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Thomas County

K-State Research and Extension News

*Knowledge
for Life*

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July 2026

Thomas County Fair

Fair Set-up* — July 23rd at 6:00 PM

Fair Clean-up* — August 1st at 8:00 AM

*50% of your club must be present at both to qualify for a Club Seal!

Thomas County Fair Parade

The Thomas County Fair parade will be Tuesday, July 28th at 5:30 p.m.

Register for the fair parade [here](#) or contact the Colby Chamber of Commerce Office at 785-460-3401.

Fair Entries

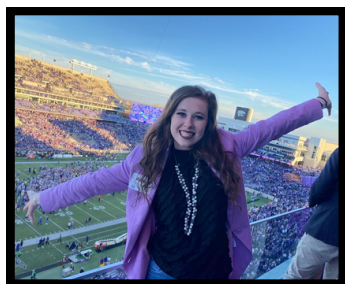
- Fair pre-entries for each 4-H family are due on Wednesday, July 14th. Entries will be completed online again this year using the FairEntry website.
- Go to thomas.fairentry.com to register!
- Open Class entries should use paper entry cards that can be found in advance at the Extension Office or at the 4-H Building during exhibit drop-off on Tuesday, July 28th.

Office Closure

The Thomas County Extension Office will be closed Monday, July 27th, through Friday, July 31st, during the county fair. To better serve our 4-H families and fair participants, our staff will be working at the fairgrounds throughout the week, rather than in the office. If you need assistance, please look for Ashley, Helen, Mallory, Jordin, or Tracy in the 4-H Building or near the livestock facilities.

New Agent

Please join us in welcoming Ashley Chandler Trout as the new 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent for Thomas County! Ashley brings a background in 4-H, FFA, agriculture, and youth leadership and is excited to serve Thomas County youth and families.



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension
Thomas County

4-H News and Information

Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) Entry Information

Livestock show entries for the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and KJLS will be opening in the next few weeks. Exhibitors must submit an official entry and pay the entry fees directly through each state show in which they would like to participate. The shows are independent, so youth who plan to exhibit in both must enter each show, separately. This includes entries for state-nominated market animals and commercial breeding females, as well as registered breeding females. Show entry is also a young person's opportunity to enter showmanship. A complete nomination does NOT constitute a show entry. A nomination only makes animals eligible for either state show.

The Kansas State Fair Grand Drive entries will be available in early July. The entry link will be available on the Grand Drive as well as their social media platforms. Rules and information is also posted on their website:

<https://www.kansasstatefair.gov/p/competitions/grand-drive1>

July 15 - Kansas State Fair Grand Drive Entry Deadline

The Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) will also post their entry link on their website once show entries are being accepted. Watch their website and social media accounts for information regarding show entries, as well as the show rules.

Show website: <https://www.kjls.net/>

August 15 - KJLS Entry Deadline

Contact Lexie Hayes, adhayes@ksu.edu, with questions.

Kansas State 4-H Horse Show

The Kansas State 4-H Horse Show will be held at the Kansas State Fair with check-in beginning Wednesday, September 16 and the show running September 17-19.

Entries are due August 1, 2026 via [Kansas State Fair's ShoWorks entry system](#). Scroll down to "4-H Horse Show". Exhibitors must have completed ALL qualifications prior to August 1, including completing the Horse Safety Webinar and Exam. ENTRIES RECEIVED AFTER AUGUST 1, 2026 WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please note this entry system is different from static exhibits.

Youth Council and National 4-H Conference Applications

Applications for the Kansas Youth Leadership Council and the National 4-H Conference are open. All applications will be completed online and will be due by October 1, 2026, 11:59 p.m. CT.

Any Kansas 4-H member between the ages of 14 and 18 before January 1, 2027, may apply as a Council Rep, and those 15-18 before January 1, 2027, may apply for the National 4-H Conference.

Use this QR Code for more information and the application link:



It's Fair season: Keeping animals cool at county shows

By A.J. Tarpoff

It's county fair season in Kansas, and while local events are a great way to enjoy the sun and time with friends, heat can be an invisible fun bandit for livestock.

Kansas State University beef extension veterinarian A.J. Tarpoff said it's important for youth showing livestock to watch animals closely and know the symptoms of heat stress.

All animals – as well as people -- can experience heat stress, which occurs when the body cannot get rid of excessive heat, either through sweating or other means.

Tarpoff said cattle handle heat differently than other animals. In particular, they struggle with the ability to sweat, which makes them reliant on getting rid of heat through their respiratory system, such as breathing the heat out. Cattle will accumulate heat during the day, then dissipate the heat load during the night when it's cooler.

“It takes 4-6 hours to return cattle to regular temperature,” Tarpoff said.

Read more here:



<https://extension.k-state.edu/news-and-publications/news/stories/2026/06/agriculture-heat-stress-county-fair.html>

K-State livestock expert urges youth to follow biosecurity practices before and after fair

By Joel DeRouchey

A Kansas State University livestock specialist is urging youth and others showing animals at local fairs to take the time to make sure that those animals remain safe – both at the fair and during transportation.

Joel DeRouchey said youth and others associated with showing animals should have basic biosecurity practices in place to prevent the spread of diseases between animals, and to contain the sickness when it occurs.

According to DeRouchey, swine can spread some pathogens quickly amongst themselves. He advises those showing swine to look for symptoms before, during and after fair season.

“If your pig begins to cough, has a loose stool or isn't eating, it is important to consult a veterinarian on a treatment plan to help cure and prevent the spread of the sickness,” he said.

DeRouchey said maintaining biosecurity at the fair can be hard with multiple showmen bringing hogs together.

Read more here:



<https://extension.k-state.edu/news-and-publications/news/stories/2025/07/agriculture-livestock-biosecurity-county-fair.html>

Food Safety Recommendations for Food Preservation Exhibits

Food safety is very important for food preservation exhibits at county fairs and the Kansas State Fair.

All canned foods, specifically those for exhibition at the county fair, should be prepared and processed according to tested recipes from the USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning (2015), So Easy to Preserve (University of Georgia, 6th edition), K-State Research and Extension Food Preservation publications, other extension publications, or the Ball Blue Book, 38th edition. All fair entries must include a recipe and recipe source. Recipes from these sources have been specifically tested for preservation safety. Never use or experiment with untested personal recipes for preserved foods.

Food preservation exhibits at the county fair can use either the pressure canning or boiling water method. Pressure canning is required for meat, poultry, seafood, and plain vegetables (low acid foods). Boiling-water canning can be used for acid foods, such as fruits, pickles, jams, jellies, marmalades, and properly acidified tomatoes and figs (acidified to pH of 4.6 or lower with lemon juice, vinegar, or citric acid).

After cooling jars for 12 to 24 hours, remove screw bands and test seals with following options: Concave lid (curved down slightly in center); the lid should not spring up when pressed in the center; tapping the lid with a spoon will produce a ringing sound.

Read more here:



https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/food-safety-recommendations-for-food-preservation-exhibits_4H712.pdf

Baking by Temperature

A digital thermometer is a baker's best friend. Take the guesswork out of baking by ensuring your baked goods are safe, but not overbaked.

Here are the recommended internal temperatures for baked goods:

- Layer cakes - 205-210°F
- Muffins - 210°F
- Quick bread - 210°F
- Yeast bread - 195-210°F
- Yeast rolls - 190-195°F

Food Safety of Frostings & Fillings at the Fair

Is your frosting safe at room temperature? Let's do the math to find out! A study conducted by K-State in 2020 recommends that non-perishable frostings and fillings use a recipe with a minimum of 65% sugar by weight. Use an online calculator or a kitchen scale to convert your recipe to grams. Divide the number of grams of sugar by the grams of total ingredients in your frosting batch. This number should be <0.65 or 65%. At county fairs in Kansas, it is now required that exhibitors ensure their frosting is safe at room temperature.

Read more and
find ready-to-use
recipes here:



Recipe
Conversion
Calculator:



https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/download/food-safety-of-frostings-and-fillings_MF3544

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 YQCA Certificates Due	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Dog Pre- Entries Due	10	11
12	13	14 All Fair Pre- Entries Due	15 Fashion Revue Descriptions Due to Office	16 4-H Entry Cards Available for Pickup	17 Dog Show	18 Dog Show
19	20 Fashion Revue Setup and Practice	21 Shopping in Style and Sewing & Textiles Judging Public Fashion Revue	22	23 Visual Arts & Photography Judging FAIR SETUP	24	25 4-H Horse Show Horticulture Pre-Entries Due
26 4-H Booth Construction	27 Livestock Weigh In Inside 4-H Entries & Foods Judging	28 Open Class Entries Swine Show Parade	29 Sheep & Goat Show Cat, Rabbit, Hand Pet, & Poultry Show	30 Beef Show Livestock Sale	31 Round Robin Livestock Release	Aug 1 Exhibit Release CLEAN UP

Contact Us:

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(785) 460-4582

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K-State Extension - Thomas
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Check our our website for up-to-date
educational and informational resources:



<http://www.thomas.k-state.edu>

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