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## **4-H TEACHES SCIENCE THROUGH TRADITIONAL PROJECTS**

Colorado 4-H has set a goal of preparing one million new young people to excel in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) by 2013. Although most of today's 4-H projects cover one or more of these areas, there are three projects and activities that highly promote the STEM objectives.

New and emerging technologies in animal and veterinary science mean that this popular 4-H project area continues to include cutting-edge research. Rich in science and technology, projects include: animal identification technologies such as retinal scanning and DNA analysis; emerging disease awareness, prevention and control; food safety through control of microbiological contaminants in the food supply; and advances in nutrition efficiencies in food-producing animals.

Record keeping has always been one of the most valuable life skills mastered through the 4-H program – even if it seems to be the least-liked activity for many youth! In 2005 the Colorado 4-H program made the shift to electronic 4-H records. As a result 4-H members (and their parents) have learned more about practical uses for their home computer while becoming proficient in basic software programs in use today.

Mastering computer building and repair and data networking is another area 4-H helps youth prepare for tomorrow's workforce. The computer project offers a variety of extended learning opportunities through computer science, community service projects

and collaboration with adult volunteers. Topics include open source software development and instruction in programming languages.

Some of the objectives for the series are: identification of internal computer components, operating systems and their processes; increased knowledge of building, maintenance and repair of computers; understanding of data networking and how it is accomplished; collaboration with adults and peers to build a functions network; and working with peers, adults and community partners to develop service-related computer goals.

If your child is interested in joining 4-H or you would like further information on the 4-H program, please contact your local extension office in the southeast area. 4-H is a cooperative effort between CSU Extension and the Southeast Area Counties.

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