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**Fair Edition
June/July 2026**

Ellis County 4-H Happenings

Hey 4-H Families!

The Countdown to County Fair is ON! **Please read this edition in entirety and carefully**, there is a lot of information about what's happening for this year's Ellis County Fair.

As we gear up for another exciting fair, we want to remind you about some important responsibilities that come with exhibiting animals, specifically around liability and insurance coverage.

In Kansas, if an animal gets loose at a county fair and causes injury or damage, the owner of the animal is generally responsible under state law (K.S.A. 47-123). Even at organized events like fairs, livestock are considered "at large" if they aren't properly secured. That means if your animal injures someone or causes property damage, your family could be held liable.

The Fair Board Association is responsible for keeping the grounds safe, but they are not typically liable for injuries or incidents caused by 4-H exhibitors' animals, unless there was clear negligence on the part of the Fair Board.

Some families may believe that their homeowners' insurance will cover these types of situations, but most policies do not include agricultural or livestock-related incidents. That's why it's highly recommended that families carry farm or livestock liability insurance. This type of coverage helps protect you in case something goes wrong during the fair.

You may also want to consider medical or accident insurance. While some state 4-H programs carry general liability insurance, this typically does not cover injuries to the 4-H members themselves.

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning the liability insurance, upcoming events or deadlines.

Come join the fun & learning!

Yours in 4-H,
Ben Sims

Ways to Contact Us

- You can reach the Office at (785) 628-9430
- Extension Office fax # is (785) 621-2002
- el@listserv.ksu.edu
- www.cottonwood.ksu.edu



Meetings Coming Your Way

Fashion Revue Committee - June 2, 6:00 p.m., Back meeting room of the Ext. Office

Council - June 8, 6:00 p.m., Back meeting room of the Ext. Office

Home Ec/BBQ/Foodstand - June 8, 6:00 p.m., Back meeting room of the Ext. Office

4-H Ag Livestock – July 8, 7:00 p.m., Bleachers of the Show Arena

Fair Superintendent – July 8, 7:00 p.m. Schenk Building at the Fairgrounds – **RSVP by July 1**

Remember, **DEADLINES** are **DEADLINES** in **Ellis Co. 4-H**. Please pay attention to and respect those deadlines so that your child doesn't miss out on an opportunity!

IMPORTANT DEADLINES TO NOTE

June 1 – Horse ID Papers Due to the office
June 5 – RSVP for King Arthur Scones Class by 5 pm
June 15 – YQCA Training Due for KS Fair and KJLS
June 15 – All Commercial Heifer, Sheep, Swine & Meat Goat nominations for KSF and KJLS are due in State Office
June 26 - Herdsmanship Award preferences to the Ext. Office
June 26 – **County Fair Entry Deadline for Livestock, Horse, Fashion Revue paperwork + FairEntry due by 5pm**
July 1– RSVP for Fairgrounds Work Night (Set up night)
July 6 - Any updates to the Stall Assignment to Ext. Office by 5 pm
July 6 – **4-H Exhibits Entries for Ellis Co. Fair Close at Midnight**
July 6 – **Select your times to visit with the 4-H Judges – ALL AREAS**
July 15 – KSF Livestock Entries Postmarked
July 24 – Entries for 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes due in Ext. Office
July 31 – **KSF Small Animal and Indoor Exhibits Pre-entered with Ext. Office**



4-H HORSE ID PAPERS **DUE JUNE 1**

Horse ID papers are available at the Extension Office or on line at kansas4-h.org. You have to have these papers completed and on **file with our office by June 1** in order to show at 4-H sanctioned horse shows. Now's the time to get the photos taken and the forms filed with the Extension Office. *If you have an old form, you should transition to the form linked above it was updated in July 2024.*

4-H HORSE COGGINS TEST REQUIRED AT FAIR

All exhibits in the 4-H Horse Show must present proof of negative Coggins test within the last 12 months at check-in. **If you are needing the test completed please reach out to our office** and we will work with a local vet to get it completed.

More information on the Coggin's test can be found on the [K-State Veterinary Health Center website](#).

4-H HORSE PRACTICE

Tatum is working to put together times for horse practice at the Fairgrounds. Please watch your email for dates and times. If you have questions please reach out to Tatum Kimzey at 785-635-8219 or tatumkimzey@gmail.com.

FAIRGROUND PRIDE PROJECT DAY – July 6th

Please join us on July 6th at 6:00 pm at the Fairgrounds. We will be moving and cleaning the display cases into the Schenk building. Please let us know if you will be able to help!

FASHION REVUE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Fashion Revue Committee will have a meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd at 6 PM in the back-meeting room of the Extension Office. They will be finalizing the paperwork, discussing the decorations and organizing the Public Fashion Revue for the 2026 Ellis County Fair. If you would like to join the committee, please let Ben know or feel free to attend the meeting!

FIBER ARTS PROJECT WORK

Natalie Oborny (Fiber Arts Project Leader) and Linda McClain will be in the front room of the Extension Office on the following days: June 11th, 25th and July 9th from 5-6:30 PM to help with fiber arts projects. Bring your own supplies and materials to work on.

Please email Natalie at natalie.oborny@gmail.com or contact the Extension Office if you will be there.

KING ARTHUR SCONES CLASS

FCW Agent, Monique Koerner will be hosting a Scones class to help 4-H members (and Open Class participants) get ready for the King Arthur category at the Ellis County Fair. Join us at the **Hays High School residential kitchen on June 10th, 2026 from 1-5pm. Please register online at https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e3BQjjiHpKedKyG by 5 pm, June 5th.**

ENTERING ALL PROJECTS FOR THE FAIR

Look at the following deadlines carefully!!! There are two different deadline days for different project areas. [2026 Ellis County Fair - FairEntry.com](https://www.2026EllisCountyFair.com)

You must pre-enter livestock & fashion revue entries through the on-line entry system **by June 26th**. ALL other entries including participations (showmanship, livestock judging, etc.) must be pre-entered **by 11:59 pm on July 6th**. You will log in using your 4-H Online username and password. There's a [help sheet available](#) to help walk you through the process.

The system will print out entry cards, that will be attached to indoor exhibits. You will be able to pick up your entry cards on July 8th fair set up night or at the Extension Office on July 10th. **(PS – if you misplace these entry tags, you WILL get to hand write the replacements!)**

LIVESTOCK PRE-ENTRY PAPERWORK FOR ELLIS CO. FAIR

This letter and forms will be mailed out soon and will also be posted on our website, be on the lookout! **Stall #'s, picture forms and insurance forms are due on June 26**. At this time all animals must be designated to a 4-H'ers name.

The 4-H Ag Livestock Stall Committee will be meeting with the Livestock Superintendents to set Stall Assignments early July. Watch for an email with the DRAFT barn maps for the Fair after that meeting. **You will have until 5 pm on July 6th to let the Extension Office know if we have missed something or you need additional stalling**. The 4-H Ag Livestock committee will meet that week to finalize the barn stall plans. **No changes will be made after the Final barn map is set!**

Be sure you go on-line and enter ALL of your Livestock by June 26th.

FASHION REVUE PAPERWORK

The Fashion Revue paperwork will be mailed out soon, sent via email and will also be posted on our website, be on the lookout! **Complete the Fashion Revue Judging Form. Failure to do so will result in a drop of one ribbon placing. These are due with pre-entry forms. Photos must be submitted with paperwork and taped on. The public fashion revue script must also be submitted TYPED. All paperwork is due by 5 pm on June 26th to the Extension Office and these entries are to be entered into the FairEntry system as well.**

If you are needing assistance please call or come into the Extension Office and we will help you!

ELLIS COUNTY FAIR 2026 July 12 - 17, 2026

The Theme is "Let the Good Times Roll!"

Check the [Ellis Co. 4-H website](#) for the final 4-H events schedule for the 2026 Ellis Co. Fair.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

You know that "Many hands make light work". We are asking for 4-H members, parents and community members to join us in carrying out the activities of the Fair. Here's where you can sign up to help:

Indoor Exhibits – Monday, Tuesday and Sunday <https://signup.com/group/1072309652080>

This includes assisting with check in, judging, displaying, take down and release of all indoor exhibits.

Livestock Shows & Activities – Wednesday, Thursday, Friday <https://signup.com/group/1271779234092>

This includes show announcers, ring & holding area assistance, and watering the show arena.

FAIR SET UP NIGHT

A fun way to get involved and start the week off in a good way is the Fairground Set Up Night held on Wednesday, July 8, 6:00 p.m. – finish. Commerce Bank provides a pizza break for families and volunteers to enjoy as we gather to get everything set up for the week ahead. If you would like to come and out and join the fun, give the Ext. Office a call at 785-628-9430 **by July 1 to RSVP for the meal**. Hope to see YOU there!

EXHIBITOR BREAKFAST

Bank of Hays is once again sponsoring an exhibitor's breakfast. **The breakfast will be served at the 4-H Foodstand**. All 4-H families and volunteers are welcome to stop by the 4-H Foodstand Tuesday morning from 7 – 9 a.m. to enjoy a delicious meal to start your day out right.

HERDSMANSHIP AWARDS

Commerce Bank has agreed to sponsor cash awards for Herdsmanship in livestock & small animal barns again this year. **Be sure to thank them when you see a bank representative.** Herdsmanship includes keeping your stalls, tie outs and tack areas clean, making sure your animals are fed & watered during the fair. It also includes decorating your club's area, posting stall cards for all exhibits and helping to educate the visitors to the barn about livestock projects. Clubs will be judged a few times a day from Tuesday until Friday morning. Winners will be announced prior to the Livestock Sale on Friday.

The Ellis County Fair theme is "Let the Good Times Roll!" What creative ways can your club use this theme in making your barn area look great during the fair?

If your club won in 2025, your club leaders have a blank barn map, please mark your preferences on the map and return it to the Extension Office with your club's preferred location in the barn **by the June 26 fair entry deadline.** Remember the stall committee will try to accommodate the requests but the club's preference is not guaranteed.

BARN TRASH & MANURE WAGON DURING THE FAIR

The Ellis Co. Fairboard is asking that each club take a turn **removing trash from containers** around the 3 barns during the week of the Fair and **emptying the manure wagon.** We ask that the club leader complete this sign up for your club. Thanks for your help with this in keeping our grounds looking great for the visitors who come on out to the Fair.

2026 4-H Barn Trash Removal- <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/9839109680109/false#/invitation>

2026 Manure Trailer Club Duty- <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/861240544068/false#/invitation>

NEW THIS YEAR-- LIVESTOCK PHOTOS

The ONLY time livestock photos will be taken is Tuesday, July 14th from 8-11 am. **You must get your photos taken during this time if you intend to sell an animal in the sale!**

YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS (YQCA) Training – required to sell animals at Ellis Co. Fair

All livestock exhibitors that will be selling an animal in the 4-H Premium Sale must complete the YQCA pre-test, training and post-test to be eligible to sell. As of this newsletter not all 4-Hers have completed the YQCA training and post-test, make sure you do this soon. The YQCA Training for Ellis Co. 4-Hers was held on April 19th. If you missed it, you will need to go to the YQCA web site and complete the trainings and post test on-line at <https://yqcaprogram.org/>



CAT PROOF OF VACCINES FOR COUNTY FAIR

Cats & kittens over 2 months of age shown at the Ellis Co. Fair must be current on rabies and distemper vaccinations. Provide proof of vaccination or vet check at show check in.

SCHEDULE JUDGING TIMES – All Indoor Exhibits

You will be scheduling your interview times with 4-H judges for ALL indoor areas ahead of the Fair. Please take the earliest time available to you and fill the spots in order if possible! **If more spots are needed, please notify the office.** Those [sign up links](#) are available now. **You will need to complete this by Monday, July 6th as the system will shut down at 11:59 pm.**

CAMPING @ THE FAIR

If you plan to camp on the fairgrounds during the fair, you will need to reserve camper space and electrical needs with Tom & Melinda Fross at 785-628-8820 **prior to July 1.** Spaces are available on a first come, first served basis. There is a camping fee of \$25 PER DAY or \$100 for the week (Monday through Saturday). **Payment should be made to the Ellis Co. Fairboard prior to July 6th.**

PARKING @ THE FAIR

NO PARKING is allowed on the East side of the Schenk/ Unrein Family buildings. This is VIP parking. It can be used for 15-minute loading and unloading. Please respect and observe all NO PARKING SIGNS.

NO PARKING or beef blocking shoots allowed around both barns and the show arena due to the new drainage system. Please park in the designated parking areas!

Access to certain lots is available only by approved hang tags. Parking tags will be sent out with final fair mailing to livestock & small animal families & Superintendents/Asst. Superintendents.

4-H FOOD BAKE SALE – Freewill Donation

The 4-H Bake Sale will continue to be freewill donation for this year's fair. The table will be set up outside the judging area and any items not being sold will be in the Schenk Building Office. Please let the person at check in know if you want your item back after judging and they will put a DO NOT SELL sticker on it.

FAIR BOOKS

A special printed copy of the Ellis Co. fair book is provided to each 4-H family by the Fairboard. Once they arrive in our office, your club leaders will be notified. **They will be picked up and dispersed by club leaders.** You can also view the books online at <https://cottonwood.k-state.edu/ellis-county4h/4-hevents/EllisCountyFair.html>

FOODSTAND SCHEDULING

The 2026 Foodstand Work Schedule is as follows. Please work with your club to ensure adequate staffing during your club's day!! Go to the [Foodstand SignUp](#) link to pick a time on your club's scheduled day.

The 4-H Foodstand is open 7 am -9 pm July 14-17, 2026

Tuesday, July 14th – Gemini Juniors

Wednesday, July 15th – Good Hope

Thursday, July 16th – Big Creek Astros, Shooting Sports, Ellis Sunflowers and Victoria Vikings

Friday, July 17th – Buckeye Jr. Farmers

4-H Foodstand profits provide the operating funds to pay for officer training, project workshops, Achievement Banquet, leadership scholarships for 4-H'ers and other committee projects that benefit ALL Ellis Co. 4-H members.

FAIR SUPPLIES

Livestock stall cards and photo matte boards are available for pick-up at the Extension Office. Photo Matte Boards are available for purchase at \$2.00 per sheet.

AFTER FAIR CLEAN UP

Schenk Building **cleanup is set for Saturday, July 18, 10am— finish.** All exhibits must be picked up between 8:00 & 9:00 a.m. If you can't be present for check out, please ask someone to check out exhibits for you. **We ask that all families help with cleanup.**

Each Livestock family is asked to check out with an Extension Agent before leaving to receive their stall deposit. Forfeited deposits will be used to support improvements in the respective barn.

EXHIBIT EARLY RELEASE FORM

Complete & file an [Early Release Form](#) at Fair check in to request early release of 4-H & Open exhibits for exhibit at other area fairs. **Early release will only be allowed with this written form approved.** Forms are available on-line or at the Ellis County Extension Office. They will also be available at the fairgrounds during check in. **Those choosing to remove exhibits early without an early release form on file will forfeit ALL fair premiums.**

SPECIAL CLASSES

Get your exhibits ready for these special classes and enter them on-line at faireentry.com by the July 6th entry deadline.

"Kansas Sunflowers" is the theme for the special category in open class photography. Look at the fairbook for more details!

King Arthur Baking Contest

Bake your favorite Scones using King Arthur flour for a chance at some great prizes. You must bring the UPC label from the flour bag with you as you bring the product to the Fair. Check out the Open Class section of the Fairbook for complete rules and prize listing. This is open to both youth and adults.

Open Special Foods Class

“Anything Round” is the category. Entry should be an entire dish with multiple servings. Prizes awarded in this include, “bragging rights,” your name added to the traveling trophy and a chance to taste the competitor’s entries. The winner will choose the special class contest for next year. Judging takes place at the conclusion of the formal food entry judging on Tuesday, July 14, 2026.

YOUTH LIVESTOCK SWEEPSTAKES

The 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes is set for August 22-23 on KSU campus. This all-around event will feature contests in Livestock Judging, Meats Judging, Livestock Skill-a-thon, and Livestock Quiz Bowl.

Ellis County’s team consideration will be based on your scores from the Animal Management Skillathon and Livestock Judging Contest. All intermediate and senior 4-H’ers are welcome to sign up and pay to participate. **Entries are due to the Extension Office by 5 pm on Friday, July 24. Be aware that the number of participants may be limited by the KS 4-H program. Let us know if you are interested in being considered for the team.**

KANSAS 4-H WHEAT EXPO---TBD

Join us at the South Hutchinson Community Building to learn about wheat and how it's used. We are excited to provide a fun, educational and hands-on program for all Kansas 4-H members, siblings, parents, grandparents, and KSRE Extension staff. You do not have to be enrolled in crops/plant science projects to participate.

Tours are being finalized and registration information will be out soon. More information can be found on the state’s website at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/wheat/>



ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE FAIR

If you receive a purple on indoor exhibits or blue on livestock exhibits at County Fair, your item may be eligible for the State Fair. Any demonstration illustrated or project talk receiving a purple or superior blue rating in a county or district contest may be entered unless it has previously been entered in this contest or does not meet the guidelines. Any poetry or prose receiving a purple or superior blue rating in a county or district contest may be entered unless it has previously been entered in this contest or does not meet the guidelines. Those members that receive a qualifying ribbon in Fashion Revue will be personally notified.

You must be 9 years of age by January 1, 2026 to show at the State Fair. **Come to the Extension Office following the fair to enter before the deadline.** Those important pre-entry dates are:

Livestock – July 15, at 12:00 PM (Noon)

All Other Projects – July 31

The [Kansas State Fairbook](#) and an [entry collection sheet](#) is available to help you with your entry process. First, fill out the necessary information on the entry collection sheet, using the Kansas State Fairbook. **Submit your entry collection sheet to the Extension Office by 5 pm on Friday, July 31st.** You will pick up your exhibits at the end of the Ellis County Fair and return them to the Extension Office around the first week of September (dates to be determined)

You may enter **1 item per project area** that you qualified in. (Areas such as Visual Arts, Posters, Notebooks, Displays may not have a category for entry at the Kansas State Fair.) Refer to the Kansas State Fair 4-H Fairbook for specific details about exhibiting in each project.

See YOU at the Ellis County Fair, July 12-17!

Scones Class



June 10, 2026
1:00PM-5:00PM
Hays High School
Residential Kitchens

Everybody Welcome!



SCAN TO
REGISTER

Spots limited, be sure to sign up **before June 5, 2026** at
https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e3BQjjjHpKedKyG

*Assisting Adult Division and Junior Division participants in preparing for the Ellis
County Fair: Open Class King Arthur Category Submissions.*

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension
Cottonwood District

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Remember, **DEADLINES** are **DEADLINES** in **Ellis Co. 4-H**. Please pay attention to and respect those deadlines so that your child doesn't miss out on an opportunity!