

State Fair gives look at behind the scenes

**By Tanner Griffith
Prairie Dog 4-H Club**

This year I got a good look at the behind the scenes action of the State Fair activities and exhibits. As a teen member of the State Photography Action Team, I found out how much planning and volunteer work it takes to make it all come together. The committee meets about four times during the year along with a liaison from the State Office to discuss the pros and cons from the last State Fair and plan for the next years fair.

This is no small task considering there were over 1300 photographs pre-registered this year. On Friday every picture has to be checked for the correct entry information, class number, allowable size, proper mounting, and any borders or dates on the front of the picture which would lower the ribbon placing. Then, they are sorted by class number into boxes so they are ready for judging on Saturday.

Saturday is another big day. There are two judging stages going simultaneously. There were eight judges who rotate until all the pictures, slides and videos have been judged. Each picture is judged by three of the judges. They have about five seconds to look at each picture and give it a score of up to five points. The three scores are added together to determine the total score and ribbon placing. I helped at one of the judging stages placing pictures on and taking them off the easel during the judging process.

From there the pictures go to the back room for the ribbon placing to be entered into the

computer, the proper ribbon sticker is attached to the entry form, the pictures are bagged and sorted by county. After the judges are finished picking the top 36 Rock Springs Award pictures from the purple ribbon winners we started placing the photos on the new display racks by counties. Now you would think our job was over at this point, but not so.

While some of the adult PAT members are choosing photos from the display for judging classes and preparing for the Photo Judging Contest on Sunday, the teen members are choosing photos for the Sunflower awards. We picked out 22 photos which demonstrated different aspects of composition, lighting or types of exposures. This year being Kansas 4-H Centennial year, the teen leaders were also asked to pick out a picture from each county represented at the State Fair for a Centennial award.

Sunday I participated in the Photo Judging Contest as a member of the senior team. We placed 18th as a team and I placed 32nd individually. After I finished judging and the tests had been scored, I helped sort the tests and score cards by county so they could be returned to the participants. The photos used for the judging classes and the Rock Springs award pictures are scanned and put on the website for viewing. Being involved with the PAT committee has given me a chance to meet other teens and leaders from around the state. We exchange ideas, work hard, and have a lot of fun together. This year is over but I'm looking forward to our next meeting in November.



Tanner Griffith, Prairie Dog 4-H Club, worked on grooming his shorthorn calf. Tanner received grand champion at the Norton County Fair for the calf.

Entomology project was a lot of work

My name is Wyatt Wentz from the Prairie Dog 4-H Club, and I wanted to try Entomology as a new project this year. There are insects everywhere, so I thought this would be an easy project.

Boy was I wrong. The first thing I had to was catch an insect. This can be very tricky. I figured out you had to use a net or a container, and be very quiet and careful. After I caught an insect I had to learn how to kill it. You can do this

by freezing it, or by putting a drop of fingernail polish in the jar. When the insect was dead I had to learn how to pin and label it for my display. But first I had to figure out what kind of insect I had. I didn't know how many beetles there were. I then found out they had to be put in the display case in a certain order.

Wow! This project was a lot of work, but I had so much fun. I received a purple ribbon for all my hard work at the fair.

Charters issued to Norton County 4-H Clubs

Almelo Boosters	1949, 1956	Golden Sunflowers	1964
Belle Plain Builders	1939	Good Hope Boosters	1945
Belle Plain Improvers	1951	Grant Eagles	1949
Busy Jayhawkers	1950	Harrison Jolly Workers	1938
Cedar Ridge	1938	Highland	1926
Champion Hill	1938	Jolly Rustlers	1956
Clayton Prairie Dogs	1949	Leota's A No. 1 Farmers	1926
Densmore	1950	North Divide	1930
Edmond	1925	Norton Busy Beaver	1952
Elk Creek Workers	1938	Oronoque Sky Liners	1937
Emmett Builders	1945	Reager	1939
4 Square	1950	Solomon Valley Hustlers	1948
Go Getters	1926	Sunflower	1947
Golden Harvesters	1949, 1955	Walnut Ridge	1942

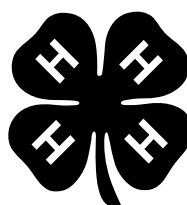


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