



# Lincoln County Fair

August 24 - August 27, 2023



Published by the Tobacco Valley News



**Lincoln  
County  
Fair  
2023**

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An attendant waits in the shade at Kidsville.



A youngster leads her lamb through the livestock auction ring.

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Bouncy houses at Kidsville attract active youth.



A child pets a lamb in the sheep barn.



# Foundation supports fair

By Traci Street

Of the Tobacco Valley News

A group of local Eureka citizens have been volunteering their time as part of the Fair Foundation board. The organization tries to find ways to help pad the budget for the Lincoln County Fairgrounds and make it a place all who use it can be proud of.

The Fair Foundation is a non-profit entity that works to supplement extra projects for the fairgrounds that are not always funded through the county budget. Chair Craig Sands said that the foundation started in 2015. "We basically started to supplement extra projects for the fairgrounds that are not funded," he said. The group also serves as the fiscal agent for the Seeds of Hope community garden.

The group has sold T-shirts and bags in the past, with the intent to help with upkeep and improvements around the grounds. They are currently working to sell ad banners that will be hung in the fairgrounds. "The big push is to sell ad banners to dif-

ferent businesses," Sands said. The hope is that this will be a simpler way for the small group of volunteers to fundraise.

They will have a booth in the exhibit building this year to spread awareness about what they do and to provide information on purchasing the banners for fund-raising.

This year, some of the funds they have raised paid for the paint to brighten up the youth barns and bleachers. A local 4-H group volunteered their time to do the painting.

Tammy Lawler, also a board member, said the bleachers and barns that were repainted this year are looking good. She said the Foundation board took its inspiration from the Sanders County Fairgrounds, as they have amazing grounds and have a large foundation that helps raise money for improvements. "We're a small group, so it's hard to fund-raise," she said. The group of volunteers meet quarterly, and their next goal is to make improvements to the horse barn.

In the past, funding has been used to purchase security cameras, help insulate the youth barns, and plant flowers.



Contestants submit their rabbits for judging.

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Youngsters enjoy a sweet treat on the fairway.



Children try to catch the "golden chicken" during the chicken scramble for prize money at the Friday Night Games.

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4-H parents help wrangle their kids' animals to the weigh-in for the 2022 fair.



4-H members await judging.



Contestants compete in the three-legged race at the Friday night games.



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and stop by for a  
cold brew while  
you're in town!*

**238 US Hwy 93 - Unit #1 • Eureka**





A youngster wiles away the afternoon in a fair barn.

## Judge enjoys annual event

By Traci Street

Of the Tobacco Valley News

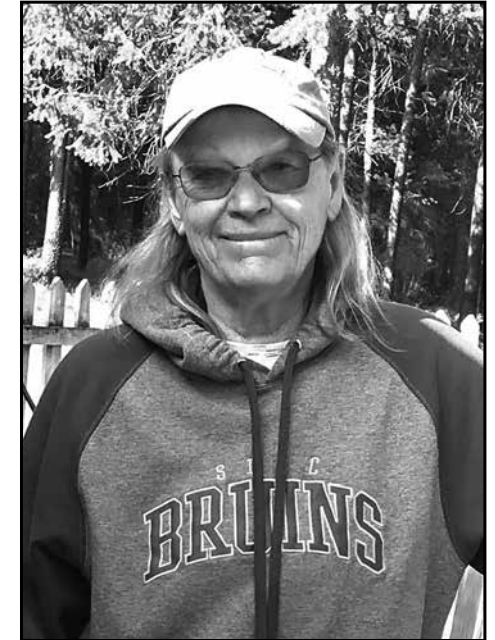
**K**aren Smith is the judge for the crafts section of the Fine Arts Division at the Lincoln County Fair. She has been doing arts and crafts for many years, and even taught elementary school art years ago. She has entered her own wares in various categories, such as quilting, as well as jams, jellies, and flowers.

After a number of years helping with the 4-H barn, she was recruited to be the judge for the crafts category about half a dozen years ago. The crafts category includes various mediums in a vast array of different styles. Types of entries vary from basketry to beadwork, macrame to stained glass, and other areas not usually covered by either the fine art painting or photography categories.

Fair secretary Pam Rackley “and I really expanded the categories, because there is such a variety. It’s kind of an interesting category,” Smith said. She explained there is always a catch all category at the end if you feel your entry might not fit in one of the categories listed.

A day in the life of a fair judge usually begins Friday morning of fair weekend, and for Smith, generally concludes around noon that day, depending on the number of entries. She expects to see more entries this year, due to the increase in population over the recent years. She says, however, there are always the core folks who put their entries in each year. “It’s fun to see people you only see once a year,” she said.

Smith says over the years she has developed an eye for which entries have had some



**KAREN SMITH**

time and effort put in. “I’ve done so many crafts myself, I know what’s been thrown together and what’s not,” she said.

Smith says to remind folks they can pick up their registration tags early at the fair office and fill them out before dropping off their entry, to save some time. She said to make sure and look through the fair book and examine the categories to mark the correct category for their entry.

There are a number of people’s choice awards for various categories in the division, usually sponsored by individuals or businesses, and consist of cash prizes.

Fair entries are accepted Thursday from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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Teens whoosh down a giant inflatable slide at Kidsville.



A 4-H member and pony enjoy a moment of relaxation in a stall.

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*Support the 4-H kids!*

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The bullfighter distracts a bull after its rider dismounted in the Bull Thing, the popular bull riding event held Saturday evening at the Lincoln County Fair.





A ticket taker counts out change for Kidsville.



Flower arrangements lend a colorful flair to a display at the 2022 fair.

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Fair-goers browse the baked goods display at the 2022 fair.





A bull rider prepares for his go at the Bull Thing.



*We'll catch up  
with you all at the  
Lincoln County Fair!*

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Welcome Everyone!

**2023 Lincoln County Fair**





Extension agent and former fair secretary Svea Jorgensen and a volunteer prepare a barn for judging.

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A bull bursts out of the chute at the Bull Thing.



# Teen 4-H member continues to explore new interests

By Rebecca Nelson

Of the Tobacco Valley News

At age 16, Killian Coleman is nearing the end of his 4-H career - but is still tackling a new passion with a foray into rodeo.

Coleman has been involved in 4-H since the age of 8, trying different activities and learning along the way.

Some of his earliest projects were working with rabbits, and in the non-animal category, welding. Other projects have been woodworking and beekeeping.

Of all the animal projects he's done, he's enjoyed working with lambs most. It's one of the most competitive and challenging projects you can do, he says. When showing a lamb to the judges, there are a lot of things to pay attention to, and a lot of skill involved.

While keeping eye contact with the judge, you lead the lamb by the neck in a circle around the ring, and generally end by moving to the center and setting up the lamb by making a square box with its feet "Basically, you make them look presentable to the judge, showcasing the lamb," Coleman says. A lot of work goes into the training and preparation for the event.

That work has paid off over the years for Coleman in the form of money and prizes, including several grand championship prizes in the categories of showmanship

and market. In 2018, his Grand Champion Market award earned him a belt buckle and ribbons. "Market is like a really big deal in 4-H," Coleman says. The judge looks at the structure of the animal, its fat and muscle content, and health. Many factors play into the 4-H student's success, including the initial choosing of the animal after it's born, to the care, feeding, and training given up until show day.

One of his biggest mentors has been his dad, Josh, who has years of sheep experience and has been especially helpful with the documentation requirements. Killian says that along with keeping books, another important skill that 4-H teaches is public speaking.

Through participating in Youth Rodeo, Killian has recently learned chute dogging, a precursor to cattle wrestling from a horse.

"Rodeo is just like more of an adrenaline rush," he says. "There's a lot more going on." While 4-H can be a solitary, quiet activity, rodeo is fast paced and has a lot of social interaction.

For future career ideas, Killian has considered being an airline pilot or a mechanic. Whatever he decides on, 4-H has opened some doors. "It's really helped me with building confidence and giving you that feel of competition on a different level," he says. It's taught him how to handle both hard work and competitive situations.



Killian Coleman, 16, has discovered a new passion for rodeo along with his many traditional 4-H projects.

  
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# Family finds fun in raising and training 4-H hogs

By Rebecca Nelson

Of the Tobacco Valley News

For the Hart family, pigs have become a big part of daily life on their property near Lick Lake.

The three Hart family children - Kaelyn, Douglas, and William - are all new to 4-H this year. Kaelyn and Douglas, who are going on 12 and 10 years old respectively, are official members, while William, soon to be 8, is practicing with his siblings until he can officially join next year.

Pigs Pinkie, Hotshot, and Bandit look content in their shaded pen. William demonstrates Pinkie's ability to sit for the reward of a marshmallow or an egg. Satisfied,

Pinkie stays firmly planted. "Sometimes she doesn't like to get up," William says.

The kids have been raising the pigs since April, when they got them from a breeder in Kalispell.

"It only took us two days to be able to pet them after we got them," says Douglas. Kaelyn adds, "Yeah, they were really nice and they were so cute when they were little."

Hotshot likes to run, which can be a challenge. "She's like a racecar," says Kaelyn. Douglas says that when they'd try to train her, she'd often sprint around the pen and spin a donut.

Another favorite activity for Hotshot is laying in the mud that spills from the trough.

It's not all goofing around, though. The Hart kids follow a routine of feeding, watering, and training the pigs each day.

"We have to fill their water every day," Douglas says. "And fill their feeder - we put a whole bag in and it should probably last two days." They also brush the pigs, especially after they get muddy. They wait until it cools down at night before working with a crop, teaching them how to take direction. Effective training of the pigs is a component of 4-H judging.

At one of their first 4-H meetings at the Historical Village in Eureka, Kaelyn and Douglas learned about caring for pigs, the shots they'd need, and how to train them. Kaelyn explains how using a crop to tap

the pig on its sides or head works to get it to turn it in either direction, move forward, or stop.

Although it's the first time they've taken care of pigs, the kids had chickens when they lived in Pennsylvania six years ago. Along with the pigs, the kids help care for a flock of around 40 chickens (many newly hatched), and a few horses.

Kaelyn describes a typical day doing a few of the things she enjoys: "I like to brush the horses. I like to be around the chicks a lot. And then I brush the pigs." This is followed up with time inside playing games.

"Then we come back out and do it all over," says Douglas.



The Hart siblings wrangle their 4-H hogs into a portrait.



The Hart siblings show off a trio of chicks.



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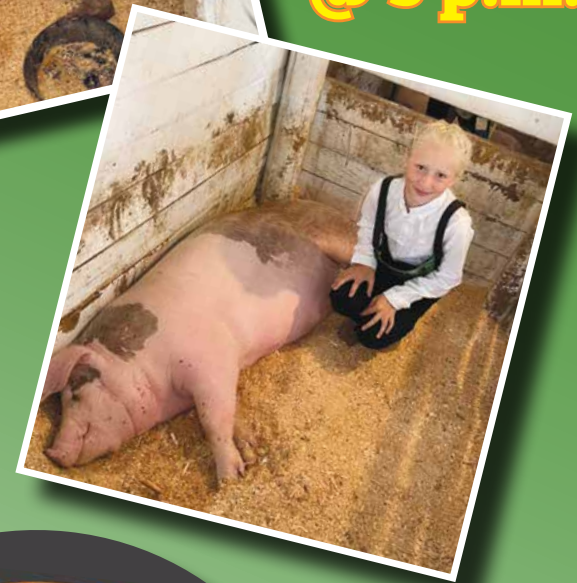




A ribbon-winning hog enters the ring at the 2022 4-H livestock auction.

# Support the 4-H Livestock Sale!

**Saturday  
August 26  
@ 3 p.m.**



## **HOURS**

**Mon-Thurs,  
Sat: 10 - 5:30**

**Fri: 10 - 6**

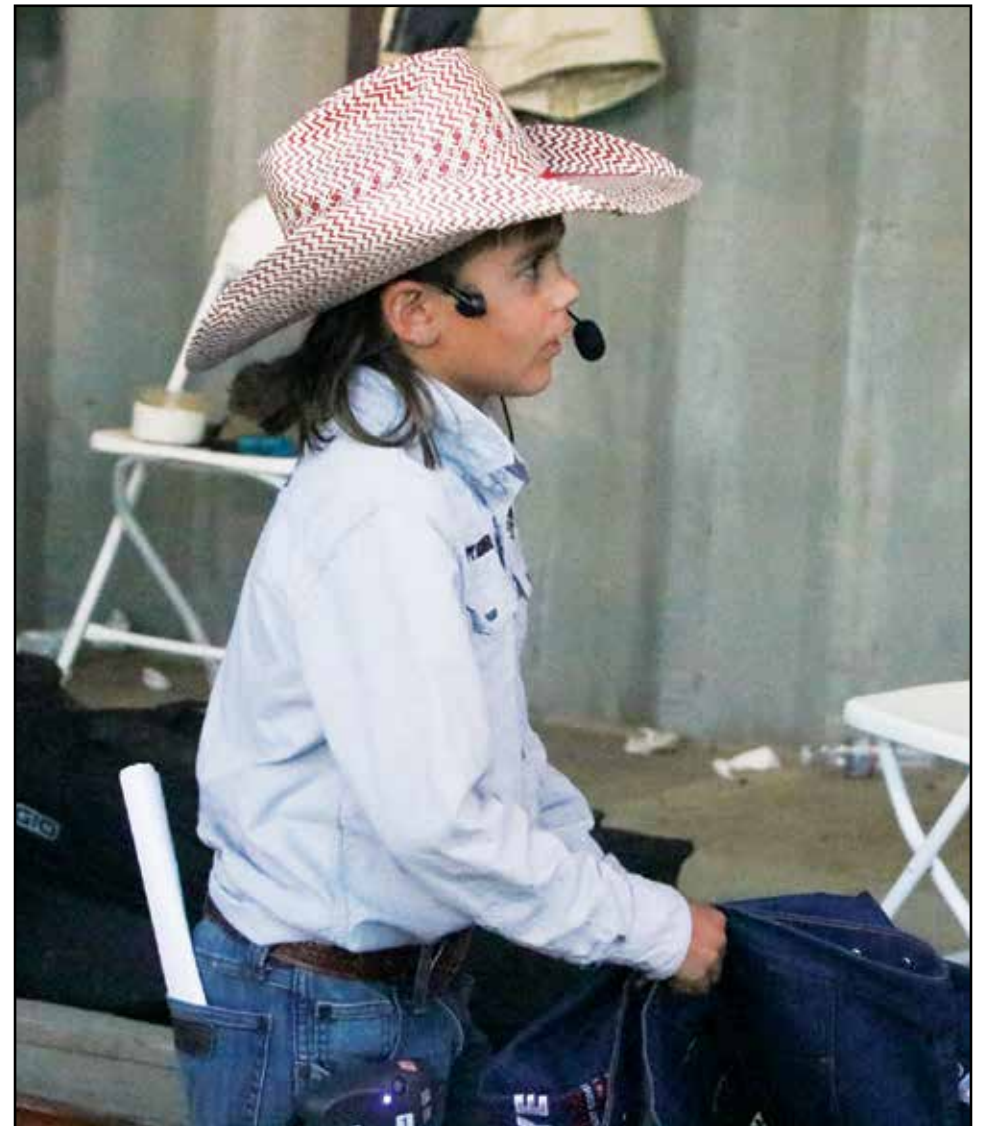
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A steer goes on the block in the 2022 livestock auction.



A young assistant pitches in at the 2022 Bull Thing.



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# 2023 Fair Schedule

## Wednesday, Aug. 23

Register and weigh in livestock .....2-7 p.m.  
 Barn meetings immediately after weigh-in.....7 p.m.

## Thursday, Aug. 24

Judging for swine, sheep, goats .....8 a.m.  
 Register 4-H poultry, rabbits, pocket pets, horses .....3 p.m.  
 Dog costume contest.....5:30 p.m.  
 Dog scent demo and rally demo, followed by dog show.....6 p.m.  
 Free concert with Holly VanBemmel.....6:30-8 p.m.  
 Registration for all exhibits A-H and youth .....Noon-7 p.m.

## Friday, Aug. 25

General exhibit barn hours .....10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
 Kidsville .....10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
 Community Gardens open.....Noon-3 p.m.  
 Food Court free stage with Holly VanBemmel .....As scheduled

### Judging

Divisions A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H .....8 a.m.  
 Steers .....8 a.m.  
 Pocket pets.....10 a.m.  
 Rabbits .....11 a.m.  
 Poultry .....12 p.m.  
 4-H horse show.....1 p.m.  
 Round Robin instruction .....5 p.m.  
 Friday Night at the Games, Arena.....7 p.m.  
 Family dance at fish pond pavilion .....After games

## Saturday, Aug. 26

Exhibit barns .....10-7 p.m.  
 Round Robin, all-around showmanship .....8 a.m.  
 Kidsville .....9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Open class horse show .....10 a.m.  
 Community Gardens open.....Noon-3 p.m.  
 17th annual Karaoke Challenge.....Noon-3 p.m.  
 4-H Youth Livestock Auction .....3 p.m.  
 The Bull Thing.....7 p.m.

## Sunday, Aug. 27

General exhibit barn hours .....10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 Animal barns closing .....12 p.m.  
 Food Court stage .....until 3 p.m.  
 Community Gardens open.....Noon-3 p.m.  
 Kidsville .....Noon-3 p.m.  
 Closing ceremonies .....3 p.m.  
 General removal of livestock and exhibits .....3-5 p.m.





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*from the Lincoln County Fair*