



4-H Clover Connection

Texas County <http://countvext.okstate.edu/texas>

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4-H'ers Preparing Exhibits for County and State Fairs

For nearly 100 years, Oklahoma 4-H'ers have been preparing exhibits for the Oklahoma State Fair. Tradition continues as 4-H'ers from across the state gear up for their local county fairs, as well as the Oklahoma State Fair and the Tulsa State Fair.

"As Oklahoma celebrates its centennial this year, Oklahoma 4-H'ers are celebrating their 98 years of participation in the Oklahoma State Fair," said Kevin Hackett, Northwest District 4-H program specialist. "The fair exhibits have been an important part of the 4-H Youth Development Educational Program, allowing young people the incentive to achieve and then to be recognized for outstanding achievement."

The Oklahoma State Fair will run Sept. 13-23 and judging day will take place Sept. 12. The Tulsa State Fair runs Sept. 27-Oct. 7 and judging day is slated Sept. 25.

"Because information is so easily obtainable on the Internet, there is a new section of guidelines in the fair book regarding copyright laws and regulations," he said. "When putting together exhibits, we encourage 4-H'ers to read this section so there won't be any copyright infringement."

In the last few years, Hackett said the science and technology section of fair exhibits continues to be of great interest to club members.

"We continually try to adapt exhibit categories to meet the changing interests of 4-H'ers from across the state," Hackett said. "Some project areas have been around for many years. Other projects, especially those in the science and technology category, are relatively new."

Some of the traditional exhibit categories include fabrics and fashion, child care, food science and nutrition, food preservation, woodworking, crops and entomology, just to name a few.

A robotics category was added last year and will be available again this year. The 4-H robotics program allows club members to explore science, technology and engineering through designing and building a functioning robot. Other science and technology categories include digital photography, digitally altered scanned images, Web page design, PowerPoint presentations and Global Positioning Systems/Geographic Information Systems.

Hackett said the shooting sports exhibits were changed this year and are geared toward the different disciplines, including safety, archery, air rifle, air pistol, shotgun, .22 rifle, wildlife and living history.

Wood samples as a stand alone exhibit in the forestry category is back this year. Also, the geology category will include energy and petroleum exhibits related to well site safety, careers in the energy field, different types of energy and drilling techniques.

Many of the other project areas have been expanded in an effort to meet the needs of all youth.

Oklahoma 4-H'ers who have a passion for growing pumpkins should consider entering the Great Pumpkin Contest at the Oklahoma State Fair. This event is sponsored by the Oklahoma Vegetable Association. Prizes will be awarded to growers of the biggest pumpkins from any county in the state.

Visitors to the Oklahoma State Fair can see all of these projects in the Hobby, Arts and Crafts Building. Tulsa State Fair visitors will see the 4-H exhibits in the Exchange Building.

"This location give us lots of visibility. More people will be able to see first-hand the type of projects that are available to 4-H'ers," Hackett said.

Classes for 2007 and changes from 2006 for both the Oklahoma State Fair and the Tulsa State Fair can be found on the 4-H Web site at <http://oklahoma4h.okstate.edu/events/statefair.htm>

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