



## 4-H FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Nebraska Extension in Madison County  
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Website: [www.madison.unl.edu](http://www.madison.unl.edu)  
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June 2025



5 days until Fair

# Last Minute Reminders and Information for the 2025 Madison County Fair and Rodeo July 7-13, 2025



If you have submitted a static exhibit for the Madison County Fair, please remember that each entry must have a tag attached. If you'd like to collect your entry tags ahead of judging day, they are now ready for pickup! You can retrieve them from the Extension office in Norfolk between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m., and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. We will have them on judging day at the Madison County Fair.

4-H Campers: If you have a reserved space, they spots will be available after 3pm on Sunday, July 6. Please be in place by the evening of Tuesday, July 8.



## Need help!?

Please look for our 4-H Volunteers throughout the barn and buildings. They will be wearing a green 4-H shirt with the back "4-H Volunteer" or "4-H Council"



# Welcome!



Please help us welcome Myranda Hansen, our 4-H/Early Childhood Summer intern in Madison County.

My name is Myranda Hansen, and I'm heading into my sophomore year at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, majoring in Agricultural Leadership. I grew up on a farm just outside of Norfolk, where my passion for agriculture first began. I was a proud 4-H member in Madison County for 10 years and an active member of the Norfolk FFA chapter throughout high school. At UNL, I'm involved in the Honors Program, Sigma Alpha Sorority, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and Block and Bridle. I'm beyond excited for the opportunity to serve as an intern this summer and gain experience on the other side of the 4-H world!

## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR EXHIBITORS**

### **ATTENTION: 4-H RABBIT SHOW EXHIBITORS**

This year, we will have two judges for rabbit showmanship. All exhibitors are requested to arrive at the small animal barn at 1:00 PM for the schedule. Cloverbud exhibitors should report to the small animal barn at 2:30 PM for their class.



### **ATTENTION: POULTRY EXHIBITORS**

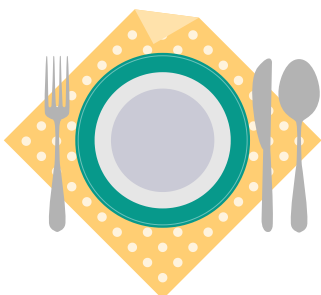
When checking in your birds, please ensure you know your classes. Be prepared to identify whether they are standard or bantam, and indicate whether they are from the current year or a prior year hatch.



### **ATTENTION: BEEF AND BUCKET CALF EXHIBITORS**

On Thursday, July 10, the wash rack will be exclusively reserved for dairy animals until **\*\*9:00 AM\*\***. We kindly ask everyone to respect this arrangement and allow dairy exhibitors the necessary time to prepare for the dairy show.

Thank you!



**If you are signed up for Favorite Foods Contest, please sign up for a time slot today by emailing Jayd - [jroberts41@unl.edu](mailto:jroberts41@unl.edu) or calling us! 402-370-4040. Times begin at 8:30 and are in 10 minute time slots until 11:30.**

# 4-H JUDGING DAYS ANNOUNCEMENT

## **MONDAY 7TH**

**8:00AM - 12:00PM**

### **JUDGING FOR ALL STATIC EXHIBITS (EXCEPT FOODS AND GARDENING)**

All families are welcome to drive into the fairgrounds to unload exhibits and then please move vehicles to the NORTH parking lot. Since this is the Monday of the fair, there is a lot of preparation and movements of vehicles, vendors and other large equipment that might need to get around, so please move your vehicles after exhibits are unloaded.

## **TUESDAY 8TH**

**8:00AM - 12:00PM**

### **JUDGING FOR ALL FOODS, GARDENING, & HORTICULTURE**

Families are to park in the NORTH parking lot and walk to the 4-H building where the exhibits will be judged. If larger items are needed delivered, please bring them to the 4-H building and then move your vehicle back to the NORTH parking lot. We appreciate this! .



# 4-H JUDGING DAYS: MONDAY, JULY 7 & TUESDAY, JULY 8

## Prior to judging day...

- Attach entry tags to the front of your exhibits so your name is visible.
- Double-check the guidelines for your projects in the 2025 4-H Fair Book. Most projects require descriptions or plans attached; missing information results in docking one ribbon placing. (Only purple ribbon exhibits are eligible for the Nebraska State Fair.)

## When you arrive at the fairgrounds on judging day...

- Judges are grouped by project division. Some divisions, such as Design Decisions, have multiple judges because of large entries. Find the judge that corresponds with your class number on the entry tag. Signs will be posted at the judges' tables.
- Be prepared to interview with the judge. Sample questions might include:
  - Why did you make/do this project?
  - What steps did you take to complete the project?
  - What was the hardest or easiest part? What is your favorite aspect?
  - What would you do differently next time? What did you learn?

## Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup> Judging Locations

### 4-H Building

- Design My Place
- Heirloom Treasure
- Design Decisions
- Cloverbud Exhibits
- Visual Arts

### Commercial Building

- County Classes
- Hum. Dev. & Safety
- Beyond the Needle
- Knit/Crochet
- Clothing
- Quilt Quest
- Shopping in Style
- My Financial Future
- Heritage & Citizenship
- Photography
- Fashion Revue

### (outside) Food Court Area

- Woodworking
- Welding
- All Outdoor Misc
  - forestry
  - harvesting equip.
  - taxidermy
  - wildlife
- Vet Science
- Science, Engineering, & Technology

## At the end of fair...

**Project Pick Up:** 4-H Building on Sunday, July 13 between 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

- Because no vehicles are allowed onto the fairgrounds on Sunday evening, large items can be left in the building until Monday. The 4-H Building will be open Monday, July 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Premium Payouts:** 4-H Office between 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 13

- If you can't make it during the last day of the fair, premiums will be available at the Extension Office in Norfolk Tuesday, July 16.
- Premiums not picked up by October 1 are forfeited.

## 4-H Office Hours at the Fairgrounds

Tuesday 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday through Saturday  
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

## 4-H Recognition Night: Wednesday of the Fair

All Madison County 4-H members are invited to be recognized prior to the rodeo on Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Meet outside the 4-H Office at 7:00 p.m. Wear your 4-H t-shirt or show off your 4-H green! 4-Hers will enter the arena at 7:20 p.m.

## 4-H Chevrons and Armbands

To show livestock and small animals, you must wear the 4-H emblem on a t-shirt, armband, or chevron. Purchase 4-H chevrons or armbands any time at the Extension Office.

4-H chevron \$2.00 4-H armband \$4.00



## 4-H Building Monitors - Volunteer Today

Families and clubs are needed to watch the 4-H Building during the fair from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. most days. This is to prevent projects from being taken and to answer questions. Some clubs choose to promote 4-H with quick activities for the youth who visit. Sign up for a timeslot here at:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CyoYJjt6\\_Eyl7BiTc9AqD1AGFIQsJOWfwrm\\_Hl18ja4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CyoYJjt6_Eyl7BiTc9AqD1AGFIQsJOWfwrm_Hl18ja4/edit?usp=sharing) or at the Extension Office. Email Betty at [bbooks2@unl.edu](mailto:bbooks2@unl.edu)

## Vote for 4-H Council

All current 4-H members and alumni can vote! During the fair, find ballot boxes at the 4-H Building and the 4-H Office at the fairgrounds to vote for the 2025 4-H Council! Election closes Sunday afternoon. Want to get involved in 4-H Council? Contact Sarah or Betty!

## Watch for Award-worthy 4-Hers!

Be on the lookout for 4-H youth and adults who go above and beyond at fair!

Tell us about them so that they can be recognized during the 2025 4-H Achievement Ceremony to be held in the fall. A nomination link will be emailed out or find forms in the 4-H Office at the fairgrounds.

## 4-H Exhibitor T-Shirts

If you submitted your Pre-Entry Form on time this year, you will be receiving a 4-H t-shirt generously sponsored by AKRS and Farm Credit Services of America. You can collect your t-shirt on Wednesday, July 9, at the 4-H Office located on the fairgrounds. These shirts are exclusively available for our 4-H members and cloverbuds. These are to be worn for livestock shows. Please see fairbook rules for sponsored t-shirt guidelines.





# Livestock and Small Animals When you Arrive...

- **No parking on the WEST side of the livestock barn at any time.**
- **Stall Assignments**
  - Check the area bulletin boards for stall assignments (let Jayd or Sarah know if you need adjustments), which are assigned by club. If you are an independent member, you will also have a designated area for your livestock.
  - Tie-out areas to the east of the barn must be identified with a stall card and must be cleaned. First come, first serve. This area will be judged and counted toward herdsmanship points daily.
- Bedding is provided by the Madison County Ag Society. Horses, sheep, goats, and hogs must use only shavings. **NO shavings are allowed in the Beef/Dairy area.** Additional woodchips are available by request at the 4-H office on the fairgrounds.
- Come to the 4-H Office to get:
  - Stall cards to be placed above your animal (Exhibitor, Animal, and Club names)
  - Back tag number to identify you in the show ring
  - Entry / Livestock cards to be filled out for use when weighing in and then be brought to the show (includes exhibitor name, division number, class, weight)
  - Pick up show t-shirts
  - Pick-up exhibitor \$5 food coupon provided generously from the Madison County Fair Board. Please be sure to sign the thank you! ALL PAST \$1.00 COUPONS MUST BE USED THIS YEAR AS THIS IS THE LAST YEAR THEY WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE VENDORS.
- **Back Tags**
  - Each exhibitor is assigned a number for showing livestock, dogs, and horses. Get these tags at the 4-H Office before show day.
  - Substitute showmen must wear the owner's back tag number. This helps identify the animal's owner and ensure the premium is awarded to the proper 4-H member. Come to the 4-H Office for additional back tag numbers.
  - Small Animal exhibitors (poultry, rabbit, cat) will wear name tags, which are given the day of the show. Your superintendent will have the name tags at the show location.

# Livestock and Small Animals Check In Times...

**PLEASE NOTE - TRAILERS WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO DROP OFF ANIMALS BY ENTERING THE NORTH GATE AND EXITING THROUGH THE WEST GATE. RODEO FOOT TRAFFIC WILL HAVE PRIORITY. AT THIS TIME, TO AVOID THIS, TRY TO HAVE YOUR ANIMALS IN PLACE BY 5:30PM OR BRING IN ANIMALS ON WEDNESDAY PRIOR TO WEIGH-INS.**

- Tuesday, July 8th: 2-9pm
  - horse & livestock (except lactating dairy and feeder calves, small animals, except dog, cat, or companion animal)
  - ALL rabbits must be in place by 7 pm
- Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> - Weigh In
  - 7:30 am hogs
  - 9:30 sheep and goats
  - 10 bucket calf
  - 10:30 beef, (breeding and market)

# Livestock and Small Animals Release Times...

- **Hogs can be released immediately following the show. (not required)**
- Large animal barn can be released following the Beef show on Saturday.
- Small animal barn can be released following the poultry show.
- **There are to be absolutely no trailers on the grounds after 3pm on Saturday, July 12 or they will be towed.** This does not mean that your animals have to leave, they just have the option. They are welcome to stay until Sunday.

# Bucket Calf Exhibitors

- **Interview Times: Wednesday, July 9th**
  - 2pm Cloverbud
  - 3pm Beginning Bucket Calf
  - 3:30pm Advanced Bucket Calf & Second Year Bucket Calf
- **Potential Questions**
  - Where and when did you obtain your calf?
  - Why was it for sale?
  - Do you know what colostrum is?
  - How old was your calf when you got it?
  - What does your feeding program look like?
  - etc.

**Tuesday Night Meal:** The Madison County Livestock Boosters and Farm Bureau are providing a meal Tuesday, July 8 from 5-7pm for 4-H families during check-in at the fairgrounds. Come to the concession stands by the indoor arena!





# Herdsmanship

**Leaders and Parents:** Teach and share this with all of your animal exhibitors and families! Let's show how proud we are of our exhibits in all areas at the fair and always!

**Purpose:** The purpose is to encourage cooperation, fellowship, and teamwork among exhibitors in developing and maintaining a display of livestock and stalling areas. Herdsmanship also promotes pride and enthusiasm for the industry and rewards those exhibitors who achieve this purpose. Herdsmanship duties are the primary responsibility of the livestock exhibitor.

**Procedures:** Clubs and independent members will receive points for herdsman­ship. Judging will take place two times throughout each day. Total of all points during the week will determine awards. Points awarded each day will be posted in the livestock barn by the end of the day.

**Awards:** Herdsmanship will be divided into three categories for judging: independent members, clubs with nine or less small and / or large animals, and clubs with ten or more small and / or large animals.

Placings and premiums will be awarded. Failure to participate will result in withheld premium.

## Basis of Rating Herdsmanship:

**Animals: (4 points)** Clean at all times with proper grooming, bedding, feeding and care apparent; properly penned and secured.

**Stalls: (4 points)** Clean and neat stalls, clean bedding, full water bucket, feed and feed pans and buckets clean and in place, no manure in stall area, and exhibitor signs clearly in place. Ribbon stickers placed on sign detailing how the animals / exhibitor did.

**Tack / Feed Area: (4 points)** Area kept clean and neatly arranged; grooming and tie-out areas clean with personal items out of sight or neatly stored. Supplies and materials are stored away safely where animals, visitors, and other exhibitors are free from harm.

**Alleyways: (4 points)** Exhibitors' designated alleys and commons areas kept clean, free of equipment, loose dirt and dust kept under control with proper sweeping and / or sprinkling, and no manure in piles.

**Exhibitors: (4 points)** Proper courtesy and conduct shown by exhibitors at all times and in all places, including with the public and other exhibitors. The educational exhibit is visible and beneficial. All exhibitors are expected to participate in Herdsmanship.

## Awards:

A ribbon sticker will designate the club's placing for the day. Premiums will only be given for the total score at the end of the week.

### **Total Points:**

20 Points / Judging  
40 Points / Day  
200 Points / Week

### **Point System Per Judging Time:**

Purple: 31-40  
Blue: 21-30  
Red: 11-20  
White: 0-10

See details about Herdsmanship on pages 98 of the 2025 4-H Fair Book!



# family SUNDAY FUNDAY

**July 13, 2025**

**Location: Madison County Fairgrounds**

- 9:30am - Church - St. Paul's; Activities Center
- 11:00-12:00 - Church - Our Savior, Green Garden Lutheran; Grandstand
- ✻ • 11:00-12:30 - FREE Picnic Lunch; Concession Area of Indoor Arena
  - Serving: Sandwich , Chips, and Dessert (while supplies last)
- ✻ • 11:30-2:00 - Commerical Building
  - Plinko
  - Face Painting by Madison FFA
  - Balloon Animals
  - Bracelets
  - Prize Wheel
  - Ring Toss
  - Photo Booth on 4-H Stage
- ✻ • 11:30 - 2:00pm - Swine Area
  - Hula Hoop Bubbles & Photo Booth
- 12:00 - Corn Hole - 402 BAGGERZ in Beer Garden - sponsored by Tim & Jami Koenig Farms
- 12:00-1:00pm - Grupo De Danza Raices De Mexico - Hispanic Dance Demonstration ; Food Court
- ✻ • 12:30 - Farmer Olympics; Indoor Arena
- ✻ • 12:30 - Turtle Races; Swine Area
  - bring your own turtle (no snapping turtles)
- ✻ • 1:00 - Frozen T-Shirt Contest; Swine Area
- 1:00-4:00 - Polka Band; Activities Center
- 1:30 - Ice Cream Eating Contest - Sponsored by the Fair Board; Swine Area
- ✻ • 2:30 - 4-H Fashion Show; Commercial Building
- 4:00 - Mexican Style Rodeo; \$5 CASH at Grandstand gate
- ✻ • 5:30-6:30 - Organized Water Fight; West of Livestock Barn
  - bring your own supplies - no hoses or water balloons
- 6:00-9:00 - Rosendo Robles Band; Activity Center

✻ hosted by Madison County 4-H Council

**THANK  
YOU!**



## **Thank You Cards Available in the 4-H Office at fairgrounds.**

**We will have thank you cards set up in the 4-H office through the fair. We kindly ask each exhibitor to take a moment to write a note to our generous sponsors for t-shirts, award banners and livestock boosters. Feel free to stop by during the fair and express your gratitude! We will ensure these notes are sent out after the fair concludes.**