

Midway Extension District #15



Handbook
County Fair

K-STATE
Research and Extension





County Fairs

County Fairs are held in June, July, and August. Midway District-Ellsworth and Russell county fairs are in July. The guidelines and rules are set up in the county fair books. Members must be enrolled in a project by May 1st of the current year to enter at the county fair.

State Fair Held in Hutchinson, KS in September.

4-H'ers must be 9 years old by January 1st of the current year to participate at the Kansas State Fair. A member must have received a purple ribbon or a "State Fair Blue" at the County level to participate at the State Fair in most projects. Pre-registration is required and due in August. Livestock projects have additional deadlines and requirements.

4-H and County Fair Objectives

Participation in county fairs is an opportunity and privilege for 4-H members. If they choose to participate, they are in effect asking for an adult to give his or her opinion regarding the quality of their exhibit or participation. Having asked for this opinion, they should accept it gracefully and learn from it.

County fairs provide opportunities for 4-H'ers to:

- Show what they've learned and accomplished in 4-H to the public
- Develop project skills
- Develop responsibility and self-confidence
- Gain knowledge, counsel and encouragement from judges and others
- Develop leadership skills by assuming fair responsibilities and working together with others
- Learn new and better methods
- Compare their work with a "standard" and with other 4-H'ers
- Receive recognition and learn the importance of being both a good winner and a good loser

Share ideas and make friends with other 4-H members

SPORTSMANSHIP DURING COUNTY FAIR

Sportsmanship: Conduct becoming to an individual involving fair and honest competition, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of results. Sportsmanship roles should be followed by 4-H'ers, parents, grandparents, volunteers, teen leaders, fair supporters, spectators and everyone involved.

1. Teach your child sportsmanship. Require him/her to demonstrate sportsmanship before, during and following competitive activities. Encourage them to:
 - Learn and follow rules
 - Be honest, fair and straightforward in everything they say and do
 - • Accept that the nature of competition is seeking to get what others are seeking and results in both winners and losers
 - Be well mannered and show respect
 - Treat people, animals and things kindly
 - Refrain from ill humor and arguing
 - Accept judges' suggestions and the result with a positive attitude
 - Congratulate Winners!
2. Applaud for your children, your friends' children, your club members and others to express appreciation and admiration.
3. Do not boo, heckle or make insulting comments about or to anyone.
4. Listen, act interested and be quiet when participants are introduced, when judges are talking and announcements are being made.
5. Encourage your child to politely ask questions if they have them. Make helpful suggestions to superintendents and agents.
6. Enjoy the program and accept our appreciation for setting a good example for today's youth.

COUNTY FAIR TIPS

- Get a copy of last year's fair book early in the year to see what you can exhibit in each project area. Plan for those items.
- Plan to be 15-20 minutes early for your judging time slots, do to scratches and cancellations.
- Consultation judging can really benefit you as a 4-H'er.
- Remember, today's results are only one person's opinion. If you are happy with the out-come then you have accomplished your goals.
- Don't wait until the last minute to prepare for the County Fair.
- Read the fair book and observe the rules. Have a good attitude and come willing to learn. Show GREAT CHARACTER and GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP
- throughout the whole County Fair.
- Work toward Making the Best Better!
- Help your friends, neighbors, club members, parents and children.
- Be patient and remain calm! There are lots of people involved so not everything will run smoothly all of the time.
- **HAVE FUN!!!**

The only
exhibitor you
should try to be
better than...
is the **exhibitor**
you were
yesterday

Ellsworth County Fair General Rules

All entries are limited to 4-H members who are enrolled in 4-H projects in Ellsworth County. 4-H members must be at least seven (7) years of age and not older than eighteen (18) as of January 1st of the current year.

4-H members must have been enrolled in a 4-H club project in which they exhibit by May 1, of the current 4-H year. Exhibits must be the result of 4-H projects since the last County Fair. Any items not listed will be left to the discretion of the Fair Board. Premiums may be withheld on items not listed.

The Midway District Extension Council, the 4-H Council and the Ellsworth County Fair Association will not be responsible for accidents. All possible care will be taken of exhibits, but the organizers will in no way be responsible for any damage or loss sustained.

ALL reference to age means as of January 1st of the current year. Maximum age for exhibitors is eighteen (18) years old on January 1st. **Junior Division:** 4-H members 7, 8 and 9 years old on January 1st. **Intermediate Division:** 4-H members 10, 11, 12 and 13 years old on January 1st. **Senior Division:** 4-H members 14 years old or older on January 1st. Past champions are eligible.

Pre-entries are required for all Divisions. ALL Pre- entries must be completed on Fair Entry. Some projects may have additional paperwork that must be returned to the Extension Office by deadline. Any Fair Entry turned in late will be a \$10.00 fee per entry AND the fee must be paid at the entry time. Exception to the Late Fee Penalty is if the 4-H member changes classes within a certain division that they were already signed up for.

The Ellsworth County Fair Association must be informed by deadline if you intend to sell an item in the auction. All animals to be sold must meet minimum final weight requirements.

Entry cards may be picked up at the Ellsworth Recreation Center (dates to be announced).

Entry cards must be attached to all exhibits in the Ellsworth Recreation Center. There will not be any entry cards for livestock, horse, dog, poultry, rabbits and pet exhibits. Exhibitor should not make comments on the exhibit card about their project.

Projects will be judged as **PURPLE, BLUE, RED, and WHITE.**

Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons will be awarded to each project as long as all qualifications are met and the judge feels the quality to receive such a ribbon is exhibited. For breeding livestock, breed Champions will be designated.

Only champions or class winners are eligible for Overall Grand Champion. If the division only has one entry or one champion the judge will determine if the exhibit is worth Overall Grand Champion. After the selection of the Overall Grand Champion, the Reserve Champion or 2nd place winner in that division or class will compete for Overall Reserve Champion. No red ribbons will be considered for Overall Grand Champion. Only State Fair sticker awards are allowed for State Fair. Champions have to be selected from these State Fair sticker awards. All top blue winners are eligible for State Fair if members and exhibits meet the State Fair guidelines.

4-H members must meet age requirements to exhibit at State Fair and have completed requirements for nominations, declaration and entry for State Fair livestock.

Each exhibitor is responsible for the care and appearance of their animals and must furnish their own feed and equipment.

Classes marked with an asterisk (*) are NOT eligible for Kansas State Fair Competition. All Cloverbud classes are not eligible for State Fair competition. Any complaint that an exhibitor may have must be presented properly. In registering a complaint, be sure that it is justified and that you can produce satisfactory evidence. Look for a solution to the complaint. Please see fair book for grievance policy.

One ribbon placing will be docked if all project requirements are not met.

Parents are encouraged to participate in the Conference Judging with the 4-H member. However, the parents are NOT to converse with the judge until the judging of their child's project is complete.

Russell County Free Fair General Rules

- The Danish system of judging will be used in all classes. With this system, the exhibits will be placed in Purple, Blue, Red and White ribbon groups rather than first, second, third, etc. A Purple ribbon will be used to designate the class champions in market livestock classes if the animal is of Blue ribbon quality. In all other classes judges are encouraged to present Purple ribbons to indicate a superior quality that is eligible for State Fair.
- Exhibitors and contestants must be a participant in the Midway - Russell 4-H program and must be enrolled by May 1 in the project in which they compete.
- Grand and Reserve Champion ribbons will be awarded in the department in which an exhibit meets Grand Champion quality.
- The judging of all exhibits will be done with the overall purpose of learning. Judges are to discuss the exhibit and the placing with the exhibitor if present. Judges may wish to make comments on exhibits as each class is finished, rather than while it is being judged. Judges should point out the strengths and weaknesses of exhibits.
- No single article shall be exhibited in more than one class.
- Exhibitors may show no more than one exhibit in any one class in which they are enrolled, unless otherwise stated under department rules.

The exhibits in each department must be the handiwork of the exhibitor where mechanical skill is required; the grower where agricultural exhibits are shown; and the owner and feeder where livestock are entered. It must be the result of the current year's 4-H work.

- 4-H members may exhibit articles made in school classes if the planning of the 4-H and school project were planned ahead for better use of time and money and both had similar learning experience and/or requirements. If the article was not planned in advance to fulfill both requirements and was a last-minute decision (entering articles made in school just to have something to show) then the exhibit is not truly honest and eligible.
- The minimum age for participation in the 4-H division at the Kansas State Fair is 9 years of age by January 1, of the current year, for all competitive exhibits and contests.
- See Russell County Free Fair Code of Ethics.
- Livestock General rules and additional information available in the Russell County Free Fair fairbook.
- **Pre-entries are required for all Divisions. ALL Pre- entries must be completed on Fair Entry. Some projects may have additional paperwork that must be returned to the Extension Office by deadline.**



PROJECT NOTEBOOKS, BANNERS, BOOTHES, EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS AND POSTERS

Many project areas have a class for notebooks, banners, booths, educational displays and posters. The Kansas State Fair does not have classes for most exhibits in this division. Check with your community leader or Extension Office for information on State Fair Classes. Here are some of the guidelines that will help you when planning an exhibit of this type:

NOTEBOOKS

4-H project notebooks should include:

- Introduction (introduce yourself, project goals and experience)
- Content (extent of project work, activities completed, people reached, show what was learned)
- Organization (neat, readable, page tabs, page numbers, index, list of resources if used)
- Neatness (attractive cover, title page, color coordinated, theme)
- Summary (accomplishments listed, successes & failures, plans for the future)

BANNERS & BOOTHS

Your club may choose to complete a banner or booth to promote 4-H or to share your club projects. They should illustrate a phase of 4-H work which is being practiced by 4-H members. Check your county's fair book for all rules and regulations.

Both banners and booths are judged on:

- Educational Value
- Interest and Originality
- Appearance
- Quality of Display Material

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

Educational exhibits should include:

- A background of some sort (tri-fold science board work great—just be sure to check size requirements)
 - General appearance (artistic, neat, well balance, pleasing colors, proper amount of material, properly displayed)
 - Plan of action (one central theme, important items shown, equal display for important items and shows some phase of 4-H)
 - Ability to attract and hold attention (interesting presentation, moving parts, audience participation, effects of design, color, lighting, etc.)
 - Effectiveness in telling a story (current interest, idea grasped quickly and easily, idea shown simply and clearly, subject matter accurate, education value)
 - Quality of workmanship (easy to read, models well proportioned, good background material, fresh perishable items)
 - Creativity (original idea, functional design)
- Knowledge of project (familiarity with procedures, knowledge about related activities)

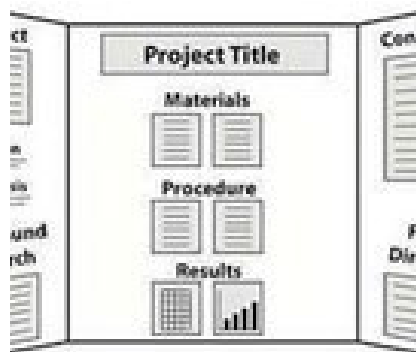
POSTERS

Posters should be no larger than 22" x 28". They should be eye-catching. Posters can be either educational or promotional.

Educational posters teach the audience something that is project related.

Promotional posters encourage others to join or learn about the project.

Posters are judged on: General Appearance, Information Given and Organization.
Posters need to be ready to be hung on wall, so don't use items on poster that cannot hang.



ENTRY FORMS

ELLSWORTH COUNTY FAIR

Some forms will be due ahead of time (May1-July 1). These are on the Midway District website (under Ellsworth County fair) and they will be emailed out. The forms that need to be completed separately from Fair Entry include:

- Auction Requirement Form
- Fashion Revue Clothing Cost Sheet
- Fashion Revue Narrator Sheet (survey link)
- Horse Identification Certificate
- Dog Immunization
- Shepard's Lead Narrator Sheet
- Camper registration form
- Tag-A-Long

Pre-entries will be completed online at Fair Entry and need to be entered by July 10th to avoid late entry fees.



Tips for Exhibitors making Online Entries:

- Recommended browsers: Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. Older versions of Internet Explorer may cause unexpected results.
- Register all entries for each exhibitor in the family before proceeding to the Payment section.
- Be sure to click the "Submit" button when you have completed your entries. Entries are not final until they have been submitted.
- Check your email inbox for a confirmation email with a list of your entries and any related fees.
- You will receive a second email when your entries have been approved by your fair.

ENTRY FORMS

RUSSELL COUNTY FREE FAIR

Some forms will be due ahead of time (May1-July 1). These are on the Midway District website (under Russell County fair) and they will be emailed out. The forms that need to be completed separately from Fair Entry include:

- Auction Requirement Form
- Booths/ Displays & Barn Reservation
- Food Stand Preference Sheet
- Horse Identification Certificate
- Dog Immunization
- Style Revue Clothing Cost Sheet
- Style Revue- Thrift Store Cost Sheet
- Style Revue Narrator Sheet (survey link)
- Shepard's Lead Narrator Sheet

Pre-entries will be completed online at Fair Entry and need to be entered by July 10th to avoid late entry fees.



4-Hers who want to sell in the Livestock Sale or Silent Auction must fill out the Auction Requirement Form



MIDWAY DISTRICT 4-H LIVESTOCK AND
SILENT AUCTION REQUIREMENTS

NAME: _____ CLUB NAME: _____

1. Members must attend a minimum of FOUR (4) Club meetings (Participation in virtual meetings counts) (this DOES NOT include: Project Meetings, 4-H Council or Ambassador Meetings)
2. Livestock members must Complete Youth Livestock Quality Assurance training (YQCA)
3. Members must have also participated in TWO (2) approved activities from the list below. These activities MUST be completed within the past year (July 1 – June 23)

Each member is responsible for completing his or her form and returning it to their Club Leader in order to be eligible to participate at the county fair. Leaders will provide this form to the Extension Office by July 1st.

☐ 4-H Club Meetings attended in the past 12 months (July 1 – June 23) (Circle months attended)
#Held: ____ #attended: ____ Jul, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun

☐ Youth Livestock Quality Assurance Training (YQCA) *(Livestock exhibitors only)

APPROVED 4-H ACTIVITIES: (Each Activity can only be counted "one" time. (i.e. Life Skills Judging Contest) Any virtual experience can be the equivalent of participation in person. Please provide some evidence (registration form/email, screenshots, results list, sign-up confirmation, etc....) for virtual events.

- ☐ Submitted a completed 4-H record book to your club leader (year prior)
- ☐ Presented a Demonstration or Project Talk at your club meeting
Title: _____ Month: _____
- ☐ Attended County 4-H Achievement Event
- ☐ Attended Midway 4-H Officer Training
When: _____
- ☐ Presented an entry in 4-H Club Day
- ☐ Attended a State or National 4-H Event KYLF, CIA, CWF, Discovery Days, Shooting Sports, State Ambassador Training, Horse Panorama, etc.)
Event: _____
- ☐ 4-H Camp (Pioneer Trails, Campference, Sewing, Space Tech, Photo)
Camp: _____
- ☐ Attended a 4-H Jr. Leaders Day Camp in the District
Where: _____
- ☐ Participated in a contest open to 4-H Youth (judging contest or similar events) (County, District, Regional, State)
Name of Contest: _____
- ☐ Participated as a 4-H Council Member, Jr. Leader, or Ambassador
Group: _____
- ☐ Worked in the 4-H Council Concession stand at fair (year prior) (Russell County and Ash Creek only)
- ☐ Participated in Fair set-up/clean-up or other fair service work (restroom or grounds cleaning) (within past year)
- ☐ One other club or county activity not included in any of the above
Activity: _____
(door monitor at Club Day, assist at a 4-H event, help an adult leader, active Jr. Superintendent, etc....)
- ☐ Participated in Club or County/District Community Service Project Event: _____
- ☐ Participated in Club or County/District Fundraiser Event: _____

I do believe this application is correct and factual:

Members Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

4-H Community Club Leader Signature: _____ Date: _____

RUSSELL COUNTY FREE FAIR

THE RIBBON

The following is taken from an article entitled **The Ribbon**, by Judy Johnson, Yankton County, South Dakota Extension Home Economist. As familiar as we are with 4-H, there are many people who believe judging starts at the purple ribbon level and goes down. **NOT TRUE!** Judging begins at the red ribbon level.

A RED RIBBON means that a project has met all the minimum standards for its class. The exhibit shows that an honest effort has been put forth, and while there are visible signs of needed improvement, the skill level of the 4-H'er is going up.

A BLUE RIBBON means that the project has exceeded the minimum standard set for its class. The exhibit has small flaws where improvements can be made.

A PURPLE RIBBON means that the exhibit is outstanding on all the standards set up for the project. There are usually no flaws and if there are one or two very small ones, only the trained eye of a judge would see them.

Lastly comes the **WHITE RIBBON**. In all 4-h competition, it is probably the most misunderstood ribbon placing. A white ribbon means that, for one reason or another, the exhibit did not meet all the minimum standards. What it DOES NOT MEAN is that the exhibit isn't worthwhile! In fact the white ribbon best emphasizes the meaning of 4-H; that the youngster has attempted a learned skill and demonstrated that skill in a public event. The public eye is one of the toughest tests that any 4-H'er can put his/her skills and knowledge up against. When 4-H'ers see a white ribbon, the first question they should be asking themselves is, "What have I learned and how can I make it better?"

Aside from any placement of ribbons, what is most important is that the child was participating in an activity that will build his/her character in learning life skills that will be of benefit to them for life.

PEOPLE REMEMBER THE CHILD, NOT THE RIBBON COLOR!