After last year's separate schedules, the 4-H and carnival portions of the Dawson County Fair are rejoining forces this month.

The fun kicks off on Saturday, July 12, and doesn't end until Sunday, July 20.

The 4-H Cafe opens for the first time at 8 a.m. Saturday morning and stays open until early afternoon. Starting Wednesday, July 16, the restaurant will maintain regular hours of 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m and close at 6 p.m. the last day of the fair.

The carnival's "Family Night" is Wednesday evening. After a full day of 4-H exhibits and contests, the carnival celebrates opening night with discounted arm bands and a bicycle giveaway. The carnival will begin each following night at 7 p.m. and will run until 10 or 10:30 p.m., depending on the day.

Bingo will be played from 6:30-9:30 p.m. from Wednesday to Saturday in the Extension office meeting room.

A NASCAR simulator machine will be available at the grandstand every day from 3-11 p.m., except on Sunday, when it opens at 5 p.m. The cost is $3 per ride or $5 for a timed ride that includes a cash prize.

Team penning begins at 7 p.m Thursday with free admission at the Dawson County Arena.

A public 4-H rocket shoot off is Friday and the James Lee Band opens for Bart Crow Band, starting at 7 p.m. in the grandstands. Admission is $20.

A mud race kicks off Saturday's festivities at 8 a.m. and Outlaw Hot Rod Mini Tractor Pulls and pig wrestling, are later. Stock car races start at 6:30 p.m. and end the fair Sunday.

Full schedule

Saturday, July 12: 8-8:30 a.m.—Check-in shooting sports, 9 a.m.—Shooting sports competition, Stevens Arena.

Tuesday, July 15: 5-7 p.m.—Fair sponsorship thank-you BBQ dinner, Stevens Arena; 6-8 p.m.—Enter open class exhibits.

Wednesday, July 16: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.—Enter open class exhibits; 9 a.m.-1 p.m.— Enter all 4-H food, miscellaneous ag and home environment static exhibits except livestock and small animals; 1 p.m.—Judging of open class exhibits and 4-H exhibits; 5 p.m.—Enter 4-H dogs; 6 p.m.—4-H dog show; 6-9 p.m.—FFA barn open, commercial buildings open; 6-10 p.m.—open class building open; 6:30 p.m.—Pioneer farm family, fair person of the year, grandstands; 7 p.m.—Free gospel concert "This Side of Sunday," grandstands; 8-9 p.m.—4-H exhibits open to public after completion of judging.

Thursday, July 17: 8-10:30 a.m.—Check in bucket and feeder calves; 8 a.m.-12 p.m.—Enter 4-H beef, dairy, meat goats, sheep, swine, poultry and rabbits; 9 a.m.-9 p.m.—All 4-H buildings open; 12:30 p.m.—4-H bucket calf show in Stevens Arena; 1 p.m.—4-H feeder calf show in Stevens Arena; 3-4:30 p.m.—Root beer floats courtesy of Plum Creek Bank; 4-10 p.m.—Open class building open; 4 p.m.—Speed penning in Dawson County Arena, free admission; 4:30 p.m.—4-H dairy show in Stevens Arena; 6-9 p.m.—Commercial buildings open; 7 p.m.—Team penning in Dawson County Arena, free admission.

Friday, July 18: 8 a.m.—4-H beef show in Stevens Arena; 9 a.m.-9 p.m.—All 4-H buildings open; 1 p.m.—4-H sheep show; 3-4:30 p.m.—Free watermelon feed courtesy of Plum Creek Market Place; 3:30 p.m.—Public 4-H rocket shoot off; 4-10 p.m.—Open class buildings open; 6-9 p.m.—FFA barn open; 6 p.m.—4-H sheep show, Stevens Arena west bleachers; 6 p.m.—Grandstand gates open; 7 p.m.—James Lee Band, grandstands; 8 p.m.—Bart Crow Band, grandstands.

Saturday, July 19: 8 a.m.—Mud race, fairgrounds, pre-register at fair office; 8 a.m.—swine show, Stevens Arena; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.—All 4-H buildings open; 10:30 a.m.—4-H meat goat show; 10:30-11:30 a.m.—enter small animals, pets and cats; 12 p.m.—interview and judge small 4-H animals, pets and poultry, west bleachers of Stevens Arena; 1 p.m.—4-H cat show; 1:30 p.m.—4-H rabbit and poultry show, west bleachers of Stevens Arena; 1-8 p.m.—open class buildings open; 4-8 p.m.—Commercial buildings open; 5 p.m.—Release 4-H livestock, 4-H family and consumer science and other 4-H exhibits; 5 p.m.—Gates open for Outlaw Hot Rod Mini Tractor Pullers; 5:30 p.m.—Pig wrestling sign up at Dawson County outdoor arena; 6-9 p.m.—FFA barn open; 6 p.m. —Outlaw Hot Rod Mini Tractor Pullers, grandstands, admission: adults $8, 6-12 years $4, free 5 and under; 7 p.m.—Pig wrestling at Dawson County outdoor arena, admission: adults $7, 6-12 years $3, 5 and under free; 8 p.m.—Release open class exhibits; 8 p.m.—Tear down commercial booths.

Sunday, July 20: 7:30 a.m.—Enter 4-H horses; 8:30 a.m.—4-H horse show, Stevens Arena; 9-10 a.m.—Release open class exhibits, open class building; 6:30 p.m.—Stock car races, Dawson County Raceway.