



May | 2026



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***Please note that all articles and flyers in the 4-H newsletter will be run for a limited timeframe (usually 3-4 newsletters or less) then will be removed. Please be aware of this and review the 4-H newsletters starting in October of the current program year. This will ensure you are not missing out on any important program information. Thank you!*

Please click the links below to find the following documents on the El Paso County Extension Website.

[Link](#) to What is a Community Service Document

[Link](#) to 4-H Branding Document

[LINK](#) to El Paso County 4-H Policies for Success

[LINK](#) to “More Than 4 Projects” Rule

[LINK](#) to Animal Record Book Policies

[LINK](#) to Oso the Bear

[LINK](#) to Accommodations Form

Band App Links

Follow the Band links below to find more project specific information!

[LINK](#) to Livestock Band Group

[LINK](#) to Dairy + Pygmy Goat Group

[LINK](#) to Small Animal Band Group

[LINK](#) to Mini Horse Band Group

[LINK](#) to Horse Band Group

[LINK](#) to Dog Band Group

[LINK](#) to Tabletop Band Group

[LINK](#) to Electricity Band Group

[LINK](#) to 4-H Shooting Sports Band Group

[LINK](#) to Rocketry Band Group

[LINK](#) to Robotics Band Group

Check out Youth County Council!

Find the Zoom Link [HERE](#)



Check It Out!



EL PASO COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

4-H Youth County Council!

Upcoming Meetings!

Make a positive impact in El Paso County 4-H! Learn Leadership Skills, Make Friends, & participate in fun opportunities throughout the 4-H Year!

MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE LAST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30 PM!
Meetings have MOVED to the Extension Office (17 N. Spruce St. 80905)



- TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026
- **MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2026**
- TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026
- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

NEW Join us Via Zoom for All Regularly Scheduled Advisory Committee Meetings!
ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/94664978761>

Where: El Paso County Extension Office, 17. N. Spruce Street, 80905



2025-2026 4-H E-RECORDS

Please find the link to the 2025-2026 4-H E-Records [HERE](#). If you need the Google Doc or Google Sheets version, please refer to the February 2026 newsletter, or email Shawna.Lamothe@colostate.edu

Accommodations Form

Hello 4-H Families!

As a reminder to all., El Paso County 4-H and Colorado 4-H firmly believe that all 4-H members should be able to participate in 4-H Events and Activities with their peers successfully. This includes providing reasonable accommodation requests made on behalf of 4-H members. In an effort to streamline accommodation requests, El Paso County 4-H has developed a fillable form that can be accessed via the 4-H Website. This form should be used to request accommodations for each 4-H Event that accommodations may be required.

Colorado 4-H recognizes that accommodations may be requested orally and in person, up to the date of the event. However, the timing and manner of a request potentially reduces the county extension's ability to determine reasonable accommodation. Because it can take time to plan for some accommodations, El Paso County 4-H requests that the form be submitted no later than 14 days prior to the event or activity. Submitting a request for accommodation on shorter notice may reduce or limit county extension's ability to implement the accommodations. Please note that the accommodation may not be the one proposed by the participant.

If you have any questions regarding your 4-H member's participation in a 4-H Event, please email 4-H Specialists Emily Green (Emily.Green@colostate.edu) and Jennifer Loewen (Jennifer.Loewen@colostate.edu) and they can provide additional information.

Accommodations Form [HERE](#)

Reminder of Animal Care and Housing Guidelines

All 4-H animal project members and their parents must complete and sign the Animal Care and Housing form in 4HOnline and submit a hard copy to their club leader. Club leaders then submit these forms to the El Paso County CSU Extension Office.

All youth must have care and custody of their animal at their home on record (which is indicated on the Care and Housing Form) with the CSU Extension Office throughout the project. If this changes then they must update their Animal Care & Housing Form on file with the CSU Extension Office as soon as the animal is at another location. Temporary housing should not exceed 72 hours without notifying the Extension Office. Livestock animals must be housed within county lines. Unless they reside outside the county but have county membership then the animals can reside at their residence. Anything beyond that needs to have prior approval from the Extension Office.

Please note that by signing the Animal Care & Housing Form, you grant Extension Specialists permission to conduct site visits to verify the care and housing of the 4-H member's animals, provided advance notice is given.

Site visits will take place this year and going forward, so please ensure animals are properly housed and records are accurate and up to date.

El Paso County Fair Tabletop/General Projects & 4-H Shooting Sports Exhibitor Rules Now Posted!

The El Paso County Fair Rules are Now Posted!

Tabletop/General Projects:

- [CLICK HERE](#) to view the County Fair requirements for all Tabletop/General projects. This will outline how to complete your 4-H E-Record and Exhibit for County Fair, should you choose to exhibit.
- **REMEMBER!** Read and Re-Read your rules for understanding! Exhibits that do not follow the exhibit requirements are not eligible to advance to the State Fair. Make sure your exhibit follows the requirements! Don't waste your hard work!

4-H Shooting Sports Projects:

- [CLICK HERE](#) to view the County Fair requirements for all 4-H Shooting Sports Projects, including Tabletop Projects AND the Live-Fire County Competition Form.
- **REMEMBER!** To be eligible for the live, 4-H Shooting Sports County Competition, members enrolled in 4-H Shooting Sports **MUST HAVE:**
 - Have attended a yearly 4-H Safety Quality Assurance program. The last one will be held **Saturday, April 25!**
 - SIGN UP FOR THE FINAL SQA HERE: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F45ABA62AA0FA7-61877674-04252026#/>
 - Have completed a [Hunter's Safety Course](#) and emailed their Hunters Safety Card to Jen Loewen (Jennifer.Loewen@colostate.edu) by **May 1, 2026.**
 - Have filled out the County Competition Form and turned it in at a 4-H Shooting Sports Practice no later than **May 2, 2026.**

Registration for County Fair (FairEntry) Mark Your Calendars!

Entry for the 2026 El Paso County Fair through FairEntry opens on Monday June 1st and is required for all 4-H General Projects, 4-H Cloverbud, and 4-H Animal Projects (**except horse**) who would like to exhibit at the 2026 El Paso County Fair. All exhibits/animals must be entered into the online FairEntry system. 4-H families will use their ‘4honlie.com’ username and password to log into the FairEntry system.

[Link to 2026 Fair Entry Instructions](#)

Exhibits must be entered by Friday June 12, 2026. A late fee of \$35.00 per family will be assessed for entries received between June 13-29, 2026. After June 19, 2026 absolutely no entries will be accepted. Individuals not complying with deadlines will lose privileges and the opportunity for awards. 4-H members who fail to comply with deadlines for ownership, inspection, or exhibition will be prevented from exhibiting project(s) and/or denied any and all premiums or awards for their project.

Once registration is complete and submitted by the family for ALL members participating in County Fair, it will be reviewed by CSU Extension 4-H staff for approval. Once approved, payment instructions will be sent via email. Please look for these instructions to come from an office staff member. Payment SHOULD NOT be sent until all classes are approved by CSU Extension Staff. Payment must be received by 4:30 PM Tuesday June 23, 2026. It is the member’s responsibility to check with the Extension Office to make sure the entry and payment were completed by the deadline.

- If a 4-H Contest takes place before FairEntry deadlines—all entries and payment must be complete 24 hours before the 4-H Contest.

For help with computer pre-entry, be sure to attend our Help Desk Day on Monday June 8, 2026 from 4:00 PM—6:00 PM at the East Library!

Fair Cleanup & Livestock Exhibitor Meeting—Mark Your Calendars!

It is an expectation for all youth who are competing at the County Fair to attend Fair Cleanup on June 27, 2026, at the Fairgrounds starting at 8:00 AM. There will be a livestock exhibitor meeting beginning at 8:00 AM in the Owens Grandstands with a sign-in sheet for attendance at the Livestock Office. The attendance sheet will be tracked by Superintendents. Tabletop will have a sign in sheet in the Whittemore Building.

Due to the later entry period for County Fair registration, stalling will NOT be posted on the day of Fair Cleanup.



Cake Builders Academy

Open to 4-H Members and Non-4-H Members going into the 4th and 5th grade next year—invite your friends! Register [HERE!](#)

El Paso County 4-H Presents:

CAKE BUILDERS ACADEMY!

Learn how to Design, Bake, Decorate & Display
Creative Cake Confection Masterpieces!

June 9, 10, & 11, 2026
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Academy Schedule:

Day 1:

Kitchen Tool & Food Safety, Introduction to Frosting, Cake Making & Creative Candy Molding.

Day 2:

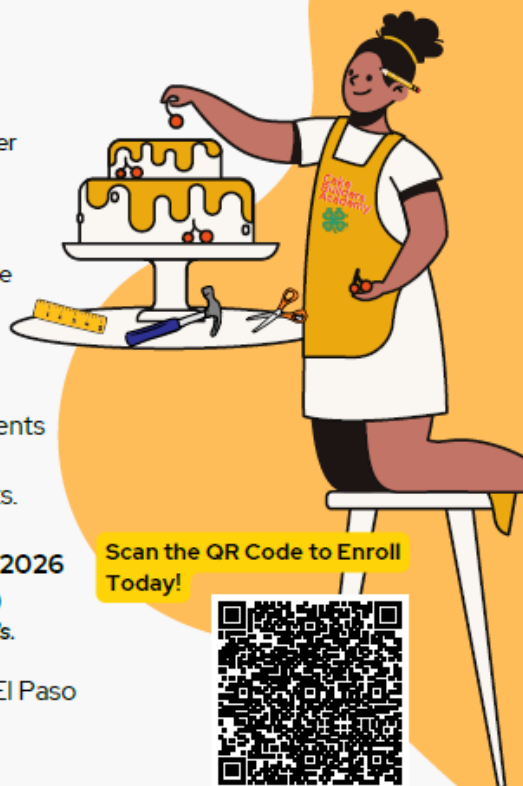
Build a Cupcake Display, use Frosting Tips, Food & Consumer Science Health Activity, & Building a Taste Profile.

Day 3:

Cake Builders Academy Challenge Day!
In Teams, Make, Decorate and Display your Cupcakes for the Panel of Judges before the Clock Runs Out!

Registration:

- Cake Builders Academy is for El Paso County students going into the **4th & 5th grade**.
- Registration is limited to the first 20 paid registrants.
- Registration will be Online via EventBrite
 - Registration will Open **April 1** & Closes **May 15, 2026**
 - Registration Fee: \$25.00 (plus EventBrite Fee)
 - *Program Fee Waiver available for high-need individuals. Please call 719-520-7698 to request assistance.*
- Cake Builders Academy will be held on-site at the El Paso County Extension Office.



Scan the QR Code to Enroll Today!



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EL PASO COUNTY EXTENSION

Questions? Email Jennifer.Loewen@colostate.edu

Creative Cooks Workshop

[RSVP HERE!](#)



SAVE THE DATE!

**MAY 28
2026**

**EL PASO COUNTY 4-H
CREATIVE COOKS
WORKSHOP!**

Learn everything you need to know to participate in the 2026 El Paso County Fair Creative Cooks Contest!

Join us Thursday, May 28, 2026 @ 6:00 PM at the El Paso County Extension Office

- Workshop participants do not need to be enrolled in a Foods project, all are welcome!
- No experience or special knowledge needed.
- For 4-H members 4-H ages 8 and up!





Join Contest Superintendent Tricia Schroeder and previous Creative Cooks Contest Winner, Caitlyn Hodge to learn how to make your Dish DAZZLE and your Theme SPARKLE!

Thinking About Using AI (Artificial Intelligence) in your 4-H Project this year? Use the SIFT Method and Read this Important Guidance!


CSU-Extension: Guidance for Using (AI) Artificial Intelligence in 4-H Project Work:

<https://co4h.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2026/04/Guidance-for-Using-AI-in-4-H-Project-Work.pdf>

Use the SIFT Method:

-  **Stop** - Pause before you trust or share.
-  **Investigate the source** - Who created it? Are they credible?
-  **Find better coverage** - Look for other sources to confirm.
-  **Trace claims** - Go back to the original context or data.

This helps you know if your information is reliable.



The SIFT Method is an evaluation strategy developed by digital literacy expert, Mike Caulfield, to help determine whether online content can be trusted for credible or reliable sources of information. SIFT information is adapted from his materials.

Remember—There is no expectation/requirement for you to use AI in your 4-H project work.

Any and All AI resources used MUST be cited in your project work!

From the State 4-H Exhibit Requirements:

The project work, including writing, must be the member’s own work. If the work was not created by the 4-H member or if it was submitted as a representation of the member’s work without proper acknowledgement that it was created by another, then it is considered plagiarism. **Sources must be cited. Plagiarism will result in disqualification.**

Images used in a 4-H project should be a true representation accurate to real life. Images that are AI-generated in all display boards, project notebooks, or e-Records, etc. should be labeled as such. AI-generated images or text must include a caption or label with this format:

Image (or Text) generated by Name of Generative AI tool, developer, date created and link to the tool.

Examples:

Image generated by DALL-E, Bing, March 31, 2026, <https://www.bing.com/images/create>

Text generated by ChatGPT, OpenAI, March 7, 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

Please send any questions to Jen Loewen at: Jennifer.Loewen@colostate.edu.

Fair Passes

New Safety & Smooth Sailing: 2026 Fair Badge Updates

We've heard your feedback from last year, and we are making some exciting changes to the Fair Badge process to keep things safe and simple!

First up: **Safety First!** This year, we are introducing green breakaway lanyards. We know how hard you work in the barns and around livestock, and these "tearaway" lanyards are designed to pop off if they get caught, ensuring everyone stays safe while handling animals.

The biggest change is the **Badge Return Process**. To streamline everything, we are launching a dedicated **Fair Information Booth** on Vendor Row (near the Small Pavilion).

Where to Drop Off:

Daily: Fair Information Booth on Vendor Row from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Sunday, July 19th: You can also drop off your badges at the **Swink Office** between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm.

- **The Process:** Drop off your badge and sign the return log to confirm it's back in our hands.
- **Pro Tip:** We highly recommend returning your badge yourself! Since you are personally responsible for your badge, dropping it off directly ensures nothing gets lost in the shuffle between leaders or friends. This new system is designed to make the end-of-fair wrap-up easier for everyone!

Camping and 4-H Tickets

Fair Ready: Tickets are LIVE & Camping is Coming Soon!

Get ready to call the fairgrounds home! While **4-H ticket sales are officially live now**, make sure to set your alarms for camping reservations, which open on **Monday, May 18th at 9:00 am**.

Secure your tickets and prep for camping here: [4-H/FFA Tickets & Camping](#)

Before the portal opens, please head over to the link above to view our **new camping map** for this year. We also highly encourage everyone to review the camping guidelines posted on the page; while they haven't changed, a quick refresher will ensure you're all set for a smooth experience when registration begins!

Barn Decoration Contest

"United We Celebrate" Barn Decorating Contest

It's time to get creative! In honor of the nation's 250th anniversary and Colorado's 150th, we invite every club to participate in our **"United We Celebrate"** Barn Decorating Contest. Let's bring our history and heritage to life right in the stalls!

Our Fair Staff, Advisory Board, and County Commissioners will be touring the barns to judge the displays. The winning club will earn bragging rights and a **Free Pizza Party** sponsored by the Fair Team!

We are looking for winners in these categories:

- **Best Overall Theme Representation**
- **Most Patriotic Display**
- **Best Colorado Heritage Showcase**
- **Most Creative Interpretation**

Community Spirit Award

Show us your pride, your history, and your 4-H spirit! We can't wait to see the barns transformed.

East Gate Procedures

East Gate Access & Safety Procedures

To ensure a safer and more streamlined experience for our public, 4-H families, and staff, the **East Gate will be closed to all vehicles (including 4-H golf carts) daily from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm**. These changes are designed to reduce congestion and help us maintain consistent enforcement of our fairgrounds policies.

- **Vehicle Access:** During these restricted hours, the East Gate will only allow vehicle entrance for designated Grandstand events and entertainment.
- **Pedestrians:** Pedestrian access will remain open and will be monitored by our gate attendants throughout the day.

Feed & Supplies: Please transport feed & supplies **before 11 am or after 7 pm**, in alignment with Cart Hours.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us create a safer environment for everyone working and attending the Fair!

Golf Cart at County Fair

New Golf Cart Registration & Policies

We have officially updated our Golf Cart Policy for 2026. Please review the full document here: [2026 Golf Cart Policy](#).

Please note: To ensure public safety during our busiest hours, golf cart operation between **11:00 am and 7:00 pm** is strictly limited to courtesy shuttles, emergency vehicles, and maintenance staff only.

Registration will take place at the **Swink Office** on **Wednesday, July 8th and Thursday, July 9th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**. Please keep the following in mind:

- **Vehicle Inspection:** You must bring the cart with you to registration so it can be inspected by our team.
- **Mandatory Signatures:** Anyone who will be driving the cart must sign the policy to show agreement and compliance. If you do not have the paperwork signed ahead of time, all drivers must be present at registration to sign in person.
- **Limited Availability:** There are **20 slots available** for golf carts this year. Registration is first-come, first-served, so be sure to arrive early!

Affordable Health Certification for County Fair

Every year, the Livestock Advisory Committee offers 4-H members the opportunity to haul their animals to a specific location to receive a health certificate for County Fair. This will take place on Sunday June 28th, 2026, from 8:00 AM—11:00 AM at the El Paso County Fairgrounds.

Health Certifications cost \$5 per animal and CASH ONLY (exact cash preferred). We will be set up by the Beer Dock so you will enter the south gate, pull over by the Beer Dock, and you will exit the North Gate. A member of the family, an adult or youth, must be in attendance to sign the health certificate. If you would like to obtain a health certificate on this day you will need to show up from 8:00 AM—11:00 AM. There is no sign up or registration. It is first come first serve.

Animals are required to have health certifications for the County Fair issues within 14 days prior to the start of the County Fair. Animals required to have a health certification are camelids, miniature horses, and all livestock. Each animal must be individually identified on the certificate. When you load in your animals at the County Fair, you will need to make sure you have a **printed, hard copy of your health certificate every day you enter the fairgrounds with animals.** The livestock office keeps these on file.

Exhibitor Stall Preparation

It is expected that all exhibitors will set up their stalls with bedding and equipment before the start of the County Fair. You can come to the Fairgrounds on Wednesday July 8th after 3:00 PM, or all day Thursday July 9th, or all day July 10th. If the youth do not take advantage of the pre-set up, they will have to haul everything by hand from their parked trailer in the east lot outside the Fairgrounds to the barns. The youth and/or adults are not allowed to unload tack, equipment, or feed during our scheduled animal load in times.

Recap of Practice to Ring: Beef Showmanship

The Colorado State University 4-H Program in El Paso County supports youth development through hands-on livestock education that builds both technical showmanship skills and essential life competencies. Guided by a volunteer with 38 years of 4-H experience and service as a beef superintendent for the El Paso County Fair, this clinic addresses the need for structured experiential learning opportunities that prepare youth for livestock competition while strengthening personal responsibility and leadership.

The “From Practice to Ring” clinic used a progressive learning model that included demonstration, guided practice, and a judged evaluation. Ten youth from four counties participated in activities focused on beef showmanship fundamentals such as foot placement, showman stance, halter control, proper hand positioning, and ring etiquette. Youth practiced skills including setting hind feet, maintaining correct knuckle orientation toward the animal’s eye while walking, and remaining calm and professional in the ring. The clinic concluded with a judged exercise in which two top-performing youth received sponsored belt buckles recognizing excellence.

Mark your calendars for next year, because it is in the works to host another one next year!



Help Us Thank Our Local Heroes!

I'm organizing a 4-H community service project to create care packages for our local **firefighters!**

I would love your help!

I am currently collecting:



Favorite family recipes



30-minute meals



Simple desserts



If you have a special recipe that your family loves, I would be honored to include it in this project!



Please send recipes to:
Lilyt5317@gmail.com



Deadline: May 31



Thank you for supporting our local firefighters!

JOIN EL PASO COUNTY 4-H YOUTH
COUNTY COUNCIL FOR

Summer Fest!

TUESDAY, JUNE 23
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

JOIN THE YCC IN A FULL DAY OF FUN &
LEARNING ABOUT THE "SCIENCE OF SUMMER!"

Participate in Fun Activities!

- STEM Experiments
- Group Games
- Arts & Crafts Activities
- ...and Much More!

Scan QR Code to
Register!



**ENROLL
NOW!**

- FOR 4-H/NON-4-H MEMBERS AGED 8 - 13
- \$25.00 PER CAMPER (PLUS EVENTBRITE FEE)
- REGISTRATIONS OPEN MONDAY, MAY 11
- ENROLLMENTS & PAYMENTS DUE FRIDAY, MAY 29
(CAMP MAY FILL UP BEFORE THIS DATE!)

CAMP WILL BE HELD AT THE EL PASO COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE
17 N. SPRUCE STREET, 80905



Click [HERE](#) to Purchase Your Meal Tickets for the 4-H Dance!

Under the
STARS & STRIPES
4-H Dance

 <i>July</i> 17TH	 7:30 ★ PM ★	 IN SWINK HALL
 YARD GAMES	 PHOTO BOOTH	 MEAL OPTION AVAILABLE

★  **THE DANCE IS FREE!
PURCHASE YOUR HOT DOG
MEAL PLATE TO ENJOY AT
THE DANCE! - \$5**

 **SCAN THE CODE TO PURCHASE
YOUR MEAL TICKET!**

★ GRAB YOUR FRIENDS & ★
come dance under the stars!

★ **HOSTED BY 4-H YOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL** ★



4-H Youth County Council Spoonful's of Kindness Event

Thank you to all the 4-H Members who came out to support the Care & Share Community Service this year--your support makes sure that hungry families get the food they need in El Paso County!



4-H members creating food menu boxes for Senior citizens.





4-H members packing food boxes for distribution centers and snack boxes for schools.



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EL PASO COUNTY EXTENSION



CARE AND SHARE
FOOD BANK FOR SOUTHERN COLORADO

Reporter's Round Up

REPORTERS ROUND UP

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

CLUBS: A-OK

REPORTERS: KAYLEE MCDANIEL & LYDIA GINSBURG

Last month, A-OK members and families volunteered with Scouting America Troops 149 & 70, Cub Scout Pack 231 of Falcon, and Girl Scout Troops 43820 & 45234 to support the annual Scouting for Food drive. The purpose of this event was to collect food for the Fresh Start Food Bank on Woodman. This food drive took place in stages between April 7th and April 17th. On the first day, we stapled informational flyers to 8,000 paper grocery bags for Troop 149 to distribute. That following weekend, volunteers picked up neighborhood maps and put a paper bag at every house marked on their maps. Some of the maps had more than 100 houses on them! On the last day, we drove through neighborhoods and looked for donation bags that were ready for pickup. Kaylee and her friend went to a total of 134 houses and collected about 16 bags on their first round. Then, they went to another 120 houses and collected 5 or 6 more bags. There was great weather and a great turnout of volunteers and community support. Overall, more than 15,000 pounds of food was collected for the Fresh Start Center on Woodman. The A-OK Club had so much fun helping with this food drive. Thank you Scouting America Troop 149 and A-OK Community Service Chair, Jarod Goodell-Murphy, for giving us the opportunity to partner and serve our local community together!



"One of Jarod's favorite parts of the Scouting for Food drive is the scavenger hunt of looking for grocery bags on the porches that are ready for pickup. It's always so exciting to find them!"

Reporter's Round Up

REPORTERS ROUND UP COUNTY CONTEST

CLUBS: A-OK, PALS OF THE PINES, & COUNTRY STYLE

REPORTERS: KAYLEE MCDANIEL, LYDIA GINSBURG, ELISE

LINDSTROM, & SHANNON HUDSON

On April 11th, 4-H members from 9 clubs gathered at Lewis Palmer Middle School to showcase their skills, knowledge, and creativity at County Contest. There were many events to choose from, including a new Bakeology category for adult volunteers! Before the award ceremony, senior members Jayna Schroeder and Caitlyn Hodge also gave brief presentations about the upcoming Fashion Revue and Creative Cooks competitions. Here are some firsthand experiences from a few of the County Contest contestants.

Elise Lindstrom (Pals of the Pines Intermediate)

Elise has competed in County Contest for the past 2 years. This year, she participated in Bakeology, Prepared Speech, and the Cake Decorating Contest.

1. Why did you choose to participate in the 2-Layer Cake Decorating demonstration?

I decided to participate because I did it last year as well and thought it was fun. It also partly fulfills the cake decorating goal of decorating 4 practice cakes.

2. How did you prepare for your Cake Decorating demonstration?

I had to make the cake and frosting beforehand and also planned out what inspiration I wanted to have and what my cake would look like. I also bought the decorations I wanted but then realized I was not actually supposed to use them, and instead only pipe, which is why I got some points docked off.

3. What was the hardest/trickiest part of decorating your bee-themed cake?

The hardest part of decorating my bee cake was either getting the base frosting smooth or creating the queen bee because I did not have a lot of yellow frosting left, but I managed to do it!

4. What was the most fun part of decorating your bee-themed cake?

The most fun part of decorating the bee cake was adding the little bees and chocolate honeycombs.



**"My favorite part was buying two delicious cakes from the bake sale!" –
Lydia Ginsburg**

Reporter’s Round Up Continued

REPORTERS ROUND UP COUNTY CONTEST

CLUBS: A-OK, PALS OF THE PINES, & COUNTRY STYLE

REPORTERS: KAYLEE MCDANIEL, LYDIA GINSBURG, ELISE

LINDSTROM, & SHANNON HUDSON



Kaylee McDaniel (A-OK Junior)

This was Kaylee’s first year competed in County Contest. This year, she participated in Bakeology and Performing Arts.

1. Why did you choose to participate in the dance contest?

I’ve been taking Irish dance classes for 2 years, and a 4-H member suggested that it would be really cool for me to do Irish at County Contest.

2. How did you prepare for your dance contest?

I practiced my dance and recited my introduction.

3. What was the hardest/trickiest part of performing your dance?

Staying on my toes and keeping my arms by my sides.

4. What was the most fun part of performing your dance?

Getting to show off my hard work.



Shannon Hudson (Country Style Senior)

Shannon has competed in County Contest since she was a Cloverbud. This year, she participated in Bakeology and Demonstration.

1. Why did you choose to participate in the demonstrations & illustrated talks category?

It prepares me for State fair.

2. How did you prepare for your demonstration?

I practiced.

3. What was the hardest/trickiest part of giving your demonstration?

The hardest part for me was trying not to fidget.

4. What was the most fun part of giving your demonstration?

I think that the most fun thing about giving my demo is exploring a new topic each year.



“My favorite part was buying two delicious cakes from the bake sale!”
— Lydia Ginsburg

Open Pregnancy Verification for Market Heifers

All market heifers must be accompanied by a certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian verifying the heifer is pregnancy tested OPEN within 30 days of the El Paso County Fair.

Out of County Form for Showing Livestock

In reference to the 2026 4-H/FFA Livestock Premium Book, we have two items concerning multiple animals in the same class. In the event an exhibitor has multiple animals in the same class.

- A 4-H/FFA youth in good standing from out of county with parents permission may show the extra animal
- OR the 4-H/FFA youth in good standing from out of county with parent permission may show the extra animal in addition to meeting these requirements
 - An Out of County Form request must be filled out and submitted to the Extension agent four weeks before the first day of the County Fair (June 12, 2026). A youth member is limited to 2 forms maximum. Each form will cost \$5.

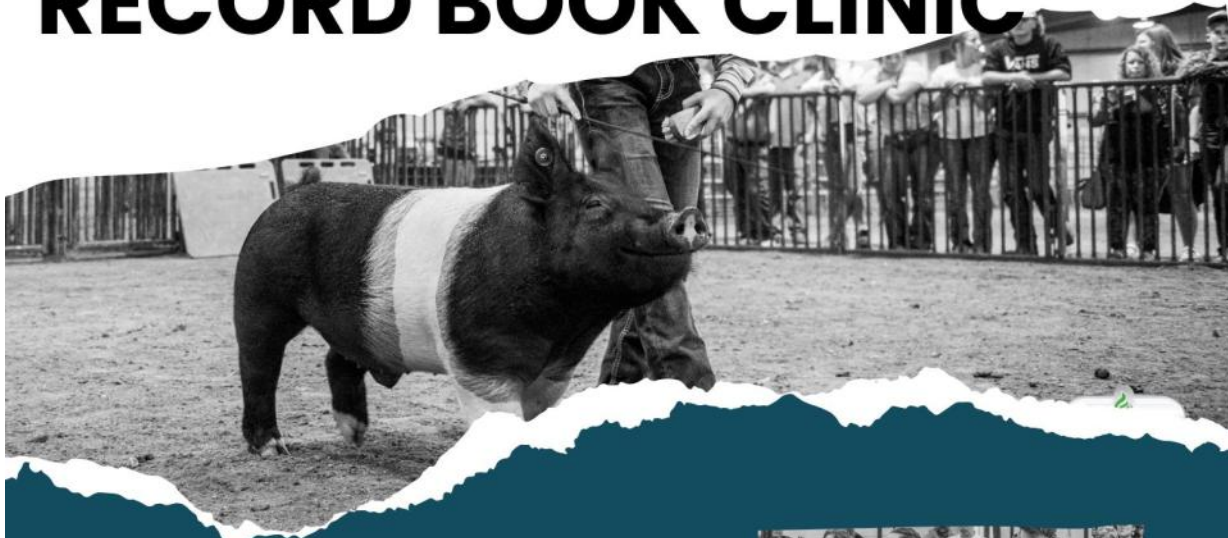
Find the form [HERE](#)

OR if an exhibitor in a market class ends up with multiple animals in the same class, they can elect to move one animal up to the next heavier weight class but not down to the lighter class. The Out of County Form has been linked above for reference, and you can find it on the El Paso County website.

Large Livestock Record Book Clinic

Registration Link [HERE](#)

Livestock RECORD BOOK CLINIC



Outline

- ✓ Tips and Tricks
- ✓ Q & A Session
- ✓ Review the rubric
- ✓ Drawing for free record book covers

May 28, 2026

6:30 PM at Swink Hall (Fairgrounds)



EL PASO COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Market Beef Re-Weigh for Rate of Gain Contest

If you have youth enrolled in the Market Beef Project who are interested in participating in the Rate of Gain Contest, please note that the required re-weigh date is Friday, May 15th from 6:00 PM-7:00 PM.

Participants must attend this re-weigh to remain eligible for the contest. If you miss this time frame, you will not be eligible—no exceptions.

Please be prepared to lead animals, as there will not be alleyways available to assist with containing them.

The Rate of Gain Contest requirements and full details are outlined in the premium book. Please refer to it if you have additional questions.



Market Goat and Sheep Tag In

Thursday May 7, 2026, Owens Arena—El Paso County Fairgrounds

- Any youth member that plans on showing MARKET Goat and/or Sheep at County Fair needs to fill out this Google Survey below by April 15, 2026.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGk8bGUtZojwO8D77PKtX1R9SDSBYW_rTpS1EB0-zlpnQ2Qw/viewform?usp=publish-editor
- We will not be differentiating between species so being goats and/or sheep. Families can come between 5:00 PM—7:00 PM. Please note the office closes at 7:00 PM SHARP. No Exceptions.
- 4-H members who fail to comply with deadlines for ownership, inspection, or exhibition will be prevented from exhibiting project(s) and/or denied any and all premiums or awards for their project.
- If our team of **VOLUNTEERS** are running behind, please be patient as we are working with live animals and technology so sometimes it does not go as planned or expected.
- Only CASH will be accepted on the day of tag in (read below for details on price breakouts)

Things to Know in Advance:

- All animals **must be castrated prior** to being weighed and tagged in as a 4-H Market project. Castration cannot happen on the day of tag in. The animals should be healed as much as possible.
- You must bring your animal with a halter already on before it is unloaded, or it will not be tagged or weighed. The idea is to work with them ahead of time.
 - However, please note that it is the decision of the exhibitor if they want to leave on wraps, blankets, halters, and chains. This only HINDERS the rate of gain scores; however, the choice does belong to the exhibitor.

Market Goat and Sheep Tag In

- If your animals are sick or show signs of sore mouth and/or fungus, please email Emily.Green@colostate.edu and we will have you go across the scale and tag in at the end.
- Market ewes and market does **MUST** have scrapies tags before tag in.
- Please enter and park your truck and trailers in the South Parking Lot
- Youth will walk their animals through the south sheep/goat barn and into the arena.
- Please stay off the concrete with your animals in the Owens Livestock Arena.
- Tag in is the only time State Fair Nominations will be taken and will cost \$3 to nominate per animal (CASH ONLY).
 - Remember all 4-H Exhibitors must have their premise ID# on their nomination cards to be accepted for State Fair. This is a State Fair Policy. **NOT** a requirement to participate at the County Level. This information should be completed on ALL cards at the time of tag in.
 - You will need to apply for your premise ID number well in advance of tag in, so they have time to assign you one. Please do so 3-4 weeks before you need it. Please call 303-869-9130 to get your ID or visit the website at <https://ag.colorado.gov/animals/colorado-location-identification-lid-registration-premises>
- Retinal scans at tag in are \$3 per animal due at tag in (CASH ONLY).
 - The first 6 ear tags are free, \$1 per tag over 6.
- Fees are due on the date of tag in.
- In the event of an emergency, please contact the appropriate superintendent listed on the website via cell phone as soon as possible. While accommodation cannot be guaranteed, timely communication is essential in emergency situations (for example, a flat tire on the way to tag in).
- If the weather is bad, please understand we will need to block off a different day in May.

Market Goat Clinic

Register [HERE](#)



**MARKET
CLINIC
GOAT**

FRIDAY JUNE 12, 2026
10:00 AM UNTIL 6:00 PM
EL PASO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

SHREVE SHOW STOCK, IS LOCATED IN NORTHERN COLORADO AND, RAISES SHOW GOATS AND CATTLE. HAVING LEARNED SHOWMANSHIP FROM SOME OF THE INDUSTRIES BEST. SHANNON IS A 4-H CLUB LEADER OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CLUBS IN LARIMER COUNTY\] AND IS ALSO THE MEAT GOAT SUPERINTENDENT. BRODY HAS HAD A LOT OF SUCCESS IN AND OUT OF THE RING IN HIS EIGHT YEARS IN 4-H. HAVING WON SHOWMANSHIP AT MULTIPLE SHOWS AS WELL AS ROUND ROBIN COMPETITIONS. HE HAS SPENT THE PAST THREE SUMMERS TEACHING NEW SHOWMAN AND HELPING BOOST THE EXPERIENCED SHOWMAN'S TECHNIQUE. HAVING EXPERIENCED SOME OF HIS BIGGEST WINS IN SEEING THE SHOWMAN THAT HE HAS TAUGHT GO ON AND BE SUCCESSFUL AND LOVE THE SPORT OF SHOWING! WE ARE HAPPY TO HELP YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE ADVANCE AND BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE!

SCHEDULE
MORNING SESSION-SHOWMANSHIP
AFTERNOON SESSION- CLIPPING, FITTING, + MORE
SHOWMANSHIP

First Year Lamb Project Overview

[Find the First Year Lamb Application HERE](#)

Guidelines & Information

To help grow and incentivize starting a Market Lamb Project, we have started the First Year Market Lamb Program. This program will provide the 4-H member with a market lamb to show at this year's County Fair. The member will exhibit the lamb in both the regular market class as well as a special class for first year market lamb program participants. Guidelines include the following:

- 4-H Members enrolled in their first year of the lamb project will learn more about their project through monthly project meetings. Participants will need to attend 3 of 4 educational meetings or they may substitute one of the meetings by exhibiting at a prospect or jackpot show.

Clinics will be held on:

-March 25th at 6:30pm Akers

-April 23rd at 6:00 p.m. Akers

-May 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the Fairgrounds

-June 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fairgrounds

- Members will receive one market lamb through this program to be paid for from their sale proceeds (from any animal they choose to sell through the junior livestock sale at the county fair not to exceed \$500 plus insurance).
- They will exhibit in the special First Year Program Class during the County Fair, as well as the regular market class and showmanship. Youth should plan on purchasing a second market lamb on their own. Members do not need to purchase the second, but lambs do not do well alone, so a buddy should be purchased. Siblings may not need to do this if both qualify for the First Year Program.
- The First Year Program is only available to 4-H Members in their first year of the project, but the educational sessions are open to all 4-H Members, regardless of experience.

Looking Forward

- **May 30, 2026**— Qualifying Ranch Horse Show (Black Forest)
- **June 6, 2026**— Qualifying Western/English Show (Latigo)
- **June 19, 2026**— County Fair Registrations, Written Tests, Patterns, & Interviews (Extension Office)
- **June 27-28, 2026**— County Fair 4-H Horse Show (Latigo)
- **September 12, 2026**— County Fair 4-H Horse Show Awards (Black Forest Saddle Club)

County Fair Registrations, Written Test, Patterns & Premier Exhibitor Interviews

The County Fair Horse Class Registration, Written Test, Patterns, & Premier Exhibitor Interviews will take place on Friday June 20, 2026 starting at 4:00 PM at the Extension Office.

For class registration make sure you bring a blank check (will fill in at the registration table) or cash (must be exact change so please plan accordingly and do your work in advance).

Make sure the youth that have signed up for the premium exhibitor interview are dressed accordingly. A google form will be sent out for sign ups.

Looking Forward

- **May 9, 2026**
 - Miniature Horse Qualifying Show (Fairgrounds)
- **May 16, 2026**
 - Fundraising at Focus on the Family
- **June 4-5, 2026**
 - 4-H Miniature Horse Camp (Latigo)
 - 4-H Miniature Horse Qualifying Show (Latigo)
- **June 19, 2026**
 - Written Tests, Patterns, & Interviews (Extension Office)
- **Arena Workout Dates are listed in the Band App**
- **July 3, 2026**
 - Fair Clean Up
- **July 7, 2026**
 - Health Certifications

County Fair Written Test, Patterns & Premier Exhibitor Interviews

The County Fair Miniature Horse Written Test, Patterns, & Premier Exhibitor Interviews will take place on Friday June 20, 2026, starting at 4:00 PM at the Extension Office.

Make sure the youth have signed up for the premium exhibitor interview are dressed accordingly. A google form will be sent out for sign ups.

El Paso County Dog Show

New this year we are offering open fun run classes for adults!

4-H Registration [HERE](#)— Open Fun Run Registration [HERE](#)



 **COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**
EL PASO COUNTY EXTENSION

 *El Paso County*
Dog Show
4-H Classes & Open Fun Run Classes



 **Rally**

 **Obedience**

 **Showmanship**

Come join us at the El Paso County Dog Show for a day of fun featuring 4-H classes, open fun runs for adults, delicious concessions, and a silent auction full of great finds!

May 31, 2026
366 10th St
Calhan, CO 80808

Check In Time: 8:00 AM
show Start Time: 9:00 AM

Please bring cash or check the day of the event
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AND CLOSES MAY 25, 2026

Open Fun Run Registration
SHOWMANSHIP (\$10)
RALLY (\$10),
WRITTEN TEST (\$5)



4-H Registration
\$5 A CLASS

 **VACCINATIONS NEED TO BE UP TO DATE TO SHOW**

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL: rboynton15@hotmail.com

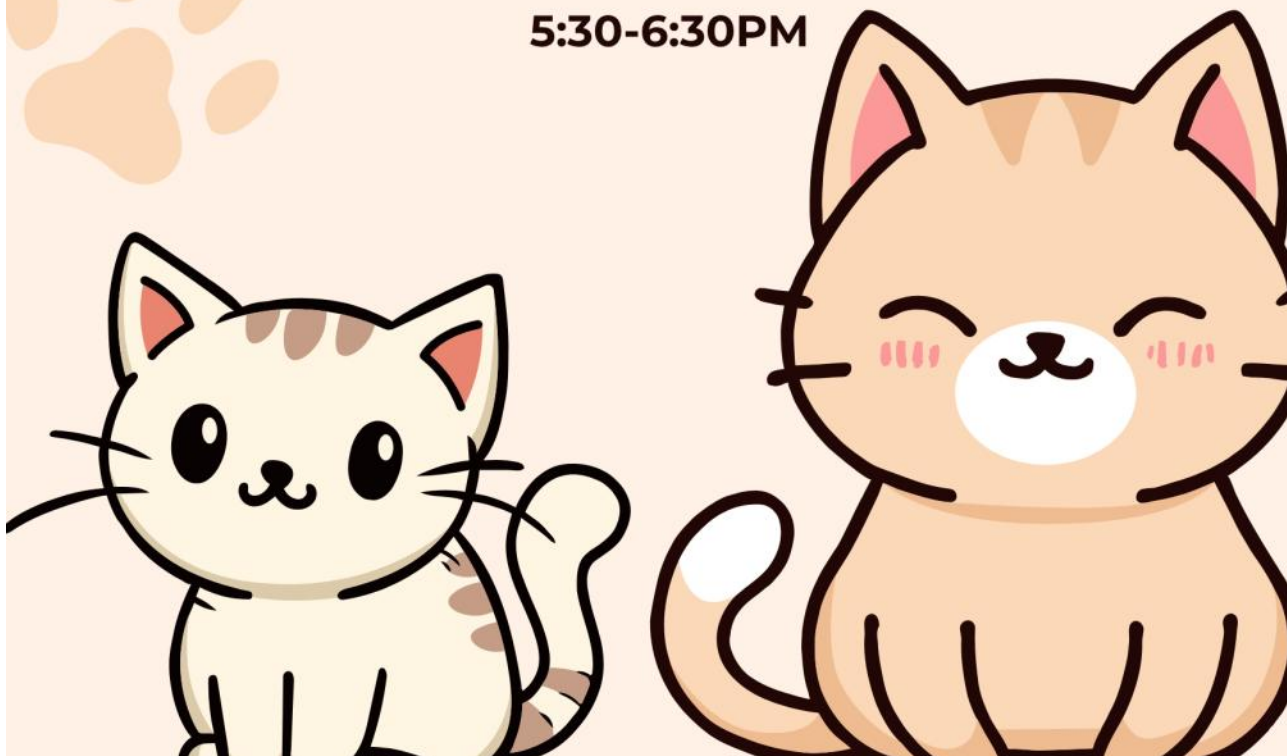
Cat Project Meetings

**CAT PROJECT
MEETINGS 2025-2026**

**THE REMAINING MEETINGS WILL TAKE
PLACE PENDING INTEREST.**

**PLEASE RSVP TO
RBOYNTON15@HOTMAIL.COM
IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND**

**CSU EXTENSION OFFICE
BRING YOUR CATS!
APRIL 14, MAY 12, AND JUNE 9
5:30-6:30PM**



Rabbit and Cavy Project Meetings

Rabbit Meetings

Every second THURSDAY every month
Extention Office 17 N. Spruce St.
6:00 pm

Bring:
Rabbit or rabbits, something to put your
rabbit on (carpet square, towel, ect.)

Please park in the south parking lot and wait by the employee entrance to be let in!



Cavy Meetings

First WEDNESDAY of every month
starting October!
Extention Office 17 N. Spruce St.
6:00pm

Bring:
Your cavy, something to put your cavy on
(towel, puppy pads, ect.), Record book,
notebook to take notes

Please park in the south parking lot and wait by the employee door to be let in!



Tabletop Project Rules [HERE](#)

E-Records [HERE](#)

Hey Tabletop Exhibitors! Are You Ready...

FOR COUNTY FAIR?

County Fair Judging is very exciting, but it can be nerve-wracking too! Make sure you have everything you need to have a successful Tabletop Judging & Interview Day at the County Fair this year!

STEP 1: READ YOUR RULES!

It is VERY important to make sure you have followed the project requirements for your Tabletop exhibit--Don't get marked down on judging day for something that was stated in the rules! Read, and Re-read your rules!

- You can find all the [Tabletop Project Rules](#) by [Clicking Here](#).



STEP 2: PREPARE YOUR E-RECORD

ALL Tabletop Projects require a completed, corresponding Project E-Record to be presented with your exhibit/project on judging day. Don't forget it at home!

- You can access all the [Colorado 4-H E-Records](#) by [Clicking Here](#).



STEP 3: INTERVIEW ON JUDGING DAY!

An interview with the judge is NOT required during Tabletop Judging Day.

However, it is a really great way to practice your interview skills and have a conversation with the judge about the challenges and successes you had during your 4-H project this year. We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity!



Have Questions about Tabletop Interview & Judging Day?
Send Jen an email at: Jennifer.Loewen@elpasoco.com.

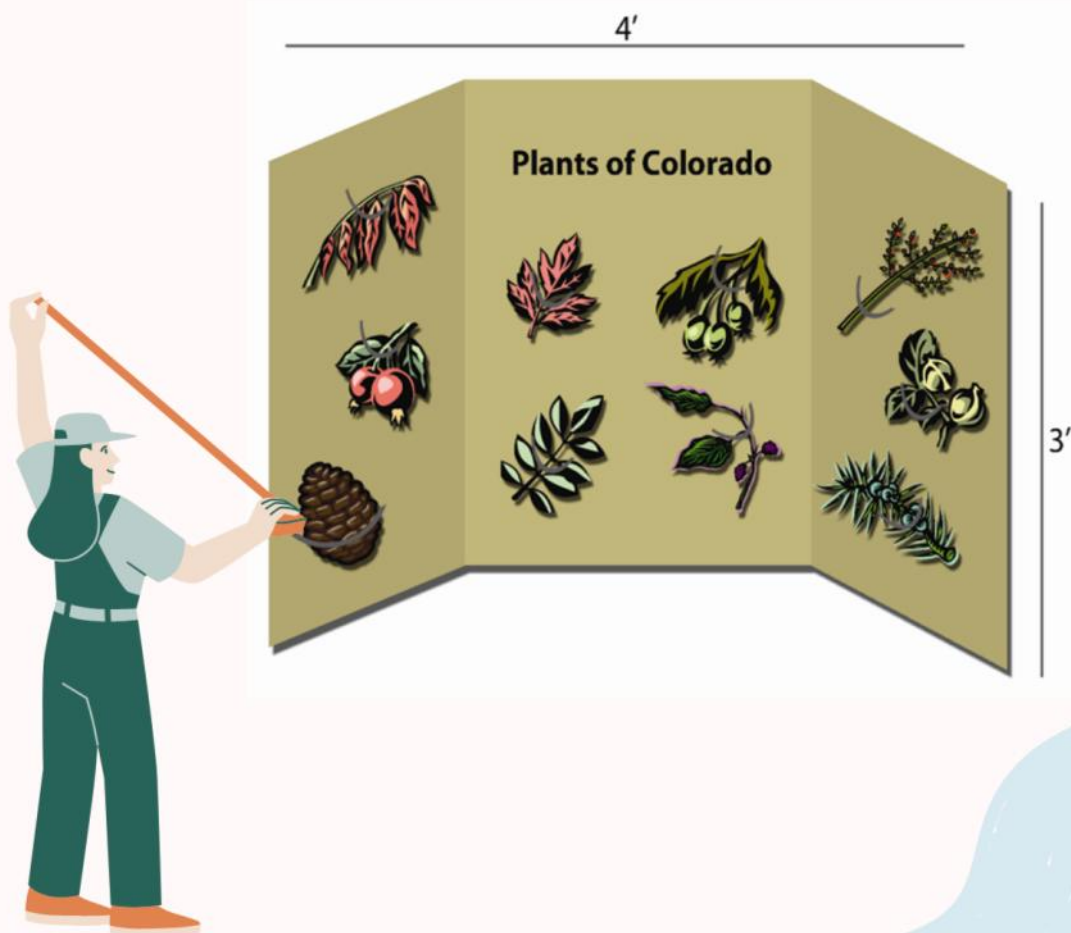


COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EL PASO COUNTY EXTENSION

EXPERT EXHIBIT TIPS!

4-H EXHIBIT BOARDS:

- **MAKE SURE YOUR EXHIBIT BOARD IS THE CORRECT SIZE!**
 - **The standard and correct display board size is 4 feet x 3 feet.**
 - *The tri-fold display boards commonly sold at the Dollar Store are often NOT the correct size.*
 - *Cloverbuds may use an exhibit board no larger than 2 foot x 2 foot.*
- **Display boards must meet the specifications and should fold flat for transport.**
 - *No items on the board should be too bulky that it will not fold flat.*
- **No sharp items including but not limited to blades, thumb tacks, fishing hooks, knives, etc. are allowed on display boards or as part of any other exhibit.**
 - *Consider using photos of any sharp items, if necessary. Any exhibit considered to be a safety hazard will not be displayed and is not eligible to advance to the State Fair.*
 - *Rubber Cement is encouraged for gluing any paper items to your exhibit board. Glue stick may not hold up to the heat and humidity at fair, and pieces may fall off and be lost.*



EXPERT EXHIBIT TIPS!

4-H SHOOTING SPORTS EXHIBITS:

- **No live ammo, projectiles or bows will be allowed as an exhibit.**
 - **Examples include but are not limited to:** pellets, round balls, or arrows (with or without field points, broadheads), knives, functional or nonfunctional firearms, replica firearms, hand-made, or toy-type, etc.
 - 2-D cardboard or paper cutouts resembling firearms or bows are allowed for display purposes.
 - Spent shells ONLY can be used in the Decorative item class.
- **Do not use the word "weapon" when creating your display.**
 - Use the terms "equipment," "tool," "firearm" "archery equipment", etc.
- **Make sure that there are no safety violations in your display.**
 - Safety violations include, but are not limited to: no earplugs, no safety glasses on a photo of a youth firing his/her gun, no archery arm guard, etc.
- **Do not use pictures of firearms that are primarily tactical in design in your display.**
 - Example: AR platform or military type firearms.
- **Historic photos or artist depictions used in exhibits that are not displaying current 4-H practices must have the following disclaimer posted with them:**
 - *"These are historic photographs and artist renderings. Therefore, they do not follow modern safety protocols for Colorado 4-H."*
- **Photos/artist renderings of firearms/archery equipment pointed towards people/humanoid targets are not permitted.**



USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN EXHIBITS:

- **Images used in a 4-H project should be a true representation accurate to real life. Images that are AI-generated in all display boards, project notebooks, or E-Records, etc. should be labeled as such.**
 - AI-generated images or text must include a caption or label with this format: Image (or Text) generated by Name of Generative AI tool, developer, date created and link to the tool used.
- **The project work, including writing, must be the member's own work.**
 - If the work was not created by the 4-H member or if it was submitted as a representation of the member's work without proper acknowledgement that it was created by another, then it is considered plagiarism. **Sources must be cited. Plagiarism will result in disqualification.**



EXPERT EXHIBIT TIPS!

CAKE DECORATING EXHIBITS

- **All Cakes should be placed on a very firm, disposable surface (foam core, strong cardboard, plywood, particle board, etc.), cut parallel to the shape of the cake and must be 1½ Inch on each side from the base of the icing border, not the cake.**
 - The edges of the cake board should be straight, not scalloped or beveled.
 - The surface of your cake board should be covered. The cake board must be covered with a food safe material, such as aluminum foil. Freezer paper is not advised because it absorbs grease. If you use decorative or gift wrap paper or fabric, it must be covered in food quality plastic wrap.



- Check your cake board size! **It should be 1 ½ inch all the way around**, from the base of the icing border.
- If you can't find a board in the store that fits your cake, make your own board with some sturdy cardboard!

What to Bring to Practice???

Anyone willing to volunteer to arrive early to help set up or stay late to help take down is always welcome and GREATLY appreciated!! All the Shooting Sports Leaders are volunteers. Please be nice to them!!

4-HERS FOR EVERY PRACTICE

Water and Snacks

Sunscreen

POSITIVE ATTITUDE ANDS DESIRE TO LEARN

FOR PARENTS

Water and Snacks

Sunscreen

Something to do like a good book

*<https://el Paso.extension.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/44/2024/03/Permission-to-Fire-a-Handgun-10.9.19.pdf>

** Optional but recommended items

Folding Chair

POSITIVE ATTITUDE

.22 Rifle

Rifle
Case
Ammunition
Eye Protection
Ear Protection
Clear Bore Indicator
**Mat
**Ammunition Block
**Binoculars or spotting scope

.22 Pistol

***Permission to Fire Handgun form**
Pistol
Case
Ammunition
Eye Protection
Ear Protection
Clear Bore Indicator
**Binoculars or spotting scope

Air Pistol

Pistol
Case
Ammunition
Co2 cartridges
** Ammunition Block
Eye Protection
Ear Protection
**Clear Bore Indicator
**Binoculars or spotting scope

Air Rifle

Rifle
Case
Ammunition
Co2 cartridges
Mat
Eye Protection
Ear Protection
**Clear Bore Indicator
**Ammunition Block
**Binoculars or spotting scope

Muzzleload Rifle and Pistol

Rifle/Pistol
Case
Powder,Patch and Ball (or it won't shoot at all)
Powder Flask/Powder Horn
Original Powder Container
Powder measure
Ball starter
Ramrod
Caps and capper
Cleaning patches and solution
Eye Protection
Ear Protection
**Binoculars or spotting scope

Archery

Bow
Case
Arrows
Quiver
Arm Guard
Finger Tab or Release
** Binoculars

Shotgun

Shotgun
Case
Ammunition
Eye Protection
Ear Protection
**Ammunition bag
**Shooting vest

Questions: contact us on Band or Facebook :

EPC 4H Shooting Sports

Email us at: epc.shootingsports@gmail.com

May:

Friday May 16th—Colorado Parks & Wildlife—
Council Meeting 6:30 PM—9:00 PM

Sunday May 17th—Frontier Sportsmans Club Hanover 9:00 AM

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F45ABA62AA0FA7-63229329-05172026#/>

Sunday May 17th—Kiowa Creek Sporting Club -
Shotgun Spring Clays 9:30 AM—2:00 PM

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F45ABA62AA0FA7-63660412-51726#/>

Colorado State Competition Dates:

- Saturday August 22nd and Sunday August 23rd 2026:
 - Archery—Colorado City
 - .22 Rifle & Muzzleload—Pueblo West
 - .177 Rifle & .177 Pistol—Colorado State Fairgrounds Event Center
- Saturday September 19th and Sunday September 20th 2026: (date subject to change)
 - Western Heritage & Hunting & Outdoor Skills National Qualifiers
- Saturday September 5th and September 6th 2026
 - Shotgun & .22 Pistol—Pikes Peak Gun Club

DRIVING SAFETY ON 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS RANGES

Hello 4-H Shooting Sports Folks!

As we continue with spring practices and get closer to the live-fire County Competition, this is a friendly reminder to drive **SAFELY, SLOWLY, and FOLLOW ALL SIGNAGE** on 4-H ranges.

It is very important for the safety of staff, volunteers and members that vehicles do not exceed the speed limit and pay close attention to potential hazards on dirt roads, such as washouts, berms, rough patches, and any other hazards that can cause vehicles to move dangerously.

4-H members or volunteers may be crossing the road, so be also on the lookout for people and give pedestrians the right-of-way.

It is also VERY important to adhere to parking and driving locations on the ranges. **Please do not drive offroad!**

If you have any questions about where to park on the ranges, please email Jen Loewen at: Jennifer.Loewen@colostate.edu.

Thank you for helping keep our members, volunteers and attendees safe!

2026 IFYE Opportunities—Host an Exchangee!

IFYE USA (formerly called International Farm Youth Exchange) offers international exchanges for young adults 19-29. In 2026, IFYA will be welcoming one delegate to Colorado, June 8—August 14. We are seeking 4-5 families to host for 2-3 weeks during that time.

While the specific delegate has not yet been identified, we anticipate hosting a participant from one of the following countries: Chile, Estonia, Germany, Kenya, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, or Zambia. As members of American families, delegates experience the American way of life firsthand while also sharing their own culture in meaningful and memorable ways. It is truly an unforgettable experience.

Host families provide housing, meals, and transportation. Delegates bring their own spending money and are fully covered by health and liability insurance. Hosting a young person from another country is the next best thing to traveling abroad yourself, right from your own home.

If you are interested or have questions, contact the state IFYE inbound coordinator, [Beth Roren](#).