



Mikail hauled water to the mud holes where the pigs are kept to give them a place to stay cool in the hot summer heat.

## Brothers handle pigs

**FREEMAN, from Page 6**

The brothers have names for the pigs, and hope they are in good shape for the fair. To get them water there is a trailer with a 500 gallon tank that is brought out, and there is a trough to hold the water.

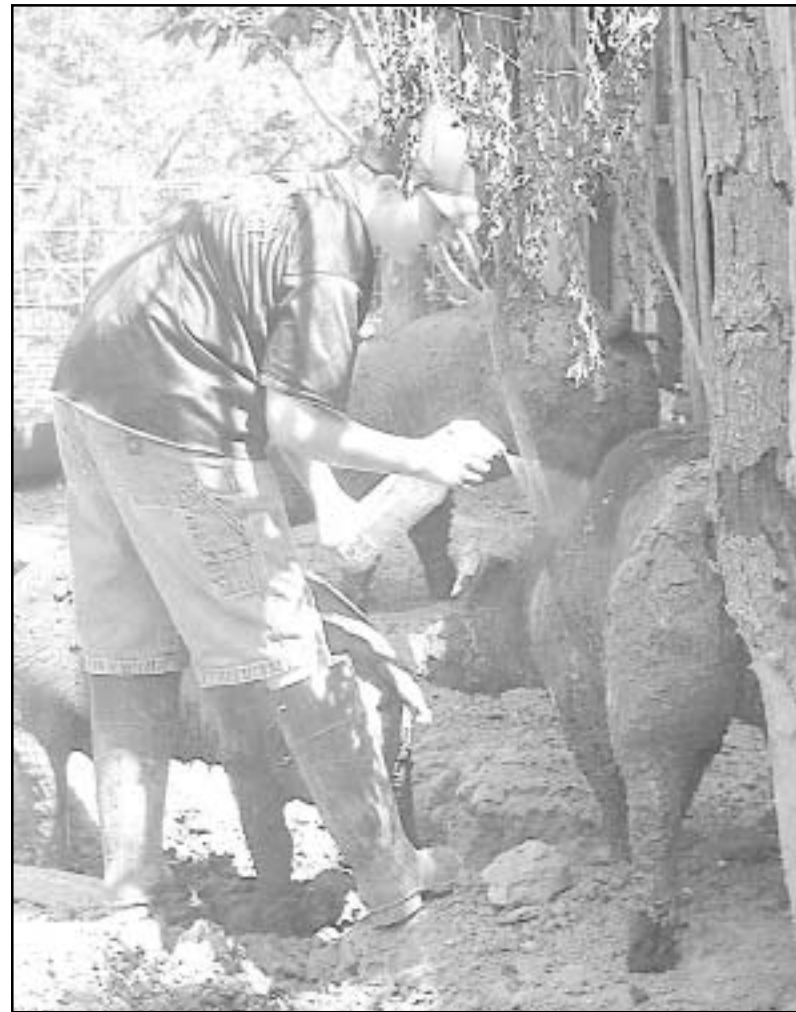
While Mikail hauled water to the mud hole Taolor got on a pair of boots and sprayed the pigs. He helped haul water, and both checked to see there was enough food.

When she is not working or helping with the swine project, Tammy is a Certified Nurses Assistant and works at Wheat Ridge Acres as the Activity Director. She also works at KLOE where she is the sports production engineer and assistant part-time supervisor.

"Actually those are titles I made up," she said. "I recruit high school students to help on the weekends. I have been working for Marty Melia for 14 years and he has been great to help.

"And I drive all over God's green earth with my children."

Adam Freeman is a Yellow Freight truck driver who is stationed out of Kansas City.



Taolor sprayed the pigs to help keep the flies and other bugs off the pigs, and was wearing boots to follow the pigs through the mud holes.



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## The Goodland Star-News

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# Love of animals keeps Goodland girl in the ring

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

A love of animals is what has kept a Goodland girl in the ring at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair for the past six years.

Chelsie Gausman, a high school freshman, has been showing sheep and pigs at the fair since she was 8 years old.

"I like animals," she said. "I'm pretty much an animal lover."

This year Gausman will show two sheep, two pigs and her dog at the fair.

Her two sheep, Dixie and Jasper, take up a lot of her time.

She gets up every morning and heads to her grandmother and grandfather's house in the Armstrong addition to take her goats for a half hour walk. She said they walk in a tilled field, making the sheep work harder and build more muscles in their hind legs.

"My sheep and pigs keep me busy," she said. "I've got a lot of time on my

hands in the summer."

Gausman gives them one-half of a coffee can of feed in the morning and in the evening. She said the feed is specialty formulated for show sheep and contains 18 percent protein.

Picking a good sheep is key, too. Gausman said the family tries to get a sheep from the same line, picking ones that are offspring from last year's group. She said they normally get a crossbreed sheep.

"You want to look from where the ribs end," she said about picking a sheep adding length is good in a sheep. "You want them to be long."

The two she plans to show this year were raised in Thomas County.

She has two sheep so the animals get used to being around one another and are ready for showing.

"It's companionship, too," said Gausman's mother Shellie. "It's good for them."

For the show, Gausman will shear

the sheep on the Tuesday before. She said they have to wash the sheep, shear it and then wash it again.

Then they spray paint the sheep's hooves to make them shiny. She said they clean the ears and eyes with baby oil next. She said they comb the hair on the lamb's legs, making it look fluffy.

The regiment, she said, is similar to what every sheep handler does. Gausman said she learned most of the tricks from a friend of the family. She said the friend had experience and he gave her advice.

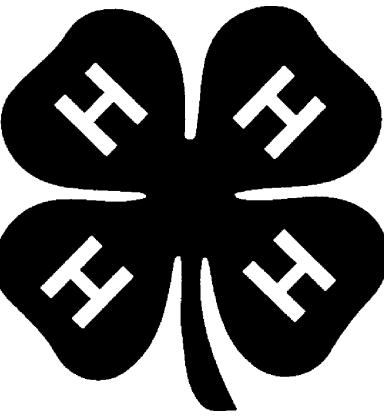
When she shows the sheep in the ring, Gausman uses a halter to move the animals.

Along with Dixie and Jasper, she plans to show two pigs. The pigs are named Queenie and Oreo, or Cookie (Gausman hasn't decided on a name yet).


See GAUSMAN, Page 9



Chelsie Gausman fed her dog Emmie treats as she practiced for the dog show at the fair. Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News



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# She loves the animals

**GAUSMAN, from Page 8**

While the pigs don't take as much time, Gausman does make sure they are fed properly. The pigs have a self-feeder, but she has to make sure they weigh between 220 and 280 pounds for the show. They are fed a high protein diet to keep the fat off and put muscle on.

One of the pigs is too small, she said, but it has gained 30 pounds since the Fourth of July.

To show a pig, Gausman said, they first shear the animal. She said then they wash the pigs, a process that is repeated frequently since the animals like to roll in the mud.

"We wash them quite a bit," she said adding they have holes full of mud in the pigs' pen.

Gausman has to learn to show the pigs, too.

She said she remembers the main rule "keep the pig between the judge and you." She said people showing pigs have to keep eye contact with the judges and carry a brush in their back pocket to keep the pig clean.

In the ring, she said, pig handlers use pressure points to turn the animals. She said each show at least one fight breaks out between the big animals.

She said there are probably more girls in sheep than pigs, adding that doesn't mean girls can't win in any category.

"Girls have just as much of a chance of winning," she said.

For both contests, Gausman is in the intermediate classes, the middle level of classes. She plans to step up into the senior classes next year.

Raising show animals turns into a lesson in economics, too. Gausman makes the initial investment in the sheep and pigs, spends time caring for the animals and sells them for a profit at the end of the fair.

"Most years we do make a profit,"

she said adding that money goes back into buying next year's pig.

She said the prize winning sheep can take home as much as \$5 per pound for 115 to 135 pound animals.

Gausman said she has made more on the animals each year except for last when she couldn't part with a ewe.

"She gets pretty attached to the sheep," said Shellie.

Gausman keeps records of how much the animals gain each day. For the past 6 years, she said, they have kept records of each animal she shows.

This year, she will only record one of her projects for the Kansas 4-H Award Association.

Gausman's love of animals sometimes turns negative when after the fair, she has to part with her pets that are sold at the market.

"The first few years," she said, "I cried when I had to sell them. But I'm getting better."

She said when they bought her two sheep for this year's fair, Dixie and Jasper, the sheep breeder said her 18-year-old daughter still cries when she parts with animals.

"She wasn't the only one that had problems getting rid of the lambs the first years," said Gausman's father Randy who missed the animals, too.

Gausman has sworn off sheep meat, too, saying she would feel bad if her sheep were in her stomach.

"I'm never ever going to try it," she said.

She does not, however, mind eating pork chops, ham, bacon, sausage and other pig products.

"I never really get attached to my pigs," she said.

This year Gausman will try something new when she shows her one-year-old dog, Emmie.

Emmie is what Gausman calls a

**See GAUSMAN, Page 10**



Chelsie Gausman works with he sheep, Dixie and Jasper, every day. She feeds them, takes them for walks them and gets them ready for their turn in the ring.  
Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

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Chelsie Gausman feeds her sheep, Dixie and Jasper, one-half of a coffee can of food each morning and evening.  
Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

# Dog learning to obey

**GAUSMAN, from Page 9**

“shihorkie,” or a combination Shih Tzu and yorkie.

She taught Emmie to heal, halt, sit, lay, sit and lay, lay and stay and stand for exam, all commands the dog needs for the show.

“She’s learned a lot,” she said.

For the show, she is only allowed to say “Emmie” and then the command while using the choke chain to make sure she obeys. The dog will be placed in a showmanship category, where Gausman will work to keep her happy.

Emmie and Gausman go to classes every Monday to learn how to show a dog. Gausman said they will be judged on grooming, so she cleans Emmie’s ears, eyes and teeth. She said they have to show the dog’s bite and keep her toenails clipped.

“I’m anxious to see the dog show,” said Shellie, noting all of the work her daughter and her dog have been doing.

Over the years, Gausman has won home grown champion for two years in a row. The award is given to a pig grown and raised in Sherman County.

She won a reserve champion over-

all title with sheep three years.

“She’s done very well every year in 4-H,” Shellie said.

Gausman became a member of the Sunflower 4-H club seven years ago on the urging of her mother, Shellie. Shellie grew up on a farm and was a member of a 4-H club.

Gausman started 4-H with her 16-year-old brother Ryan. Ryan has been showing pigs and sheep as long as she has and is a member of the same 4-H club. Shellie said Ryan has done other projects over the years including rockets and wood working.

Gausman has is the club reporter this year, which means she takes notes on the club’s monthly meetings.

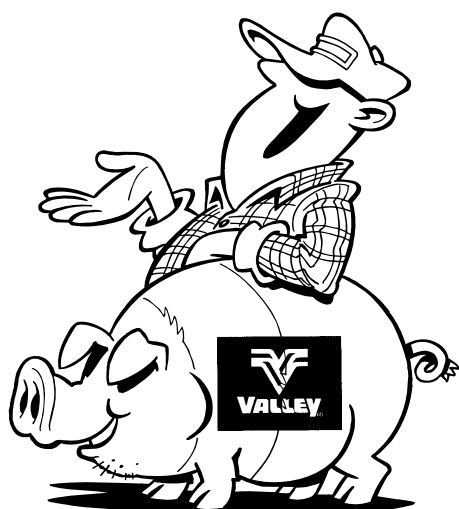
Sponsors for the Sunflower 4-H club are Sonya Vandiver and Jeanne Irvin.

She said many of her friends are in the club and she loves hanging out at the fairgrounds during fair week.

“I enjoy this time of year,” she said adding the fair comes and goes all too fast.

She likes the club so much she plans to continue until she is 18 and then maybe volunteer to help out after-

**See GAUSMAN, Page 11**



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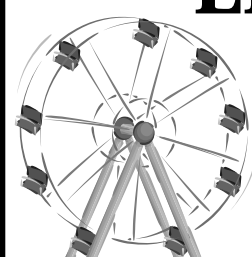
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Chelsie Gausman's sheep see her coming and run to the fence to greet their breakfast or dinner. Gausman feeds Dixie and Jasper a high protein feed to keep the fat off and build muscle.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

## Show sheep keep her busy

GAUSMAN, from Page 10

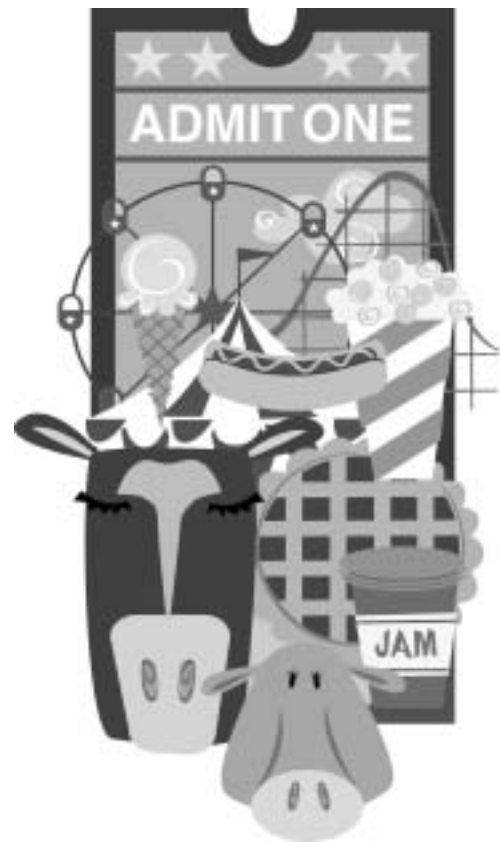
wards.

When she started out seven years ago, Gausman showed sheep and pigs. For the first three years she showed her cat, Lucy, and entered bindmanship and cooking contests.

Gausman is a member of the 4-H Junior Leaders, a club made up of 4-H club members 13-years-old and up. She said the club serves food at banquets in town.

Leaders of the Junior Leaders are Mike and Glenda Corcoran.

When Gausman isn't working with her animals, she is spending time golfing or swimming. She said 4-H takes up a big part of her summer but she has had time for going to the movies, basketball camp and riding bikes with friends. Gausman likes to read, and has currently buried her head into a thick copy of the new Harry Potter book.



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# 2005 Northwest Kansas District Free Fair Schedule



## Saturday, July 30

- 8:00 A.M. Dog Show Registration
- 8:30 A.M. Dog Show (Livestock Arena)
- 5:00 P.M. Parade Line Up
- 6:00 P.M. Parade
- 7:00 P.M. Concert



## Monday, August 1

- 8:00 A.M. Judging 4-H Foods  
Judging 4-H Arts & Crafts  
Register 4-H and Open  
Horse Show
- 8:30 A.M. 4-H Lifeskills Judging
- 9:00 AM. Horse Show and Exploring 4-H
- 5:00 P.M. Family Fun Night



## Tuesday, August 2

- 8:00 A.M. Check-In All Entries  
4-H & Open Class
- 11:00 A.M. All Entries Close  
Flower Judging
- 1:00 P.M. Judging All Classes  
Except Livestock
- 2:00 P.M. Llama Show
- 3:00 P.M. Sheep Lead  
Goat Show  
Rabbits
- 3:30 P.M. Sheep Show
- 6:00 P.M. Llama Demonstration
- 7:00 P.M. Professional Bull Riders



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## Wednesday, August 3

- 8:00 A.M. Swine Show
- 7:00 P.M. Ranch Rodeo

## Thursday, August 4

- 8:00 A.M. Beef Show  
Round Robin Showmanship -  
30 minutes after beef show
- 6:00 P.M. Howdy Rowdy Rodeo

## Friday, August 5

- 8:00 A.M. Livestock Judging Contest
- 4:30 P.M. 4-H Appreciation BBQ
- 5:30 P.M. 4-H Livestock Sale
- 7:00 P.M. Demolition Derby

## Saturday, August 6

- 8:00 A.M. Enter Tri-State
- 8:30 A.M. 4-H & Open class exhibits  
released
- 9:30 A.M. Registration for Antique  
Tractor Pull
- 11:00 A.M. Antique Tractor Pull
- 1:00 P.M. Tri-State Royal (Show of Area  
Champions)
- 7:00 P.M. Tractor Pull

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