



# Designing, launching rockets big 4-H project

By Tom Betz  
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Designing, building and launching rockets is a big project for the Lockhart sisters who are members of the Prairie Dale 4-H Club.

Brooke, 16, will be a junior at Goodland High School next year and has been in 4-H for 10 years. She currently is Prairie Dale club president, a 4-H junior leader helping with foods and rocketry and a 4-H Ambassador.

Becca, 9, will be going into fourth grade at Central Elementary and has been in 4-H for three years.

Their brother, Kerek, is 5, and will probably join 4-H next year.

The three are the children of Scott and Lisa Lockhart who live in the Paxton Addition on the south edge of Goodland. Scott works at the National Weather Service office in Goodland and is one of the Prairie Dale club leaders and project leader for rocketry.

Brooke said she helps Mrs. Barb

Winston with the foods projects and her dad with rocketry. She said she got into rocketry her first year in 4-H and her dad took over being the rocketry leader the next year. She said her dad had lots of experience with rocketry from when he was in 4-H.

She has been a junior leader for four years and besides helping with foods and rocketry the junior leaders help organize and put on a fishing clinic, bike rodeo and help with other events during the year such as the livestock shows.

The 4-H Ambassadors help organize the fair parade, select the fair theme, select the grand marshals and help set up for these programs.

Besides rocketry Brooke has been involved in sewing, knitting and embroidery for seven or eight years.

She said she has done well in rocketry, and admits it helps a lot that her dad is the leader. She said she had gotten grand champion several times and got reserve champion last year.

She said her first year she got junior reserve champion.

Brooke likes the details involved in designing and building the rockets, and said the finished is rewarding.

She said one of the tests is that it actually flies.

“Yes the rocket is required to fly to go to state, but not for the county fair,” she said. “All of the rockets we have built will fly. We hold an annual launch to test them.”


Brooke has gone to state several times, and said the criteria at state is a lot tougher.

“You get to see rockets built in different areas, and get ideas about different ways to build a rocket,” she said. “Going to state is a good way to get more ideas.”

Brooke is not sure about the judges at state as to whether they are more experienced with rocketry than those who judge at the county fair. She said the contestants do not get to interview or talk to the judges at state.

Brooke Lockhart replaces a nosecone on one of the rockets she has entered in past years at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News




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“From the way they have been judged and the reasoning for some awards or lack of awards they at least have some experience,” she said.

She said for the past few years at the Northwest Kansas District Fair the judge has experience in rocketry, woodworking and small engines. She said she likes him and he has been good to answer questions and give suggestions

As to her best rocket Brooke had to think a minute and said it was probably a rocket she did her third year in 4-H. She said it was a lot more complicated than anything she had tried, and her dad helped her with some of the techniques.

She said one of the hardest things was in finishing it had rivets along the entire thing and they were water-slide decals, not peel and stick, and he helped her with that.

She said that was the first year she had spray painted the whole rocket on her own. She said it is hard to get the little spray cans to work with little fingers.

“I learned a lot with that one as the body styling was different on that rocket,” she said.

She said that rocket flew pretty good. She said it broke during the launch last year, but has been fixed.

She showed two examples of rockets she had built in the past -

One was last year’s and the other was the one from the year before. She said both were from a series on the space race between several companies with the idea to build the best tourist rocket for the future. She said the rockets are replicas of what the companies have designed.

She said she did not get to watch the Space Shuttle Atlantis launch for the last time, because she was at a swim meet in Colby, and would be going back on Saturday for the second part.

She said the swim races on Friday were the longer ones. She did a 400 yard, 200 yard and 100 yard freestyle. She said on Saturday she would do the 50 yard freestyle and 100 yard

backstroke. She is usually a member of the team relay teams.

She said freestyle is her favorite stroke. She said she tried the breast stroke a few years ago, but it was definitely not her best. She said she did not disqualify and that was good.

This year in high school she will do Xpressos, high school musical, golf and be on the jr science olympiad team

Brooke is in Girl Scouts and trying to win her Gold award, which is similar to the Boy Scouts Eagle Scout. She received her Silver award last fall, and is looking at doing a project around history for her Gold Award.

She was on the winning science olympiad team this year and participated in rocket building. She said it went well, but the design failed terribly.

She said the nosecone deployed at completely wrong times. The project is more of a payload rocket that is supposed to launch and then deploy a chute and float the payload (an egg) back down without breaking it.

She said she has done fairly well in the sewing and has won a couple of state fair plaques and a number of blue ribbons.

She does embroidery and knitting. In embroidery she has done a picture frame or two.

In knitting she did a small giraffe for her brother and is doing a couple of little knitted cowboy dolls for this year. She is making them in Cowboy colors. The giraffe won her a state fair plaque.

Brooke is working as a lifeguard at Steever Water Park, and works as a babysitter at the First Baptist Church during the school year on Wednesdays for the Bible Study.

Brooks doesn’t drive yet, but her mom is looking forward to that day when she can reduce the number of trips she has to make.

Getting into 4-H was sort of normal she said with the fact her mom and dad had done 4-H when they were young, and a lot of her friends were going to do 4-H, and it is a big community



Becca Lockhart works on her embroidery project that is a black cloth with horses inside a fenced pasture with flowers. The final product will be a pillow she said.

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Roxann Kling

Susan Doke



thing and she felt she should be a part of the program.

She feels the 10 years have been worth the effort.

"I think it has been a great experience," she said. "You get experience with interviews and you get to figure out what you like to do with all the different projects, and you get to compete against other people in a friendly environment."

She said she gets to organize and run meetings as a club president. She agreed being the junior leader, ambassador and club president help with her ability to do public speaking.

Brooke does arts and crafts especially drawings with pencil and pen and ink. She likes to draw different subjects, especially characters from animated movies.

It interests her to see how the animation works, and how different fields are created for each of the different characters with their personalities and how they are animated and how they move and the different facial expressions.

Sister Becca is into rocketry, sewing embroidery, crafts, shooting sports and geology

For geology the group have taken trips to Monument Rocks where they found clam fossils and one person found a fish vertebra. She said the group went to Scott Lake and found

Ogallala rock that holds water. She said they saw clams in the lake water.

She said this is her second year in geology, and will build a display box for all the rocks to be in with identification and where they were found.

The leader for geology is Tammy Durham, and her daughter Montana is one of Becca's friends.

During the interview the family cats Pumpkin, Coco and Chinsey came through to check things out and a couple of them wanted outside.

Becca said last year she did a small rocket with three fins that were painted blue and orange. She said it flew pretty well, but this year they lost the nosecone.

She almost lost the whole rocket last year. She said when they launched the rocket it went over the top of the house and the trees. A couple helping look for the rocket found it laying in the middle of an alley. Becca said she was afraid it might get caught in a tree or electrical lines.

Her mom said this year for the practice launch Becca used that rocket instead of the one she is working on for fair, and this time did lose the nosecone.

Becca is working on a black piece of embroidery and doing two horses in a fence with flowers, a cloud and some cactus. It will be a pillow when



Becca found this material last year and made it into a blanket.

completed.

She did a pillow last year that says "Princess" with a crown and she keeps it on her bed.

For sewing last year did an apron, with polka dot lace ribbon and the fabric was butterflies. This year she is doing a sun dress or a skirt.

Last year she did a blanket made out of a material with colorful "peace" symbols.

Becca is a swim team member and that Friday did the 100 freestyle and a medley race that is a combination of four strokes butterfly, backstroke, breast stroke and freestyle.

She said she accidentally disqualified because during her breast stroke her legs began kicking.

Saturday she would do the butterfly, backstroke and freestyle. She said all the swimming strokes are fun to do, but thinks she is probably best at her freestyle.

Becca does dance, junior golf, Girl Scouts and reading. She was a munchkin in the Wizard of Oz last year, had fun doing the play.

She likes Girl Scouts and spending time with friends. She likes doing stuff with others like selling cookies.

"I like pretty much the whole thing about Girl Scouts," she said.

She has been in dance for six years, and was in Colby for the first five years and is doing dance in Goodland this



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Brooke is doing embroidery on a strip of cloth that will be a belt when she is finished.

year. She said her brother is doing dance, and her mom didn't want to make the extra trips to Colby.

She likes to do tap, ballet and tried out jazz this year.

She got fourth in two junior golf tournaments this year, which was her second year in golf.

Becca's hobby is reading. She likes to read big chapter books like Harry Potter, the A-Z mysteries and other magical stories.

When asked if she was going to get to see the latest Harry Potter movie, that opened in Goodland on July 15, she said she is not allowed to see the movies until she has finished reading the books. She said she is nearly done with the fourth book. Then she gets to watch the movie for that book.

Her mom, Lisa, said Becca was in kindergarten when Harry Potter came out, and her friends told her to get her mom to read the books to her. Lisa said she was not going to do that and for Becca to learn how to read for herself. She said reading the book before going to the movie was so the movie would not ruin the pictures formed in her mind while reading the books.

Brooke has read the entire series, and at the Harry Potter midnight opening on Thursday came dressed in costume as "Luna Lovegood" and had sheets of items she had lost at Hogwarts to hand to the judges. When the audience got to choose the final winners Brooke was second.

Becca said she liked to read science books and read about how volcanoes are formed and about earthquakes.

She has written her first book, and likes to make up stories. She wrote the book when she was in first grade. She said she was reading about dinosaurs and one reminded her of long necks, and so she made up a story about a long neck and came up with the book, and it is illustrated.

The story had an egg pop out of a volcano and rolled into a long neck nest, and when it hatched it was a T-Rex.

She said she is going to make her second book eight pages long with illustrations, and she will do the illustrations.

"In school I always want to get done with class work really fast so I can do something like draw or read a book," Becca said.

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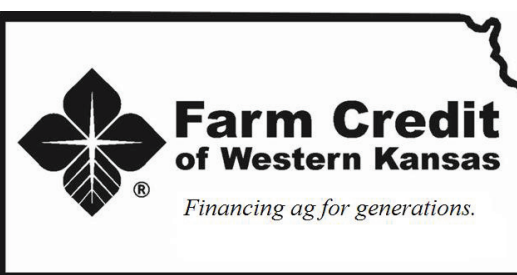
**Best of luck to all the 4-H participants!**



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# Dog show started week of pre-fair activities

The Northwest Kansas District Free Fair gets underway Saturday morning with the annual 4-H Dog Show in the ag building at the county fairgrounds.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the competition begins at 8:30 a.m.

Various events for the fair continue through next week with cats being judged at 1 p.m. on Monday at Good Samaritan Society.

The style revue judging will be at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday at the First United Methodist Church.

The public style revue and awards presentation will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday at the Sherman Theater.

The Sherman County 4-H Horse Show will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday.

The big fair events begin on Saturday, July 30, with the parade at 5 p.m. on Main Ave. followed at 7 p.m. by the Kiwanis Demo Derby at the fairgrounds arena.

Fair week opens Monday with 4-H judging through the day and

at 5:30 p.m. a free hot dog feed sponsored and at 6:30 p.m. Howdy Rowdy Fun Night events.

Tuesday will be judging of 4-H animals and at 6 p.m. the kids pedal tractor pull. The carnival will have wristband night beginning at 7 p.m. There will be free ice cream on the midway sponsored by Sherman County Farm Bureau.

Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. is the Western Plains Chute Out with the Professional Bull Riders in a special event in front of the grandstand. The PBR program will include the antics and humor of Punkintown Clown.

Thursday at 7:30 p.m. is the Texaco Country Showdown Talent Show sponsored by Hot Country 97.9 KWGB.

Friday at 5:30 p.m. is the 4-H livestock sale and at 7:30 p.m. is the modified tractor pull in front of the grandstand. The carnival will have their second wristband night.

Saturday, Aug. 6, at 1 p.m. will be the 50th annual Tri-State Royal of Champions.



The rides for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair were tested out on the Freedom Fest, and will be ready for the nights of the fair. The midway and games will open at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, and Monday through Friday, Aug. 1 to 5.  
Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



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**Tuesday:** Stop by between 5-7pm to schedule your child's next session or Watch Me Grow Collection and receive a free Garden Flag voucher.

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# Sherman County Fairgrounds, Goodland, KS 2011 Northwest Kansas District Free Fair Schedule "Bushels, Bales and Tails"

## Saturday, July 30

- 8:00 a.m. Fairgrounds Open for Set-up
- 4:00 p.m. Parade Line-up
- 5:00 p.m. NWKDFE Parade  
By: Sherman County 4-H Ambassadors
- 7:00 p.m. Kiwanis Demolition Derby

## Sunday, July 31

- 1:00 p.m. Fairgrounds Open for Set-up
- 5:00 p.m. Fairgrounds Closed

## Monday, August 1

- 8:00 a.m. Judging 4-H Foods, Arts & Crafts, Clothing  
4-H Foods Sale  
4-H Life Skills Judging
- 9:30 a.m. Judging Exploring 4-H
- 2:30 p.m. Judging Rabbits & Poultry
- 5:30 p.m. Free Hotdog Feed  
Sponsored by Eagle Communications
- 6:00 p.m. Howdy Rowdy Fun Night-Entries open  
Photo Booth sponsored by Brittney's Photography
- 6:30 p.m. Howdy Rowdy Fun Night

## Tuesday, August 2

- 8:00 a.m. Check-in Entries 4-H & Open Class  
Livestock Weigh-in
- 10:30 a.m. Livestock Weigh-in Closed
- 11:00 a.m. All Entries Closed
- 11:30 a.m. Judging 4-H & Open Class
- 1:00 p.m. Sheep Show
- 3:00 p.m. Goat Show
- 5:30 p.m. Kids Pedal Tractor Pull Registration
- 6:00 p.m. Kids Pedal Tractor Pull
- 7:00 p.m. Carnival Wrist Band Night  
Free ice cream on midway

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## Wednesday, August 3

- 8:00 a.m. Swine Show
- 4:30 p.m. Admission Gates Open
- 6:30 p.m. Western Plains Chute-Out PBR Touring Pro Division

## Thursday, August 4

- 9:00 a.m. Beef Show
- 12:30 p.m. Round Robin Showmanship
- 7:30 p.m. Texaco Country Showdown Talent Show  
Sponsored by Hot Country 97.9 KWGB

## Friday, August 5

- 8:30 a.m. Livestock Judging Registration
- 9:00 a.m. Livestock Judging
- 4:30 p.m. 4-H Appreciation BBQ
- 5:30 p.m. 4-H Livestock Sale
- 7:00 p.m. Carnival Wrist Band Night
- 7:30 p.m. Modified Tractor Pull

## Saturday, August 6-

- 8:00 a.m. All Projects Released  
Check-in Tri-State Royal of Champions
- 10:30 a.m. Release of Entries- Closed
- 1:00 p.m. Tri-State Royal of Champions



# The Sherman County Fair Board