

July 9, 2026

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension
Cottonwood District

Dear 4-H Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Horse & Small Animal Exhibitors,

This final fair letter will update you on important fair information. **Please read it carefully and call if you have any questions! You are responsible for being on time for weigh- ins, pictures, the show, the sale and clean up.**

Be sure to review all livestock & sale rules found on pages 76 - 98 in your Ellis County Fairbook!

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4-H HORSE SHOW

As always, volunteers are needed to help run a safe & successful Horse show. Pictures will be on the morning of the show, Sunday July 12th at 8 am. If you are willing to help out, please contact the Extension Office.

WEIGH IN AND HEALTH CHECK IN FOR ALL ANIMALS

Be sure to read your division information and comply with the required health rules. Veterinarians will be checking ALL livestock during the 8 – 10 p.m. check in time on Monday evening. ***There is no charge, so please be sure to thank them for providing this service for us.***

Please do not wait until the last minute to check in! The Beef Superintendents ask that breeding beef and bucket calves be stalled and the Superintendents will come to your stall to check in your animals.

EXHIBITOR BREAKFAST

The ***Bank of Hays*** continues to support 4-H'ers and volunteers with a breakfast during the Fair. We will be serving this special meal on Tuesday morning from 7 – 9 a.m. at the 4-H Foodstand. All 4-H families are welcome to stop by and enjoy this great breakfast and ***thank Bank of Hays for supporting 4-H.***

WEDNESDAY MORNING (7/15)

Please have **all Beef moved to the barn by 8 AM on Wednesday morning**, so that the Swine can make their way to the arena for the show and not spook anything.

PEN & STALL ASSIGNMENTS- IMPORTANT!

Pen and stall assignments for beef, sheep, swine, goats, dairy and bucket calves are enclosed. Space was assigned by club for each beef animal pre-entered and by family for the small barn. **Please work together to make the best use of space. This is the FINAL map for this year.** The barns are full this year, so, during check-in, the Superintendents ask that you bring in animals first, then work with your club to address tack needs. If there still is a need for space after working with your club, then visit with the Superintendents. They will make final determinations.

Be sure to post COMPLETED stall cards for your animals both in the barns and in the tie out areas assigned to your club. They are available at the Extension Office or in the Fair office in the Schenk Building kitchen.

HERDSMANSHIP

Showcasing your 4-H livestock & small animal project work – making it look its best as the community comes out to take a look – that's what Herdsmanship is all about! This year's theme is **"Let the Good Times Roll!"** Think about ways to incorporate the theme in the barn areas. Clubs work together and are judged by "silent judges" throughout the fair. So be ready at all times!

Judges score on the following:

- ✓ Cleanliness of Alleys, Stalls, Pens & Tie-out areas
- ✓ Arrangement of Exhibits

- ✓ Appearance of Animals
- ✓ Stall Cards & Educational Exhibits

Commerce Bank is sponsoring special cash awards for Herdsmanship recognition again this year. Winning clubs will also get the opportunity to have their stall preference for next year's Ellis Co. Fair. The winners will be announced at the beginning of the Livestock Auction and prizes awarded at the 4-H Achievement Banquet in October. Please do your 4-H best and **take time to thank Commerce Bank for their generous sponsorship.**

TIE OUT AREAS

These areas are not assigned by club but bucket calves will be in the Southwest area this year. You will be asked where you tied out and the area will be checked before your stall deposit is returned. **Please refer to the final map for the bucket calf tie out area.**

HEAT CONTINGENCY PLAN

In the case of an excessive heat forecast during the Ellis County Fair, the Ellis County Fair Board will implement the livestock heat contingency plan for Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goats, Rabbits, and Poultry. **Implementation of the Heat Plan will be determined the week of the fair.** Please check the fair bulletin boards, the Ellis County Extension website www.cottonwood.k-state.edu, 4-H and Fair Facebook pages for information concerning the Heat Plan.

PHOTO SCHEDULE

Pictures will be taken at the following times:

Horses - Sunday, July 12, 8:00am **Rabbit & Poultry Meat Pens** – Wednesday, July 15, 7:00 am
All other species – Tuesday, July 14 in the show ring, 8-11am

LIVESTOCK SALE PHOTOS

Sale pictures will be handed to the 4-Hers as they leave the sale ring. Please take them to the buyer and thank them for their gift to you. You will be receiving a second framed photo for your family. These will be with your stall deposit checks, pick them up on Sunday.

LIVESTOCK CLEANUP

Please bring some wheelbarrows, shovels and brooms to help clean up the animal barns. Remember to scoop up manure and spilled feed and take it to the manure trailer. Thanks to the 4-H Clubs for helping to empty the trailer each day during the Fair! Every club has signed up for manure trailer AND barn trash removal duties.

All animals will release from 8:30 – 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 18. All animal project members must be present in the morning to clean out stalls and pens. In the small animal barn, **this is a team effort.** If you cannot be there, you must find someone from your club to be there for you. **Each family is asked to check out with an Extension Agent before leaving to receive their stall deposit check. Checks that are not picked up at the time of release will be used to support improvements in the respective barn.**

PARKING

Livestock parking hang tags are enclosed with this mailing. These must be hanging from your rear-view mirror upon entry on the fairgrounds.

NO PARKING on the East side of the Beef Barn and the show arena due to the new drainage system, NO blocking chutes along the wash rack of the Beef Barn and only goat and sheep stands along the wash rack of the Goat/Sheep/Swine Barn. More space for these is available to the South of the Beef Barn, across the road. Please park in the designated parking areas! Parking in the front of the Small Animal barn is limited to loading and unloading. See the map for a visual.

Please use the livestock lot, as much as possible. The livestock lot is on land owned by Enersys on the East side of the Beef Barn. Please know that you are parking on their land at your own risk.

Also, remember to keep the road open that is South of both barns for emergency purposes. Please clean up after yourself and leave the land better than you found it!

STATE FAIR DEADLINE

Livestock entries for the Grand Drive are due to KS State Fair office by **July 15th**! The State Fair website has all of the specifics. Check it out at <http://www.kansasstatefair.com> . All other species and indoor projects must be pre-entered to the Extension office by **5 p.m. July 31st**.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions! We look forward to working with you at the Ellis County Fair!

Yours in 4-H,

Ben Sims

Ben Sims
District Extension Agent
4-H Youth and Development

Barn Trash Removal

Monday- Big Creek Astros

Tuesday – Gemini Juniors

Wednesday – Good Hope

Thursday – Victoria Vikings

Friday – Buckeye Jr. Farmers/
Ellis Sunflowers

Saturday – All Clubs

Manure Trailer Unloading

Monday- Big Creek Astros

Tuesday – Gemini Juniors

Wednesday – Good Hope

Thursday – Buckeye Jr. Farmers

Friday – Victoria Vikings/ Ellis
Sunflowers

Saturday – All Clubs