'd like a drink.
- **Consultative judging will begin at 11:30 am and people signed up ahead of time.**
- Refer to the fair book for your project's guidelines and rules should questions arise.
- **Superintendent lists will be by class and age group unless the items are not being judged by age of member (Plant Science, livestock).**
- Assist the judge, but do not talk about the exhibits with the judge.
- **Mark the placing correctly on the entry tag and results sheet by circling the abbreviation.** You can write a brief description (blue shirt, cow picture, etc.) for identification purposes if more than one entry in class or division. We do not use State Fair Stickers except on Arts and Crafts.
- These are the correct ribbon abbreviations: PRP = Class Champion
PNK = Reserve Class Champion
BLU = Blue, RED - Red, WHT – White

CB- Cloverbud (5 & 6 year-olds) receive a multi-colored ribbon for Cloverbuds.

You will need to write it in the box "Other Placing" if this entry advanced to Grand or Reserve Grand.

- When judging is complete, place ribbons/stickers on exhibits. If a sticker, place sticker on lower right hand corner. Leave entry tags on exhibits, but turn in final results sheet into the Fair Office.
- *Exhibit should only have one ribbon. If the item received a blue, but then went on to receive a class champion/reserve class champion, it would only have the last ribbon received on the item.*



FairEntry – the Online Fair Management System

We are excited to use the FairEntry for our Ford County Fair. Beginning June 2 you can log on to <http://fordcounty-ks.fairentry.com/> from your computer or any mobile device (including smartphones)

to submit your entries to the fair. The online entry system will streamline the entry process so, check-ins, show programs and results can be processed and posted quickly and efficiently at the fair.

Online entries will be required for all exhibitors. The deadline for online entries is July 1. This deadline will be strictly enforced since the system will close entries at 5:00 pm on this date. Late entries will not be allowed. If you do not have internet access or need assistance with the entry process, or have any questions please contact our office. Tamara, Ethel and Andrea will help you. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT TILL THE LAST DAY TO DO YOUR PRE-ENTRIES!

Classes that are judged by age group, so when you pre-enter you will need continue to the selection with a letter which corresponds to the exhibitor's age

Remember each item must be entered. This could be by repeating the pre-entry for each item or it may be indicating with a drop down box menu and selecting the number of items. Photos will have a drop down to select the number (quantity) of photos to be entered.

Pre-enter using Fair Entry like in past years at <http://fordcounty-ks.fairentry.com/>

If you have any questions about the process, feel free to stop in or give us a call during regular business hours for assistance. We look forward streamlining these processes to make your fair experience the best yet!



Tips for Exhibitors making Online Entries:

- Recommended browsers: Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. Older versions of Internet Explorer may cause unexpected results.
- Register all entries for each exhibitor in the family before proceeding to the Payment section.
- Be sure to click the "Submit" button when you have completed your entries. Entries are not final until they have been submitted.
- Check your email inbox for a confirmation email with a list of your entries and any related fees.
- You will receive a second email when your entries have been approved by your fair.

WHAT IS A FAIR PRE-ENTRY ANYWAYS?

ALL projects or animals that you exhibit at the Ford County Fair need to be pre-entered! This allows for the Extension Office to plan accordingly with the number of pens we need for livestock, to how big of space we need for inside exhibits, to the number of judges we need for a project, and some awards. If you think you MIGHT take a project to the fair, PRE-ENTER it!

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Email one of us or call the office and we will try and help you over the phone — 620-227-4542! Or come in and visit with us. We are here to help.

4-H AMBASSADOR/EXCHANGE

4-H Exchange will meet on Monday, June 22 (tentative) at 7 p.m. at the Ford County Fair Building. Seven members and 2 chaperones will be traveling from Rice County Minnesota June 25-30. If you are interested in joining our exchange group for next year, reach out to any current member or Tamara for more information about the group.

4-H COUNCIL MEETING

The next 4-H Council meeting will be held on Monday, July 6, at 7:00 pm. If you are unable to attend, please find a replacement. Cow Patty Bingo tickets/money needs to be turned in at this meeting! Additional tickets can be picked up from the office if you need more.

Project News

SHOOTING SPORTS PRACTICES

Practices are continuing. They are held every Sunday afternoon at 1:30 pm at the Dodge City Gun Club. If you are not receiving notifications, please contact Andrea at the Extension Office. Contact Ashley Fischer at 620-789-0231, if you have questions concerning the practices.

ARCHERY PRACTICES

Archery practices will continue on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 pm at the Fairgrounds south of the horse arena, except for the 2nd Sunday of the month due to a club meeting conflict. Questions about Archery? Reach out to Brandi Stein at 620-255-4548.

STATE LIVESTOCK NOMINATIONS

The nomination deadline for commercial heifers, swine, sheep, and meat goats is June 15th (DNA for sheep, goats and swine) for KSF and KJLS. July 15 is the entry deadline for the Kansas State Fair for Beef, Sheep, Goats and Swine. DNA envelopes must be ordered by June 5 from the State. NOTE: If you are needing State Animals tagged for your June 15 nomination, check with Andrea as to when she will be available as she will be out for camps. Plan ahead and don't wait till the last minute. Questions, please contact Andrea.

YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS (YQCA)

Past newsletters have had information concerning how to obtain your YQCA certification. You will need to do the training online if you want to sell livestock at the County Fair.

Register at <https://yqcaprogram.org/> You must register, take a pre-test and watch a video. Questions, call Andrea at the Extension office. You cannot enter your Fair market animals on FairEntry without putting your YQCA number. So you must complete this before the Fair entry deadline of July 1.

::4-H Shout Outs::



- ◆ All 4-H members who sold Duck leases for a county wide fund raising for 4-H Council and your club. You all did a great job of fundraising this year!!!

Ford County Extension Office
100 Gunsmoke St
Dodge City, KS 67801

Dear 4-H Families,

As parents and leaders it's important that we remember the goal of our children's involvement in the 4-H program is to provide an educational learning experience. We hope they gain knowledge and experiences, besides just earning a ribbon and premium! Projects are judged by standards and even if your child is the only exhibitor in a class, it doesn't necessarily mean the exhibit will receive class champion or higher. Exhibits need to be of excellent quality to receive the top ribbons!

County Fair provides an opportunity for 4-H members to display their projects and have a judge provide their feedback on how it could have been done differently or better. They provide their opinion on that specific date and time. Remember it is one person's opinion.

Please read through the information contained in this newsletter. It is full of County Fair information and project news.

Please note that the east elevator is still broke in the Government Building. You can use the west elevator to 3rd floor and then walk to the east end and then walk down one flight of stairs, or walk up to the 2nd floor. If you are unable to do this, please call the office and we can help you or meet you in the lobby. (We are hoping that the elevator gets fixed within this month!)

Have a great and fun summer!



Ethel Schneweis
County Extension Agent



Andrea Burns
County Extension Agent



Tamara Robertson
County Extension Agent

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