

4-H kids show a variety of projects

By RAMELL TAYLOR
rtaylor@nwkansas.com

One of the most anticipated activities for the Decatur County 4-H program each year is participating in the various judging events at the county fair.

District Extension Director Byron Hale, who's in charge of administration for the 4-H activities, said the largest number of entries from the children will be in the arts and crafts and food and nutrition judging.

"There will be anywhere from 200 to 250 items submitted from the 4-H children," he said, "as well submissions to other judging events."

Both categories, Mr. Hale said, will feature "conference-style" judging, where each child will meet one-on-one with a judge. He said the judge will have a chance to ask the kids about their entries, as well as explain how the entry will be judged.

"For example," Mr. Hale said, "if the child submits yeast bread for baked goods judging and the texture of the bread is not what the judge is looking for, the judge will ask the child to explain what he or she did to make the texture turn out the way it did. The judge gives the children advice for fixing the problem, making it a learning experience for the children."

Mr. Hale said not only do the 4-H kids have a lot of entries for the arts and crafts judging, but a huge variety, from fine arts to drawings and paintings.

"Last year," he said, "I remember one of the children brought in a door wreath made out of green flip flops."

The 4-H members will receive ribbon money for their entries. The ribbons are color coded at different values and can be redeemed for pocket money for the children to keep, Mr. Hale said.

"All entries will receive ribbons for their entries," he said. "Children have the potential to earn anywhere from \$2 up to \$25."

The money for the ribbons is provided by the Decatur County commissioners, Mr. Hale added.

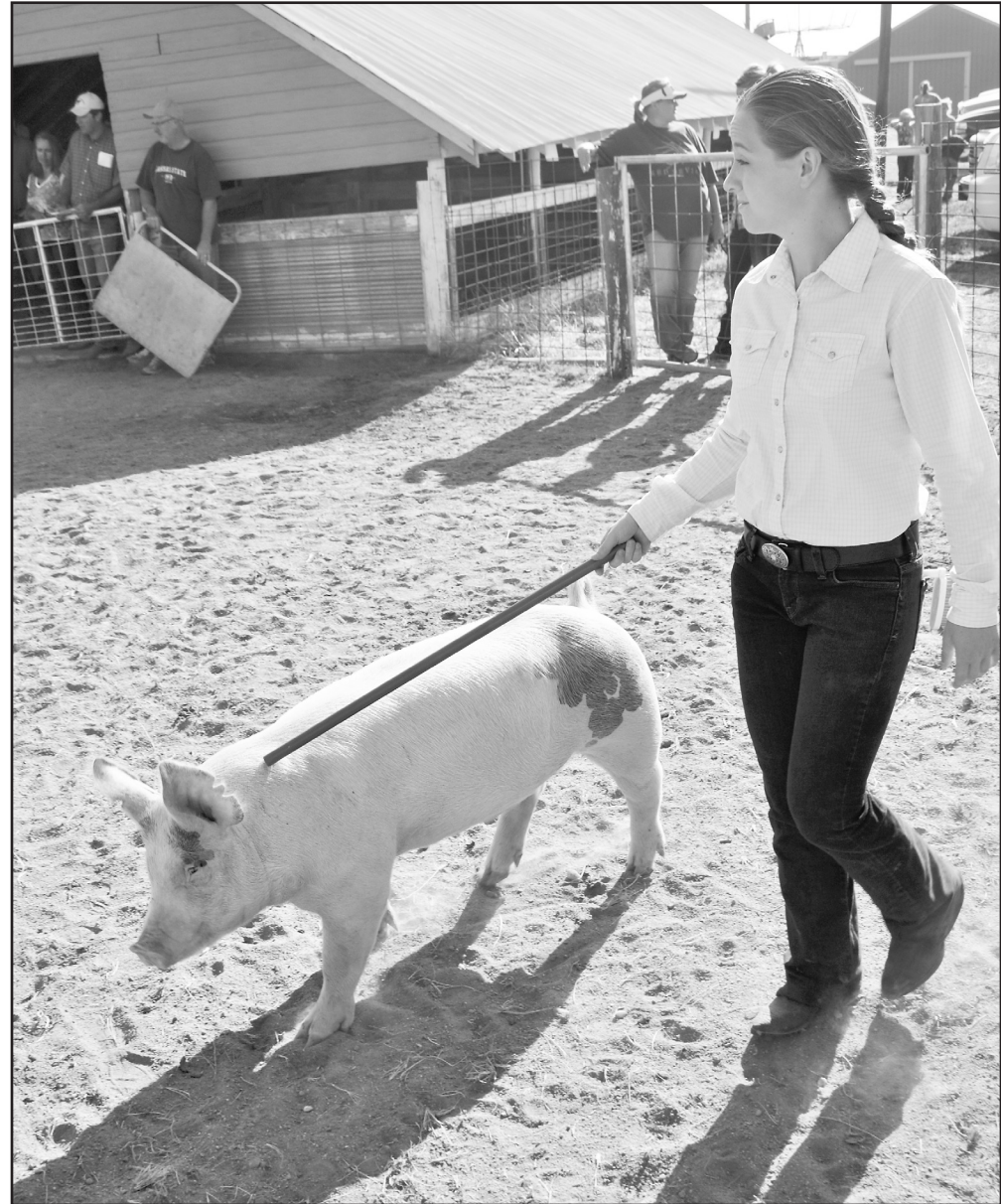


Keann Jacobs, a 4-H member, said she has entries for eight events, including arts and crafts. She said she is most excited to finish up her woodworking project.

"I'm making a curio cabinet for my mother to put her valuables in," she said. "It took me the whole school year and a couple of months in the summer to finish, which is longer than I expected."

She said she also will be welding a garden ornament out of old metal silverware for an arts and crafts entry.

Mr. Hale said along with the baked goods and arts and crafts entries, the 4-H kids will have many others entries for judging events, including horticulture, photography, wood work and livestock.



DURING THE SWINE SHOW Miki Dorshorst (above) smiled at the judge while she showed her project. Patience Carman (above left) held her baked goods while she waited for the judge.

— File photos



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