

JULY 2026

Highlights:

July 1: County Fair Entries Close @ 5 pm

July 2: Superintendents Meeting

July 3: Office Closed- Independence Day

July 18: County Fair Horse Show

July 19: County Fair Photography Judging
and Clothing/Fashion Revue Judging

July 23-26: Shawnee County Fair

August 7: State Fair Entry Forms Due

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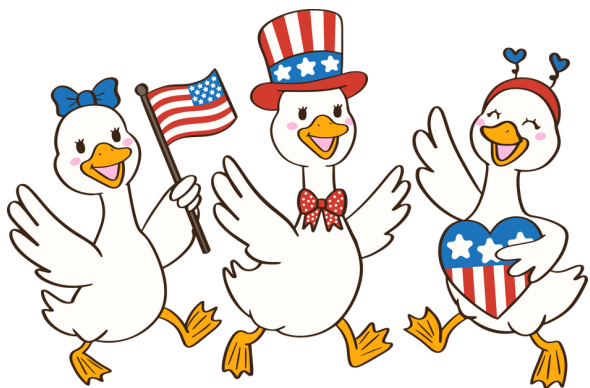
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Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Dates to Remember:

- July 1: County Fair Entries Close @ 5 pm
- July 2: Fair Superintendent's Meeting
- July 3: Office Closed-observance of Independence Day
- July 18: Fair Horse Show
- July 19: Fair Photography & Clothing Judging
- July 23-26: Shawnee County Fair

In the event of severe weather watch our Facebook page for updates!

Search for Shawnee County 4-H



Please send Chatterbox submissions to Lisa and Grace by July 28

Visit us on the Web:

www.shawnee.ksu.edu

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A Word From Your Agent...

2026 Shawnee County Fair: Stars, Stripes, and County Fair Nights!

With the county fair this month here are a few tips to help you have a great fair experience:

- Keep cool and have fun! Fair can be a stressful time for everyone.
- Try and remember the reason for exhibiting at the County Fair: to support the knowledge gained by youth in their project that year. No matter the color of the ribbon received we want to celebrate how much they have learned!
- Know when exhibit check-in and judging times are. Times and places do change from year to year so double check the fair book schedule! All of the exhibits this year will be in the Expo Center or Domer Arena.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions! If you have a question about an exhibit, ask your division superintendent or the Extension Staff. On Thursday and Friday there will be someone at the information table in Expo to help you.
- When in doubt, read your fair book. The county fair book is a great place to start when you need to know division rules or what materials you need to bring for your exhibit.

The County Fair is a great time to enter your State Fair exhibits! There will be forms at the info table in Expo. State Fair entries are due August 7th for everything except livestock and horse. Youth 9 and older can enter for the state fair and many of the exhibits can be transported by the Extension office. We take a minivan so we cannot take projects that are larger than a geology box.

Please make sure you or someone you know is picking up your fair entries on Sunday, July 26th at 5:30pm or immediately following the Fashion Revue. All exhibits need to be removed from the fair between the end of Fashion Revue and 6:30pm. If you pick up exhibits for another youth, please communicate with that family you are doing so before you leave the fair. No exhibits can be picked up before the conclusion of the Fashion Revue.

Once again this year we will be loading the fair semi-trailers after the fair on Sunday. Please plan to stay around the fair for a little while to help us put the fair away.

Thank you in advance to all the volunteers that help make the Shawnee County Fair possible. We look forward to seeing you July 18th for the Horse Show and July 23rd-26th at the Shawnee County Fair!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 22nd!

We are going to be unloading the fair trailers and setting up the expo center and the barns from 12:00-4:00 pm on Wednesday the 22nd. This is a great way for 4-Hers to get community service hours for their record books, and it helps ensure that the building is ready for superintendents to come in at 4:00 to set up their project areas. Anyone is welcome to come for the afternoon, or to stop by for an hour and help!

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

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County Notes

County Fair Info

FairEntry closes July 1 at 5 pm- watch our Facebook page!

JUDGING SCHEDULE CHANGES

Horse Show: *Saturday, July 18*

Clothing Judging (includes Fashion Revue, Sewing & Textile Design, and Shopping in Style):

Sunday, July 19 starting at 2:30 pm

Foods & Nutrition, Cake Decorating, and Table Setting: *Thursday, July 23 starting at 10:30 am*

Dog Show: *Friday, July 24- 9 am Showmanship & Obedience, 3:30 pm Agility & Rally Obedience*



Volunteer Opportunities for Fair

- Photography and Clothing Judging: Judge's clerks needed during photography and clothing judging on July 19.
- "Run 4 the Hs" 5K: Volunteers are needed in the early morning of July 25th for a variety of tasks!

Contact Grace if you are interested in volunteering at any of these times!

Horticulture Judging Contest Practices

Hello Shawnee County 4-H families! If you don't know me, I'm Lane Wiens and I've been the horticulture agent here in Shawnee County since 2023. Just like the last several years, I am hosting horticulture judging contest practices to prepare for the local and state contests. Even if you're not in the horticulture project, everyone is more than welcome to attend!

This year's practices are scheduled for:

-July 9th from 2-4 pm, upstairs meeting room at the Extension Office. This session will cover the quality judging and knowledge test portion of the contest, and an overview of the county contest.

I want to thank you all in advance for supporting the horticulture judging team make it to state and continue improving horticulture skills! See you this summer!

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

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Livestock Corner

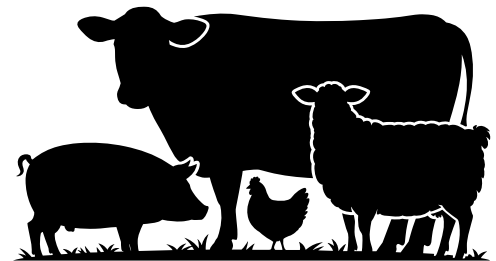
County Fair Sale Requirements

- Complete YQCA Training
- Complete buyer forms (located in county fair book)
- Meet withdrawal deadlines (form located in county fair book)
- Animals must make minimum sale weights
- Attend at least 2 of 3 educational meetings hosted by the 4-H Livestock Committee (make-up opportunities will be available- see below)
- Declare Intent to Sell at the fair livestock sale by the deadline of 30 minutes after the conclusion of the beef show

**4-H Livestock
Sweepstakes
August 22-23**

Livestock Educational Sessions

Attendance of at least 2 of 3 educational meetings hosted by the 4-H Livestock Committee is required to sell animals at the Shawnee County Fair Livestock Sale. If youth were not able to attend, sessions were recorded and posted on our website for 4-Hers who need to make up the sessions. Information for all three sessions is available at https://www.shawnee.k-state.edu/4-h/4-h_livestock/



Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and KJLS

The Kansas State Fair Grand Drive entries will be available in early July. The entry link will be available on the Grand Drive as well as their social media platforms. Rules and information is also posted on their website: <https://www.kansasstatefair.gov/p/competitions/grand-drive1>

July 15 - Kansas State Fair Grand Drive Entry Deadline

The Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) will also post their entry link on their website once show entries are being accepted. Watch their website and social media accounts for information regarding show entries, as well as the show rules. Show website:

<https://www.kjls.net/>

August 15 - KJLS Entry Deadline

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and KJLS Information

Livestock show entries for the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and KJLS will be opening in the next few weeks. Exhibitors must submit an official entry and pay the entry fees directly through each state show in which they would like to participate. The shows are independent, so youth who plan to exhibit in both must enter each show, separately. This includes entries for state-nominated market animals and commercial breeding females, as well as registered breeding females. Show entry is also a young person's opportunity to enter showmanship.

A complete nomination does NOT constitute a show entry. A nomination only makes animals eligible for either state show.

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August 15 - KJLS Entry Deadline

Animals that are nominated but do not follow the appropriate entry processes set forth by each show will not be permitted to exhibit. Each show manages their own rules and entries. All families should review the show rules prior to entry. Exhibitors will login and submit their show entries using the same exhibitor accounts they used for state nominations – including exhibitor name and password. Then, nominated animals will be selected from a drop-down menu, using their 4-H tag number. Registered breeding females will be entered off of their registration papers, which must be in the exhibitor's name by the deadlines listed in the show rules.

Contact Lexie Hayes, adhayes@ksu.edu, with questions.

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

State News

Youth Council and National 4-H Conference Applications

Applications for the Kansas Youth Leadership Council and the National 4-H Conference will be open. All applications will be completed online and will be due by October 1, 2026, 11:59 p.m. CT.

Any Kansas 4-H member between the ages of 14 and 18 before January 1, 2027, may apply as a Council Rep, and those 15-18 before January 1, 2027, may apply for the National 4-H Conference.

This year's KYLF delegation will elect representatives from the four extension program areas (NE, NW, SE, SW) for one-year terms on the council. Up to 6 National Conference Delegates will be selected through an interview prior to KYLF, and they serve a two-year term on the council.

2027 Outbound Exchanges Announced

States' 4-H International Exchange Programs recently announced the Outbound Exchanges to be offered for summer 2027. The following exchanges are for four weeks beginning in June or July 2027 for Kansas Youth ages 12 or 15 to 18, depending on the destination country: Norway (June 17-July 17), Costa Rica (June 24-July 23), Taiwan (June 30-July 30), Japan (July 7-August 6), and South Korea (July 7-August 6). The Japan 8-Week Exchange will run from June 9 to August 6. More details will be available in early June with a flyer posted on States' 4-H and Kansas 4-H websites.

The online outbound application will be live in September. Kansas will again have a due date for applications on November 1. For more information, contact Kansas outbound coordinator, Mary Kay Munson at mkm2@ksu.edu or (785) 375-3189.

Shawnee County 4-H Chatterbox

"To Make the Best Better!"

4-H Wheat Expo

The 4-H Wheat Expo will be August 4 at El Dorado, KS. There are a variety of contests and tours set for the event. Details and registration are available at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/wheat/>

Register by **July 15!**



August 15: State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest, Manhattan
 August 22-23: 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes, Manhattan
 September 5: State Fair Dog Show, Hutchinson
 September 11-20: Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Club Chatter

Auburn

The Auburn 4-H Club held our monthly meeting at Sports Center on June 8, 2026. We opened the meeting with the roll call question- What's your favorite pizza topping? In committee meeting reports, we discussed the Ronald McDonald donation, Sunday Funday, and the hay bale for the fair. In leader reports, Eric reminded everyone that fair entries are open and also about the Sunlit Summer Youth Leadership Event on June 20. In new business, officer nominations were opened and decided to make a donation to Shawnee County 4-H for project supplies and prizes. Upon conclusion of the meeting, club members played Mini Golf and had a lot of fun. The picture included is of my brother Carter hitting the final ball on the course. Our next meeting will be our club pool party on July 13 to relax and cool off right before the county fair.



~Harley Brossard

Rossville Rustlers

The Rossville Rustlers 4-H club had a pool party for their monthly meeting at the June 19, 2026. The members reviewed meeting agenda items with special focus on the Sunday Fun Day fair event and pancake feed. The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, August 17, 2026.

~Valencia Crawford



Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Riverside

The Riverside 4-H Club met June 8th at the Berryton United Methodist Church. Members and families enjoyed a potluck before the meeting. We discussed fundraising options and scarecrow and hay bale design ideas. Everyone was reminded to register fair entries before the July 1 deadline. Instead of project talks, we recognized our recent graduates: Brooklynn, Jenna, and Shelby. Our next meeting is on July 13 at the Lake Shore Swim Club.

~Willa Tucker



Silver Lake

Members of the Silver Lake 4-H Community Club participated in Discovery Days in Manhattan and hosted 4-H members from Montana as part of the 4-H Exchange. During Discovery Days, they learned about AI and computer science, toured the veterinary school, and took part in several activities. Mary Leigh and Hanna hosted Zoey and Sara from Montana for the 4-H exchange.

~Clara Thomas



Bunny Bunch

This month we discussed culling rabbits, why and how. We made plans to meet at the Carbondale swim pool and the fair entry deadline. Next month we are trimming nails and tattooing ears for the fair. We also discussed meeting for bowling. Our next meeting is July 6th and August 3rd at 7pm upstairs meeting room at the extension office. Good luck to everyone at the fair.

~Brooklynn Powell

Topeka Trailblazers

Topeka Trailblazers had their monthly meeting. There was a swim party. Some kids went on a geology adventure. A couple of us participated in the royalty contest. I interviewed to be the prince. There were other members from our club and other clubs there. Winners will be announced on Sunday at the fair.

~Max Diehl

Shawnee County 4-H *Chatterbox*

"To Make the Best Better!"

Shawnee County 4-H Calendar

July 2026

- 1 Fair Entries CLOSE @ 5 pm**
- 2 Fair Superintendents Meeting, EMR 7 pm**
4-H Exchange, Downstairs Conference Room, 7 pm
- 3 OFFICE CLOSED- INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- 6 Bunny Bunch Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm**
- 9 Archery Practice, Domer Arena, 6 pm**
- 14 Geology, TSCPL- Marvin B, 7 pm**
- 15 Livestock Entries due for Kansas State Fair Grand Drive**
Livestock Committee Meeting, Downstairs Conference Room, 7:15 pm
- 18 SHAWNEE COUNTY FAIR HORSE SHOW**
- 19 FAIR PHOTOGRAPHY JUDGING, 1:30 pm, Maner Conference Center**
FAIR FASHION REVUE & CLOTHING JUDGING, 2:30 pm, Maner Conference Center
- 23-26 SHAWNEE COUNTY FAIR, SVEC**
- 27 Paw Prints Dog Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm**
- 28 Shawnee County Fair Board, EMR, 7 pm**
Chatterbox Submissions Due

August 2026

- 1 Kansas State Fair Horse Show Entries Due**
- 3 Bunny Bunch Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm**
- 4 Wheat Expo, El Dorado**
- 6 4-H Exchange, EMR, 7 pm**
- 7 State Fair Entry Forms Due to Office by 5 pm**
- 13 4-H Events Council Meeting, EMR, 7 pm**
- 15 State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest, Manhattan**
- 19 Livestock Committee Meeting, Downstairs Conference Room, 7:15 pm**
- 22-23 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes, Manhattan**
- 24 Paw Prints Dog Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm**
- 25 Shawnee County Fair Board, EMR, 7 pm**
- 26 Chatterbox Submissions Due**
- 27 Horse Club Meeting, EMR, 7 pm**

September 2026

- 7 Office Closed- Labor Day**
- 8-9 Static Exhibit Drop Off**
- 10 Foods Drop Off**
- 11-20 Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson**
- 25 Record Books Due to Office by 5 pm**

EMR= Extension Meeting Room at Extension Office

K-State Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

K-State Extension is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact (Grace Wiens) two weeks prior to the start of the event. You may make a request by calling 785-232-0062, ext. 120, or by e-mail at wiensg@ksu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so.

All dates and activities are subject to change.

