



The O'Brien County Fair

**Welcome to the
O'Brien County Fair**

**Friday July 18 -
Thursday July 24**

Our O'Brien County Fair Board Members Deserve a Huge Thank You



O'Brien County Fair Board Members

Front row, L to R: Bethany Burdt; Kim Rons, Treasurer; Jan Gaudian, Secretary; Sandy Sauer.
Middle row, L to R: Doug Koehlmoos, Dudley McDowell, Mark Dodge, Colton Gable, Bomber Fuller, Kevin Mars, Vice President; Justin Steinkamp.
Back row L to R: Brent McDowell, Dave Stoll, John Westra, Darwin Gaudian, Jeremy Sauer, Jason Noteboom, Mike Meyer, Gordon Wittrock. Not pictured: Michael Wagner, Brian Fritz

Let's give a big salute to the many volunteers who give many hours of service to the O'Brien County

A few unsung heroes are club leaders from Clover Kids to FFA, O'Brien County Extension staff, and show superintendents.

From Extension: Michelle Wagner, County Youth Coordinator, Marsha Rehder, Office Assistant, Morgan Busack, K-12 Program Coordinator and Helen Parks, Marketing Coordinator.

4H and FFA Leaders are:

- Caledonia Ramblers - Mike Meyer, Colten Meyer
- Center Farmers - Emily McDowell
- G & W Feeders - Amy Fuller, Sara Dodge
- Highlanders - Danielle Kruse, Sherri Wittrock


- O & O Kids - Jill Vander Veen, Leslee Funke
- Alexa Wittrock
- Western Workers - Ryan Freese, Jackie Freese
- Sheldon FFA - Jacob Fox
- South O'Brien FFA - Eric Kumm
- HMS FFA - Olivia Grooters

Remember their spouses. They too do a lot!


Beef Superintendents

- Colton Gable, Keith Jacobs, Jill & Roger Vander Veen, Alicia Poduska.
- Market Beef Superintendents
- Darwin Gaudian, Brian Fritz and John Westra
- Bottle/Bucket Calves Superintendents

- Todd Fuller
- Brian Fritz
- Dairy Superintendent
- John Westra
- Goat and Sheep Superintendents
- Mark Dodge, Chris Proehl, Dudley McDowell
- Poultry Superintendent
- Kari and Mark Lange
- Terry & Krystal Wittrock
- Gordon and Ruth Wittrock
- Rabbit Superintendent
- John Erickson
- O'Brien County 4H Foundation Board Members
- Mark Cody, Brent McDowell, Kathy Luedke, Emily McDowell, Kris Keene and Doug Stout.



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2024 O'Brien County Fair Royalty



Front row (L-R): Ashlynn Gunnerson of Sutherland, Kierstyn Sandy of Hartley, Danielle Tesch of Granville, and Mikayla Meyer of Hospers. Back row (L-R): Damian Dodge of Hartley, Gabe Moermond of Sutherland, Austin Negus of Paullina, MaKenna Wallin of Paullina, and Reese Farquhar of Sutherland. (Not pictured: Chris Freese of Sheldon, who participated via Zoom due to a prior commitment.) The 2025 King and Queen will be crowned on Monday, July 21, by the 2024 King Caden Wittrock and Queen Makenna Hofmeyer.

Welcome To The O'Brien County Fair


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Welcome to the O'Brien County Fair



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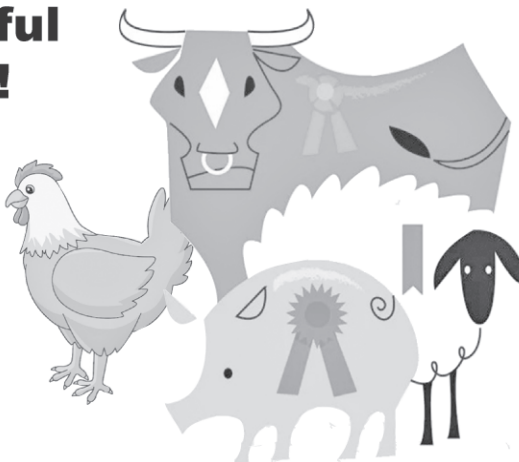
Have a wonderful time at the fair!

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Live Entertainment at the O'Brien County Fair

Figure 8 Races
Saturday July 19
Wednesday July 23
7:00pm

Sunday July 20
Church Services 10:00am
The Browns 7:00pm
Wayne Maas Memorial Stage

Monday, July 21 - Wednesday July 23
Petting Zoo
10:00am

Strolling Act
11:30am and 4:30pm daily

Brent Allan Entertainment
2:00pm daily
Wayne Maas Memorial Stage

Face Painting
4:00 - 7:00pm (Monday and Tuesday only)

Monday, July 21 6:00pm
Bill Riley Talent Search Show
Value Added Ag Award
O'Brien County Fair 2025 Royalty Coronation

Tuesday, July 22
5:00pm Pedal Tractor Pull Registration

7:00pm Honey Creek Rodeo

Wednesday, July 23
5:00-7:00pm Watermelon Feed Sponsored by
O'Brien County Farm Bureau
6:00pm ATV races



Ema Stofferan, Bailey Van Engen, Natalee Miller and Samantha Vande Brake, pictured from left, were among those showing poultry in 2024.



Caitlyn Freese, right, joins Karlee Sturges and Olivia Lopez Jauregui in the Feeder Lamb show ring in 2024.



The dirt bikes took their turn at the ATV Races in 2024.

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Involved as Life Evolved

Dave Stoll grew up on a farm south east of Primghar, but he was not involved in 4H activities growing up. It was his wife, Teresa who wanted their children to be part of 4H. And as parenting goes, Dave became involved as well.

He began helping with horses. When his youngest daughter got involved with horses at the fair, T.J. Leonard, a long time horse enthusiast and superintendent, asked for Dave's help. The he was asked to become a superintendent for the horses at the O'Brien County Fair.

After a couple of years as the horse superintendent he was asked to become part of the O'Brien County Fair Board representing Highland Township. Exactly when that was is not clear. He continued to serve as the horse superintendent and does so today. He continues also on the Fair Board

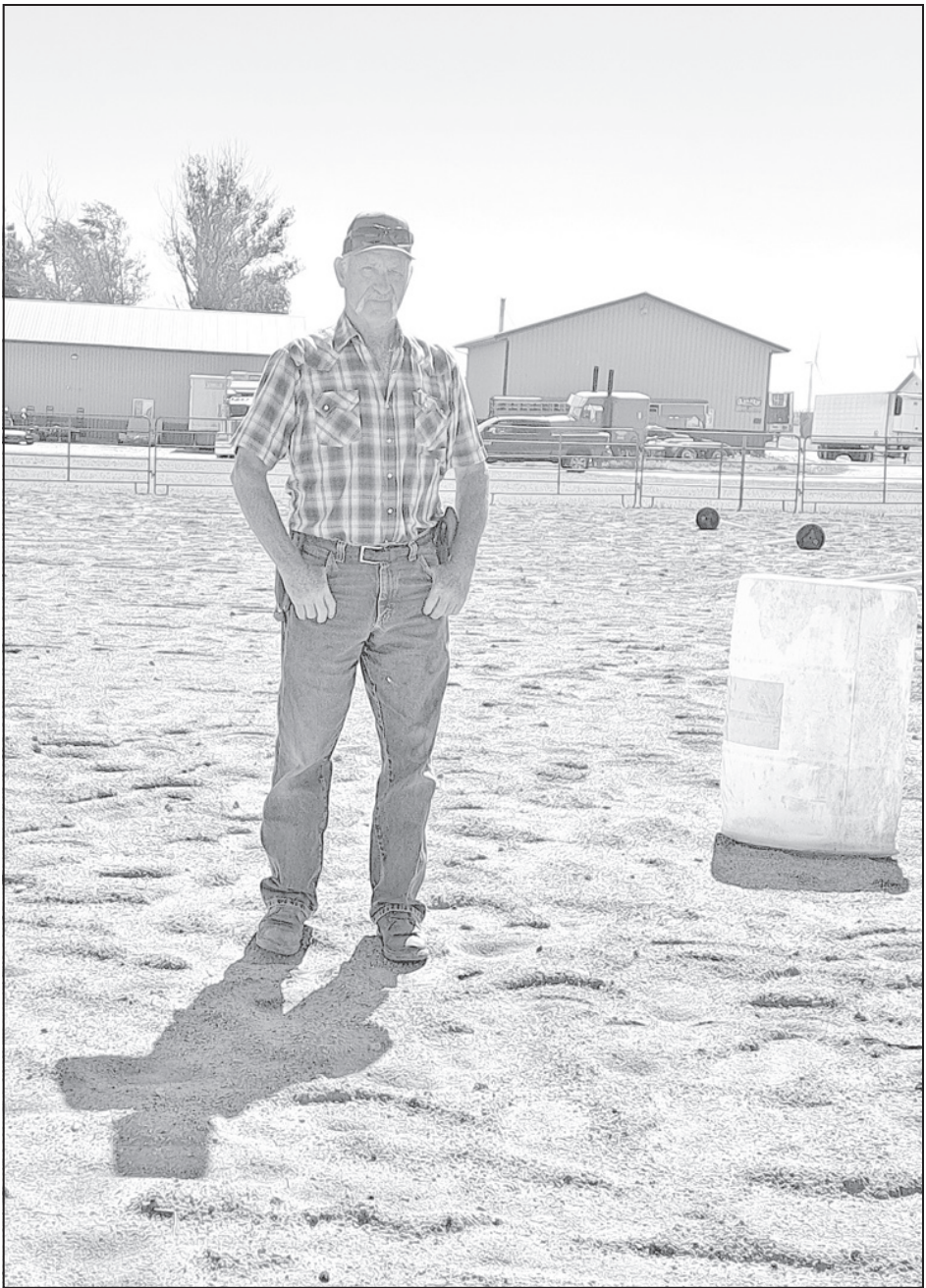
as an At-Large representative. He moved positions when he and his wife, Teresa, moved "two counties away."

Dave's involvement began with his children. It has extended now, to his grandchildren. His daughter, Aubrey from Osceola County, daughter Annie, from Cherokee County and son Adam all bring their kids to participate in the O'Brien County Fair. Each of the kids have different interests. Each participates in different things that the fair has to offer. The Stoll family members enter a variety of livestock events; horses, bottle/bucket and sheep. And poultry. For some of his grandkids, the poultry is a favorite. He adds, "There are a lot of non-livestock entries (from his grandkids), too." Teresa serves as the flower superintendent. Of course the grandkids enter flower competitions. They also do photography

and Dave really enjoys helping the older kids with "bucket of junk." They design what they want and, for now, he does the welding.


Besides leading the various horse competitions and helping his grandkids, he does what the fair board needs done. He helps with cleanup before the fair. He is available during the fair. "It's been good. I get to help kids until it's time to get off," Stoll said. "There are a lot of younger adults who would be good," he added. "It's for the enjoyment of the kids. You see it in their eyes and that's what holds you there. It's not so much about the winning. They're learning stuff. That's way more important."


As the superintendent of horses he encourages the kids to sign up for as many events as they think they'll do. They can always scratch. He encourages trying.




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Upcoming Auction Calendar

WEDNESDAY, AUG 13
10:30 AM
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WEDNESDAY, SEPT 17
12:00 PM
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FRIDAY, AUG 29
10:30 AM
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WEDNESDAY, SEPT 3
10:30 AM
62.24 SURVEYED ACRES IN
CARROLL TWP, O'BRIEN CO
Norma Van Gorp

THURSDAY, SEPT 25
10:30 AM
318 +/- ACRES IN TILDEN
TWP, CHEROKEE CO
Mary K Williams Trust

TUESDAY, OCT 14
10:30 AM
148 +/- ACRES IN BAKER TWP,
O'BRIEN CO
Corrine Hohbach Trust



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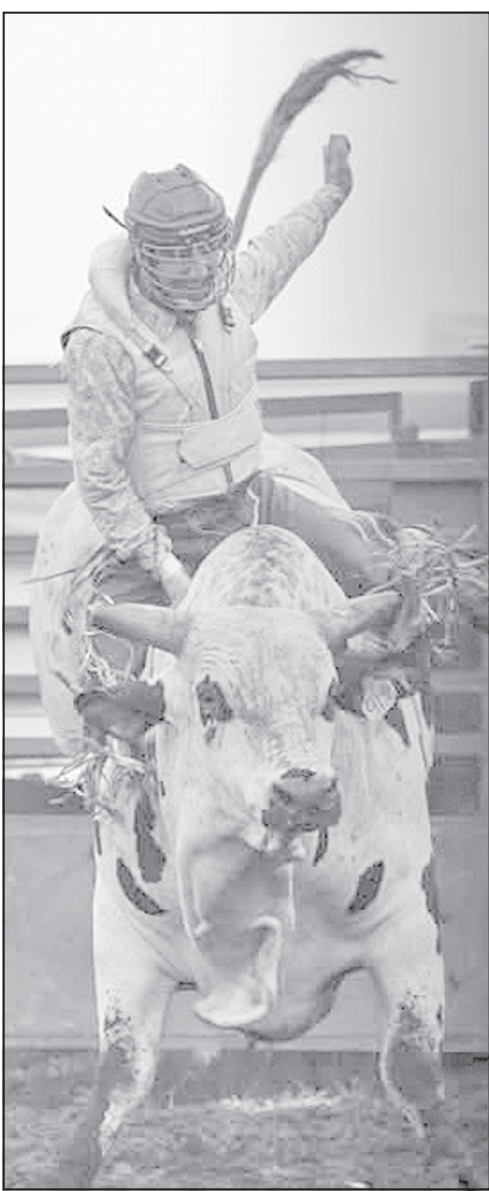


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Honey Creek Rodeo Debuts in O'Brien County



Honey Creek Rodeo officially formed in 2020. It is a not for profit organization with a Board of Directors. The organization is member owned. Its membership comes from all over Iowa and also enjoys members from Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Illinois. Its current base of operations is in Glidden, Iowa.

The mission of Honey Creek Rodeo is to teach rodeo. They start with children. Their method is to match livestock size to the size and skill of the rider. Bucking bulls and ponies of miniature size are used for children. The animals used grow as the kids grow. This gives the kids the opportunity to learn tricks and secrets of rodeoing more slowly and with more safety. Matching size and skill creates a more controlled environment.

A typical rodeo sea-

son runs from March through August with an effort to avoid conflicting with other programs. That can't always be done Rose Genter, manger, said of their effort, but they do watch schools and other organized events.

A clinic is held at the beginning of each season in Iowa. The clinics teach roping, bull riding, handling the animals and the basics to newcomers. The clinics provide very close learning opportunities. "It is an opportunity to shape (the kids), doing drills and exercises that they can do at home. They begin getting on a bull. They can practice at home and then come to a rodeo event for more learning and practice.

More importantly than knowing rodeo, Honey Creek Rodeo works to teach youth personal

growth. "We are here to try to teach . More importantly being good human beings. We teach taking care of the animals, each other, the grounds were we rodeo, the camaraderie," said Rose. "There are more low points (in rodeo) than high points. There are more falls than covering a ride. We help with improvement and coping. How to grow up to be a productive, positive human," she went on to explain.

Honey Creek Rodeo can be found frequently at County Fairs around Iowa and sometimes in the neighboring states. They are sometimes hired by Saddle Clubs.

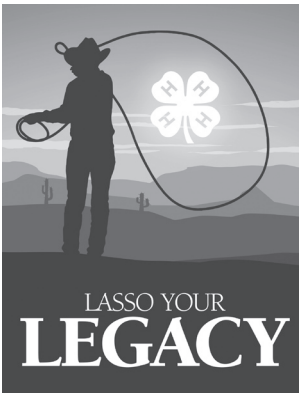
They do far more events that a traditional rodeo. They have a wider range of (age) divisions in each of the events from Tiny Tots (under 6 years old) to adult Open Class with 4 to 5

entrants in each division and event.

Before a main rodeo event they hold a slack event. Those are the participants that don't fit traditionally into a division or event, but they come to learn. And this is where and when they can.

Honey Creek Rodeo utilized skilled judges and staffing for their rodeos. It is an added expense. And an added advantage.

More information about Honey Creek Rodeo can be found on their Facebook page.



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A Lifetime of Learning and Service to Agriculture



Darwin Gaudian, O'Brien County Fair Board President, Iowa State Fair Board President.

Darwin Gaudian, Primghar, serves the greater O'Brien County Community in many ways. He is a successful farmer and leader in the ag industry. Primghar 4H was part of his youth until he was a high school senior. Near the time of his high school graduation from what was Primghar High School, the resignation of one 4H leader created an opportunity for Darwin to take a new role in Primghar 4H, as a club leader. He served in that capacity until about 2015.

Before the creation of South O'Brien Community School District, joining the districts of Paullina and Sutherland (which also included the former districts of Gaza and Calumet) there was no FFA (Future Farmers of America). That was an organization brought to the new district by Paulina. And what a success it has been.

While being a 4H leader, Gaudian also served as an O'Brien County Fair Board member for a bout a decade. His Fair Board tenure began in about 1985. He was then elected as the board President. He has served in that capacity for about 30 years.

In 2015 Gaudian was appointed to the Iowa State Fair, a premier event in the nation. He was elected to the presidency in 2023 for a two year term and was just reelected in December to another two year term.

Many changes are visible at the O'Brien County Fair grounds through that time. Back in 1985 there were just a five livestock barn, 2 Quonset buildings and the show ring. At the time Darwin stepped into the leadership role, it had been about 30 years since anything significant improvements had been made to the facilities.

The administration building was the first project. He approached the O'Brien County

Supervisors for some additional funding to pull of a building project. He was successful and over two years, the Administration building was constructed with the offices and restrooms added the second year of the project, 1988.

Following the farm crisis of the 80s livestock entries at the O'Brien County Fair began to grow measurably. In fact, the need to house hogs became greater that the space available. So the board set to work to get a new building constructed. What is today used as the Poultry Barn was born from a need to house swine. To some extent, that change was reflected in the change in agriculture practices. But raising and showing pigs was something for the kids to do. And it has been successful.

Today the buildings are always full. Although the livestock numbers change the buildings are constructed as multi-purpose and can be used to meet the current needs. Over the years smaller buildings have been constructed for a certain purpose and then repurposed to fit the need.

The shining star is the Open Class building. The large center piece building is the pride and joy of the Fairgrounds. It has bathrooms, air conditioning, a stage and bleachers. The Wayne Maas Memorial Stage and bleachers with accommodating sound system is the most recent improvement. It is used throughout the year to outside events. The Open Class building has become a true resource.

Camping spots in the most recent 20 years have been added. There are currently 20 spots with power and water plus the spots the City has on site. Campers are a big thing and the addition of the camping spots reflects the O'Brien County Fair Board's responsiveness to current needs

and its flexibility to meet those needs.

Something Darwin revealed about the Fairgrounds during his youth is an improvement we take for granted today. The grounds were mowed just one time, right before the Fair 40 or 50 years ago. The grounds were sand and stubble. Over time his family and the Wagner family began mowing. The space is now respectable looking, even inviting. Investing the time and hard work into the grounds has become a Fair board activity.

There are no planned projects in the near future for the Fairgrounds. But there are conversations as they look into the future of the ag industry in O'Brien County.

One tradition of the O'Brien Count Fair that seems untouchable is that the events are free to the public. A new feature this year is the Honey Creek Rodeo. This rodeo will take place at the Horse Arena at the north end of the Fairgrounds and is free to the public. The cost of the rodeo is offset by the sale of signs around the Fairgrounds. They are \$500 to include the making of the sign and \$500 each year after.

The two Figure 8 Races on Saturday and Wednesday is a private event sponsored by the Primghar Jaycees and does have an admission fee, but the Fair Board was so pleased with the response to the 100 anniversary fireworks following the Wednesday race, that they are doing it again. You do not have to go to the races to enjoy the fireworks Wednesday following the races.

"I've enjoyed it. It's a lot with State Fair Board," said Gaudian as he noted that younger people who grew up here and moved away are returning. He mentioned they are good candidates to become more involved with the O'Brien County Fair.

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O'Brien County Fair's Second Annual Cinnamon Roll Contest

Cash prizes awarded for the top three bakers in two classes

The wait is over and sweet scents and flavors will once again grace the O'Brien County Fair. After the overwhelming success of the cinnamon roll contest to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the O'Brien County Fair, it is time for bakers to measure their ingredients and pre-heat their ovens.

Sponsored by the O'Brien County Farm Bureau, the traditional cinnamon roll contest will be held on Wednesday, July 23, 2025. Contestants of all ages will be able to register and submit their wares from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the open class building.

Commencing at 1:00 p.m., on-site judging will be conducted by two well qualified judges who will select first, second, and third place winners in two classes.

Class 1: Cinnamon Rolls: Sticky, caramel, with or without nuts.

Class 2: Cinnamon Rolls: Frosted on top only.

Monetary prizes and ribbons will be awarded to the top three entries in each class: first place and blue ribbon will be given \$100; second place and a red ribbon

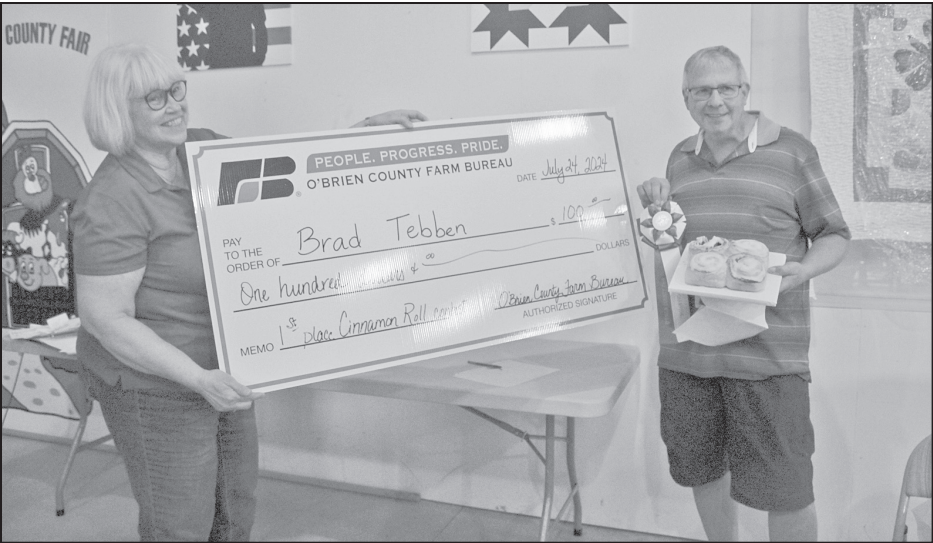


will receive \$50; and \$25 will go with a white ribbon for third place.

There is no fee for entering and a baker may compete in both classes. Contestants may be either residents or non-residents of O'Brien County. Criteria for judging will be based fifty percent on flavor; twenty percent on texture; twenty percent on appearance; and ten percent on aroma. Professional bakers are prohibited from competing. The entry must be prepared by the person exhibiting. Copies of the rules may be picked up at the O'Brien County Farm

Bureau office or Iowa State Extension office in Primghar. For more information on the contest, contact Karen Appleton <apleton@mtcnet.net> or (712) 348-1493.

As they wait with anticipation, contestants and their supporters will be able to enjoy other scheduled events of the O'Brien County Fair, such as the Educational Presentations & Working Exhibits; the Brent Allan Entertainment, and the Livestock Judging Contest. Results of the cinnamon roll contest will be announced as soon as the judges complete their evaluations.



Brad Tebben won the 2024 Traditional Cinnamon Roll Contest.

Lasso Your Legacy

2025 O'Brien County Fair Schedule

FRIDAY, JULY 18

Fairgrounds Closed to Public

9:00 AM – 4-H Non-Livestock Judging
– Open Class Building on Fairgrounds

SATURDAY, JULY 19

7:30am– Open class Crafts& Flowers can begin check in

10:00 am-12:00pm – Swine weigh-in
10:030am - Open class Craft & Flower exhibits must be checked in

11:00 am - Open Class Craft & Flower judging

1:00 pm—Sheep & Goats must be in place

1:30-2:30 pm –Sheep weigh-in, Goat weigh-in to follow

7:00 pm – Auto races sponsored by Primghar Jaycees

SUNDAY, JULY 20

10:00 am—Sunday Church Service at Stage

12:30 pm—Horse Projects must be checked in.

1:00 pm – Horse Show

4:00-7:00pm- Market Beef Weigh In, then Pen of Three Beef

4:00-6:00 pm—Rabbit Check-in

4:00-6:00 pm—Poultry check-in

4:30pm or immediately following Horse Show —Dog

Show –Admin Building

7:00-9:00 pm—Lamb Wash

7:00 pm –The Browns

MONDAY, JULY 21

8:00am- Goat Show

*Advanced lamb Pen Evaluation (following Goat Show)

*Sheep Show (Immediately following Pen Lambs)

*Bottle Lamb Show (following sheep show)

*Clover Kids Bottle Bucket Lamb/ Goat

8:00-11:00 am—Open Class Vegetables entries must be checked in

8:00-10:00 am—Dairy Wash Only

8:00am—Breeding Heifers, Cow-Calves, Feeder Calves & Bottle/Bucket calves must be in place.

10:00am—Commercial Building Open

10:00 am—Petting Zoo Open

10:00 am –Dairy must be in place

10:00 am—Beef washing open

11:00 am –Judging Open Class Vegetables

11:00 am – Rabbit Show

11:30am– Strolling Act

12:30pm—Clover Kids Poultry Show

1:00pm – Broiler Contest Judging, then Live Poultry Judging

2:00pm– Stage Show Brent Allan Entertainment

3:00 pm—Dairy Show

4:00pm (approx.)— Advanced Feeder Cattle Pen of Three

Or Immediately following Dairy show)

4:00-7:00pm– Face Painting

4:30pm– Strolling Act

6:00 pm— Bill Riley Talent Search Show

7:50 pm—Value Added Ag Award

8:00 pm—4-H Fair Queen & King Coronation

TUESDAY, JULY 22

7:00 am-10:00 am—O'Brien County 4-H Foundation Pancake

Breakfast

7:00am– Feeder Calves must be checked in

8:00 am—Beef Show

10:00 am—Spelling Bee-Stage

10:00am—Commercial Building Open

10:00 am—Petting Zoo Open

11:30am– Strolling Act

2:00pm– Stage Show– Brent Allan Entertainment

3:00 pm—Clover Kid Bottle Bucket Calf Show followed by

4-H Bottle Bucket Calf Show

4:00-7:00pm- Face Painting

4:30pm– Strolling Act

5:00 pm—Registration for Pedal Tractor Pull

5:30 pm—Pedal Tractor Pull

7:00pm– Honey Creek Rodeo

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

8:00 am—Swine Show

9:00 am—Clover Kids Pet Show-Stage

9:00 am—Rooster Crowing Contest in Poultry Barn

10:00am—Commercial Building Open

10:00 am—Petting Zoo Open

11:00 am-12:30pm– Traditional Cinnamon Roll registration

11:30am– Strolling Act

12:00-1:30pm– Overall Showmanship

1:00 pm—Begin Judging Ed Pres/ Working Exhibits

1:00pm—Traditional Role Cinnamon Contest Judging

2:00pm– Stage Show– Brent Allan Entertainment

2:30 pm—Livestock Judging Registration

3:00 pm—Livestock Judging Contest

4:30 pm— Strolling Act

5:00 pm—Share The Fun Entertainment, 4-H Style Show, Citizenship club project awards and 4-H Hall of Fame award

5:00-7:00 pm—Farm Bureau Watermelon Feed

6:00 pm—ATV Races

7:30 pm—Auto Races sponsored by Primghar Jaycees, the Fireworks to follow races.

8:00 pm—All 4-H Livestock may be released

Thursday, July 24

8:30 am—Awards/Announcements and Livestock & Ribbon

Sale

8:00 am -12:00pm—4-H Non-livestock exhibits may be released.

4-H and FFA Members & Families are expected and assigned places to help with clean-up.

Free lunch will be provided after clean-up.



The American Legion Posts of O'Brien County conducted a Flag Disposal Ceremony in 2024.

Flag Disposal Ceremony

The American Legion Posts of O'Brien County are conducting a flag disposal ceremony at the O'Brien County Fair on Monday, July 21 at 5:00 PM. Anyone with a flag to be disposed of can deliver it to the American Legion post in their town or bring it to the horse arena at the fair at 5:00 PM.

Welcome To The FAIR!

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Some Special Features for 101st Open Class Fair Crafts

The Open Class crafts can check in beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 19th, Anyone from O'Brien County is encouraged to exhibit and the entry fee is only \$1 per exhibitor!

Photography skills are an annual contest at the O'Brien County Fair. The special class for photography this year is "Barns", with that picture needing to be at least 5 x 7 in size. One side must be at least 6 ? inches and no side can exceed 14 inches. Each photo must be matted or mounted on foam board. Mat size requirement is that one side of the mat must be at least 7 inches and no side can exceed 14 inches. Several photography classes are available. No more than 1 entry per class per person. Enjoy touring O'Brien County to get the perfect photo of an interesting barn.

Flower exhibits will be judged Saturday July 19 also. Entries must to be in place by 10:30 a.m. If you like to do flower arrangements, "Summer Fun" is the theme, with a specific focus on "Batter's Up", the "Fourth of July" or "Back to School" to name a few.

The vegetables will be entered and judged on Monday, like they have been in the past.

Check in for those exhibits begins at 8 a.m.

Christmas all year! If you have a favorite Christmas treat, you may want to enter "anything Christmas" to the open class baking category. There is also a "Kids Class" for children under 3rd grade for the "Think Christmas" class. Those will also be entered on Saturday, July 19th, by 10:30 a.m.

The O'Brien County Fair Open Class Crafts offers many contests and offers to show a personal skill or favorite activity. Go online to "obrien-countyfairiowa.com" to learn more.

Horticulture Change

Special note to all of the talented crafters and flower gardeners and artists in the area. The O'Brien County Fair has made a change to the check in and judging of crafts and flowers. Those items can be brought for judging to the open class building on Saturday morning from 7:30 - 10:30am. Judging will be held at 11:00 am for those items.

Vegetables have been separated from flowers this year. Open class vegetables check-in is Monday July 21 from 8:00am until 11:00am with judging at 11:00am.

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