News Column for use the week of June 19, 2023
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River Valley Extension District
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Fair Season Celebration

Fair season has rolled around again, and the River Valley 4-H staff is in full preparation mode. The local county fairs play right into our culture, where everyone loves to get together and celebrate. We celebrate a year full of successful learning, and all the hard work our 4-H’ers have put in throughout the past year. Rockets are launched, pies are tasted, animals are groomed, and the youth will laugh and enjoy time together. The county fair is a celebration everyone looks forward to, and a great way to bring our communities together.

We often talk about how busy our schedules are and how that gets in the way of having fun and getting together with friends and family. The county fair is a way for citizens to come together and socialize, for alumni to come back to town, and for everyone to have the chance to enjoy good food and entertainment. Many plan their summer schedules around the local county fair.

It is a time of new opportunities, to learn new things, bring economy into the community, and for youth to explore their spark. Just walking around the fair, and checking out the exhibits, you may learn a new recipe, gain knowledge about a project, and even meet new people. The life lessons that are gained from being part of the 4-H organization and projects at the county fair are second to none. These youth are becoming tomorrow’s leaders and the future is bright.

Fair is a celebration and a showcase of many successful projects, but with that brings a lot of challenges and hard lessons. Youth learn by doing, by making mistakes, and trying again. 4-H gives them the safe space to be able to fail and get back up again. Some of the best lessons are learned from the hardest challenges. Their rocket may break once launched into the air, or maybe their bread didn’t rise, but that doesn’t mean giving up, just means trying again.

These celebrations are not marked by the color of the ribbon hanging next to the project. It is marked by the growth made by the individual. A ribbon placing is one person’s evaluation of a project on a given day. The life skills gained through this experience are more important than the color of the ribbon hanging there.

Come out and celebrate at the local county fairs with us. Celebrate the success of our 4-H’ers, enjoy the good food and entertainment, and meet up with those friends that you haven’t seen in a while. We will start the fair season in Cloud and Washington Counties on July 18 – 23. We will proceed with Clay County on July 25 – 30 and wrap up in Republic County from July 31 – August 6.

If you want to learn more about 4-H, please contact Macy Hynek at mhynek@ksu.edu or 785-527-5084.

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