

## **A fair to be proud of**

Written by Wauneta Breeze  
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Some of my fondest childhood memories took place at the Chase County Fair, now that I'm older I continue to be impressed with the quality of our local fair.

When I lived in Lincoln and attended the Lancaster County Fair for the first time, I remember going back to work the following Monday and my coworkers were anxious to see what I thought of a "big" county fair.

Many of them were surprised when I said I was a little disappointed. It wasn't that the Lancaster County Fair wasn't big and exciting or full of fun things to do and see—it just wasn't as "big" or exciting as I expected.

Having grown up in Chase County, the Chase County Fair set the bar, so to speak, of what I expected to see at a county fair.

So, when I attended my first "big city" fair, I expected it to blow the Chase County Fair away. Honestly, it didn't seem that much bigger or better than the fairs I grew up attending.

So, I guess the moral of my story is that we should be proud of the fairs we have here in Chase County, they really are great.

My perspective of fair has also changed now that I have children to drag around the fair instead of being the kid simply enjoying all the fair has to offer.

Wow, but is the fair a lot of work!

Working for the newspaper, I spent quite a bit of time on the fairgrounds, probably more than I ever have, and I'm always amazed by the number of Fair Board members who are there from first thing in the mornings until the last event closes in the evenings. That's got to be tiring, not

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that I've ever heard one complain about it.

Another thing that amazes me about the fair is the work that our young 4-Hers put into their exhibits. The only people who might put more work into the fair than the fair board members are the 4-Hers and their families.

Most of us think of the fair really starting around Wednesday and ending on Saturday night. Not the 4-Hers, especially those with animal exhibits. They show up on the fairgrounds on the first Sunday of the fair and are there until the very last day.

I had the good fortune of attending the 4-H Beef Show and the 4-H Rocket Launch this year. I so enjoyed watching the excitement of youngsters' faces when analyzing wind direction and speed to maximize the result of their rocket launch or looking at other 4-Hers rocket designs. What a great way to get kids excited about science and physics!

When I watch the kids showing animals, especially beef, I'm just plain amazed. They have put in so much work in the months prior to the fair, it's great to see their efforts pay off when they perform well at the fair.

Not to mention, the awe of watching a 60- or 70-pound kid lead (or drag, yank and sweet talk) a 1,000+ pound steer around the ring during the beef show.

As far as my own kids, we kept it pretty simple. Their favorite parts of the fair were the pony rides, carnival rides and playing in the sand. Who could ask for a better time?