



# DELTA COUNTY 4-H

TRA NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT - MARCH 2009



Our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children.

*Walt Disney*

## Main Goal for County Council

This year's main goal for County Council is to increase participation from all club representatives, members and leaders at county council meetings. County Council by-laws allow each club to elect a County Council representative for every five members in the club. The president of the club is automatically the first County Council member, but other club members can also be elected.

The council believes that the way to increase club representation at County Council is to encourage all clubs to elect council representatives and to take time to explain to these club reps the benefits of attending council meetings. Because of this Executive Council members and leader advisors will be visiting all Delta County 4-H Clubs to invite council reps, members and leaders to attend Council meetings. Following are some of the main reasons why members benefit from participating in County Council. These are direct comments from County Council member officers:

“Participating in council has allowed me to become a better leader.”

“My self confidence has grown since I've been in County Council and I'm more organized.”

“I've learned how meetings are run and how to follow parliamentary procedure.”

“I now feel more confident when I speak in front of a group.”


“I've learned about other trips you can take in 4-H, like fun dances and workshops.”

“I get a chance to express my own opinions when we plan and make decisions.”

“We actually learn how 4-H runs and how to make changes to the program.”

“It helps you in your college application or when you apply for a scholarship to list that you were involved in 4-H County Council.”

“Through County Council we've met kids and made friends from throughout the county and the region.”

  
F. Isaac Muñoz  
Area Extension Agent  
(4-H/Youth)

## Take a Look Inside...

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Read On.....▶

## NEW RULES FOR COUNTY FAIR!

- Market animals to be exhibited in the Delta County Fair must be identified by an ear tag. Members of a sub-committee of the Delta County Fairboard will tag all animals.
- To be eligible for competition animals must have been the property of the exhibitor prior to showing them at the Fair: Beef - 180 days; Swine - 90 days, Goats/Sheep – 60 days.
- Market Beef are required to be weighed and tagged at the initial weigh-in.
- Market swine, sheep and goats will be tagged at the initial weigh-in; however members may choose not to weigh these animals at that time.
- Rate of Gain on market animals will be calculated to the hundredth for Rate of Gain awards.
- If a member chooses not to weigh their swine, sheep or goat at the initial weigh-in they are not eligible for the rate of gain award and will receive a zero for the Premier Exhibitor rate of gain category.

## ENROLLMENT REMINDER

ALL 4-H leaders, whether they are returning or new, Organizational Leaders or Project Leaders, need to be sure to enroll in 4-H for the current year! You must enroll to receive manuals, newsletters, and other information. Delta County 4-H members **MUST** officially drop livestock (which includes rabbits & Poultry), dog, and horse projects on or before May 1, 2009. Members who do not submit an enrollment form *to the Delta County Extension Office* showing that they have dropped one or more of these projects, and who do not turn in a completed record book, will not be allowed to enroll in that project area the following year.

## LIVESTOCK WEIGH-IN DATES

### Beef Weigh-in

February 7, 2009  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM



### Swine Weigh-in/Tag-in

May 2, 2009  
7:00 AM – 10:00 AM



*New Dates!*

### Sheep/Goat Weigh-in/Tag-in

May 2, 2009  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM



## SWINE, GOAT, AND SHEEP WEIGH-IN/TAG-IN DATE CHANGE

The new date for the Swine, Goat, and Sheep Weigh-in/Tag-in is Saturday, May 2, 2009. The pigs will be weighed or tagged from 7 to 10 AM, and the goats and lambs will follow from 10 to noon. Members will have the option to tag and/or weigh their animals. All members must have enrolled previous to the tag/weigh date. If you have any questions, please contact the Delta 4-H Office at 874-2198.

## BEEF PROJECT BRAND INSPECTIONS

The Brand Inspector has asked us to remind parents and members that Beef Project Brand Inspections should be written to the member. We noticed at the recent beef weigh-in that a number of these brand inspections had been written to the parent, rather than the member. In addition, a separate brand inspection is required for each steer. Please make sure you have the appropriate information for each steer made out to the correct individual.

## LIVESTOCK RECORD BOOK EVALUATIONS

In 2009, Delta County 4-H will be implementing a new procedure to evaluate 4-H livestock record books. The criteria will be the same, but the way we actually review the record books will be different. Up to now, we have requested the cooperation of area judges to help us evaluate these record books to make sure they all comply with the 70% completion requirement. These judges take these record books home and return them to the extension office within a two to three week period. Judges receive a \$2.00 compensation for every record book they evaluate.

The new method, which in fact is common to many other counties, is to ask for the cooperation of a group of local livestock leaders, superintendents, and other adult volunteers with expertise in 4-H livestock projects, arrange for them to meet for an evening, go over an orientation of how to conduct the evaluation, and get all the record books evaluated at one time. In addition to finishing this task on a timely manner, we expect to also have more consistency in the way the record books would be evaluated.

At this time, we're inviting 4-H leaders with expertise in the various livestock projects, to please call Isaac at 874-2198 so we can add you to the list of judges who will be assisting us in this task. The expected date to evaluate these books is mid September.



## SHOOTING SPORTS LEADERS MEETING

The next Delta County 4-H Shooting Sports Leaders Meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2009, 6:30 P.M. at the Hotchkiss Annex. Among the topics to discuss will be the upcoming March 20-22 Certified Leader Training at the Delta County Center for the Performing Arts, the range clean up, installation of the new trap house, and the classroom shooting sports instruction sessions.

## HORSE LEADERS MEETING

The next Delta County 4-H Horses Leaders Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 6:30 P.M. at the Hotchkiss High School Ag Trailer. We will review final changes made to the fair horse show, schedule of clinics, and the April 3<sup>rd</sup> horse project member orientation program.



## RETINAL IMAGING OF STATE FAIR LIVESTOCK PROJECTS

In 2009, Delta County will join a number of counties in Colorado in the use of retinal imaging to identify all beef, goat, and sheep state fair market projects. Similar to previous years, members planning to nominate any of these projects for state fair will need to fill out a nomination card at the initial weigh-in/tag-in. At a later date to be announced, these animals will need to be taken to a location to be identified with the actual retinal scanning probe.

A retinal scan is a biometric technique that uses the unique patterns of an animal's retina to identify them. Because of the complex structure of the capillaries that supply the retina with blood, each animal's retina is unique. Research has proven that this technology is a superior method for positively identifying these animals.

The retinal scanning system to be used will allow us to document time, date, and location of animals enrolled. A record of the animal's retina scan will be kept on file. When the animal arrives at state fair, officials will be able to scan the animal again to verify that it is the same animal that was originally enrolled.

More details about this program will be provided to members planning to nominate animals for State Fair.

## **FASHION REVUE, CLOTHING & DECORATE YOUR DUDS LEADERS**

Delta County 4-H Fashion Revue, Clothing Construction, and Decorate Your Duds Project Leaders are invited to a planning meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 6:30 P.M. in Room #234 at the Delta County Courthouse. We will discuss the date for the fair show, location, judges, instructional clinics, and other suggestions to improve this program.

### **NEW GUIDES AVAILABLE**

Hot off the presses! Your Delta 4-H Office has new informational brochures available for pick-up:

- General Livestock Project Guide
- Shooting Sports Member Reference Guide
- Shooting Sports Calendar
- Out of County Travel Guide

These guides are great to have on hand and – best of all! – they are free! Stop by and get yours today.

### **ECKERT 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS RANGE CLEAN-UP**

The Annual Eckert 4-H Shooting Sports Range Clean up is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2009, starting at 9 A.M. All Delta County 4-H Shooting Sports members and leaders are encouraged to come and help get the range ready for practice. Please bring shovels, rakes, working clothes, comfortable shoes, and drinking water. (If it's a sunny day, bring sun protection.) Shooting sports leaders will lead the clean up. In previous years, with good member participation, we have been able to do most of our work by noon. Please plan to join us and have a fun productive day.

## **PREMIER EXHIBITOR PROGRAM FOR GOATS**

Plans are moving right along for a 2009 Delta County Fair Goat Project Premier Exhibitor Program. Initially this proposal by the Delta County 4-H Council was to take place in 2010 however, given the level of support by all parties involved, it now looks like it could be in place for 2009. Heidi Gruber, Delta County 4-H Council President, spoke to the Delta County Fairboard about this proposal at their February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in Delta. The Fairboard was receptive to the proposal and requested additional information regarding the selection criteria for this award and the sponsor. A follow up on this award took place at the Delta County 4-H Council Executive Committee Meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, the Anderson Family from Delta offered to sponsor the jacket that goes along with the Premier Exhibitor Award. The Delta County Fairboard plans to make a decision on this award at their next meeting which is scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Cedaredge.

### **EXCITING SPRING BREAK OPPORTUNITY!**

Middle School and High School students sign-up for the **North Fork Valley Farm Camp** and enjoy a fun-filled action packed Spring Break! If you are interested in hands-on farm experience, or would like to know more about what's going on in the valley farming and food world this camp is for you! We will be hosted by at least 7 local farms and enjoy an all-encompassing experience from farm planning to wood fired oven-baked pizzas made from local foods. The week will end with a BBQ at the Redlands Grange Hall.

The camp runs April 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> from 8AM – 4PM. Cost is \$25 for food. To sign-up, or for more information, call Cindy Young (970) 527-5778 or email [btlb@tds.net](mailto:btlb@tds.net). The farm camp is linked with "Teens on Farms," which is working to link local youth to farm jobs this summer.

# SPOTLIGHT ON PROJECTS

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Do you like to camp? Then this is the project for you! This project progresses from day hikes to overnight camping trips, to finally planning an extended backpack expedition. Great fun for adventurers!



## WILDLIFE

Colorado's wildlife is one of our state's biggest attractions. This project will teach you about wildlife behavior, habitat requirements, how wildlife species fit into nature's scheme, how they are managed, and how they relate to humans.



## ENTOMOLOGY

Have you chased butterflies or caught a ladybug to get a closer look? Do you think collecting bugs is a great way to spend your time? If you do the 4-H Entomology project is right up your alley. You will learn more about the world of insects and have fun while you are doing it!



*Contact your local Extension Office  
for more information on these projects today!*

## FORESTRY

Forests abound in Colorado – from the cedars on the Eastern Plains to the pines of the Western Slope and everything in between. This project will help you discover how important these forests are to this state. Join this project and explore the relationship between trees, people, and communities.



## RANGE MANAGEMENT

Have you ever looked out on the pastures and wondered what types of grasses are growing there and why? Range Management is the study of plants and their relationship to the land. This project will help you identify, collect and display range plants as well as make range management plans for selected range areas.



## SPORTFISHING

Make this your year to try the Sportfishing project. As a member you will learn casting methods, selection of tackle, water quality, learn how to tie fishing knots, and much, much more!





March 8, 2009 ~ Noon - 3:00 PM  
Delta Middle School & Hotchkiss High School

\$8.00 for Adults (12 and over) ~ \$4.00 for Children

Put together your posse,  
gather up your gear,  
hustle into town, and  
grab some grub at  
the 59th Annual  
Delta County 4-H  
Beef Roast!

