

# OPEN CLASS DIVISION

Fair Lights  
and



July 23-27  
2026

Star Spangled Nights

Riley County Fair

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Extension Riley County

***Arts & Clothing***

***Baking Contest***

***Building Creations***

***Cake Decorating***

***Flowers & Plants***

***Foods & Nutrition***

***Food Preservation***

***Garden & Crops***

***Geology Photography Shepherd's Lead***

## DEPARTMENT —OPEN CLASS

### GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. Each entry must have a Riley County Fair entry card. All entry cards will be filled out and firmly attached to the exhibit. These may be obtained from the Riley County Extension Office or at the Fair Office on the day of entry.
2. Every exhibit on the fairgrounds will be under control of fair management. While every precaution will be taken for the safekeeping of exhibits, neither the management, its officers, nor the Extension office personnel will be responsible for any loss, damage or accidents that may occur.
3. Exhibits will not be released until Monday, JULY 27; 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., **no exceptions** will be made. Exhibitors are to claim their exhibits at release time. Those in charge assume no responsibility for exhibits left on the fairgrounds after the close of the fair. If unable to pick up Monday evening, building will be open Tuesday morning from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. to pick up.
4. Open Class events are open to anyone in Riley County and adjoining counties unless specified. 4-H members may exhibit in classes not available in the 4-H department.
5. Entries in Open Class will be placed in purple, blue, red, and white ribbon groups according to the division and quality of the exhibit unless otherwise stated.
6. All exhibits entered in Open Class must have been grown and selected or made by the party in whose name the entry is made.
7. **Check Under** each division for special rules and entry dates.

### OPEN GARDEN AND CROPS

Department Chairs: Riley County Master Gardeners

**ENTRY:** Thursday, JULY 23; 10:00 – noon, Pottorf Hall, CiCo Park

**JUDGE:** Thursday, JULY 23; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**RELEASE EXHIBITS:** Monday, JULY 27; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

1. Products exhibited shall be of the current year's production.
2. All exhibits must be grown and selected by the exhibitor.

Class 5001	Beans – plate of 6 same variety
	Beets – plate of 3 same variety
	Cabbage – 1 Head
	Cantaloupe (Muskmelon) – 1 melon
	Carrots – plate of 3 same variety
	Cucumbers – plate of 3 same variety
	Eggplant – 1 fruit
	Okra – plate of 3 same variety
	Onions – plate of 3 same variety
	Peppers – plate of 3 same variety
	Potatoes, Irish – plate of 3 same variety
	Pumpkin – 1 fruit
	Squash, summer – 1 fruit
	Squash, winter (other than pumpkin) – 1 fruit
	Sweet Corn – plate of 3 same variety
	Sweet Potatoes – plate of 3 same variety
	Turnips – plate of 3 same variety
	Tomatoes – plate of 3 same variety
	Watermelon or other melon (other than cantaloupe) – 1 melon
	Other Vegetable Crop
	Fruit Crop – (example plate of 3 apples, ½ pint blackberries)
	Wheat – One gallon sample A 2-1/2 - 3" Styrofoam cylinder placed in the gallon container may be used to reduce the amount of grain to approximately 3 quarts
	Corn – Ten (10) ears white hybrid
	Corn – Ten (10) ears yellow hybrid
	Unusual Exhibit
	Miscellaneous
	Fresh Culinary herbs – 6 stems of one variety, exhibited in disposable container of water. Dried herbs are not accepted.

**OPEN FLOWERS AND PLANTS**  
 Department Chairs: Riley County Master Gardeners

**ENTRY:** Thursday, JULY 23; 10:00 – noon, Pottorf Hall, CiCo Park

**JUDGE:** Thursday, JULY 23; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**RELEASE EXHIBITS:** Monday, JULY 27; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

1. Exhibit cut flowers with foliage and long stem if possible.
2. Cut flowers must have been garden grown.
3. House plants must be grown by the exhibitor and have been in his/her possession for at least 3 months.
4. All entries should be labeled as to proper variety.

Class 5101	Rose – single stem (variety to be named)
	Annual – single stem
	Perennial – single stem
	Fresh Flower Arrangement – state purpose of arrangement
	Dried Flower Arrangement – no artificial or silk flowers
	Cacti plants or succulent
	Potted Indoor Plant (foliage or flowering)
	Container Garden
	Miniature and Fairy Garden

**OPEN FOOD PRESERVATION**  
 Department Chairs: Deandra Anderson

**ENTRY & JUDGING:** Wednesday, JULY 22; 11:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Pottorf Hall, CiCo Park

**RELEASE EXHIBITS:** Monday, JULY 27; 5:00-7:00 p.m.

1. Product must have been canned after July 29, 2025.
2. Exhibits must be sealed in non-decorated, non-colored (blue, amber or green), clean standard canning jars with matching brand (use Ball lids on Ball jars, or Kerr lids on Kerr jars, etc.) two-piece lids. Lids with plaid, fruit decorated or brushed silver are permissible. Jars must be sealed when entered. For food safety reasons, the size of the jars used must not be larger than the jar size stated in the recipe. There are 12-ounce, 23 ounce and 27-ounce canning jars available and may be used. Use pint jar process recommendations for 12-ounce jars. Use quart jar process recommendations for 23 ounce and 27-ounce jars. All other products must be in pint or quart jars.
3. Each jar exhibited must be labeled with a uniform label placed 1" from the base of jar. You may need to make a label using an adhesive mailing label. The label must give: Class No, Altitude, Product, Canning Method (water bath, weighted gauge or dial gauge presser method), Process Time, Pressure (psi), date processed including month and year, Name, and County/District.
4. Judging: The exhibits will be judged on the recipe and quality of canned product. Current USDA recommended methods must be used. No open kettle or oven canned processed food will be allowed. Pickles and sweet spreads must be finished using the water bath process for the altitude of where processed. Low acid products must be pressure processed properly for the altitude of where processed.
5. Each exhibit must include a copy of the complete recipe and instructions. Recipe must include recipe source, date of publication and altitude of where processed.
6. Containers may be opened at the discretion of the judge.
7. Dried Foods: One kind of dried food product is to be in a small jar, with lid but not sealed or other "see-through" container. Suggested amount: 1/3 to 1/2 cup, or 3 to 4 pieces per exhibit. All meat jerky should be cooked to 160 degrees F (internal temperature using a metal stem-type thermometer. Jerky not heated to 160 degrees F will not be judged
8. **Riley County Fair**– No alcohol should be included as an ingredient in food preservation entries. Entries with alcohol in the recipe will be disqualified and not be judged.

Class 5200	Sweet Spreads (fruit and/or vegetables), Syrups; 1 jar
	Fruits, Juices, Fruit mixtures (Salsa, pie filling, etc.); 1 jar
	Low Acid Vegetables (green beans, corn, etc. or mixtures); 1 jar
	Pickles (fruit or vegetables) Fermented & Relishes & Chutney); 1 jar
	Tomato/Tomato Products (Tomato juice & tomato salsa); 1 jar
	Meats; 1 jar
	Dill Pickles; 1 jar
	Dried Foods; 1 jar

### OPEN CAKE DECORATING

Department Chair: Holly McHugh

**ENTRY & JUDGING:** Wednesday, JULY 22; 11:00 – 2:00 p.m., Pottorf Hall, CiCo Park

**RELEASE EXHIBITS:** Monday, JULY 27: 5:00-7:00 p.m.

1. Decorated items will be judged on overall design, skill and precision, choice and use of colors, difficulty of technique, neatness, and originality. Exhibits will be judged on appearance only.
2. A baked cake or a cake form may be used for decorating at the County Fair level.
3. Wedding and anniversary cakes can be no larger than a 14" base and 23" in height including decorations. Decorated cookies can be no larger than 12" in diameter, using any batter or dough. Cupcakes can be no larger than 3" to 4" in diameter, using any batter or dough.

### DECORATED CAKES

Class 5290	Cakes for Children
	Birthday
	Novelty
	Holiday
	Anniversary
	Wedding
	1 decorated cookie – 12" in diameter
	3 decorated cupcakes

### OPEN ARTS AND CLOTHING

Department Chair: Lynne Berry

**ENTRY and JUDGING:** Saturday, JULY 25 8:00 am - 11:00 a.m. at Pottorf Hall, CiCo Park

**RELEASE EXHIBITS:** Monday, JULY 27; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

1. Exhibitors must indicate age on entry card.
2. Exhibitors may enter up to eight items.
3. A 3"x5" index card may be attached with the entry tag to give the judge any information which the exhibitor thinks would be helpful for the judge to know.
4. Refer to Open Class General regulations for other rules governing this division.

Class 5400	Open Arts and Clothing
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## OPEN PHOTOGRAPHY

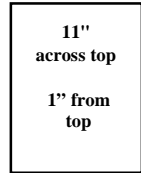
Department Chair: Stacy Kovar & Hilary Rombeck

Junior Assistants: Carly and Madison Rombeck

**ENTRY & JUDGING:** Saturday, JULY 25; 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. Pottorf Hall, CiCo Park

**RELEASE EXHIBITS:** Monday, JULY 27; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

1. Exhibitors may enter no more than four total entries per age division.
2. Photos may be 7"x 9" to 8"x10".
3. No lettering, underlay, or borders permitted.
4. Sepia or other mono-colored photos may not be entered in a black and white class. Only true black and white photos will be accepted in a black and white class.
5. Mounting instructions:  
Photos must be mounted across the narrow (11") dimension of an 11" x 12½" sheet of white or cream-colored studio mount. Photos mounted on foam core board or poster board will not be displayed. Photos must be mounted with the top edge of the print 1" below the top of the mount board. The sides of the print must be equal distance from the two sides of the mount board. A permanent mount must be made by using a photographic adhesive. Tape with masking tape a name slip (available at the Extension Office) on front bottom. Place photo in a 2-gallon self-sealing bag. Bags are the responsibility of the exhibitor.
6. Extension office sells mat boards and bags.



### Youth Division: (17 years and under or 4-H age)

Class 5600	Best 7" x 9" to 8" x 10" Enlargement, Black and White
Class 5601	Best 7" x 9" to 8" x 10" Enlargement, Color

### Adult Division: (18 years and over and no longer 4-H age)

Class 5602	Best 7" x 9" to 8" x 10" Enlargement, Black and White
Class 5603	Best 7" x 9" to 8" x 10" Enlargement, Color

### Riley County Special Scene Division: Open to any age group

Every year there will be a new Riley County object to focus on in the picture for "Scenes of Riley County". This year the Riley County Scene will be focused on "**Flowers of Riley County**". All pictures must be taken in Riley County; a description and location of the scene must be included on the back of the photo mat. The winning photo will receive a special ribbon and will be hung in the Riley County Office Building, 110 Courthouse Plaza, for one year. Photos will be 7"x9" or 8"x10" enlargement and color only. Cropping is allowed but No digital manipulation of the photo allowed. Only one entry per person.

Class 5604	Best 7" x 9" or 8" x 10" Enlargement
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## OPEN FOODS

Department Chair: Cheryl Blake

Assistant: Haddie Kiernan

**ENTRY & JUDGING:** Saturday, JULY 25; 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Pottorf Hall, CiCo Park

1. All entries must have a Riley County Fair Entry Card. Limited to 4 entries for the division.
2. Whole grain product must be made with at least 50% whole grain such as one or a combination of the following:  
Flour - such as whole wheat, rye, buckwheat, corn, rice or soy Cereals - such as bran, oatmeal, wheat or rice  
Crackers - such as whole wheat or rye
3. Recipe must be included.
4. An entry should consist of one whole product or three samples (i.e. one whole wheat pie crust, three whole wheat biscuits, etc.).
5. All entries will be taken home; a small piece of the entry will be kept on display.

### WHOLE GRAIN FOODS

Class 5700	Yeast Product
Class 5701	Bread Product made with Bread Machine
Class 5702	Quick Bread Product
Class 5703	Cake
Class 5704	Pie, Fruit
Class 5705	Cookies
Class 5706	Miscellaneous

### FOODS

Class 5707	Yeast Product
Class 5708	Bread Product made with Bread Machine
Class 5709	Quick Bread Product
Class 5710	Cake
Class 5711	Pie, Fruit
Class 5712	Cookies
Class 5713	Miscellaneous

### OPEN BUILDING CREATIONS

Department Head: John Jobe

**ENTRY:** Wednesday, JULY 22, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Pottorf Hall, CiCo Park

**JUDGING:** Thursday, JULY 23, 2:00 p.m.

**RELEASE EXHIBITS:** Monday, JULY 27; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

1. Building Creations (LEGO®, K'NEX®, tooth picks, etc.) should be no larger than 23" (L) x 23" (W) x 60"(H). Special size accommodations can be made for larger creations with the approval of Mr. Jobe, Riley County 4-H Agent. Contact him at the Riley County Extension Office prior to entry, 785-537-6350.
2. Building Creations will be judged on theme, neatness and creativity.
3. Creations will be judged in (4) separate age categories: **Junior (ages 7-9), Intermediate (ages 10-13), Senior (14-19) and Adult**
4. Group exhibits are allowed, but only one prize will be given per exhibit.
5. Each builder may enter a maximum of two exhibits.
6. All entries must be completely assembled when entered. Only minor repairs will be permitted at entry.

Class 5800	Junior 7-9
Class 5801	Intermediate 10-13
Class 5802	Senior 14-19
Class 5803	Adult 20+

**OPEN SHEPHERDS LEAD**  
Department Chair: Kelly Wendland

**REGISTRATION:** Due Thursday, JULY 23; 12:00 p.m. (noon)

**DESCRIPTION:** Script must be typed and emailed to [sriffey@ksu.edu](mailto:sriffey@ksu.edu)

**JUDGING:** Thursday, JULY 23; 7:00 p.m., Hurlburt Show Arena, before sheep show

1. The purpose of a lead class is to present sheep in the most attractive manner, to improve the image of sheep and to give spectators an opportunity to view well-groomed sheep at halter by attractively dressed contestants wearing wool garments.
2. Garments may be purchased or constructed and should consist of at least 60% wool (excluding accessories).
3. Judging is based on the attractiveness and suitability of the garment to the contestant and contestant's ability to control and present the sheep at halter.
4. Contestants do not need to be enrolled in the sheep project to participate. Arrangements should be made with a 4-H'er in the sheep project to use his/her lamb for the contest.
5. The sheep may be blanketed or decorated in a fashion that compliments the overall appearance of the contestant and the animal.

Pee Wee (Ages 5 and under)	Junior (Ages 6-9)
Intermediate (Ages 10-14)	Senior (Ages 15-20)
Adult (Ages 21 and above)	

**OPEN GEOLOGY**

Department Chair: Wally Mack and Chris Anderson

**ENTRY & JUDGING:** Thursday, JULY 23; 10:00 a.m. – Noon, Pottorf Hall, CiCo Park

**RELEASE:** Monday, JULY 27; 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Display at least 15 specimens. Group and label specimens according to categories. All specimens must be collected in the State of Kansas during 2025-2026. At least 15 specimens must be collected during 2025-2026 for all categories.

1. The standard size exhibit box should be 18x23x3.5". All specimens are to be arranged across the narrow (18") dimension of the exhibit box, making the exhibit 18" across the top and 23" deep. The Plexiglas cover must be removable from the top. Screws, locks or other devices that would prevent judges from removing cover should not be used.
2. Each exhibitor is required to identify each display box by placing an identification label bearing name, county and number of specimens in the upper left-hand corner of the Plexiglas cover (inside-use clear double-sided tape to adhere gummed labels), and by attaching a label with the same information on the lower corner of the box (outside). The inside label is also to indicate the class number.
3. Exhibitors may show in only one of the first four geology classes. Exhibitors may also show in geology class special exhibit.
4. Specimens should be labeled with the number of the specimen, date collected, specimen name or description, and locality (county only) where collected.
5. Specimens should be mounted in the box by the proper groups - rocks, minerals, fossils. Fossils must be identified to the Phylum, Class and Genus Level. Genus name is to begin with a capital letter. Species name is all lower case. Genus and species names must either be italicized or underlined, not both. The words "phylum, class, genus" on labels are to be spelled out, not abbreviated. More than one specimen of the same kind of rock or mineral or species of a fossil may be exhibited if this duplication represents different geological formations. Specimen label must show this distinction (Fort Hays limestone, not just limestone); calcite from the Greenhorn formation, not just calcite; Phylum: Brachiopod Class: Articulata Genus: Composita from the Morrill Limestone Member, not just Phylum: Brachiopoda Class: Articulata Genus: Composita.

6. All specimens must be collected (not purchased) from locations in Kansas, with the exception of Tri-State Mining Area specimens collected from these three adjacent counties: Ottawa county, OK: Newton and Jasper Counties, MO. Out-of-state specimens may be exhibited in a marked section of the display, but these are not to comprise the major portion of the exhibit. **OUT-OF-STATE SPECIMENS WILL NOT COUNT IN THE MINIMUM NUMBER FOR THE CLASS, NOR WILL THEY BE CONSIDERED IN THE JUDGING.**

Class 2802	Display at least 15 different rocks, minerals or fossils collected during 2025-2026. Limited to one exhibit box. Fossils must be identified at the Phylum level.
Class 2803	Display at least 29 different rocks, minerals or fossils, at least 5 of each. Fifteen must be collected during 2025-2026 year. Limited to one exhibit box. Fossils must be identified at the Phylum level
Class 2804	Display at least 45 rocks, minerals or fossils, at least 5 of each. Fifteen must be collected during 2025-2026 year. More than one specimen of the same kind of rock or mineral or species of a fossil may be exhibited if this duplication represents different geological formations. Specimen label must show this distinction (Fort Hays limestone, not just limestone: exact species must have different formation names listed on the I.D. card; Composita Brachiopod from Morrill Limestone not just Brachiopod or Composita Brachiopod). Exhibit limited to two boxes 18" x 23" x 3 1/2" with <b>Plexiglas</b> covers. Rocks must be identified by their proper name and type (igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic). These rock types must be spelled out on labels or have a legible key. Fossils must be identified at the Phylum level.
Class 2805	Display at least 60 rocks, minerals, or fossils, at least 5 of each. <b>Fifteen must be collected during 2025-2026 year.</b> More than one specimen of the same kind of rock or mineral or species of a fossil may be exhibited if this duplication represents different geological formations. Specimen label must show this distinction (Fort Hays limestone, not just limestone; exact species must have different formation names listed on the I.D. card; Composita Brachiopod from Morrill Limestone not just Brachiopod or Composita Brachiopod). Exhibit limited to two boxes 18"x 23 x 3 1/2" with <b>Plexiglas</b> covers. Rocks must be identified by their proper name and type (igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic). These rock types must be spelled out on labels or have a legible key. Fossils must be identified at the Phylum, Class and Genus levels if possible.
Class 2806	Geology Educational Exhibit relating geology to everyday living; or to a mineral test, a rock formation, geological history, species of a fossil, forms of one mineral, a variation of one kind of rock, archaeological artifacts, or Indian artifacts. Exhibit limited to 4 feet of table space or not more than two exhibit boxes. Digital formats are accepted. Please make arrangements for the judge to view your exhibit and have a hard copy for display
Class 2807	<b>Mineralogy</b> <b>Display a minimum of 15 mineral specimens collected in Kansas, at least 5 of which have been collected during 2025-2026 year.</b> The minerals are to be grouped by a mineral class (i.e.: Carbonates, Oxides, Silicates) and at least 3 classes must be represented. Members must use one standard display box. The specimens must be labeled with the number of the specimen, date collected, name of specimen, county where collected and chemical composition (i.e.: CaCO <sub>3</sub> for calcite) if known.

**GENERAL EVENTS  
PEDAL TRACTOR PULL**

Department Chair: Riley County Fair Board

**REGISTRATION:** Sunday, JULY 26; 6:30 p.m. Hurlburt Show Arena

**PULL:** 7:00 p.m.

1. All equipment will be furnished.
2. Entrants must be at least 4 years of age and not older than 12.
3. Classes will be divided by age.
4. Other rules will be handed out at the time of registration.