



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



State 4-H Horse Show

Contestant Packet

JULY 13-15, 2026

**Registration deadline: July 1, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. CDT
(No late entries will be accepted.)**

South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD

State 4-H Horse Committee

For questions please contact: State 4-H Office - sdsu.4h@sdstate.edu

In This Packet:

- Exhibitor Information and Reminders
- State 4-H Horse Show Schedule
- Fairgrounds Map
- Frequently Asked Questions



State 4-H Horse Show

Contestant Packet

Exhibitor Information

This packet is provided to help you prepare for the event. All class and contest rules for the State 4-H Horse Show can be found in the South Dakota 4-H Horse Project Show Guide available on extension.sdstate.edu. Good luck!

Entry Process

- Horse Show entries are due in FairEntry on July 1, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. CDT..
- **No late entries will be accepted! Scratching any events can be done at check-in.**
- Youth may enter as many classes and Youth in Action events as they wish. The 4-H Horse Show Committee and 4-H Staff will be unable to guarantee participation if scheduling conflicts occur.

Horse Stalling

- Stall reservations open June 2. Please note that a stall increase will apply to stalls reserved on or after July 6. To reserve a stall, visit: sdstatefair.com/tickets
- There will be a fairgrounds staff member handling all stalling needs, questions, and assignments.
- Each exhibitor is allowed to purchase and use no more than 4 stalls. Stalls may be used to house a horse or tack. No more than 1 horse/stall. Exception: Miniature horses may house 2 horses/stall.
- Horses MUST be stalled between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Horses tied to trailers must be supervised at all times. Tack stalls may be locked. Stalls with horses in them may not be locked.
- Stalling fees are \$15/stall per day. **Stalls must be reserved online prior to entering the grounds. Paid stalls will be unlocked upon your arrival. Stalling fees are NONREFUNDABLE.**
- Stall reservations open June 2, 2026. Please note that a stall increase will apply to stalls reserved on or after July 6, 2026.
- There are wood shavings available for purchase when you reserve a stall online or you can supply your own wood shavings.
- Stalls must be cleaned prior to leaving. If stalls are not cleaned, there will be a fee issued to your card that you purchased your stalls with.
- Please use the designated areas to deposit any stall or trailer cleanings during the show.

Camping Facilities

If ANY trailer is parked on grounds it will be charged \$35 per day and can go anywhere in the campgrounds. Camping is first come first serve. Camping spots can be reserved along with stalls online. Reservations will open

on June 2, 2026. The link can be found under "Horse Stalling."

Trailer Parking

- When you purchase your stalls through the online link, you'll have the option to pay for reserved trailer parking.
- Free trailer parking will also be available in the grandstands parking lot. Please see the map below for the exact location of the free trailer parking.

Other Show Information

- No bicycles, scooters and/or dogs allowed in the show arena areas during the State 4-H Horse Show.
- No smoking in the barns.

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection

- All horses exhibited at the State 4-H Horse Show must be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued by a licensed and accredited veterinarian within 30 days of entry to the State 4-H Horse Show. Any and all prescriptions are to be listed on the health papers.

Horse Show Exhibitor Check-in

- Exhibitors must check-in upon arrival to the South Dakota State 4-H Horse Show. Enter through Gate 4.
- Check-in will be located in the State 4-H Horse Show Office in the DEX. Open July 12 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. CDT. Monday, July 13 and Tuesday July 14 from 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CDT, and Wednesday, July 15 from 7:30-10:00 a.m. CDT.
- Exhibitors should bring the following to check-in:
 - Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) which we will KEEP for the entire show and will not be returned at end of show.
 - Note: Exhibitors should bring additional copies of their CVIs if they plan on leaving with their horse and returning through entry gate. CVIs will not be returned at the end of the show.
- At check-in exhibitors will receive:
 - South Dakota State 4-H Horse Show Program with show/class order
 - Contestant Back Tags and Safety Pins
 - Any issues with scheduling must be addressed with the show arena announcer/steward at the time the conflict occurs.
 - Order changes can only be made one class prior to the conflict or while the class is in progress. Trail will be considered the secondary class. If youth are scheduled to show in another class at the same time as Trail, they will compete in their other class first, then proceed to Trail.

Horse Show Information

- 4-H members in 4-H horse events are competing for awards provided by event sponsors and the South Dakota 4-H Youth Development Program. Top five exhibitors within each of the official South Dakota 4-H Horse Show Classes will be recognized at the State 4-H Horse Show.
- **Awards will be available at the awards table. Please be patient and avoid taking awards independently. Staff will distribute them when they are ready.**
- Reasons/General Critique will be given in every event following the conclusion of the class. This will allow youth to understand the criteria the youth were judged on and allow the judge an explanation of his/her placing.
- Official judges will be asked to record the Grand and Reserve Champions and third through fifth place in each class and to sign a document making those placings official.

Riding Rules

Riding safety rules will be strictly enforced at the South Dakota State 4-H Horse Show. 4-H members who violate these rules may be disqualified.

- The Hippodrome will be used as the main practice arena. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.
- See schedule for arena riding curfews. No riding after 8:00 p.m. will be permitted.
- 4-H exhibitors are expected to care for, groom, and ride their horses while at the State 4-H Horse Show. Only the 4-H member, a member of the immediate family, fellow 4-H member, or 4-H leader may perform the fitting, clipping, or riding on any horse at the State 4-H Horse Show. The 4-H exhibitor must be present while such work is being done with his/her horse. **Horses must be washed only in the designated wash rack areas. Washing horses at the hydrants is not allowed. When you have finished using the wash rack, please clean up after yourself and your horse.**

Horse Youth-In-Action Events

To preserve the fairness of this contest and the integrity of all contestants who have dedicated their time and effort, no note taking, recording devices, cameras, mobiles will be allowed in the contest room(s). Failure to observe this rule will result in dismissal from the contest area and youth/team will be disqualified.

- State 4-H Hippology Contest
 - Contestants will complete the judging portion during the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest. Please review the State 4-H Horse Show Schedule for all contest times.
- State 4-H Horse Judging Contest
 - Performance patterns will be distributed during contest.
 - Official placings with reasons will be given following the contest.

- State 4-H Horse Public Speaking and Demonstration Contests
 - Contestants must sign up for a presentation time on FairEntry.
 - A computer, projector, easel and tables will be available in the contest room for contestants to use as needed.
 - In order to alleviate technology issues and provide smooth transition between each presenter, youth are REQUIRED to bring their digital presentation on a USB flash drive. Internet access is not a guarantee nor is access to online cloud sharing platforms (i.e. Box, iCloud, Google Drive, etc.).
- State 4-H Horse Quiz Bowl Contest
 - Once the Horse Quiz Bowl Contest begins, contestants may not leave the contest area until their team is eliminated.
 - Teams may utilize study resources in the holding room prior to entering the quiz bowl room.
 - Only coaches may bring study resources in the quiz bowl competition room to use during a protest of a quiz question.
 - The team members must be Seniors to compete in national contest. If the winning team does not consist of all seniors, the non-senior members will be replaced.

All results will be posted on extension.sdstate.edu following the State 4-H Horse Show. Posted results are final.

Photographer

- A photographer will be taking photos of Western classes on Western Day and English classes on English Day. Each exhibitor may have one photo taken in each division by our professional photographer at the backdrop. If you would like family or additional photos, the backdrop will also be available for your use. At the conclusion of the show, the photographer will remain at the backdrop for 30 minutes to take final English photos. Please be respectful and do not take advantage of the photographer's time.
- All photographs will be posted on extension.sdstate.edu
- Top 5 winners should have their photograph taken with awards at the backdrop.



2026 South Dakota State 4-H Horse Show *Schedule*

THIS SCHEDULE IS NOT A CLASS ORDER. Listed below are the events' locations and approximate start times. Adjustments may be made at the show management's discretion. All times are listed in Central Standard Time.

Monday, July 13, 2026

Nordby Hall

Time	Event
8:30 a.m.	Quiz Bowl Check In
9:00 a.m.	Quiz Bowl Begins
10:00 a.m.	Public Presentations and Demonstrations
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Hippology Stations

South Arena

Time	Event
10:30 a.m.	Senior Draft Showmanship
To Follow	Junior Draft Showmanship
10 Minute Break - Reinsmanship Practice	
To Follow	Senior Reinsmanship
To Follow	Junior Reinsmanship
10 Minute break - Draft Driving Practice	
To Follow	Senior Team Hitch
To Follow	Junior Team Hitch
To Follow	Senior Draft Driving Single Hitch
To Follow	Junior Draft Driving Single Hitch
12:00-12:30 p.m.	Horse Judging Registration/Check In - DEX
1:00 p.m.	Horse Judging
4:45 p.m.	Junior Pony Poles
To Follow	Horse Judging - Open Arena
To Follow	Junior Poles
To Follow	Senior Poles
10 Minute Break	
To Follow	Senior Open End Figure 8

North Arena

Time	Event
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Arena Open
4:45 p.m.	Senior Barrels
To Follow	Junior Pony Barrels
To Follow	Junior Barrels
10 Minute Break	
To Follow	Junior Pony Open End Figure 8
To Follow	Junior Open end Figure 8

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Hippodrome

(Times are approximate for trail. Trail is a secondary class. If you're scheduled in another arena at the same time, inform the trail staff, and you'll compete in your other classes first, then trail.) **Trail exhibitors will have a required check-in by time, which will be announced closer to the State Horse Show.**

Time	Event
10:45 a.m.	Senior Trail Walk Through
To Follow	Senior Trail
30 Minute Break	
To Follow	Junior Trail Walk Through
To Follow	Junior Trail
30 Minute Break	
To Follow	Beginner Trail Walk Through
To Follow	Beginner Trail

North Arena

Time	Event
7:00 a.m.	Arena Open
8:00 a.m.	Arena Closed
8:30 a.m.	Senior Western Showmanship
To Follow	Junior Western Showmanship
30 Minute Break	
To Follow	Beginner Western Horsemanship
10 Minute Break	
To Follow	Senior Ranch Riding
To Follow	Junior Ranch Riding

South Arena

Time	Event
7:00 a.m.	Arena Open
8:00 a.m.	Arena Closed
8:30 a.m.	Beginner Showmanship
30 Minute Break	
To Follow	Senior Horsemanship
To Follow	Junior Horsemanship
10 Minute Break	
To Follow	Junior Reining
To Follow	Senior Reining
To Follow	Senior Equitation over Fences Practice
To Follow	Junior Equitation over Fences Practice

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

North Arena

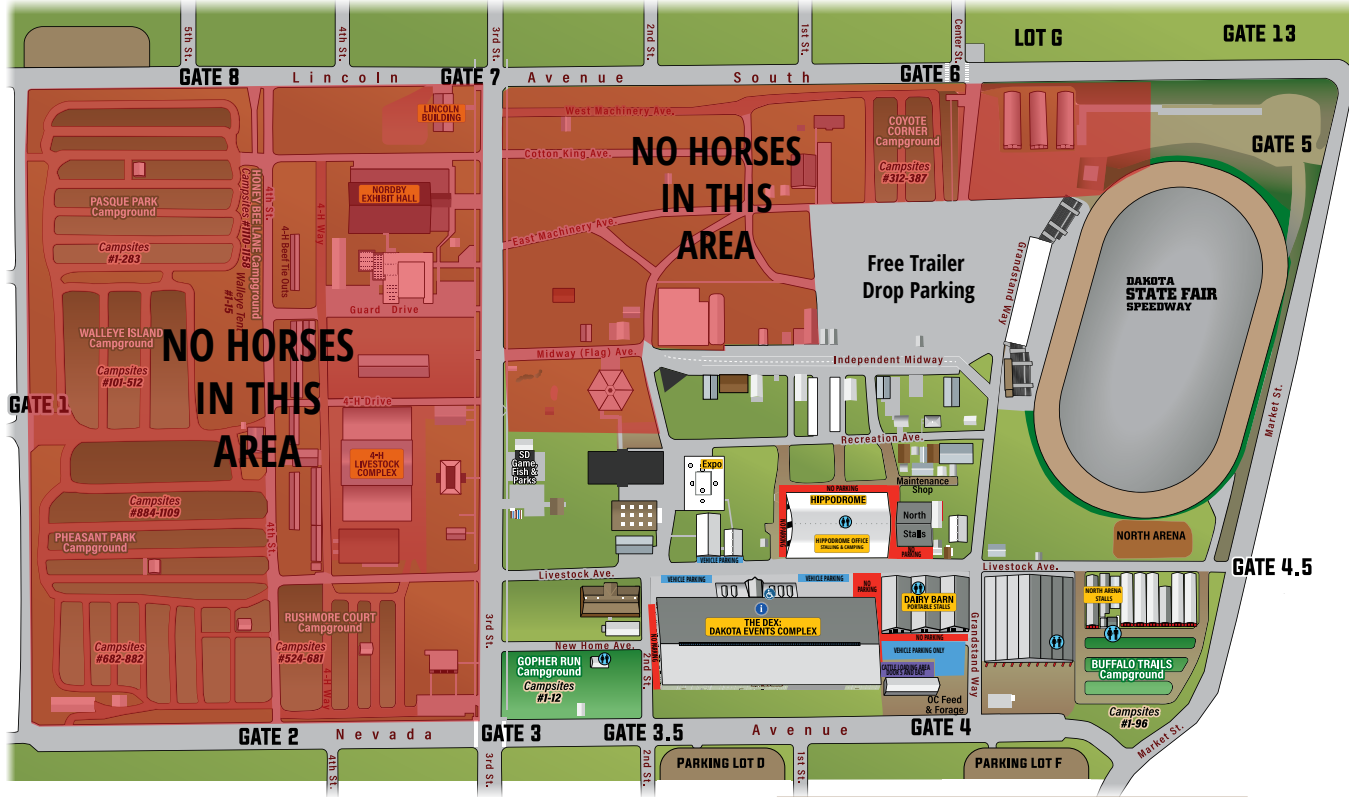
Time	Event
7:00 a.m.	Arena Open
8:00 a.m.	Arena Closed
8:30 a.m.	Senior English Showmanship
To Follow	Junior English Showmanship
30 Minute Break - Open Arena	
To Follow	Beginner Hunt Seat Equitation
To Follow	Junior Hunt Seat Equitation

South Arena

Time	Event
7:00 a.m.	Arena Open
8:00 a.m.	Arena Closed
8:30 a.m.	Beginner English Showmanship
30 Minute Break - Open Arena	
To Follow	Senior Hunt Seat Equitation
To Follow	Senior Equitation Over Fences
To Follow	Hunter Hack Equitation Demonstration
To Follow	Junior Equitation Over Fences
Once Classes are finished on Wednesday, we will need help stacking the arena panels.	



Fairgrounds and Dakota Events Complex Map






Nordby Exhibit Hall
 1060 N 3rd Street
 Huron, SD 57350

110 Livestock Ave
 Huron, SD 57350





South Dakota State 4-H Horse Show

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a health certificate or CVI and why is it needed at the State 4-H Horse Show?

Horses used for exhibition must be examined by an accredited veterinarian no more than 30 days prior to the State 4-H Horse Show and receive a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) stating the animal is free of signs of infectious or contagious diseases. CVIs are turned in at the State 4-H Horse Show Office and collected by the South Dakota Animal Industry Board. This biosecurity measure helps lower the risk of spreading disease between horses and ensures a safer environment for horses and exhibitors participating.

Will a veterinarian be at the State 4-H Horse Show?

In case of emergency, local veterinarian contact information will be made available to State 4-H Horse Show Exhibitors. A veterinarian is not guaranteed to be present during the entirety of the State 4-H Horse Show.

Does a horse have to be housed in a State 4-H Horse Stall while on the fairgrounds?

For safety reasons, for both the horse and general public, it is strongly encouraged exhibitors purchase a stall for their horse while on the fairgrounds. Exhibitors who are only participating for one day may choose to purchase stalls or tie their horses to their trailers. Exhibitors who plan on having their horses spend the night are required to purchase stalls. No horses may be tied to trailers overnight.

May horse stalls be reserved prior to entering the fairgrounds?

YES, Stalls must be reserved and paid for online prior to attending State Horse Show. Please refer to the "Horse Stalling" section for the website link to reserve your stalls. Stalling reservations will open on June 2, 2026. Horse stalls and tack stall are available for \$15/stall/day. No more than 1 horse/stall. Exception: miniature horses may house 2 horses/stall.

Can a companion horse, not used within the State 4-H Horse Show, enter the fairgrounds and be stalled?

YES. The horse must be listed on the health certificate to enter the fairgrounds, and separate stalling fees apply.

Is there night security present at the State 4-H Horse Show?

NO. South Dakota 4-H uses diligence to ensure safety of exhibits; but in no case are they responsible for any loss or damage done to, occasioned by, or arising

from, an animal or article in the exhibition. Tack stalls may be locked. Stalls with horses in them cannot be locked.

When and where can an exhibitor practice riding? Are there specific times to practice an event?

The Hippodrome and North outside arena are the main practice arenas and will remain open during the show and until riding curfew. The DEX North Arena and DEX South Arena are available for practice riding when not in use during the show. Check the South Dakota State 4-H Horse Show schedule for specific times and riding curfews. No horses are allowed in the DEX. Riders should practice safe riding skills and be respectful of others who are practicing in the ring at the same time. Trail patterns will not be physically set up in the arena for practice prior to the event.

Can an exhibitor's horse trainer ride their horse at the State 4-H Horse Show?

NO. 4-H exhibitors are expected to care for, groom, and ride their horses while at the State 4-H Horse Show. Only the 4-H member, a member of the immediate family, fellow 4-H member, or 4-H Club leader may perform the fitting or ride a 4-H exhibitor's horse.

Is there an area to wash and groom horses at the State 4-H Horse Show?

Yes, refer to the fairgrounds map. **Horses must be washed only in the designated wash rack areas. Washing horses at the hydrants is not allowed.**

How does an exhibitor know when their class is in the ring?

Each exhibitor will receive an exhibitor packet when they check in at the State 4-H Office that contains the show schedule and class order. When time permits, announcers, at their discretion, may make announcements to update exhibitors in the class make-up areas concerning the progress of the classes in the arena(s). Exhibitors and exhibitor's parents/guardian are responsible for keeping track of class orders and for being in line or in the makeup area when their run or class time arrives.

Where does an exhibitor line up with their horse to enter a class?

Each show arena will have a make-up area inside the main gate entry. Exhibitors need to report to this area when their class is called. For all "individual go" classes, there will be an "on-deck" cone prior to the entry gate of the arena. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to be at the on-deck cone at the required time

to be checked in prior to entering the ring. In all other classes, the gate will be closed when the last visible horse in make-up area for that class enters the ring. No additional entries will be accepted to that class. Trail will be held in the Hippodrome.

What happens if an exhibitor's class is in the ring and the exhibitor or horse is showing in a different ring at the same time?

Two rings will be used concurrently during the State 4-H Horse Show. Efforts have been made to eliminate or minimize class conflicts between the rings. In cases of conflicts, however, the show management will cooperate wherever possible to allow youth to participate. Show management may authorize an exhibitor to move in the order-of-go. An exhibitor or parent/guardian should report to the arena announcing stand once class prior to the conflicting class or while the class is in progress to request the class change. No changes to order can be made once the class is complete. **Trail will be considered the secondary class. If youth are scheduled to show in another class at the same time as Trail, they will compete in their other class first, then proceed to Trail in the Hippodrome. rail exhibitors will have a required check-in by time, which will be announced closer to the State Horse Show. Once we know how many exhibitors we will have, we can determine an appropriate check in by time.**

What happens if an exhibitor misses their class?

Exhibitors who miss their class or run will forfeit their run in that class. An exhibitor may only participate in the next class order if the exhibitor or horse was physically showing in another arena and show management was notified prior to the end of the missed class.

Is an exhibitor allowed to talk to the State 4-H Horse Show Judge?

At no time should the exhibitor and/or parent/guardian confront the judge before or during the show. Exhibitors and/or parent/guardians may be allowed to contact the judge following the completion of the show at the discretion of show management. Reasons will be given in every event following the awards within an event. This will allow youth to understand the criteria the youth were judged on and allow the judge to explain his/her placing. Judge's decisions are final.

Where does an exhibitor go if they have any questions or concerns and who do they talk to?

Exhibitors with questions should speak with staff at the check in area of the DEX South arena or DEX North arena or with staff in the check In area. Show officials will direct the exhibitors question to the appropriate individual. The South Dakota 4-H Youth Development Program reserves final and absolute right to interpret the South Dakota 4-H Horse Project Show Guide rules and regulations and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions and differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with or

incident to the Show, and the right to amend or add to these rules as its judgment may determine.

Will there be a photographer available?

A photographer will be taking photos of Western classes on Western Day and English classes on English Day. Each exhibitor may have one photo taken in each division by our professional photographer at the backdrop. If you would like family or additional photos, the backdrop will also be available for your use. At the conclusion of the show, the photographer will remain at the backdrop for 30 minutes to take final English photos. Please be respectful and do not take advantage of the photographer's time. If you placed in the top five, please head to the photo backdrop as soon as possible. Photos will be available a few weeks after the show at extension.sdstate.edu.

When will State 4-H Horse Show patterns be available?

All the patterns in the horse show guides will be the same ones used at the State Horse Show.

What do I do once I get to Huron for the horse show?

1. Enter the State Fairgrounds at Gate 4.
2. Bring your CVI to Horse Show Office located main entryway of the DEX. Your horses may be inspected to ensure their descriptions match those on your CVI. Your CVI will be collected. You will pick up your entry packet. Included in the packet: Your back tags and a program.
3. Locate the stall you reserved and paid for before the Horse Show.
4. Locate and set up your stalls. Only woodchips may be used as bedding. Tack stalls may be locked, but stalls with horses inside must remain unlocked in case of emergency. When you buy your stalls online, you can also purchase wood chips. All paid stalls will be unlocked upon your arrival, so please make sure not to take another person's assigned stall!
5. You may use arenas for practice and warmup.
6. When your class is called, check in at the arena at least 4 exhibitors before your turn. Order of go can be found in your Horse Show Program in your contestant envelope at the Horse Show.
 - a. If you have a class conflict in another arena, let the ring staff know as soon as possible.
 - b. If you are not present when your turn is called, you may be disqualified. Please pay attention to your ring.
7. Awards may be picked up at the show office in the DEX or during the awards presentation of the arena the class was ran. Do not remove awards from the table. A show staff member will distribute them to ensure the correct award is given.
8. Be sure to check in for Youth in Action events and Trail within the allotted registration time.



South Dakota State 4-H Horse Show

Severe Weather Protocol

All persons are responsible for their own safety!

SEVERE WEATHER/TORNADO/STORM/LIGHTENING

- Stay tuned to your communications device for the progress of any potentially damaging weather conditions.
- In the event threatening weather is evident or a watch has been issued, check your immediate area to ensure that doors, windows and objects that may become airborne by high winds are secure.
- If a storm/tornado warning is issued, seek shelter in a brick structure. Direct all persons inside brick buildings.
- Remain in the Shelter area until an “all clear” signal is given or you are given other specific directions.

On-grounds Shelters

In the event of severe weather, all people are encouraged to seek shelter and go to the **NEAREST BRICK STRUCTURE** or other appropriate building on grounds. **STAY AWAY FROM TIN WALLED RESTROOMS, OPEN SPAN BUILDINGS AND WOOD BUILDINGS.**

In the case of a natural or technical event, emergency information may be obtained through a variety of methods including:

A. Radio

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|----------------|
| 1. KOOL | 98.3 FM | (605) 996-1100 |
| | Mitchell | |
| 2. KIJV | 1340 AM | (605) 352-1933 |
| | Huron | |
| 3. KOKK | 1210 AM | (605) 352-1933 |
| | Huron | |
| 4. KJRV | 93.3 FM | (605) 352-1933 |
| | Huron | |
| 5. KDLO | 96.9 FM | (605) 886-8989 |
| | Watertown | |
| 6. WNAX | 570 AM | (800) 367-9629 |
| | Yankton | |

B. Television

1. KSFY (ABC)
2. KELOLAND (CBS)
3. KDLT (NBC)

C. The State Fair public address system (when State Fair staff is on-grounds)

Additional Resource Telephone Numbers:

1. Aberdeen Weather Service
National Weather Service (covers Beadle County)
(605) 225-5547 or (605) 330-4247
2. Huron Fire Department
(605) 353-8520
3. Huron Police Department
(605) 353-8550
4. Beadle County Sheriff
(605) 353-8424
5. Huron State Radio
(605) 353-3527
6. Beadle County Emergency Management
(605) 353-8421