



Clover Times



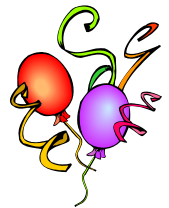
El Paso County 4-H
November 2008

A community of young people across America who
are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.



Enrollment 2008-09!

The Extension Office in El Paso County is initiating the registration process for the 2009 4-H program. **Enrollment training for organizational leaders will be held on Tuesday, November 18.** This training is scheduled for 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the kitchen at the Extension Office, 305 S. Union Blvd. We will not be including a dinner this time around. As in the past, enrollment forms, project information, instructions, and updates will be available. There are several important changes for the 2008-09 year, so club organizational leaders should plan to attend the training.



The 4-H insurance information has been sent in to our insurance company and is effective immediately.

Because of the shortfall in funding, 4-H member fees have been raised to \$40 for the 2008-09 year. New leader enrollment fees will remain at \$10; returning leaders will continue to be \$2. Clubs are encouraged to write one check for their club enrollments. The El Paso County 4-H Foundation has been approached about the possibility of their offering scholarships based on need. The re-enrollment deadline will be February 2, 2009.

Achievement Celebration

Our Achievement Celebration was a fabulous afternoon. It was great to have so many people attending to support the impressive accomplishments of our 4-H'ers. Congratulations to all who received awards and thank you to everyone who helped organize this wonderful event. Special congratulations to our outstanding leaders - Maureen Bergenfeld, Cherie Eler, Pam Archuleta, Patty Woodard, Mary Killen, Lynn Wilkison, Les and Deanna Mann and Wade Canaday. Congratulations to our outstanding 4-H'ers - Mandy Kramer, Jade Meinzer, and Samantha Wester. We appreciate you all!

A majority of our clubs have awards at the Extension Office available to pick up. Organizational leaders can pick up those items at the training on November 18, or individuals are welcome to pick up their awards Monday through Thursday, 8-noon or 1-5.

Bad Weather Policy

If we are experiencing bad weather and you are wondering of a county 4-H event is canceled, please call the Extension Office 636-8922 and listen to the recorded message. If county offices and/or schools in the area are closed, the event will be canceled. For individual events, contact the event organizer for information. Clubs are urged to make a decision about what they will do in bad weather conditions and communicate that decision to everyone in the club.



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***Organizational
Leader Enrollment
Training will be
held Tuesday,
November 18 at
the Extension
Office***

Leader's Lounge

New Project Leader Orientation/Training

Club leaders please notify your new leaders that they have three options to complete their new leader requirement. One option is to attend an "approved workshop" (check with Jonathan Vrabec). Another option is to complete the "take home" version. To checkout the take home materials please call the Extension Office at 636-8922. The third option is to do the "online" version. The online training is on <http://colorado4h.org>, select Volunteer Resources, then 4-H Volunteer Training. The password is "volunteer". Remember it is required for new project leaders to complete one of these training options. If you have questions please contact Jonathan Vrabec at jonathanvrabec@elpasoco.com or 636-8936.

Small Animal Update

MQA

If you are a first year senior or new to 4-H and you are taking rabbits or poultry you must attend a meat quality assurance workshop. See more information in the Living with Livestock section of this newsletter.

Small Animal Record Book Policy Change

This year all Small Animal Projects (cavy, llama/alpaca, poultry, rabbits, dogs) will use the small animal e-record book and any applicable supplements. Furthermore they will follow the animal project record book policy (formerly the Horse and Livestock Record book Policy) which means record books will be collected following County Fair and will reflect the current 4-H year Oct. 1st through collection date. The policy will be reviewed and handed out to all organizational leaders at the Nov. 18th training and then posted on the 4-H web site. If you have any questions please ask your organizational leader to review the policy with you.

Camper's Cabin

Leadership Development Conference

The dates for Leadership Development Conference are January 23-25. 4-H Day at the Capitol will be Monday, January 26. More information should be available soon.

State Conference

State Conference in Fort Collins will be held the week of June 22-26th.

Youth Fest

Youth Fest will be held at the Ponderosa Retreat Center in Monument February 13-15th.

Fast Tracks

Colorado 4-H Blog

There is a new Blog for Colorado 4-H. You will find information about upcoming events, important happenings, news updates, technology information, etc. If you are new to blogging, please note that you can receive blog updates by adding this site to your RSS Feed Reader; for those of you who use MS Outlook 2007, you can receive feeds directly within Outlook. For more information on how this works go to <http://www.colorado4h.org/blog/>

El Paso County 4-H Youth Council

The next meeting of the El Paso County 4-H Youth Council will be on December 9 at 7 pm at the Extension Office, 305 S. Union Blvd. Everyone involved with 4-H is welcome to attend.

Skunk Rabies Update

Skunk rabies testing is available on a fee-for-service basis at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment laboratory. They are also available for consultation on rabies exposure, testing, bite follow-up and reporting, and rabies pre and post exposure prophylaxis. You can submit skunks that are involved in pet animal or human exposure as part of local core public health activities. Submission of skunks showing signs of abnormal behavioral consistent with rabies is encouraged. Skunk testing criteria is domestic animal or human exposure, strange behavior (out during daytime, aggressive), dead less than 48 hrs, no maggots, head and skull intact. There is no need to submit normal behaving skunks; i.e., late night trash scavengers. Contact the Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division at 303-692-2700 during business hours or 303-370-9395 after hours.

Launch into TARC and win!

Registration is now open for the *2009 Team America Rocketry Challenge*, the world's largest rocket contest challenging participants to compete for \$60,000 in prizes and scholarships and a trip to next year's international air show in Paris. Contest rules and registration are at www.rocketcontest.org. Participation is limited to the first 750 teams who register by Monday, December 1. The *Challenge*: Teams must design and build a rocket containing a raw egg that will climb to 750 feet and stay aloft for 45 seconds. This year's new task is transporting the one-egg payload lying on its side rather than positioned vertically, mimicking the position of an astronaut.

Students in grades 7-12 in any U.S. school or non-profit youth organization are eligible to compete. The rocket contest gives future engineers the opportunity to demonstrate their math and physics skills. Working together in a team environment, they will design a real aerospace product, which will be put through the rigors of testing and evaluation.

Chuck Urano Memorial Scholarship

The Colorado Farm Show will be awarding six \$2,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Students must be pursuing a degree in an agricultural related field of study. Applications are available at www.ColoradoFarmShow.com and are due by January 5, 2009.

Truck Raffle Winner

The winner of the truck raffle was Barbara Barnes from Durango, CO. Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets!

Club Reports

4-H Wildcats

By: Thomas Price

The Wildcats have begun a wild year! After an awesome showing by many members at County and State Fair, we celebrated with a fall awards picnic at Bear Creek Park. All members wrote a memory or tribute to our leader Mrs. Bergenfeld, and she was presented these as a thank you gift. Community service in September was cleaning up after the Memory Walk for Alzheimer's, and bringing animals to Zach's Place for developmentally disabled youth and adults. The end of November the club will decorate the Ronald McDonald House for the holidays. Our November meeting will showcase the MANY delicious bakers in our club, as we hold a pie tasting party. Yum! At the annual achievement awards, while quite a few of our members were recognized, our "fearless leader" Mrs. Bergenfeld, received special recognition for "Outstanding Leader." And she sure is! Congrats, Mrs. B. Our other fearless leader, President Garrett Prather, and his officers, are planning a year full of fun, community involvement and learning. Project enrollment will occur soon, and we look forward to members in everything from Macrame to Birds of Prey. Go Wildcats.

Horse Program News

Horse Judging Team

Are you interested in learning how horses are judged in competition, helping yourself become better at the classes you participate in? What about improving your speaking ability, traveling to various horse training facilities and seeing some great horses while competing at some of the most prestigious shows in the world. That is exactly what you'd be doing if you joined the El Paso County Horse Judging Team. For those of you interested in being part of the team for 2008 now is the time to start getting ready. We will hold four Nov/Dec warm-up/introductory practices starting Wednesday November 19th at the Extension Office at 6:30 for new members, first year senior members and returning juniors. At that time we will give a brief overview of the Horse Judging Program (for those new members) and get back into the swing of things by judging a class or two so you can see what its all about. If you are interested in participating on the team this year it is highly recommended that you attend however if you are unable to attend or want more information please call Jonathan at 636-8936 or email jonathanvrabec@elpasoco.com

Living with Livestock

Beef Cattle Producer Class

There will be a producer class for both replacement heifers and market steers at the 2009 fair. Thanks to all those who participated this past year. Nominations have begun and run through December 31st. The rules and nomination procedure were outlined in online under the Livestock Program. Project or Club leaders should submit nominations to Jonathan at the Extension Office in the 4-H member's name.

Leased Livestock Procedures

Remember the numbers of leased animals are limited to two per 4-H'er. Also they developed a standardized universal lease form that will require the animal's tattoo or ear tag number to be listed on it. This lease form is universal and so anyone leasing an animal will need to use this form and have it on file at the extension office by May 1st. If you have additional requirements specified by the person who is leasing out their animal, you should add that info as a separate sheet, but this "universal" form must be filled out if they are leasing an animal for 4-H. These projects ideally should begin in October and go through September since only breeding animals can be leased.

Beef Weigh-In

The Beef Weigh-In will be held in early March. The date will be announced soon.

Meat Quality Assurance

If you are a first year senior or new to 4-H and you are taking **cattle, dairy, hogs, goats, sheep, rabbits, or poultry** you must attend a **meat quality assurance workshop**. Regardless of whether it is a market project or a breeding project you must attend a Meat Quality Assurance workshop. The first MQA Workshop will be held Wednesday, February 11th and will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the CSU Extension Office. **4-H'ers who are 13 and under must have a parent stay at the MQA with them.** There will be two other MQA Workshops held in El Paso County. Those dates will be announced in future newsletters. Remember that if you are not able to attend a MQA Workshop in El Paso County you are welcome to attend MQA Workshops in other counties. Those counties will mail your certification to our office to show that you attended. However, Meat Quality Assurance certification must be completed 45 days prior to our County Fair. It is best to get this requirement accomplished early to avoid any unforeseen conflicts.

Catch-A-Calf Contest

Catch-A-Calf Contests at the National Western Stock Show will be held on January 17, January 18 and January 21. Applications are available online at <http://www.nationalwestern.com/nwss/specialevents/calf.asp> and need to be postmarked by December 1, 2008.

Country of Origin Labeling of Market Livestock Projects

By: Brett Kirch, November 3, 2008

Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) was implemented starting on September 30, 2008 by the USDA. As a result, all cuts of beef, pork, lamb, goat, and chicken must have documentation as to the origin of the animals to be marketed in the U.S. and international meat industry. This act will require effective documentation of 4-H or FFA market animal projects that will be sold for meat purposes.

What will be needed by 4-Hers and FFA member are the tools to get the proper documentation. The documentation process is not that cumbersome and can be accomplished with a simple form which will be posted on the El Paso County 4-H web site under 4-H Livestock Program. This form may be used for animals which have been purchased or have been home grown. However, home grown animals will be required to have a record system to support the affidavit that will be outlined later in this article.

When the 4-Her or FFA member purchases a project animal, the individual should receive from the original owner verification of the source of the animal or have the original owner fill out and sign the affidavit. In addition, other supporting information that the buyer of an animal should maintain in their files could include Bill of sale, health papers, or brand inspections.

For home grown animals, responsibility for the documentation of origin will lie with the producer. A good start for the records documenting the source of an animal would include ear-tags or notches, recorded birth dates, or descriptions in birth records (calving books, PigChamp, PigTale, etc.). In most cases, these records should already be maintained by the parents involved in marketing livestock. Although not specifically required, other records that can be used for documenting home grown animals would include reconcilable inventory records, purchase and sale receipts, some financial or feed records, health papers, or breed association registered pedigrees. Current recommendations are that all records and affidavits be maintained on file by the 4-Her or FFA member for a **minimum of two years**. The goal is to provide an audit trail of the animal's origin in case verification is required by the USDA.

Compliance with these requirements should not place undo stress on the 4-H or FFA project owners. The 4-H records already required for market livestock projects will emphasize the types of information that will provide a good trail for any USDA audit. With the addition of an affidavit for any purchased animal, compliance with the latest USDA regulations should be very easily achieved.

If you have any further questions feel free to contact Brett Kirch at (970) 491-6642 or Brett.Kirch@colostate.edu

Additional State Fair Results

The following 4-H'ers were not included in the October newsletter as winners at State Fair. Belated congratulations.

Cory Berens	Res. Champion - Sr. Limited Compound Bow Division
Albert Brouillette	Grand Champion - String Ensemble, Sr.
Elise Brouillette	Grand Champion - String Ensemble, Sr.
Thomas Brouillette	Grand Champion - String Ensemble, Sr.
Timothy Brouillette	Grand Champion - String Ensemble, Sr.
Ben York	Reserve Champion - Sr. 22 Rifle Sporter Divisions

Happy



Thanksgiving



Dates to Remember

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November

18 Organizational Leader-Enrollment Training
27-28 Holidays, Office Closed

December

6 Festival of Lights Parade
7 Youth Council
24, 25 Holidays, Office Closed

January

23-25 Leadership Development Conference
26 4-H Day at the Capitol

February

13-15 Youth Fest in Monument

Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and El Paso County cooperating.
Extension Programs are available to all without discrimination.

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