

Harvey County 4-H Happenings

K-STATE
Research and Extension



Harvey
County

The Informer

July & August 2026

www.harvey.ksu.edu

This newsletter is packed with all things fair and important year-end information! It's hard to believe we're already talking about wrapping up another 4-H year, but now is the perfect time to start planning ahead.

Please take a few minutes to read through everything carefully, and don't hesitate to contact the Extension Office if you have questions.

A few important reminders:

- All fair entries must be submitted through FairEntry. If you're new to the system or run into any issues, we're happy to help. One common mistake is submitting entries for one child and clicking the large green "Submit" button before entering projects for additional family members. If that happens, just give us a call and we can help get everything sorted out.
- The FairEntry deadline for all 4-H exhibitors is July 17. Please mark your calendar now—entries submitted after the deadline cannot be accepted.
- End-of-year recognition and award applications will be due this fall. This includes record books, membership pin applications, Outstanding 4-H Member nominations, senior scholarship applications, club leader paperwork, and more. Materials are available now for those who like to get a head start, and additional details will be shared after the fair.

We are looking forward to another fantastic fair season and celebrating all of your hard work. Thank you for everything you do to make Harvey County 4-H such a success—we're here to support you every step of the way!



Anne
Pitts

Director & 4-H &
Human Development

316-284-6930

County Wide News



IMPORTANT FAIR LINKS

Fair Entry:

[2026 Harvey County Fair - FairEntry.com](https://fairentry.com)

Fair Schedule:

[2026 Schedule | Harvey County Fair](#)

Fair Rule Book:

[2026 Fair Book | Harvey County Fair](#)

Caught Doing Good

Last year we started the “Caught Doing Good” survey at the county fair and we are bringing it back! Go to https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_08u46xesh0QmR2C, save it to your phone, and submit all the 4-Hers you see doing great work! I would love to have lots and lots to showcase on our Facebook page after the county fair!

4-H Recognition Night Social

Coming:

November 2026

Pine Street Building 1st Floor Meeting Room, 215 S Pine, Newton, KS

All 4-H Members, Families, Sponsors, & Supporters are Welcome

This is a time to show appreciation to 4-H supporters & sponsors and to celebrate 4-H achievements!

It is almost County Fair time, which is exciting for us in the office!

Also, since we are weeks away from setting up and getting started, we wanted to email you all the information you need for the County Fair. Please let me know if you have any questions. Fair entries are due by midnight on Friday, July 17th. Visit our [Fair page](#) to find links for the book, FairEntry, project sign-ups, and more!

Photography Team:

We have two parts to this for 2026.

This year, we will have a professional photographer for the beef, sheep, goat, and swine shows. She will be taking backdrop photos of our grand drive winners, ring-side, and any other backdrop photos people want. She will be there for all three shows and will help to grab those professional photos that we felt have been missing.

Then, again, we will have photography interns at the fair in conjunction with a photography program! These interns are current 4-H members with a passion for photography. You will see them around, taking pictures all during the fair and events. Once the fair is over, we will put all the photos in a Google Drive folder for parents to download and save any images they wish.

Some things to keep in mind with the photography interns and our professional photographer.

- They will be marked with a lanyard name badge
- Be nice to them, they are doing a job or doing us a favor
- We will do our best to get a picture of every kid, but don't bother them by asking for them to make sure they get your kid
- We do have a publicity release policy to follow – if your 4-Her falls under those policies, we will not post those photos on the Google Drive and will go back later to delete them
- They will be doing social media. If you do not want your kid to appear in any social media posts, please reach out to me. Again, we will follow the publicity release policies, and if your kid was marked as a no, you should not have to worry
- We will make mistakes and will do our best to fix them right away

Social Media at County Fair and Our Policy:

Something we learned from last year, as we have moved forward in this social media world, is that we have had to strengthen our policies and procedures around social media. Kids come first in our opinions, and from there, our board has implemented a [Social Media Policy](#). Please check it out and let us know if we missed anything, if you found any areas we need to improve, or any gaps. It is an ever-evolving document. If you want to talk more about it, please reach out. We are more than happy to chat.

We plan to take lots of videos and content at the County Fair this year. We want to tell our story through video from multiple viewpoints and across many projects. For example, I am breaking out an old selfie stick and going around asking folks what their blue-ribbon take is to see what people are thinking right there in the moment. The mic'd up series is coming back, but also in the static events. I am excited to see how that works during food judging or woodworking! I am excited to see all the different ideas we have come to life this year!

Set-up/Clean-up:

Set-up will be all together on July 29th, starting at 6 pm. This will include the barn, cleaning display cases, sweeping the floors, moving some displays around, and other odd tasks. **Please bring a bucket and a rag with you to help prepare items for the fair.**

Clean-up will have a checklist, from the Fair Association, for us to make sure we put everything back. **We need skid loaders and dump trucks for clean-up. Please reach out to the office if you are willing to bring one.**

At clean-up, we will have any sale information that was not picked up the previous night.

Pre-Fair Judging Sign Ups:

In 2026, we will not have any pre-fair sign-ups. The sign-ups for judging will be on a first-come, first-served basis. For some projects (i.e., Rocketry), there will be a piece of paper at the judging table to write your name on to "get in line".

For those who will have other check-ins or judging sessions at the same time, please communicate that to the person overseeing the judging process. They will work with you and squeeze you in to make sure you get what you need judged and back to where you need to be.

Weigh-in Procedures:

Again this year, we will have RFID readers for animal weigh-ins. This is exciting because we should not have to yell across the table what the tag number is, or clean off the tag on a wiggling pig. The process is as simple as waving our RFID tag reader (magic wand) over the tag, and it will pop right up in FairEntry. It should be simple, but we all know that sometimes technology doesn't work, or things just don't want to work. Be patient, but in the end, it should be a very simple process.

Judging Contests:

FCS Judging will not be happening this year. Horticulture Judging will be on Sunday at 1:00 pm. Come and identify plants, flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Livestock Judging will be on Saturday at 8:00 am. All high individuals for both sets of judging contests will be announced right before the Livestock Sale on Monday at 6:30 pm.

Parade Float:

We will not have a parade float this year. BUT be on the lookout for other parade float opportunities later this year.

Thanks and see you at the Fair!



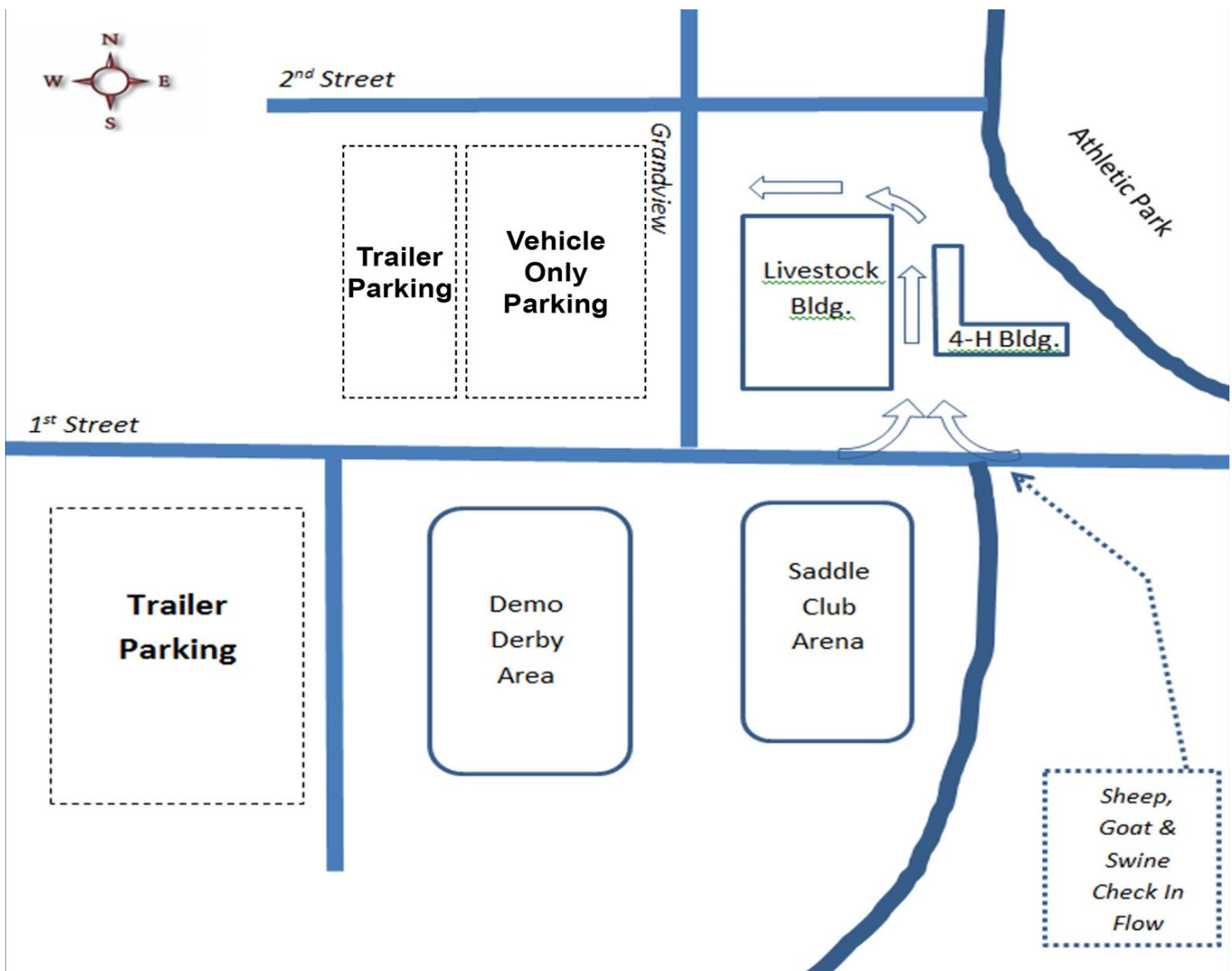
2026 Harvey County Fairgrounds Parking

Sheep, Goat, Swine and Beef Check In: All trailers will enter off of 1st Street between the Commercial Building and the Livestock Barn, heading north. When it's your turn, you will turn along the North side of the Livestock Barn, heading west, where you will unload for weigh in. No need to back up to wash rack! Please unload tack as quickly as possible so the next person can unload. Pick up will be the same process.

Parking: There will be **NO PARKING** in between Commercial Building and Livestock Barn on Thursday from 3-9 PM, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Signs will be posted about parking restrictions.

Trailer Parking: The designated trailer parking is across 1st Street, west of the Demo Derby Area and on the far west side of the lot west of Grandview.

**This is all subject to change. You will be notified if it is.



Fair Set-Up & Clean-Up!!

Part of having a successful fair is our set-up and clean-up going well. For that to happen, we need attendance at both. This is part of every 4-Her's responsibilities in helping to have a successful fair.

For Fair Set-Up: We will set up the whole grounds on Wednesday, July 29, starting at 6 PM. This will be setting up the barns, cleaning display cases, putting the food stand screens in, and moving around displays that need to be moved.

For Clean-Up: This will start at 5 PM on Tuesday, August 4 for ALL buildings. This is putting display cases back, sweeping, picking up stalls and cleaning up bedding. This will run differently than previous years. Here is how it will run differently:

The Fair Association will not be in attendance for set-up or clean-up. Which means they will not have the skid loader or dump truck for bedding. We will have to bring our own. Here is my ask: If you have a rakes, scoop shovels, and wheel borrows please plan on bringing them. If you have a dump truck please get in contact with me so we can plan on having a few of those as well.

The set-up and clean-up process will require many families and is an important part of putting on a fair. The Extension Office expects families to participate in both setting up and cleaning up of the fair. We understand that the end of fair is typically during meet the teacher night or other things right before school starts but it is our obligation to leave the fairgrounds better than we found it.

A Letter from the Harvey County Fair Board

Dear 4-H Families,

Fair week is right around the corner!

As we finalize the setup for this year's Harvey County Fair, we are thinking of the many families working hard at home to prepare. The skills they learn while preparing for the fair—patience, responsibility, and problem-solving—will last a lifetime.

Enjoy the experience, make memories with your friends, and have fun!

We cannot wait to see your projects!

Sincerely,

The Harvey County KS Fair Association



Fair Food Stand

The 4-H Food Stand serves as the main fundraiser for our 4-H programming in Harvey County, with proceeds going to the 4-H Council. All 4-H Clubs are assigned a shift to work during the fair. Each club is responsible to provide workers during the hours below. Adults and youth are required to work the whole time while the club is working their shift. We understand the shifts will not work for everyone in your club. We have tried to not overlap major judging events during shifts that clubs would have the highest attendance in those. We have also have breakfast on Saturday morning, 7-9 AM. We are looking for individuals to come help.

Thursday, July 30

4 PM - 9 PM—Ambassadors and 4-H Council

Friday, July 31

11 AM - 4 PM — Macon Lakers

4 PM - 9 PM — Halstead Cloverleaf

Saturday, August 1

7 AM - 9 AM — Breakfast - Come help if you can

11 AM - 4 PM — Sedgwick Sunflowers

4 PM - 9 PM — Lucky 13

Sunday, August 2

10:30 AM - 5 PM — Hesston

Monday, August 3

11 AM - 4 PM — Walton Willing Workers

Donations:

Please donate fresh fruit for fruit salad—melons, grapes, and berries. Please bring to the Food Stand during the Fair. No oranges, cuties, or things that do not work in a fruit salad.

Other Donations:

Are you willing to donate 1/4 lb Beef patties or Pork patties?

4-H Food Stand Expectations

Everyone reports to Food Stand Manager.

Minimum: 3 adults and 3 members per club per shift + Food Stand Manager

No one is allowed in the Food Stand that is under the age of 7 years old

Upon entering the 4-H Food Stand, each worker will:

Be sure they are wearing a clean shirt and shoes and wash their hands.

Cashier Duties: (MUST BE AN ADULT)

- Receive money bag from 4-H staffer
- Ensure proper payment is received for each order
- Ensure proper change is provided, as necessary
- Record any transactions on family/individual tabs

Customer Service: (May be 4-H member or adult)

- Record each order on one slip AND add it up
- Inform food prep of order
- Provide slip and money to Cashier and return any change to customer
- Does NOT touch food or drinks (stays at the window)
- Clean tables in eating area as needed

Food Runner: (May be 4-H member or adult)

- Receive verbal order from Customer Service and fill or inform Cook(s)
- Restock drink refrigerator
- Hand off order to customer (only one to pass food to customer)
- Clean tables in eating area as needed

Cook: (MUST BE AN ADULT)

- Receive order from Food Runner
- Keep hot foods stocked and ready

SMALL TOWN
SHOWDOWN



2026 HARVEY COUNTY FREE FAIR SPIRIT WEEK

THE LINEUP:

TH

THURSDAY

HAWAIIAN



F

FRIDAY

'MERICA



SA

SATURDAY

PINK



SU

SUNDAY

REDNECK



M

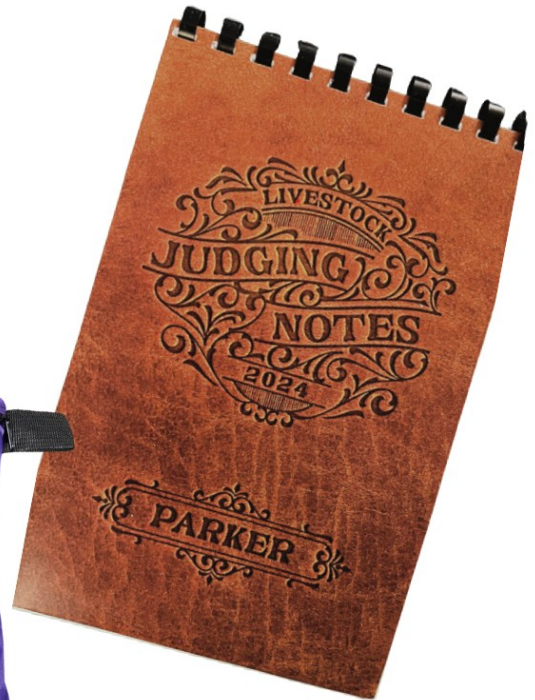
MONDAY

TWIN DAY



NEW DROP!

2026 FAIR AWARDS



HARVEY COUNTY 4-H AWARDS

In preparation for our annual 4-H Recognition Night, all Project Record Books, pin applications, and other award applications are due in the Extension Office no later than **October 9, 2026**. Please respect the due dates that your Club Leaders have set up.

The applications, forms, and instructions are available on our website:

https://www.harvey.k-state.edu/4-h/record_keeping_and_awards/

Project Record Books

Harvey County uses the Record Books to select County Champions in 4-H projects. Project Record Keeping may be recorded through ZBOOKS online or on the Form Fillable PDFs. All Project Record documents need to be printed and compiled in a 3-prong folder or appropriate sized binder.

Member Achievement Pins

Kansas 4-H Member Achievement pins are designed to recognize 4-H members as they reach milestones throughout their 4-H journey. The pins are awarded in a series: Membership, Bronze, Clover, Emerald, Silver, Silver Guard, Leadership, Gold, and Gold Guard. Member Achievement Pins are different than project pins and recognize a 4-H'er for overall 4-H growth and involvement. 4-H members should turn these applications into their Club Leader along with their record book.

Outstanding 4-H'er Award

This award recognizes Harvey County 4-H members who have demonstrated leadership and dedication to the Harvey County 4-H program. Four \$50 awards are given out. 4-H members may only receive this award once in each age group. This form can be completed by Club Leaders, Volunteers, 4-H Members or by self-nomination. Nominees must fit into the 2 age groups; 13-15 and 16+ and actively enrolled in Harvey County 4-H. 4-H'ers who have already been given this award are not eligible to reapply in the same age group.

Harvey County Volunteer of the Year

This award recognizes a Harvey County 4-H volunteer who demonstrate exceptional service to Harvey County 4-H. Harvey County 4-H will continue with nominating the winner for The Kansas 4-H Salute to Excellence Award.

4-H Club Seals

A seal is awarded to a 4-H Club each participation year that requirements are met. The seals are white, red, blue, and purple. Your 4-H Club may try for any seal without regard to the seals previously received. Please turn in all other end of the year documents at this time as well

Development Fund College Student Scholarship

This scholarship application is intended for students who have been active Harvey County 4-H members who graduated May of 2026 and are enrolled as full-time post-secondary students in the Fall 2026.

4-H Volunteer News

When you believe in the power of young people, it is important to stay up to date with theories, resources, policies, and much more. Staying up to date with the “hip” things these days takes a lot of work. Hopefully this part in the newsletter will help with keeping you up to date. ---Anne

Volunteer Opportunities at the Harvey County Fair

According to research, volunteering is good for the soul. And this year, we might have the perfect opportunity for you! We have several needs for volunteers in a few spots. Each of these spots is a project where we have many smiling faces and lots of passion from kids. Your heart will surely grow bigger than the Grinch's if you say yes to helping out!

We need help with photography, sewing, textiles, and our STEM (rocketry, robotics, small engines, electricity, and building blocks) projects.

If you are curious about these volunteer opportunities, let me give you a quick overview of the job:

- Managing the line order - This is either the pre-fair or the during-fair sign-up list
- Helping kids know where to go
- Helping judges make sure they have ribbons, eval sheets, water, etc.
- Moving exhibits around and setting them up when judging is over
- Listening to the judge and learning ALL the great things
- Having your heart grow and feeding your soul

If you are interested in helping out this year, please give Anne a call at the office (316-284-6930) or email her. It is a short-term opportunity for you!

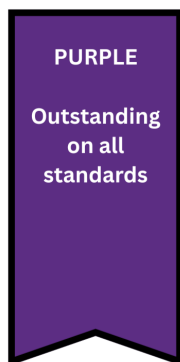


4-H Parent Corner

Caution: Change

Sometimes change is hard, but it is usually necessary for many reasons. Change is how we can ***“make the best better”*** in 4-H. There is always some sort of change with any recurring event. The Harvey County Fair is no different when it comes to change. This year, changes concerning 4-H with the Harvey County Fair are to do with the schedule, the entry rules, and the classes. Please read and pay attention to the Harvey County Fair Schedule and the Harvey County Fair Book for all the details. Even if you think you know the time of a certain event or the rules and classes for a certain entry, please read over the schedule and rules to be certain and to avoid surprises at the last minute.

4-H Ribbons



CHAMPION ROSETTES
Division or Class winner

In 4-H, the Danish System of ribbon placing is used. This means that exhibits are not judged against each other, but are evaluated according to a standard. The project standards are based on the rules and classes in the Fair Book. The judge will determine what standards are met when looking over the presented project and in many projects, as they are conferencing with the 4-H youth in many project. Exhibits are judged against each other to determine who earns the Champion Rosettes.

State & Other News

Kansas 4-H Events

To see a list and detail information about various Kansas 4-H Project-Based Events offered throughout the year go to [Project-Based](#)



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

Event Scholarship Opportunity

Attending a Sate 4-H event and want support paying for this event?

Then apply for a Harvey County 4-H Development Fund Event Scholarship.

It is a simple two question process.

Turn it into the office once completed.

To find the application use this link:

[Records and Forms \(k-state.edu\)](#)

Kansas State Fair September 11-20, 2026



Pre-entries are due August 7 in the Extension Office.

This includes static, communications, dog, poultry, and rabbit entries.

4-H entries that qualified to go to the Kansas State Fair MUST pre-enter.

The 2026 Kansas State Fair 4-H Exhibitor Handbook and any forms are available online at the [Kansas State Fair - 4-H Division webpage](#).

KSF Beef, Sheep, Swine and Goat Entries: Due in the Kansas State Fair Office by July 15

Dairy and Horse Entries: Check with the Extension Office

**** There will be no premiums for the 2026 Kansas State Fair ****

More Info will come when projects are due in the Extension Office.



KANSAS 4-H X HIREPATHS



cool careers

Student Edition

contest

**Your Video.
Your Future.
Your Cash Prize.**

FILM A REAL PROFESSIONAL.

TELL THEIR STORY.

PRIZE MONEY TO TOP VIDEOS.

PRIZE POOL

\$1000

SUBMIT BY:

AUGUST 2, 2026

4-10 min.

video length

MP4

file format

1-4 People

team size

NEW IN 2026

- Open to both 4-H and non-4-H youth
- Two age groups: Intermediate (10 - 13) & Senior (14-18)
- Cash prizes for top placing videos
- Awards ceremony at the Kansas State Fair - 2nd Saturday during the KSF Public Fashion Revue.

YOUR VIDEO SHOULD COVER:

01

What they do on the job

02

Why they chose this career

03

How they learned skills

04

What they enjoy about it

05

Type of education needed for this career

TECH & TOOLS:

- Smartphone, tablet, or video camera - your choice!
- Edit with iMovie, Capcut, Canva or any editing app
- Free tutorials on YouTube or AI platforms for filming & editing basics.
- Inspiration: HirePaths.com/cool-careers-videos . Watch past episodes like Cybersecurity Analyst, Plumber, Pilot

ALL RESOURCES
LOCATED AT:
[KANSAS4-H.ORG](https://www.kansas4-h.org)

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY



QUESTIONS?
AMY COLLINS
ACOLLINS@KSU.EDU

Did you know the Cool Careers Contest is open to all youth ages 10-18? New this year are cash prizes, an awards ceremony at the Kansas State Fair and the opportunity for non-4-H youth to participate too. Work as a team or an individual and find out about careers in Kansas that interest you. This is a unique contest that has BIG rewards! Go to <https://www.kansas4-h.org/> for more information.

2026 Harvey Co. FAIR 4-H / Open SCHEDULE

Exhibits Close 10 pm July 31, Aug.1-3

Date	Time	Event
Wed., July 29		
	6 pm	Set up of 4-H, Commercial Buildings and Livestock Barn
Thurs., July 30		
	4-6 pm	4-H Food Judging 4-H Sewing and Textiles and Fiber Arts 4-H & Open Rocketry, 4-H Robotics, & 4-H Building Block Judging
	5:30 – 6:30 pm	4-H & Open Woodworking Check In
	6 – 7 pm	Sheep & Meat Goat –Check in
	6 – 9 pm	Rabbit & Poultry Check In
	6:30 – 8:00 pm	Swine – Check in & weigh in – All Swine must be on the grounds.
	6:30 pm	4-H & Open Woodworking Judging
	6:45 pm	Small Engines & Electricity Judging
	7 – 9 pm	Early Check in for Open Class (except Dept. F – Crops, Garden & Floriculture AND Div. 100 Open Class Foods)
Fri., July 31		
	8 – 10 am	Exhibit Check In (Check Dept. for specific check in times.)
	8 – 10 am	Exhibit Check In – Family & Consumer Sciences Division
	8 – 10 am	Open & 4-H Floriculture, Horticulture + Crop check in
	8 – 10 am	Sheep and Goat Weigh In
	8 – 11 am	4-H & Open Poultry Check in
	8:30 – 10 am	4-H Photography Judging
	10 a.m.	4-H Breeding Beef Check In Open and 4-H Geology, followed by Entomology Judging
	10:30 am	4-H Project Displays, Posters & Notebooks Judging Open Family & Consumer Sciences Division Judging
	11 am	4-H Market Beef Weigh In
	11 am	4-H & Open Judging begins for the following: Crops, Garden, Floriculture & Forestry Veggie Garden Judging Open & 4-H Geology Judging
	Noon	4-H Booths and Banner Judging 4-H Arts & Crafts
	12:30 pm	4-H FFA Poultry Show 4-H Entomology Judging
	2 pm	4-H Rabbit Show
	4 – 8 pm	4-H Foods Silent Auction
	5:30 pm	4-H Swine Judging
	8 pm	Newton Saddle Club Rodeo

Sat., Aug 1		
	8 am	Livestock Judging Registration
	8:30 am	Livestock Judging Competition
	9 – 11 am	Ag Fest

	9:15 am	Pedal Pull Registration, Athletic Park
	10 am	Pedal Pull Contest
	10:30 am	Registration for Turtle Races, Athletic Park
	11 am	Turtle Races Mud Volleyball registration
	Noon	Mud Volleyball Tournament starts
	1 pm	Bucket Calf Interviews
	2:30 pm	Bucket Calf Show
	4 pm	Dog Costume Contest / Bucket Calf Costume Contest
	4:30 pm	Fashion Revue – 4-H Building
	5 pm	4-H & Open Sheep Judging, Showmanship Sheepless Sheep Showmanship 4-H & Open Breeding Meat Goat followed by 4-H Market & Showmanship
	8 pm	Saddle Club Rodeo
Sun., Aug 2		
	8 am	Farm Bureau/MKC Breakfast
	8:30 am	4-H & Open Dairy Cattle and Dairy Goat Show
	9 am	4-H & Open Beef Show
	1 pm	Youth Horticulture Judging
	4 pm	Round Robin Practice
	4 pm	Poultry & Rabbit Clean Up
	5 pm	Non-Sale Livestock released
Mon., Aug 3		
	12:45 pm	Registration for Barnyard Olympics
	1 pm	Barnyard Olympics
	4 – 6 pm	All other exhibits released
	4:30 pm	Round Robin Showmanship Contest
	6 pm	Watermelon Feed
	6:30 pm	Announcement of Judging Contests & Round Robin Winners
	7 pm	4-H Livestock & Champion 4-H Food Auction
Tues., Aug. 4		
	5 pm	Clean up 4-H Building & Livestock Barn
Aug 6-9		
Thurs., Aug. 6		
	5 pm	Food Trucks
	7:30 pm	Concert –(bring lawn chair)
Fri., Aug. 7		
	5 pm	Food Trucks
	7:30 pm	Concert – (bring lawn chair)
Sat., Aug 8		
	9 am – 4 pm	Harvey County Market in the Park
	5:30 pm	Parade – on West First Street
	8 pm	Newton Saddle Club Bulls and Barrels
Sun., Aug 9		
	6:30 pm	Demo Derby
	6- 9 pm	Carnival

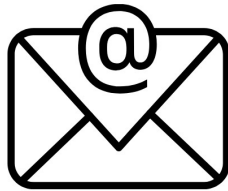
Upcoming 4-H Dates

July 17	All Fair Entries Due
July 18	Style Review Judging
July 25	Dog Show
July 25	Horse Show
July 30 - August 9	Harvey County Free Fair
August 7	State Fair Entries Due
August 27, 6 PM	Ambassadors
August 27, 7 PM	4-H Council Meeting
September 11-20	Kansas State Fair
October 1	4-H New Year
October 4-10	National 4-H Week
October 10-11	48 Hours of 4-H
October 9	Awards/End of Year Documents Due
?	Recognition Night

CONNECT WITH US



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