



By ROBERT PIERCE

• Leader & Times

This year's Seward County Five State Fair is the event's 100th edition, and with that in mind, fair officials are bringing in something new to some people, but county commission chairman Ada Linenbroker said in reality, it is merely a reliving of the past century.

"We have almost completed the remodeling at the Ag Building, and this year with new air conditioning, insulation and a new remolded interior, we are moving the 4-H and open class exhibits back to the Ag Building," she said. "I can remember years ago spending a whole evening at the fair enjoying checking out all the exhibits in the Ag Building and then splitting a funnel cake before going over to the Activity Center to see the commercial exhibits."

For those who enjoy seeing large quilts in the Activity Center, those exhibits will still be on display, but everything else will be started in the Ag Building.

“We will have quilted items, antiques and collectibles in the west meeting rooms,” Linenbroker said. “Open class will be in the rest of the west end building and the 4-H, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the main room.”

Linenbroker said fair officials are asking everyone to come out and experience the fair's past, but more importantly, participate by bringing out crops, garden produce, flowers and plants.

“If you are a budding chef or baker, bring out that special cookie, pie, bread or cake from a family recipe,” she said. “Do you have a special collectible or antique you would like to show off, or maybe you do woodworking or metal work?”

Budding artists and photographers can also participate.

“Get your items put in a matt,” Linenbroker said.

Pottery and craft hobbyists can likewise show off their talents.

“Artists come in all ages, from kids to teens to adults,” Linenbroker said. “We've also got lots of classes to enter for ceramics, scrapbooking and jewelry.”

The Seward County Fair Association is challenging people to bring items out and make the fair a family event like it has been in the past.

“Farmers, gardeners, livestock owners, bakers, quilter, crafters, collectors and artists could show off their talent and earn their bragging rights on the projects they entered and won with,” Linenbroker said.

Fair participants in 4-H are invited to bring items on July 31 in the morning, with open class coming in from 3 to 6 that afternoon. Judging will begin at 6:30 p.m. that day. If anyone is interested in helping with the fair, as a superintendent or judge, call Linenbroker at 624-8534 or 629-0497 and leave a message.

“The Five State Fair Association is working hard to rebuild our fair, but it also takes the people of Liberal and the surrounding communities to make it a success,” she said. “Get involved, enter the fair or just come out and enjoy the events, entertainment, great food, carnival rides or just a fun night out with your family and relive our community heritage as we celebrate Liberal’s 125th year.”