



Geary County

4-H NEWS



A Newsletter for 4-H Families and Volunteers

July 2026

Fair Dates to Remember

4-H BBQ

Fair Auction Requirement

Monday, July 13

Morning
Afternoon

Clothing Construction Judging – Extension Office
Fashion Revue Judging – 4-H/Sr. Citizens Center

Thursday, July 16

8:30am
5:30pm
7:00pm

Public Revue Set-up – 4-H/Sr. Citizens Center
Public Revue Practice – 4-H/Sr. Citizens Center
Public Revue – 4-H/Sr. Citizens Center

Friday, July 17

6:30pm

Dog Show – 4-H/Sr. Citizens Center

Saturday, July 18

9:00am

Pre-Fair Clean-up/Barn and Building Set-up (bring rakes, shovels, old rags, buckets, etc. plus your own water bottle)

Sunday, July 19

6:00pm

Horse Show

Monday, July 20

1:00pm
4:00-6:00pm
4:00-7:00pm

Foods Judging & Photography Judging
Market Beef/Goat/Sheep Weigh-In
Indoor entries accepted

Tuesday, July 21

7:30-9:30am

Market Swine Weigh-In

Wednesday, July 22

1:00pm

Photography and Horticulture Judging Contests

Thursday, July 23

Noon
8:00pm
8:30pm

Livestock Judging Contest
Exhibit Release
Indoor Fair Clean-up

Friday, July 24

9:00am

Outdoor Fair Clean-up

Help is needed to set-up for, serve, and clean-up after the 4-H BBQ on Thursday at the County Fair. Each club is asked to provide a minimum of 5 adult and 5 youth volunteers. Sign up for a time online at <https://tinyurl.com/FairBBQ26>. Some time slots have been filled, but more help is needed!

4-H members will be required to attend in-person at least 4 regular monthly meetings of the 4-H club in which they are enrolled between October 1 and June 30 to participate in the project/livestock auction held at the end of the fair in 2026. Official record of meetings attended will be the club secretary's book. This requirement does not limit fair participation, only participation in the auction.

Auction Reminder	Just a reminder that 4-H members who sell an item in the project auction or an animal in the livestock auction need to personally thank the buyer. The Extension Office will notify you when the buyer ribbons and certificates are ready that you will take to the buyer. The 4-Her needs to speak to the buyer, this is not a task for parents. In 2026, buyers will again be asked to sign-off that the youth have visited them before any money will be released.
Food Stand Details	Brian and Jacque Shane will be managing the indoor fair concession stand this year. They will have drinks, snacks, and simple food such as hot dogs. Charge cards will be available for 4-H families. Fair Board is recruiting food truck vendors to be available during mealtimes at the fair (they will not accept the 4-H charge cards, so plan accordingly).
Public Revue Talent	Any 4-H member may participate in the Public Revue by presenting a talent number at the event on the evening of July 16. If you are interested, you can either contact the Extension Office by noon on July 13 or sign up at Fashion Revue Judging.
Photography and Horticulture Judging Contests	The 4-H Photography and Horticulture Judging Contests will be held on Wednesday, July 22 at the Fair. The contests begin at 1:00pm. 4-Hers can begin judging any time after the start of the contest, but all forms must be turned in by 3:00pm. You do not have to be enrolled in any specific projects to participate. Please plan to judge!
4-H Judging Contest Guide	A guide to 4-H judging contests can be found online at http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/judging_contest_guide.html . The guide includes information about what to expect during judging contests. The guide and the website include links to resources to help 4-H members prepare for the contests. Now would be a great time to check out this website.
After-Fair Family Celebration	The After-Fair Family Celebration will be held on Friday, July 24 at the city pool from 7:15 to 9:00pm and will include swimming and snacks. Please plan to attend and celebrate the end of fair!
Fair Theme	The 2026 fair theme is “Centennial Celebration” in recognition of 100 years of the Geary County Fair. You will see this theme at Public Revue and throughout the fair. Clubs are encouraged to include the theme in food table displays and herdsman decorations if they so choose.
Sign Up to Receive 4-H Reminders	The Extension Office is using the Remind program to send 4-H-related reminders (including fair items) to 4-H families. To sign up to receive reminders, go to https://www.remind.com/join/geco4h . Remind is no longer sending text messages, only email and app notifications. All families are encouraged to download the app and allow notifications on your phone in order not to miss important reminders.
Valuables at Fair	Just a reminder that electronics, valuables, and other items should not be left lying around during the fair. The 4-H/Senior Citizens Center is a public building and should be treated as such, including the restrooms.

Fair Score Sheets	Score sheets that will be used for judging of fair exhibits are posted online so you can check them out prior to judging. They are located at http://www.geary.k-state.edu/county_fair/exhibit_resources.html .
Conference Judging	Parents and leaders who wish to observe conference judging should check with the Superintendent of the division to see if that is acceptable with the judge. If so, they can watch and listen to the judging, but should not enter into the conference between the 4-H member and the judge in any way. More information about preparing youth and parents for conference judging can be found at http://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/fair.html .
Foods Exhibit Tables	Foods exhibits will be displayed on club tables again this year. 4-H Council passed a motion to leave decorations up to the clubs with the decorations limited to tiers and a tablecloth in order to save space for exhibits. The fair has a theme of “Centennial Celebration” for 2026. Clubs can choose to use this or a different theme for decorations. Some clubs with few exhibits may have to share a table with another club.
2026 Herdsman Trophy	The Herdsman Trophy will be presented to the club who keeps their areas in the livestock barn the cleanest and neatest. In addition, part of the award will be based on each club’s percentage of participation in pre-fair set-up and post-fair clean-up. Don’t forget to sign in if you help with this so that you can get credit. See the fair book for more information.
Staying Overnight at the County Fair	4-H members who plan to stay overnight at the fair to care for livestock are responsible for having the form turned in at the 4-H Fair Office by 5:00pm on Monday, July 20. All 4-Hers must have a 4-H parent stay with them who will be responsible for their safety and behavior. One parent will be responsible for NO more than six 4-Hers. A sibling over 18 may sign to stay only with his/her siblings. At 11:00pm all 4-Hers and youth that do not have permission to stay must leave the fairgrounds.
Horse ID & Coggins Papers	Don’t forget to bring your horse ID papers and proof of negative Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) (Coggins) test within the last 12 months with you to the 4-H Horse Show. You are required to have both of these in order to participate.
Swine Show	Exhibitors, spectators, and volunteers are all encouraged to wear a Hawaiian shirt for the swine show on Wednesday evening of fair in memory of Grady Erichsen.
Poultry Testing for Fair	Fair Poultry testing for Pullorum-Typhoid is now being done on a rotational basis with each county being required to test every 3 years. 2026 is not a designated testing year for Geary County.

Tips for Fair Foods Exhibits

A document including tips for foods exhibits at the county fair is now online at <https://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/fair.html>. This document includes tips for freezing and baking along with a recipe for frosting that works well for fair exhibits. If your exhibit has frosting and/or filling, check out letter O on page 58 of the fairbook to find out more about calculating the amount of sugar to make sure your product is food safe. This is required or the exhibit will be lowered a ribbon placing.

Round Robin Preparation Workshop @ Fair

The 4-H interns will be hosting a Round Robin preparation workshop during the fair on Wednesday, July 22 at 3:30pm. All 4-H members are welcome to attend (whether you will be participating in Round Robin or not) to get some tips on livestock showmanship. Meeting spot will be the livestock arena.

Fair Social Media

Please like and share posts from the Geary County Free Fair Facebook page to help us get the word out about fair events and activities. As you post 4-H pictures and information on your own social media, please use the hashtags #geco4H, #KS4H, and #4HBeyondReady. By doing this, you can help Geary County and Kansas 4-H create a stronger and more consistent brand.

Dogs on Fairgrounds

Fair Board has ruled that no dogs will be allowed on the fairgrounds during the Geary County Free Fair, July 19-23. Thanks for abiding by this rule!

Pre-entry of State Fair Exhibits

Any 4-H member who wants to enter an exhibit at the State Fair must pre-enter with the Extension Office by August 1. Look to the fair book to see which classes are eligible for State Fair entry. For most divisions, a 4-H member must receive a purple ribbon in one of these classes and be 9-18 years old as of January 1, 2026 to exhibit at state fair. You can pre-enter exhibits online this year at https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b8G2R85KOqNlcXY. The exception to the August 1 pre-entry deadline is for livestock. Livestock must be pre-entered by July 15 through the Kansas State Fair website.

Kansas State Fair Exhibitor Handbook

The 2026 Exhibitor Handbook for the Kansas State Fair is now available for download on the Kansas 4-H website at <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/fair-resources/kansas-state-fair/>. You can also get copies of sections of the book at the Extension Office.

Assistance for Kansas State Fair

Volunteers are being sought to help with the 4-H portion of the Kansas State Fair which will be held September 11 through 20 with much of the 4-H exhibit judging occurring September 10. If you are willing to assist, please let the Extension Office know by August 1.

Fair Activities Sponsored by the Ambassadors

Check out the attached flyer with events being offered by the 4-H Ambassadors at the fair this year. Thanks to the Ambassadors for providing these fun activities!

**Achievement
Celebration/Record
Book Incentive**

The Achievement Celebration has been set for the evening of Saturday, October 24. Please put this date on your calendar and look for further details in upcoming newsletters. Four \$25 gift cards sponsored by the Geary County 4-H Foundation will be drawn at 4-H Achievement Celebration from all youth who turn in a completed record book (personal page, permanent record, and Project Report Forms for all projects). You must be present at Achievement Celebration to win.

**Record Books & Award
Applications due**

Record Books, Key Award Applications, I Dare You Award Applications, and Achievement Pin Applications are due to club leaders in September. Check with your club to find out the deadline. The county deadline will be communicated to club leaders so they can turn in items by that time.

**Club Summary Due
Date**

Club summaries will be due by 5:00pm on October 1 to the Extension Office. No late summaries will be accepted. Updated 2026 applications were distributed via club boxes and are available online at <https://www.geary.k-state.edu/4-h/forms.html>.

**Kansas 4-H State
Wheat Expo in El
Dorado**

Check out the annual Kansas 4-H Wheat Expo on August 4 at the Butler County Community Building in El Dorado. The wheat expo is open to all 4-H family members and 4-H leaders. There will be eight contests open to youth members with cash prizes and ribbons awarded. Educational tours will be available. There is a \$15 per person registration cost payable at the event. For more information about the wheat expo, visit <https://www.kansas4-h.org/educational-experiences/project-based-events/conferences-events/wheat/>. For additional questions contact Kelsey Nordyke at klndyke@ksu.edu.

Calendar of Events

July

- 8 Online Fair Conference Judging Sign-up deadline, 11:59pm
- 9 Fair Royalty Interviews, evening
- 13 Sewing Judging in morning @ the Extension Office
- 13 Fashion Revue & Shopping in Style Judging, 4-H/Senior Citizens Center in the afternoon
- 13-16 Farm to Fashion Camp at K-State
- 15 Kansas State Fair Grand Drive livestock entries due
- 15 Kansas 4-H Wheat Expo registration due
- 16 4-H Public Revue (8:30am setup, 5:30pm practice, 7:00pm event)
- 17 4-H Dog Show, 6:30pm @ 4-H/Senior Citizens Center
- 18 Fairgrounds Set-up at 9:00am, Fairgrounds
- 19-23 Geary County Free Fair
- 24 Outdoor Fairgrounds Cleanup, 9:00am
- 24 After Fair Family Celebration @ City Pool, 7:15-9pm
- 27-29 Vet Med ROCKS Summer Camp at K-State

August

- 1 State Fair pre-entries & volunteers due to Extension Office by 5pm
- 4 Kansas State Wheat Expo, El Dorado
- 15 State 4-H Horticulture Judging Contest, Manhattan
- 22 State 4-H Livestock Sweepstakes Contest, Manhattan

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension - Geary County

K-State Extension

Geary County

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July 1, 2026

County Fair time is almost here. Make sure to read this newsletter thoroughly for important fair information. Best of luck with fair preparations!

Ginger D. Kopfer
County Extension Agent

This institution is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact Ginger Kopfer four weeks prior to the start of the event at gkopfer@ksu.edu or 785-238-4161. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

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2026 GEARY COUNTY FREE FAIR 4-H RESPONSIBILITIES

This is the list of responsibilities for the 2026 Fair. Please take this list seriously and show up to help where you are listed. Contact the superintendent for the area you will be working in to see when and where they need help and how that fits into your schedule. If you are unable to help, please find a replacement and contact the superintendent to notify them.

Superintendents: It is suggested that you contact your helpers ahead of fair and let them know when you need help and to check their schedules. Remember you will want plenty of help on set-up day to get your area arranged as you wish to have it. Please feel free to recruit additional help if needed.

BANNERS/PROMOTIONAL ITEMS, CLOVERBUDS, CLUB NOTEBOOKS, INTERIOR DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE, MISCELLANEOUS, READING, SHOOTING SPORTS, VETERINARY SCIENCE, WILDLIFE

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Haley Kramer

YOUTH SUPERINTENDENTS: Braden Blockcolsky, Colden Blockcolsky, Cannon Krinhop, Kara McDonald, Kyla McDonald, Bo Ryan

ADULT ASSISTANTS: Amy Blockcolsky, Rebekah McDonald, Casey Swartz

BEEF

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Phillip Goodyear

ADULT ASSISTANTS: Brandon Dibben, Heath Gfeller, Josh Gfeller, Rebekah Thomas

RIBBONS: Fair Royalty

BUCKET CALF

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Lindsey Snider

ADULT ASSISTANTS: Lacey Fielder, Rebekah Thomas

RIBBONS: Fair Royalty

CAT

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Stephanie Gfeller

YOUTH SUPERINTENDENT: Clara Gfeller

SEWING, FASHION REVUE

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Marti Williams

YOUTH SUPERINTENDENTS: Ethan Goodyear, Macy Goodyear, Brock Nabus, Emersyn Sheets, Addy Snider

ADULT ASSISTANTS: Kristen Goodyear, Gaea Hock, Nicole Spellman

AGRONOMY, FLORICULTURE, HORTICULTURE

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Marcie Proietti

YOUTH SUPERINTENDENTS: Blake Proietti, Case Proietti, Tyler Proietti, Grant Roeser, Jacob Roeser

ADULT ASSISTANT: Lisa Nabus

DOG

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Jacque Shane

RIBBONS: Fair Royalty

ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY, ENTOMOLOGY, FIBER ARTS

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Kelli McCallum

YOUTH SUPERINTENDENTS: Ben Erichsen, Kasen Krinhop, Cade McCallum, Kinley McCallum, Elisabeth Smith

ADULT ASSISTANTS: Mindy Krinhop, Carey Smith

FOODS & NUTRITION, PRESERVATION

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Lara Strauss

YOUTH SUPERINTENDENTS: Archer Anderes, Ashlee Erichsen, Gracen Gfeller, Lorelei Olson, Cade Snider, Austin Sohnrey, Kaitlyn Sohnrey, Charles Strauss, Charles Weigel, Adrian Williams

ADULT ASSISTANTS: Abby Anderes, Annie Erichsen, Noelle Olson, Cierra Briones, Rebecca Walker, Cecilia Weigel

DAIRY, GOATS, SHEEP

ADULT SUPERINTENDENTS: Lindsey Ascher & Kacey Butler

ADULT ASSISTANTS: Todd Kline, Caleb Strauss, Rebekah Thomas

RIBBONS: Fair Royalty

HORSE

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Morgan Todd

YOUTH SUPERINTENDENTS: Kaycee Brown, Grant Slough

ADULT ASSISTANTS: Jason Brown, Lori Brown, Teresa Douthit, Paul Erichsen, Shelbi Gustafson, Tom Svoboda

RIBBONS: Fair Royalty

PHOTOGRAPHY

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Lauren Moon

YOUTH SUPERINTENDENTS: Grason Fielder, Addison Gibson, Tava Gustafson, Olivia Kline, Kennedy Moreland, Lily Moreland, Grace Mueller, Sean Mueller, Morgan Nabus, Chase Reed, Weston Reed

ADULT ASSISTANTS: Danielle Beamer, Sammi Burner, Jennifer Gibson, Heather Greenstreet, Kera Moreland, Robert Mueller, Melissa Reed

POULTRY, RABBITS

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Vickie Kline

YOUTH SUPERINTENDENTS: Jacob Atkins, Ray Boller Jr., Deyton Dibben, Jared Kline

ADULT ASSISTANTS: Ryan Atkins, Ray Boller

SWINE

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Rebekah Thomas

ADULT ASSISTANTS: Daniel Anderes, Heath Gfeller, Lynn Langvardt, Mark Miller, Randy Nabus, Justin Roeser

RIBBONS: Fair Royalty

VISUAL ARTS

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Heather Ryan

YOUTH SUPERINTENDENTS: Brittney Dibben, Newt Miller, Eloise Ryan, April Strauss, Arthur Strauss, William Strauss, Alexis Zajac

ADULT ASSISTANTS: Dianna Dibben, Pamela Miller, Christine Poole, Lori Strauss, Jill Sump, Michelle Zajac

WOODWORKING

ADULT SUPERINTENDENT: Garry Berges

YOUTH SUPERINTENDENTS: Colton Bauer, Eliot Oentrich

ADULT ASSISTANTS: Travis Berges, Heather Oentrich

ROUND ROBIN

ADULT SUPERINTENDENTS: Beef, Goats & Sheep, Horse, and Swine Superintendents

RIBBONS: Fair Royalty

4-H FAIR ACTIVITIES

**MON
20**

LINE DANCING

Livestock arena
After dairy/goat/sheep show

OLD TIMER'S SHOWMANSHIP

Livestock arena after beef show
Participants will show pigs
Nominations taken at Ambassador table Monday 6-8pm &
Tuesday during beef show
\$5 to nominate, \$10 to decline participation

**TUE
21**

**WED
22**

BARNYARD OLYMPICS

Livestock arena
After swine show
Teams of 5
Sign-up sheets available at the fair office
Sign-up due Wednesday by 6:30pm

SPONSORED BY THE 4-H AMBASSADORS