4-H Fair Schedule at Dakota County Fair 2026

4-H Building Hours
Monday - 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Tuesday-Saturday - 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

4-H Barn Hours
Monday-Saturday - 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday - 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

4-H General Exhibits released Sunday, August 16 from 6 to 7 p.m.
Complete Horse Schedule - see pages 48-49.

Monday, August 10 - Day 1

8:30-10 a.m.	Rabbit Skillathon, Rabbit Barn
9:30 a.m.	4-H Dairy Judging, Swine Barn Judging Arena
2 p.m.	4-H Goat Judging, Sheep Barn Judging Arena
4 p.m.	4-H Performing Arts exhibit judging, 4-H Building
	4-H Share the Fun, Performing Arts, and Communications Arts Contest **sign-in**, 4-H Building
4:30 p.m.	4-H Share the Fun, Performing Arts, and Communications Arts Contest **judging**, 4-H Building
6 p.m.	4-H Beef Cow/Calf and Prospect Calf Judging, Swine Barn Judging Arena
6 p.m.	4-H Miniature Horse Show, Horse Arena

Tuesday, August 11 - Day 2

10 a.m.	4-H Horse Performance Judging, Horse Arena
10 a.m.	4-H Rabbit Judging and Showmanship Judging, Sheep Barn Judging Arena
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	State Fair paperwork collection; Dakota County Extension Office
1-3 p.m.	4-H Livestock demo judging, Swine Barn Arena
2 p.m.	4-H Horse Training Judging, Horse Arena
3 p.m.	Goat Costume Contest, Swine Barn Arena
3 p.m.	4-H Horse Trail Judging, Horse Arena
4:30 p.m.	4-H Horse Costume Judging, Horse Arena
5 p.m.	4-H Horseless Horse Skills (approx. 5 p.m. - not before), Horse Arena
6 p.m.	4-H Fashion Revue Show, Stage, 4-H Building
6:30 p.m.	4-H Horse Just for Fun Classes, Horse Arena
7 p.m.	4-H Engineering Design Challenge judging, Stage, 4-H Building
8 p.m.	4-H Dairy, Goats, Beef Cow/Calf, Feeder Calf and Rabbits released.
9 p.m.	All animals must be out of barns
9 p.m.	Poultry Barn Set-up (tables and exhibitor card wire only)

Wednesday, August 12 - Day 3

6:30-8 a.m.	4-H Swine entered; must be stalled by 8 a.m.
7 a.m.	Sheep Barn set-up; animals stalled 7-9:30 a.m., AFTER barn set-up completed
7 a.m.	Poultry Barn set-up (shavings, cages, stall cards etc.)
7-9 a.m.	4-H Poultry entered, after barn set-up complete
7-9 a.m.	4-H Poultry verified as entered
8:30-9:30 a.m.	4-H Swine weigh-in and ID verification, Swine Barn
9 a.m.	4-H Poultry must be in cages
9:30 a.m.	4-H Sheep must be stalled
10-11 a.m.	4-H Sheep weigh-in and ID verification, Sheep Barn
10 a.m.	4-H Horse Games Judging, Horse Arena
1-4 p.m.	4-H Market Beef and Breeding Heifers entered; must be stalled by 4 p.m.
3 p.m.	4-H Poultry Judging, Sheep Barn Judging Arena
5-7 p.m.	4-H Market Beef weigh-in/ID verification; Breeding heifer ID verification

7 p.m. 4-H Horse Awards Presentation, Horse Arena
8-9 p.m. Horses released; check-out

Thursday, August 13 - Day 4
8:30 a.m. 4-H Sheep Judging, Sheep Barn Judging Arena
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. State Fair/State Event paperwork collection; Dakota County Extension Office
10 am-Noon State Horse Show paperwork) collection at Dakota County Extension Office.
11:30 a.m. 4-H Lamb Lead Show, Sheep Barn Judging Arena
12 p.m. State Horse Show registration **DUE** to Extension Office
12-2 p.m. 4-H Interactive demo judging, 4-H Building
12-2 p.m. 4-H Livestock demo judging, Swine Barn Arena
3 p.m. 4-H Beef Breeding Heifer, Dairy Steer & Market Beef Judging, Swine Barn Judging Arena

Friday, August 14 - Day 5
8 a.m. 4-H Livestock Auction sign-up deadline; Livestock Office in Swine Barn
8 a.m. 4-H Swine Judging, Swine Barn Judging Arena
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. State Fair/State Event paperwork collection; Dakota County Extension Office
12 p.m. **Deadline to accept or decline 4-H State Fair Livestock and General exhibit state fair trips**
3:30 p.m. Small Animal Supreme Showmanship Contest
5 p.m. Dorothy Neil Showmanship Contest, Swine Barn Arena
6:15 p.m. 4-H Arts-In Performance, Arts-In Stage, 4-H Building
7:45 p.m. 4-H Arts-In Performance, Arts-In Stage, 4-H Building

Saturday, August 15 - Day 6
10 a.m. 4-H Livestock Auction, Swine Barn Judging Arena
2-2:45 p.m. Exhibitor Meeting - 4-H State Fair General projects, Public Presentations, Dakota Co. Extension & Conservation Center
3-4 p.m. Exhibitor Meeting - 4-H State Fair Livestock Exhibitors, Dakota Co. Extension & Conservation Center
3-5 p.m. State Fair paperwork collection; 4-H Building on Dakota County Fairgrounds
6:15 p.m. 4-H Arts-In Performance, Arts-In Stage, 4-H Building
7:45 p.m. 4-H Arts-In Performance, Arts-In Stage, 4-H Building

Sunday, August 16 - Day 7
11 a.m. 4-H Ag Olympics, Swine Barn Arena
12:45 p.m. 4-H Arts-In Performance, Arts-In Stage, 4-H Building
1 p.m. 4-H Rabbit Agility Judging, Sheep Barn Judging Arena
3:30 p.m. 4-H Champion Awards Program, 4-H Building, Stage Area
5 p.m. FAIR CLOSES
6 p.m. 4-H Livestock and General Exhibits RELEASED
6-7 p.m. State Fair exhibits may be brought to Extension Office
7 p.m. 4-H Building closed

Monday, August 17

4:30 p.m. State Fair General EXHIBITS **DUE** to the Extension Office

4-H Horse Schedule

Monday, August 10

1-5 p.m.	Horse check-in, Horse Barn office
3-5 p.m.	Open arena
6 p.m.	Miniature Horse Show - All Levels

Tuesday, August 11

7:30 a.m.-12 p.m.	Horse check-in, Announcer's Stand
10 a.m.	Equestrians with Disabilities Judging
	Showmanship at Halter- All Levels
	English Pleasure – All Levels
	English Equitation – All Levels
	Western Pleasure – All Levels
	Western Horsemanship – All Levels
	Ranch Pleasure—All Levels
2 p.m.	Training Project (Step 1-6)
3 p.m.	Trail Class – All Levels - (approx. 3 p.m. – not before)
5 p.m.	Horseless Horse Skills (approx. 5 p.m. – NOT BEFORE)
6:30 p.m.	Horse Just For Fun Classes

Wednesday, August 12

8:45 a.m.-12 p.m.	Horse check-in, Announcer's Stand
10 a.m.	Pole Weaving
	Key Race
	Barrels
	Jumping Figure 8

Break - Lunch - One hour

7 p.m.	Horse Awards Presentation – Horse Arena
8 p.m.	Horse check-out; no early departure