



2024 Sherman County Fair Letter! July 19th - 24th



June 2024. We hope your summer is off to a great start. It will be fun to see your projects at the Sherman County Fair!

We will be using the online entry process. If you need any help, know that we are only a phone call away and here to make it a successful experience. The premium list <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/central4/premium-list/> will help guide you with your projects. Good luck, and we will see you at the fair.

Kayla Hinrichs

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Extension Educator

Douglas Anderson

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Extension Educator

Fair Entry Deadline is July 7

4-H'ers and Clover Kids exhibiting at the fair must pre-enter all items they plan to bring to the fair. When pre-entering, please be realistic about the entries you will complete before fair. Families will enter their fair exhibits at <https://sherman.fairwire.com> by Sunday, July 7 at 11:59 pm. Horticulture/floriculture entries are due Thursday, July 18 by 11:59 pm. Instructions are at <https://go.unl.edu/gofr> Entry tags will be pre-printed from online entries.

It is a good idea to read the premium list and project manuals before starting projects. Please call the office if you need help or have questions.

Help is Needed from 4-H Families

Everyone's help is needed to prepare for the county fair. It goes much quicker with a good group of workers. Exhibit building set up is Friday, July 19 at **10:00 am** for the following members and clubs - Independents, Ashton, Heartland, RKD, and Stockmans. Clean up is on Wednesday, July 24 at **9:00 am** for the following clubs - Litchfield Rockin' Kids, Rural Route Wranglers, Wiggle Creek 49'ers (both clubs). We appreciate everyone helping to make fair spectacular!

Judging Day Assistants Wanted!

Volunteers are needed to help organize exhibits and assist the judges on Friday the 19th from 4-6 pm, Saturday the 20th from 9:30 am-4:00 pm and Monday July 22nd (cakes) from 9 am-12 pm. If you are interested in donating your time or need more information, contact Brenda at the office at 308-745-1518.

Open Class Note

Entries for open class will be from 10:00 am-12:00 pm on **Saturday, July 20th**. No pre-entry is required. Open class lists are available at the office or at businesses around towns.

Heritage Bank Breakfast

Heritage Bank would like to recognize all 4-H members, families and leaders for their hard work and dedication with breakfast Saturday, July 20 from 8:30-11:00 am at the VFW Hall. Please come and enjoy!

Have a Splashing Good Time!

After the livestock sale Wednesday, Sherman County 4-H families are invited to an evening of fun at the Loup City Swim Pool July 24th. There will be free swimming from 8-10 pm and snacks provided. Please thank the Sherman County 4-H Council for sponsoring this event. We hope you will join in the fun with 4-H friends!



Ambassador Announcement

The announcement of the 4-H ambassador winners will be held 7:00 pm Friday, July 19 at the VFW Hall.

Nebraska Extension in Sherman County
PO Box 459 | Loup City NE 68853
(308)745-1518 | sherman-county@unl.edu | central4.unl.edu



Clover Kids Encouraged to Model

Clover Kids are invited to participate in a county-only Decorate Your Duds project. Pre-enter class K900001 to indicate your Clover Kid will decorate a shirt and model at the public fashion show Monday, July 22 at 5:00 pm. Turn in a narration to be read when they model and return to the office by July 18. We can't wait to see your Clover Kid style!

Fashion Show Monday July 22

Clothing exhibits will be on display during the county fair. 4-H'ers will model their outfits on Monday, July 22 in front of the bleachers (before the cake auction). Please plan to get your outfit(s) from the exhibit hall to change into them and be ready to model by 5:00 pm.

Attention Cake Decorators

If you plan to bring a decorated cake to the fair, please remember to pre-enter it. Refer to page 48 of the premium list for specific rules. 4-H members who have a cake will need to attend an interview with the judge between 9 am and 12 pm on Monday, July 22 at the VFW Hall. We do not require an additional information card. Interview times will be posted at the fairgrounds by July 19. If you show pigs, we will work you in at any time between 9-12. Goat and sheep exhibitors, we will put you right away at 9 am.

In order to sell a cake at the auction, members must enter at least one additional food exhibit and at least one non-food, non-livestock exhibit on July 20. The score sheet includes points for using edible decorations. Non-edible supports (such as dowel rods between layers) may be used to provide structure. Cakes should be on a sturdy board, box or container no larger than 18" x 18." Keep in mind the cake board should be strong enough to support the cake and covered with foil or paper that is oil resistant. Use strips of waxed paper under the cake edge when icing and decorating to keep the board clean. The shape of the board should be approximately the shape of the cake plus 1.5" to 3" larger than the cake. It is recommended that cakes come covered. Cakes should be baked no more than two days prior to judging. It is imperative that we not sell a stale or spoiled cake, as it reflects poorly on the 4-H'er who baked it, the county fair, and the 4-H program as a whole. Cakes may be sampled to check for doneness, freshness, and taste.

The cake auction is scheduled for Monday, July 22 at 5:15 pm. Please be at the livestock arena at 4:45 pm to line up for the picture auction. Remember to invite friends and family to the cake auction. 4-H'ers will receive 75% of the auction money with the 4-H Council in Sherman County receiving 25%.

Bringing Exhibits to the Fair

Item tags for static exhibits should be picked up from the office by Thursday, July 18 and attached to exhibits prior to check in. Remember to bring all clothing exhibits including \$20 Shopping Challenge. Exhibitors have until July 18 to enter their horticulture and floriculture exhibits online. Horticulture and floriculture tags will be available to pick up on Friday, July 19. *Sign up for Saturday's interview judging times when you drop off exhibits on Friday the 19th.*

Check in for **non-perishable**, static exhibits will be Friday night July 19 from 4-6:00 pm at the fairgrounds. The 4-H exhibit halls will be open Saturday, July 20 from 9:30 am-12:30 pm for **perishable** entries and for interview judging. If you are entering a cake on Monday, you will need to bring at least one food exhibit and one non-food, non-livestock exhibit hall entry to be judged on Saturday (open class exhibits do not apply). If you fail to have those two exhibits entered, you will not be able to sell your cake at the cake auction.

If you enter an exhibit that is interview judged, you will not need supporting information except for (1) a recipe for each food item (including food preservation which requires a recipe and the source of the recipe), (2) the cultivar or variety name for each horticulture item, (3) photography data tag, (4) questions answered for human development and home environment entries, (5) supporting information for Heirloom Treasures, (6) engineering reports and plans for some classes and (7) information card for Citizenship, Quilt Quest, Conservation & Wildlife and Safety. If your exhibit is selected for the state fair, you will need to add supporting information for some projects. Check this year's premium list for details related to each project.

All home design & restoration and visual arts exhibits are required to have supporting information attached. The information sheet for visual arts sheet is at <https://go.unl.edu/y0jk> and home design is at <https://go.unl.edu/bw5x>

Photography data tags to be used with exhibits are at <http://extension.unl.edu/statewide/central4/4hforms/>.

Participate in Interview Judging

There will be interview judging for exhibits from 9:30 am-12:30 pm on Saturday, July 20. Interview judging is a great way to explain your project to the judge. Select one exhibit to interview for each judge. Remember some exhibits require additional information if not interview judged. Refer to the premium list for requirements.

Clover Kids Reminders

Clover Kids is a Nebraska program for youth ages 5 to 7 as of January 1 of the current year. The programming is designed with activities and learning opportunities that are developmentally appropriate and focuses on self-esteem, cooperative learning, and positive feedback. Clover Kids is non-competitive, and they will be awarded unique Clover Kid ribbons for their fair exhibits. ***Clover Kids may exhibit animals weighing less than 350 pounds and not more than six months of age.*** It is acceptable to share an animal with a traditional 4-H member. If they have their own animal, those animals can be brought on the day of the show and taken home the same day. They will need to pre-enter all their exhibits including each live animal they will show. On Saturday the 22nd, they will have an opportunity to visit with the Clover Kids helpers about their static projects from 9:30-11:30 am. There will be a special display area for Clover Kids exhibits. We look forward to seeing your exhibits at this year's fair.

Horticulture and Floriculture Exhibitors

Exhibitors may enter one exhibit per class. 4-H members exhibiting horticulture need to use "Selecting and Preparing Vegetables, Herbs and Fruits for Exhibits" and floriculture participants need to use "Preparing Cut Flowers for Exhibits." These have specific guidelines for preparing each item you might bring to the fair and are available at the office or online at <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/central4/4hforms/>. Be sure to include the cultivar or variety name of your exhibit or you will be lowered a ribbon placing.

Tips for Food Exhibitors

When preparing food for the fair, keep in mind that the only exhibits allowed to use a mix are Cooking 201 Creative Mixes and Decorated Cakes. You cannot use biscuits from a can, cake mix, frozen bread dough, etc. for any other exhibits. Pudding mix may be used as part of a "from-scratch" recipe. Check the premium book, as some exhibits require supporting information in addition to the recipe.

Exhibits are on display for several days. Please think FOOD SAFETY! Items that require refrigeration will not be accepted, judged or displayed. Food products must be unquestionably safe to eat when they are entered, whether tasted or not. Glazes, frostings, and other sugar-based toppings are also considered safe due to the high sugar content. Egg glazes on yeast products before baking are allowed. Eggs incorporated into baked goods or crusts are considered safe. The following ingredients are considered unsafe for fair exhibits and will be disqualified: egg or cream fillings and cream cheese frostings; any meat item including meat jerky, imitation meat bits (bacon bits, pepperoni, etc.); melted cheese on top of food exhibits (cheese mixed into baked goods is considered safe and will be accepted); and uncooked fruit toppings (i.e., fresh fruit tart). Ingredients that the 4-H member cannot legally purchase, such as beer, whiskey, rum, etc. may not be used in any recipe for foods exhibit. Exhibits that include alcohol in the recipe will be disqualified. This includes menu and recipe file exhibits.

Fair Shirts Provided

Thank you to Nutrien Ag Solutions for donating the fair shirts. T-shirts can be picked up during the fair July 19-24 at the 4-H Exhibit Hall (middle building).

Horse Classes Added

Ranch Rail and Ranch Riding classes have been added. Riders may choose Western Pleasure and Horsemanship or Ranch classes but not both.

Bale Contest

Clubs can decorate hay bales around the fairgrounds for a club project. Bales will be available Thursday, July 18 and must be complete by noon Saturday, July 20. Remember to use non-toxic paint! Please remember to have your club's name next to the hay bale. Help promote 4-H with this fun project to enhance our fairgrounds!

Notes for Livestock Members:

Remember to electronically sign the National Code of Show Ring Ethics on the exhibitor information page when you sign up your fair exhibits online at <https://sherman.fairwire.com>

When you are showing livestock, please wear dark blue jeans, a 4-H shirt or plain white shirt with chevron, as well as appropriate footwear. If you have **ANY** questions or concerns, please contact the extension office **PRIOR** to the fair.



Animals can start arriving at the fairgrounds Saturday July 20 after 5:00 am for check-in. All animals must be off the fairgrounds Wednesday July 24 by 10:00 am except for Champion animals in the sale.

- **YQCA** completion certificates were required to be submitted to the Extension Office by June 15 (beef, goat, sheep, swine, poultry and rabbit exhibitors).
- Animals must be listed on a **paper id sheet** turned in at the Extension Office by June 15 to be eligible to show.
- **Market Beef, Lamb and Meat Goat Exhibitors:** Be prepared to enter the 4-H ear tag number of each animal when making your fair entries.
- **Market Beef Exhibitors:** We will have the Shown & Grown classes at fair. To participate in the rate of gain contest, calves must have been weighed in at one of the Central IV weigh/tag days. Make sure you put these animals in the correct class online.
- **Breeding Heifer and Feeder Calf Exhibitors:** The animal's birthdate is required for entry.
- **Swine Exhibitors:** EID or county fair tags should be in place before check-in and **no fresh ear notches will be accepted**. Provide a **DOB** when entering breeding. Youth will be allowed to bring four pigs if one is a breeding gilt. Bring your own wood chips for bedding.
- **Sheep and Goat Exhibitors:** each animal **must** have a scrapie tag in their ear.
- **Goats:** Please note the age breaks for the breeding meat goat classes in the premium book page 67. Goats may be shown with a chain or a halter and lead rope.
- **Showmanship:** Include showmanship for each animal species when making online entries. Showmanship classes will be before market classes by age division Senior, Intermediate (where available) and Junior. Exhibitors may use only one animal per species and that animal must be entered in their name for a market or breeding class.
- **Herdsmanship:** The public will be viewing your animals and stalls at the fair. It is of vital importance that you make the best impression possible! Refrain from using muzzles, electric prods or any other handling practice which might be considered questionable. Please make every effort to keep the stall/pen clean and dry while making sure your animals are adequately cared for at all times.
- **Bucket Calves:** There were no 4-H bucket calf id sheets turned in for county fair.
- **Blow and Go Show:** The livestock shows will employ the "blow and go" philosophy. This means 4-H'ers will not use artificial compounds including adhesives, paint or foam on their animals to show. No aerosols may be used. Goats and sheep are to be shown dry without paint or adhesives. Swine may be sprayed with water only. Animals may be clipped, blown, brushed or combed to enhance their appearance. **If you have ANY questions about the use of a product, be sure to ask Doug BEFORE using it.**
- **Livestock Sale:** Wednesday, July 24 @ 5:00 pm. Champion animals will be present at the auction. All others will be a picture of youth with their animals. Members are eligible to sell **ONE** market animal species. Families, please send pictures of your animals to bjrabek2@unl.edu by July 12 for the picture auction. Sale order is Small Animals – Beef – Goats – Sheep – Swine.
- **Animal Care:** Our county fair provides many opportunities for 4-H youth, volunteers and extension staff to interact with the public on animal care issues. Animal care considerations prior to and at the fair are addressed in fact sheets and video presentations at <https://4h.unl.edu/resourceanimalcare>. Please use those resources to be well informed about these important topics. You can also help by remembering to practice good herdsmanship. Keep animal cage/pen/stalls clean and tidy up around your trailer after the horse show.

Shopping Cart of Vegetables and Baked Goods

Invite your friends and family to donate towards 4-H and receive vegetables and baked items on Sunday, July 21 when the exhibit hall at 1:00 pm. You won't want to miss this delicious opportunity!

Static Exhibit Release

All exhibits need to be picked up from the exhibit hall by 10:00 am on Wednesday, July 24. If you cannot be there, please have someone pick up your exhibits. We are not able to allow exhibits to leave the building earlier than 8 am. Club leaders and 4-H families, please help to ensure all exhibits are picked up at check-out.

We will be using colored sticker ribbons on static exhibit tags. If 4-H members would prefer a regular ribbon, they can pick one up when they collect their exhibits Wednesday morning.

Council Election at County Fair

We are asking for 4-H Council election nominations by July 5 for one adult (three-year term) and two youth (one-year terms). Nomination sheets are available in the office. Anyone can submit their name to be on the ballot for 4-H Council. Only 4-H families can vote at the fair.



Please Show Your Appreciation!

The 4-H program is fortunate to have generous businesses and individuals who sponsor awards. We want our donors to feel it is worth-while to continue their sponsorships. Please send a thank you note to the donor of any award you win during the county fair to let them know their donations are appreciated. They enjoy hearing from 4-H members directly!

Guidelines for Livestock & Cake Premium Sales

To show our donors how very much we appreciate their support and teach 4-H'ers the importance of showing gratitude, we will continue to require thank you notes from youth who participate in the cake or livestock premium sale. Each member who participates in either of the sales will need to show extension office a thank you (in a stamped, addressed envelope if not hand delivering it) in order to receive their auction check. Please wait 30 minutes after the auction before showing staff your thank you. We appreciate those members who are already good at thanking their buyers or who are extra ambitious in creating unique appreciation offerings. Thank you notes are critical to the continued success of the program and an important life skill for participants to learn.

2024 Loup Valley Livestock Challenge

The Loup Valley Livestock Challenge will be held August 17-18 in Ord with eligibility open to purple ribbon winners from Nebraska counties west of Highway 281. The deadline to register is August 12.

State Fair Details

State Fair animal entries are due August 10 at 8:00 pm for the following species: beef, sheep, swine, goat, poultry, rabbit, dairy cattle and dog. **NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED, and we recommend not waiting until the last day!** Nebraska State Fair 4-H/FFA information and the online animal entry system (which opens in July) can be found at <https://www.statefair.org/>. Families are responsible for making their own animal entries for the 2024 Nebraska State Fair. Day passes, parking passes, blocking chute permits, sheep/goat stand permits, and extra pens/stalls can be purchased at the same time animal entries are made. Exhibitors will receive a wristband for free admission. Payment for entries and extra passes are made by credit or debit card (non-refundable). If you have questions, contact the extension office at 308-745-1518. More information will be shared at <https://4h.unl.edu/state-fair-livestock-exhibitor> as details are finalized by the State Fair.

The 2024 State 4-H Dog Show will start at 8:00 am on Saturday, August 24 in the Heartland Event Center.

State Fair entry limits and non-refundable entry fees are as follows:

Sheep	limit 4 market & breeding	\$25/hd
Meat Goats	limit 4 market & breeding	\$25/hd
Swine	limit 6 market & breeding	\$25/hd
Beef	limit 5 market, breeding, feeder	\$50/hd
Poultry	limit 6 (plus 1 egg class)	\$5/entry
Rabbit	limit 6	\$5/entry
Dog	limit 7 classes (*if using different dogs)	\$5/entry 1 showmanship, 2* obedience/agility/ rally

State Fair Static Entry Day

The Nebraska State Fair will open on Friday morning August 23 at 10:00 am. This means exhibits will be entered on Wednesday, August 21. Non-perishable exhibits that are selected for state fair competition are due in our office by Wednesday, August 14. Perishable exhibits must be brought in before 3:00 pm on Tuesday, August 20. Only purple ribbons on the county level are considered for selection to represent Sherman County at the Nebraska State Fair. If you have a large item selected for the state fair, you will be responsible for taking it to and from Grand Island.

We would love volunteer assistance to transport, organize, enter and pick up static exhibits at the state fair exhibit hall in Grand Island on August 21 and the evening of September 2. Call our office if you can help with this project.

Norfolk Beef Expo Set for September

The 75th annual Norfolk Beef Expo will be held September 7-8. Forms will be available on the Shows and Events page of our website or by request at the office. Entries are due September 4.

Award Application Process

The Nebraska 4-H Achievement Application is a standard application form used for the selection of county and state award winners at the Junior level (ages 8-14) and Senior level (ages 15-18). To apply for county-level awards and recognition, submit a complete application electronically via email to the extension office by September 30. Only Senior Achievement Applications are accepted for state-level awards and recognition. A complete application includes: 1) Designation of Awards and Program Area of Submission 2) About Me page 3) My Experience pages. Diamond Clover or Nebraska 4-H Achievement Applications should be submitted to the Extension Office by September 30. Forms can be found in the 4-H Awards section near the bottoms of the page at central4.unl.edu/4hforms.

Let Us Know If You Have Questions

Please feel free to contact us if you have **ANY** questions about preparing for the fair. We are happy to assist you! The extension office is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Our phone number is 308-745-1518 or you can email us at sherman-county@unl.edu.

**We look forward to seeing you at the 2024
Sherman County Fair!**