

4-H News to Know June & July 2014



Extension

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67th Annual Custer County Fair

The Fair is fast approaching! The dates are July 14-20th, 2014. That is (counting from today, June 13) only 32 days!!!!!! Please review the newsletter for any information that may pertain to you. Also, **PROMPTLY OPEN** and respond to any mail that you get from the Extension Office. Entry forms have been mailed out to all 4-H and FFA families. Please fill them out. You may mail the entry forms back, drop them off at the office, call 783-2514 or email your information. **You must respond back with the information requested before 4 p.m. on Friday, June 20th.**

The Extension Office will move out to the fairgrounds and set up on Saturday, July 12th. We will not have the office in the courthouse open during the week of fair.

ATTENTION LIVESTOCK MEMBERS! - The Fair Board has passed a rule that special requests to the fair board will require a letter from the member explaining what their special request is. If it is to miss a weigh in, the letter needs to ask for a rescheduled time. **If a member misses a mandatory activity/meeting/weigh in without notifying the fair board, then you will be docked 20% of your sale check.** Please make arrangements ahead of time if you will not be able to make a weigh in or a mandatory meeting. It means money **OUT OF** your pocket!

To all livestock youth that plan on selling an animal at the 4-H/FFA sale – have you written your buyers letters yet? If you haven't, then there is still time to include meal tickets for the Steak Dinner. These are not mandatory, but it is a nice way to say “thanks for your support of the Custer County Fair and Livestock Sale”. This year the Custer County Cattlewomen will be serving up the steak dinner. You will not be responsible for the purchase of the meal unless those tickets are redeemed. The cost is \$12/steak dinner and \$5/hamburger & chips. Come into the Extension Office to get those tickets for your buyers. Remember, it is your responsibility to bring your buyers to the sale ring. You are selling yourself and you need to remember that your buyers are there to support you.

Written Horse Test – Thursday, July 11th, 3 p.m. at the Saddle Club Building for all horse exhibitors.

Horse Meetings – every Tuesday beginning June 17th @ 4:30 p.m. Saddle Club Arena.

Horse Showmanship Clinic – Klay & Claire McDowall (Sara Shields' niece & nephew) will be coming to Westcliffe to give a horse showmanship clinic on June 21st from 10:30-12 noon at the Saddle Club. Please bring your horse and have fun learning about horse showmanship.

Fairgrounds Clean Up Scheduled

ALL 4-H & FFA MEMBERS are to participate in the clean up in order to get the fairgrounds ready. Mark your calendar NOW and plan to be there – Saturday, July 12 beginning at 8 a.m. A sign up sheet will be your proof of participation so don't forget to sign it! Bring your rakes, shovels, mowers with fuel, weed eaters, etc. If you are unable to attend on Saturday, you will be given clean up duties during the fair.

Fair Book Online

The Fair Book will ONLY be available online. Go to: www.custercountygov.com/ext then go to the 4-H section and the Fair Book will be there. We will have fair schedules available for you to send to your buyers, families and friends. In this newsletter you will also find the fair schedule.

Swine Show Pork Meal- Something new this year at the fair will be a meal offered at the swine show. The appropriate menu (cost \$5) will be pulled pork served with beans. The dinner will start at 4:00 p.m. and the show will follow at 5 p.m. The cost is \$6/plate. The proceeds from the dinner will go to a fund to support improvements at the fair grounds. Thanks for the support!

Livestock Record Books REMEMBER... we will **NOT** be using the electronic version of the livestock or horse record books. We have printed versions, age appropriate for all 4-H members here in the office. Only one type of livestock per record book will be allowed. We will NOT combine livestock projects. So, if you are bringing beef, sheep, swine and goats to the fair, you will need to complete four different books. You may have multiple animals in your record book as long as they are all the same type. ie: 2 pigs-1 book, 4 rabbits-1 book, 3 sheep & 2 goats-2 books. Horses will have their own type of record book as well. If you have any questions at all, please call or stop by the Extension Office.

Livestock Weigh in Schedule - please note changes!!!!

Market Beef – from **2-2:30 p.m.** Optional - June 22.

Market Sheep and Goats ONLY – from **2:30-4 p.m.** - June 22.

Fair Board has made a change to the schedules: to weigh beef from 2 to 2:30pm on weigh days. Then sheep and goats weigh-in will start after 2:30pm. If other species besides beef arrive before 2:30 pm they should be held in the trailer.

2014 Fair Market Livestock Weights

Market livestock weights must fall in the following weight range in order to sell at the Livestock Sale:

- Beef – minimum 1000 lbs., no maximum
- Sheep – minimum 105 lbs., no maximum
- Goats – minimum 55 lbs., no maximum
- Swine - ***to be determined at weigh in***

Market Swine Projects

Check out the information below from Bonnie Long from the Fair Board. This is a very good idea to help all exhibitors make their own scales for home use:



A plank and two scales are all you need to make a low-cost livestock scale.

For a 4-H club hog project last year, I helped my youngsters build a livestock scale. We constructed an affordable, easy-to-use "porker pound counter" with some extra

fencing we had lying around our farm, an old plank, and a couple of bathroom scales. The total cost of our enterprise was \$1.00, which we spent for a used scale we found at a thrift shop (the other one was borrowed from our own bathroom).

Using the exterior wall of an outbuilding for one side, we completed the needed pen in almost no time. Then my children placed a plank inside the enclosure, with a scale under each end, and put the contraption right to use. With a bucket of grain, one of them coaxed the oinker to the center of the board, while the other noted the readings on both scales. Afterwards, they calculated the hog's poundage by adding these two figures and then subtracting the previously recorded weights for the plank alone from the total, which gave them an answer that—as we later verified—was accurate to within four pounds!

What could be simpler? The following example shows how we calculated the weight of one of our animals:

Scale 1

Plank Weight: 24 lb.

Total Weight: 135 lb.

Scale 2

Plank Weight: 24 lb.

Total Weight: 113 lb.

Total Plank Weight: 24 lb. + 24 lb. = 48 lb.

Total Weight (Both Scales): 135 lb. + 113 lb. = 248 lb.

Hog's Total Weight: 248 lb. - 48 lb. = 200 lb.

We've also discovered that our method is perfect for weighing sheep and goats, too. So, if you've got any problem in counting (animal) pounds around your homestead, why not solve it by building your own thrifty do-it-yourself livestock scale?

Market Rabbit Weigh in

All market rabbit projects will weigh in and be tattooed on Thursday, June 26th at 5 p.m. at the fairgrounds. You will need to bring your rabbits and Fair Board member, Sue Roberson will weigh the animals and tattoo them. If you are interested in this process, you are welcome to come and see how it's done.

4-H & FFA Livestock Project Packets

Don't forget to pick up your livestock exhibitor packets on Wednesday, July 16th before weigh in. Some forms need to be completed and returned to the Fair office before you can weigh your animals.

Herdsmanship Criteria

Look in the newsletter for the full size score sheet for the Herdsmanship Contest.

4-H .22 Project –

I'm pleased to announce that we will be adding the .22 shooting sports shoot to the County Fair line up this year. It will take place on July 12th at 2 p.m. at the Sangre Shooting Sports Range. Bill Baker has become our newest leader and comes with a lot of experience. Bill went through the certification process to become our .22 shooting sports leader. It's a three day class that is only certification process for any 4-H leader. Thanks Bill, for the dedication and leadership you will bring to the 4-H .22 Shooting Sports. Please come and support the 4-H .22 Shooting Sports shoot on July 12th.

4-H Project Requirements

The Custer County Fair follows the Colorado State Fair requirements on all your indoor projects. These projects are: cake decorating, entomology, foods, model rocketry, outdoor adventures, photography, robotics, scrapbooking, shooting sports, visual arts and woodworking.

The 2014 CSF requirements are posted on the State 4-H website @ www.colorado4h.org
You can find your requirements, e-records, tip sheets, score sheets, etc. on this website.

4-H General & Consumer Science Record Books

All 4-H General and Consumer Science record books (photography, foods, woodworking, rocketry, shooting sports, entomology, visual arts, cake decorating, scrapbooking, pocket pets, pet rabbits, poultry egg production, etc. are to be turned in with your projects on Monday, July 14th from 7-8 a.m. After 8 a.m. your record book will be considered late and points will be deducted from the score sheet.

Questions likely to be asked during the interview process for your projects are:

1. Why did you take this project?
2. What did you think you might learn in the project?
3. How much experience did you have before you started this project?
4. What did you like the most about the project?
5. What did you like the least about the project?
6. What did you do for the first time in this project?
7. Who helped you decide what your project would be?
8. Where did you get help?
9. What new things did you learn?
10. How will you use what you have learned?
11. What would you like to learn next?
12. If you were to do the project again, would you do anything differently?
13. How do you feel your project could be improved?
14. Technical questions about your project – what tips you used for your cake, how high your rocket flies, your target practice sessions, etc.

Poster Boards Available

Look no further for the correct size of poster boards for your projects. We have a supply of them in the Extension Office. Your cost is \$2 each.

Robotics

Last month the Custer County 4-H robotics team competed at UCCS with seven other teams. They didn't win the competition, but they did have the most unique design of their Lego robot to launch a marshmallow. Ryan Schepmann, Tyler Ferron and Ryan Young made up the team that represented Custer County that was led by Betsy Banks, our robotic leader. Way to go team! The team is now moving forward with more robots and is looking for laptop computers that will support this program. If you have an old laptop computer that is in good working condition and has an operating system of 2010 or newer to support the Lego software, the 4-H robotics group would really appreciate any donations.

4-H Foundation is asking for Bake Sale items for the fair.

If you would like to donate your baked goods, then please individually wrap them and bring them to the sale on Sunday, July 20th at 10:30 a.m. The 4-H Foundation raises money to help support the kids to go to camps. They also hold the annual 4-H Achievement Awards program year end banquet where the kids, families and leaders are honored for their hard work during the year. This year's banquet will be held on Sunday, September 14th.

Volunteers are needed to keep the Exhibit Building open during the fair. Please call the Extension Office if you can help or stop out at the Fair Office if you find free time on your hands! Your help would be greatly appreciated!!!!

There may be a few times that both Robin and Beverly are NOT able to be in the office. We will try to keep you posted with necessary office closures. Otherwise, it might be best to call ahead before you make the trip. THANKS.

4-H Truck Raffle Tickets

Colorado 4-H Foundation has once again received a Ford truck to raffle off. The 2014 Ford F150 XLT 4x4 Super Crew Cab pickup Grand Prize drawing will be held on September 27th in Montrose, Colorado. Other prizes include 2nd place - \$1,000 cash, 3rd place - \$750 cash, 4th place - \$500 cash, and 5th place - \$250 cash. Tickets cost \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The 4-H Clubs and Custer County Foundation will be selling these tickets. 40% of the sales will be returned back to our county. Help support the Custer County 4-H program! Ticket sales will end Sept. 8th.

Please note: Custer County is sitting in second place in the state for the number of tickets sold per # of 4-H members!!!!!! THANKS TO JUSTICE SARACENO!!!!!! All other clubs that have received tickets to sell please turn your sold tickets and money to the Extension Office.

4-H Shooting Sports Raffle Tickets

Colorado's 4-H Shooting Sports program is holding its Fourth Annual statewide fundraising raffle to help local and county shooting sports clubs defray the cost of equipment, ammunition, targets, instructor training, travel and contest expenses. Tickets may be purchased from the Extension Office or any of the 4-H Shooting Sports members. Drawing will be held September 1st. Prizes include:

- ✓ CZ-Canvasback 12 ga. O/U Shotgun valued @ \$827.00
- ✓ CZ-455 American. 22 LR Bolt Action Rifle valued @ \$421.00
- ✓ Wild for Game Processing Set valued @ \$139.99
- ✓ Last Creek Crossing Sculpture valued @ \$125.00
- ✓ Four Piece White Ceramic Kitchen Knife Set w/holder valued @ \$124.99
- ✓ Federal 12 ga. Shotgun Shells 5-10 Box cases valued @ \$65/case
- ✓ Federal .22 LR Ammunition 5 – 525 Round Value Packs valued at \$40/pack

**Courthouse closure on Friday, July 4th
to observe Independence Day!**

Please check out the Custer County CSU Extension website: www.custercountygov.com/ext