



4-H
County Fair
HANDBOOK

COUNTY FAIRS

County Fairs - Held in July and August. The guidelines and rules are set up in the county fair books. **Projects must be pre-entered.** Members must be enrolled in a project by May 1st of the current year to enter at the county fair.

State Fair - Held in Hutchinson, Kansas in September. 4-Her must be 9 years old by January 1st of the current year to participate at the Kansas State Fair. A member must have received a purple ribbon at the county level to participate at the State Fair in most projects. Pre-registration is due immediately after the county fair.

4-H AND COUNTY FAIR OBJECTIVES

Participation in county fairs is an opportunity and privilege for 4-H members. If they choose to participate, they are in effect asking for an adult to give his or her opinion regarding the quality of their exhibit or participation. Having asked for this opinion, they should accept it gracefully and learn from it.

County Fair Objectives

County fairs provide opportunities for 4-Her's to:

- 1. Show what they learned and accomplished in 4-H to the public.*
- 2. Develop project skills.*
- 3. Develop responsibility and self-confidence.*
- 4. Gain knowledge, counsel, and encouragement from judges and others.*
- 5. Develop leadership skills by assuming fair responsibilities and working together with others.*
- 6. Learn new and better methods.*
- 7. Compare their work with a standard and with other 4-Her's.*
- 8. Receive recognition and learn the importance of being both a good winner and a good loser.*
- 9. Share ideas and make friends with other 4-H members.*



SPORTSMANSHIP DURING COUNTY FAIR

Sportsmanship: Conduct becoming to an individual involving fair and honest competition, courteous relations, and graceful acceptance of results. Sportsmanship roles should be followed by 4-H members, parents, grandparents, volunteers, teen leaders, fair supporters' spectators, and everyone involved.

1) Teach your child sportsmanship. Require him/her to demonstrate sportsmanship before, during, and following competitive activities. Encourage them to:

- learn and follow rules
- be honest, fair, and straightforward in everything they say and do
- accept that the nature of competition is seeking to get what others are seeking, and results in
- both winners and losers
- be well-mannered and show respect
- treat people, animals, and things kindly
- refrain from ill humor and arguing
- accept judges' suggestions and the results with a positive attitude.
- Congratulate Winners!

2) Applaud for your children, your friend's children, your club members, and others to express appreciation and admiration.

3) Do not boo, heckle, or make insulting comments about or to anyone.

4) Listen, act interested, and be quiet when participants are introduced when judges are talking and announcements are being made.

5) Encourage your child to politely ask questions if they have them. Make helpful suggestions to superintendents and agents.

6) Enjoy the program and accept our appreciation for setting a good example for today's youth.

LANE COUNTY 4-H GENERAL RULES

1. Livestock check-in times will be enforced within 10 minutes.
2. Each 4-H member is expected to enter at least one exhibit.
3. All livestock including horses may be released after the livestock premium sale on Saturday. All indoor exhibits may be picked up after 7:00 pm on Saturday.
4. Each clothing exhibit must be labeled with the class number, exhibitor's name, and county/district name. On food labels, the name, age, and club should be listed. Food preservation should be labeled giving the name and club member on the jar.
5. Special permission may be granted by the Fair Board for exceptional situations.
6. In livestock projects, more than two animals may be exhibited per phase of the project. A maximum total of three (3) animals or pens of poultry and rabbits may be sold at the livestock auction with a maximum of two animals per species.
7. All 4-H members must enter the showmanship contest with an animal in a division they exhibited to be eligible for sale except for poultry and rabbit.
8. Feed and bedding for livestock will be provided by the exhibitor.
9. Members must show their own livestock exhibits or make arrangements to have animals exhibited by other Lane County 4-H members. Failure to properly exhibit stock will mean forfeiture of prize money even though the ribbon is awarded. No outside help will be allowed with fitting and showing in every species. Only Lane County 4-H families and project leaders will be allowed to help with the fitting of livestock at the fair.
10. Food exhibits should be brought on paper plates and in plastic bags. NO GLASS OR CHINA PLATES WILL BE ACCEPTED.
11. In case there are less entries in any display than the prizes, prizes will not be awarded unless exhibits are suitable quality.
12. All classes will be divided into blue, red and white groups. Only best of blue groups may enter state fair competition (see State Fair Book) Purple ribbons will be awarded championship places. ALL STATE FAIR ENTRIES WILL BE MADE BY THE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE THE WEEK FOLLOWING COUNTY FAIR. Minimum age requirements for State Fair Exhibits and judging contests is 9 years of age as of January 1st of the current year.
13. Anyone interfering with a judge's decision will automatically disqualify the entry in question.
14. All members must own their project. Members may exhibit only items for projects in which they are enrolled.
15. Pre-registration forms shall be in the Extension office on Friday, June 30.
16. Room improvement judging will be held prior to the fair.
17. The 4-H building will be open to view the exhibits as follows

Thursday	9:00 am – 10:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am – 10:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am – 7:00 pm

The building will be closed on Friday during the parade.
18. Except for booths and cookie jars, all classes will be rated on a point system. At the end of the fair, the total points by all 4-Hers will be divided into the total prize money and the value of each point will be determined and each contestant's premium check will be figured from their total point earnings. Every exhibit will receive premium money. The point system is Purple or Blue 3 points, Red 2 points, and White 1 point.
19. All livestock sold in the premium will be run through the 4-H livestock sale fund and a 2% commission will be withheld from all animals. 4-Hers must turn in stamped thank you notes addressed to the buyer of their animal, and to the sponsors of all other awards and prizes they received at the fair. These Thank-you notes need to be turned in to the extension office before the 4-Her can receive their premium money.
20. Written placing must be on display with animals.
21. Livestock fund will only be used to compensate for livestock that dies at the Lane County Fair from the time it steps onto the fairgrounds until the animal leaves the grounds.
22. Judging will be by age not experience in all projects.
23. Cards with colored stickers will be given out during the fair rather than ribbons. These can be redeemed at the office for ribbons for those who request them. Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion ribbons will still be given out and displayed at the fair.

NESS COUNTY 4-H GENERAL RULES

1. 4-H exhibitors must be enrolled in the project to be eligible to exhibit. All members must own the project.
2. All market animals must be officially tagged by the date set by the 4-H council.
3. All exhibits must be the 4-Her's current years work.
4. The 4-H council will sell all food preparation following judging.
5. All 4-Hers must care for their exhibits and provide feed and care.
6. All 4-Hers must fit and show their animals in all classes. Adults may help members 7-12 years of age if the member is present. Adults may be present, but may not fit animals for members 13 and over. This will be enforced. When the 4-Her has two animals in a class or circumstances make it physically impossible for the 4-Her to be present another Ness County 4-Her may show the exhibit.
7. Any 4-Her may exhibit two entries per class in livestock breeding classes and four market animals in each livestock species.
8. All exhibits must be entered by the designated time in the fair schedule.
9. Market Livestock classes may be divided by weight if deemed necessary by the department supervisor.
10. All breeding animals must be purebred to enter the purebred classes. There is a crossbred breeding class for beef, swine, and sheep.
11. In case there are fewer entries in any display than there are a number of prizes, prizes will not be awarded unless the exhibits are of suitable quality.
12. Anyone interfering with a judge's decision will automatically disqualify the entry in question.
13. The better exhibits in all foregoing 4-H classes will be placed in Purple, Blue, Red, and White ribbon groups. One Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded in each department unless otherwise stated. The points earned by the various ribbons the 4-Hers receive will be totaled and divided into the amount of premium money provided by the Ness County Fair Association. This will equal the price per point multiplied times the total points earned by each 4-H member and will equal that member's total fair premium money. This is the Danish system of awarding premiums.
14. 4-H class champions will be awarded points only for the highest award received as follows: Champion 1.5 times blue, Reserve Grand Champion 2 times blue, Grand Champion 3 times blue.
15. All exhibits receiving a purple ribbon are eligible for state fair competition provided there is a class for such exhibit at the state fair, dealing with age, etc., and they meet the state fair requirements. State Fair age requirements – 9 years old as of January 1 of the current year, unless otherwise stated.
16. Clover bud 4-H members ages 5 and 6 will have a consultation-type show and share, where they get to select their ribbon choice. The Clover bud Program is based on activities, not projects, and is not for competition. Each Clover bud may enter up to 8 exhibits for display. Clover buds DO NOT receive premiums.
17. Fitting and Showing in each species group (beef, sheep, swine, and dairy) will show first before market and breeding classes.

RUSH COUNTY 4-H GENERAL RULES

1. Only Rush County 4-H members may exhibit the results of their current year project work in classes designated for the projects they are enrolled in. Youth participating in Walnut Creek Extension-sponsored special interest classes and day camps may exhibit their work in the project they are enrolled.
2. Age is determined as of January 1 of the current year.
3. The consultation or interview method of judging will be used on 4-H entries except for animals.
4. Most 4-H entries will be entered Wednesday of the fair:
 - Except Photography, Sewing & Textiles, Shopping in Style and Fiber Arts are judged Monday
 - Foods and Visual arts consultation judging will begin at 8 am on Wednesday
 - All other exhibits should be checked in and consultation schedules will be followed
 - Livestock weigh in for beef is from 11 am—12 noon. Small animal weigh-in is from 2-4 pm
 - No Animals or Crops may be entered on Wednesday evening.
5. No more than 2 entries per person per class unless stated otherwise.
6. Cloverbud 4-H members (ages 5 and 6 by January 1) will have a consultation-type show and share, where they get to select their ribbon choice. Clover bud Program is based on activities not projects and is not for competition. Each Clover bud may enter up to 8 exhibits for display. Clover buds **DO NOT** receive premiums and cannot sell food or animals in the sale.
7. All entries are due by July 15th on www.fairentry.com. Completed Member in Good Standing forms are due in the office by July 15th. See mailed information closer to fair time for specific dates.
8. Booth, banner and display spaces must be reserved by calling the extension office.
9. Stalls will be furnished for all livestock. No stall rent on 4-H or FFA livestock exhibits, but each exhibitor will furnish their own feed and bedding.
10. No premium or ribbon is awarded unless the exhibitor merits it.
11. 4-H exhibits will be awarded blue, red, and white ribbons. Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons are awarded at the judge's discretion.
12. Purple ribbons will be awarded to those exhibits designated by the judge as being of State Fair Quality.
13. Booths, Displays, Notebooks, and Posters may not go to the State Fair unless stated elsewhere in the fair book.
14. All Grand Champion pictures will be taken at a designated time during the fair.

*“Knowledge
for Life”*

COUNTY FAIR TIPS

- Get a copy of last year's fair book early in the year to see what you can exhibit in each project area.
Plan for those items.
- Plan to be 15 – 20 minutes early for you judging time slots, due to scratches and cancellations.
 - Consultation judging can really benefit you as a 4-Her.
- Remember today's results are only one person's opinion. If you are happy with the outcome then you have accomplished your goals.
 - Don't wait until the last minute to prepare for County Fair.
 - Read the Fair book and observe the rules.
 - Have a good attitude and come willing to learn.
 - Show GREAT CHARACTER and Good Sportsmanship throughout the whole County Fair.
 - Work toward Making the Best Better.
 - Help your friends, your neighbors, your club members, your parents and your children.
- Be Patient, and remain calm there are lots of people involved so not everything will run smoothly all the time.

“To Make the Best Better”



**Pre-Entries are due by the deadline set forth by the 4-H council,
Extension Office and the Fair Board.**

HAVE FUN!!

Ask questions, we are here to help you learn.
The only dumb question is the question not asked!