



Alfalfa County Cooperative Extension News

Strengthening Oklahoma Families



Gearing Up for Fall Home Energy Management

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OHCE:

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Oklahoma residents know they'll be running the air conditioner and fans in their homes for several more weeks, but that doesn't mean fall energy management preparations should be put off.

Nearly half of the energy used in your home goes to heating and cooling, said Gina Peek, Oklahoma State University Extension housing and consumer specialist and interim associate dean.

"Making smart decisions regarding your home's heating and cooling system can have a big impact on utility bills. A few simple steps around the home can pay big dividends when the weather cools down," Peek said. "Think back to the deep freeze Oklahoma experienced in February this year and remember how your utility bills reflected the increased energy usage."

The easiest and least expensive way to increase system efficiency is to change the air filter regularly. Check it once per month and change it, at minimum, three times per year.

"A dirty filter slows down air flow and makes the system

work harder to keep you warm or cool," said Scott Frazier, OSU Extension energy management specialist and associate professor in the department of biosystems and agricultural engineering.

"A clean filter also will prevent dust and dirt from building up in the system, which could lead to a costly repair or an early system failure."

Just like people go to the doctor and get a yearly checkup or schedule their vehicle for a tune-up, it's important to do the same for your HVAC system. In the fall, check all gas or oil connections, gas pressure, burner combustion and heat exchanger. Improper connections can be a fire hazard and can contribute to health problems.

Frazier said a smart thermostat is a great investment for homeowners to help lower utility bills.

"A smart thermostat lets you control the home's heating and cooling temperature settings from a smart device such as a cell phone, tablet or computer," he said. "These thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled, which allows access to its

temperature and other features through an app downloaded on your smart device."

Another option is a programmable thermostat that allows homeowners to set the temperature for different times of the day. For example, the heat can be set to automatically turn down to a specified temperature when everyone goes to bed and automatically turn up in the morning.

Another area to check on is the ductwork in the home. The ducts that move the air often can be big energy wasters. Sealing and insulating ducts can significantly improve the efficiency of your air system. Start with the ductwork that runs through unheated/uncooled parts of the home such as the attic, crawl spaces and garage, then move to heated/cooled spaces in the home.

If your heat and air system is older, or simply isn't heating and cooling effectively, have it evaluated by a professional, Peek said.

OHCE News & Notes



Alfalfa County Free Fair

September 7-11, 2021

Schedule is on the next page

OHCE Fall Association Meeting

A tentative date for the OHCE Fall Association meeting is October 5th. We will meet in the new Extension building. TBA, stay tuned for more details!

It's Time to Elect Local Officers for the Year 2022

Please provide the Extension office your list of local officers by October 1, 2021.



Creative Cooking Workshop



The Creative Cooking Workshop is on Saturday, August 14 at the Major County Fairgrounds in Fairview. We will be making foil pack meals, sheet pan dinners, and dump cake. It will begin at 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The fee is \$15 per person. Please RSVP and pay fees by August 6th. If you would like to attend please call our office at 580-596-3131.



OHCE Enrollment



Membership dues need to be collected by local treasurer and sent to the county treasurer during the month of October.

Dues for the 2021 year

County 4.50

State 12.50

\$17.00

Local groups will need to complete a NEW enrollment form for each member to provide a list of the 2021 year to the Extension Office and a copy to the county treasurer Theresa Hutchison Copies can be made at the Extension Office. If you have further questions please call the Extension Office at 580-596-3131.

Alfalfa County Fall Fair

SEPTEMBER 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 2021

Tuesday, September 7th

8:00am-7:00pm Set-Up Commercial Booth
8:00am-7:00pm Set-Up OHCE Booth Backgrounds
8:00am-7:00pm Compile Department Books
& Awards
2:30pm Superintendents & Assistants Mtg

Wednesday, September 8th

7:30am Enter 4-H, OHCE, Open Class,
Biggest Garden Products, Decorated
Hat, and Painted Rock
8:00am Livestock in place
9:00am Weigh-in swine, sheep, steers,
and goats Check Heifer Papers
Pre-Enter Horse Show
Check-in Poultry, Fowl & Rabbits
9:00-10:00am Sign up for Showmanship-
Indoor Arena
10:00am Close OHCE Entries
10:00am Check-in Bucket Calves
10:00am Close Livestock Entries
10:30am Judge OHCE Entries
12:00pm Close 4-H, Open Class and
Decorated Hat and Painted
Rock Entries
1:00pm Judge Open Class Exhibits
Judge Crops Exhibits
Judge Horticulture Exhibits Judge
Biggest Garden Product Judge 4-
H Exhibits
Judge Best of Show
Judge Decorated Hat Contest

3:00pm Judge OHCE Booths
4:00pm Bucket Calf Show,
Heifer and Steer Show

Thursday, September 9th

9:00am Swine Show
11:00 am Sheep Show
12:00pm Super Soup Contest Entries
12:15pm Super Soup Contest Judging
1:15pm Death by Chocolate Contest
Entries
1:30pm Death by Chocolate Contest
Judging
2:00pm Goat Show
4:00pm Apple Peeling Contest Entries
4:15pm Apple Peeling Contest
Judging
5:00pm Pedal Tractor Pulling Contest
5:30pm Homemade Ice Cream Contest
Entries
6:00pm Homemade Ice Cream Judging

**Immediately following Judging Ice
Cream on Sale (\$1.00 per cup)**

Friday, September 10th

8:00am 4-H & FFA Livestock Judging
Contest
10:00am-12:00pm Open Class & OHCE
Evaluation
12:00pm Release of all Exhibits &
Commercial Booths

Saturday, September 11th

9:00am Horse Show (Must Pre-Enter)

Alfalfa County Fall Fair

September 8-11 Setup date Sept. 7 2021

Fair Watchers: Please provide two fair watchers per shift.

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. DTK

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Farmerettes

Thursday, September 9, 2021

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. DTK

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. WheatHearts

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Jet Industrious

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Farmerettes

Friday, September 10, 2021

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Jet Industrious

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. WheatHearts

thank you!

We are also in need of **Exhibit Superintendents for the OHCE Booths**. They will need to help with entries and books at 8:45 a.m. and assist the judges during judging. Each group is asked to provide workers. Helpers need to be there at **8:45 a.m.** September 8, 2021 to check entries and judging will begin at 10:30 a.m. Please return your postcard to sign up to work to the Extension Office.

Groups have been assigned as follows:

- ♦ **Clothing**
 - one – Jet Industrious
 - one – Domes-Ti-Kates
- ♦ **Food**
 - one – WheatHearts
 - one - Farmerettes
- ♦ **Home Improvement**
 - one – Jet Industrious
 - one - Farmerettes

OHCE Educational Booths 2021

Will be decided by each group! Thank you for letting the Extension Office know in advance.

Please call the Extension Office with your Topic.



ATTENTION: Requested from all OHCE Groups

Each OHCE group is asked to furnish at least **4 freezers of homemade ice cream** for the Homemade Ice Cream Contest. Ice Cream entries need to be in place by 5:30 p.m. Judging will begin at 6:00 p.m. Ice Cream will go on sale following the judging.

Contests at County Fair 2021

Table Setting Contest

Restaurant gift certificate awarded to the winners.

Divisions:

Adults	Over 18
Young Adults:	Ages 14-18
Youth:	Ages 9-13
Children:	Ages 4 thru 8

Judging based on: Eye appeal, Theme continuity, Functionality, Proportion to table size. Good balance among decorations.

Entry Requirements:

- Create a table setting for (2) using a theme of your choice. Use your imagination. YOU provide the centerpiece, tableware, props and card table for your use. Notify the Extension Office by the Tuesday before the fair with your intent to enter your table setting. Obtain an exhibitor number and display a fair entry tag so it is clearly visible on your setting. Bring all items necessary to decorate your table including your table.
- Decorations may be set up on Tuesday from 8am-7pm during early bird entry or during open class entry beginning on Wednesday at 7:30am-Noon.
- Table decorating should be limited to tabletop only-no props beside the table. Setting should be in good taste. You may use real or artificial decorations; just make sure they will hold up for the whole fair. Neither the Extension Office nor the Alfalfa County Fair Board will be responsible for loss or damage to table settings regardless of the cause.

All participants MUST collect their table decorations at fair exhibit release time on Friday.

Homemade Ice Cream Contest

A Homemade Ice Cream contest will be held on Thursday, September 9. Entries will be taken at 5:30 p.m. Contestants will bring their homemade ice cream (packed in ice) to the Arena at 5:30 p.m. Homemade ice cream can be made ahead of time and placed in a container then packed in ice. They **DO NOT** have to be in the original freezer but can be if you choose. Bring a serving spoon. Due to food safety concern, eggs used in recipe must be cooked or egg substitute can be used. (Not all substitutes will freeze in homemade ice cream)

This can be entered by a group or an individual.

Judging will begin at 6:00 p.m. for the best homemade ice cream by a panel of judges. The ice cream will then go on sale for a dollar a dish.

One prize per person.

There will be two divisions, one fruit and one non fruit.

Fruit winners will receive:

1st place \$50 2nd place \$25

Non Fruit winners will receive:

1st place \$50 2nd place \$25

Pedal Tractor Pulling Contest

A pedal tractor will be provided or participants may furnish their own without modifications. Contest will be held at 5:00 p.m, Thursday, September 9 at the Alfalfa County Fairgrounds. Participants may pull at anytime between the scheduled times. Awards will be given at the conclusion of the contest.

Age Groups:

- 5 & under
- 6 years old
- 7 years old
- 8 years old

Contests at County Fair 2021

Most Entries Award

Domes-Ti-Kates OHCE Group will sponsor a prize to the individuals who have the most open class entries!

1st \$25, 2nd \$ 15, and 3rd \$10 awarded.

Death by Chocolate

Open Division

A Death by Chocolate Contest will be held the second day of the fair at the Exhibit Building. You can enter a pie, plate of cookies, plate of candy or other dessert item. The recipe must accompany the entry. Entries will be from 1:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 9th. Judging at 1:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. A tasting test of the entries will follow the judging and is open to the public.

- Junior Division 12th grade & under
- Adult Division above 12th grade

Awards Sponsored by:

- County OHCE

DECORATE A HAT OF YOUR CHOICE

OPEN CLASS

SUPERINTENDENT:

FARMERETTES

THEME: OPEN

To participate in this contest decorate any hat with anything you choose. This can be made by a group or an individual. Entries will be from 7:30 am till Noon on the first day of the fair. The hat will be judged on appearance & creativity.

Awards sponsored by:

- Farmerettes OHCE

6th Grade & Under	1st Place \$15
7th Grade-12th	1st Place \$15
Adults	1st Place \$15

You Rock Contest

Youth Division

Superintendent: WheatHearts OHCE

Awards sponsored by: WheatHearts OHCE

Painted rock contest begins at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 8th, the first day of the fair. Rocks need to be entered the morning of the fair with other entries.

Prizes will be awarded

Divisions:

PK - 2nd Grade

3rd - 6th Grade

7th - 12th Grade

Awards will be given in 2 areas:

** Most Unique

** Most Detailed

Have Fun Painting your Rock!

Judging Criteria: Creativity

Cake Decorating Contest

Exhibits will be judged on decoration only. Real cake or cake forms may be used.

Jr. Division & Adult Division

(18 and Over)

Decorated Cakes

01. Holiday

03. Shower cake (baby, wedding, etc.)

04. Birthday cake

05. Wedding cake (2 tiers maximum)

Following awards:

- Punch, Cut, Decorate Book

APPLE PEELING CONTEST

SECTION 4050

Sponsored by: Jet Industrious

Superintendent: Jet Industrious

Participants must enter at 4:00 pm on Thursday, September 9th with contest to follow at 4:15pm.

Division: A - Adult (18 and over)

B - Youth (under 18)

Participants with the longest intact apple peel will be placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Prizes will be given for contest winners. Participants should provide their own apple peeler or knife. No hand crank or electric peelers allowed. Apples will be provided.