

4-H News to Know February 2015

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Extension

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Beginning in 2015, we will start publishing the newsletters electronically. (NOT YET, but sometime soon) Please submit your email address to us or make sure we have your current email address so we can keep you in the loop. If you do not have internet and prefer to continue to receive a mailed newsletter, YOU MUST NOTIFY US WITH YOUR REQUEST or stop by the Extension Office for the newsletter. We will also take newsletters to the library for distribution. This will help to keep our rising costs down and keep up with advancing technology. Please send your email address to the office email address above.

4-H Online updated – For those 4-H members that want to check their online enrollment, etc. the new url is: ***co.4honline.com***. If you bookmarked the other one, make sure to delete it. And if you do go in and make any changes – REMEMBER, YOU MUST NOTIFY THIS OFFICE WITH THOSE CHANGES!!!!!!

Communication – As we kick off the new 4-H year, we want everyone to know how we communicate with you. We have a lot of important information, deadlines, requirements, new changes and most importantly, education opportunities to make you aware of. Our primary method of communication is through the *4-H News to Know* newsletter. It would be most helpful to read this newsletter every month! Please make sure your mailing address and email address are both up to date. On occasion, we mail letters or postcards to our 4-H members and leaders. Please open your mail and read everything you receive from our office. Finally, all things related to the Custer County Fair are communicated through the Fair Book, which is generally completed and posted on www.custercountygov.com/ext in May or early June.

Keep in mind that many 4-H contests and activities have registration forms and deadlines. These will be covered in the newsletter. We publish this newsletter nearly every month, with a few combined monthly issues near fair time and the end of the year. Information that needs to be included in the newsletter needs to be submitted to the Extension Office by the 25th of each month. If information is not included in the newsletter, but needs to be sent out, we will send out an email to all 4-H and FFA members. So please keep current on viewing your email as well.

Spring Carnival – mark your calendar – Wednesday, March 11th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at school. This is a little earlier start and ending time! Remember, this is your chance to help your club with this fundraiser.

We will have lots of fun activities and games for youth of all ages. Pizza and pop will be available for purchase. Invite your family and friends to come out for a fun time!

Trailblazers 4-H Club Meeting - The membership decided to keep the first Sunday of each month as their meeting date at 1 p.m. at the Shy's residence. The schedule for the meetings: Feb. 1, March 1, **April 12**, (this is a different date) May 3 and June 7th. Need to verify if there will be a July meeting.

Silver Spurs 4-H Club Meetings - The Silver Spurs Club meetings will be held on the second Thursday each month. The meetings will start at 4:15 p.m. and be held at the Courthouse Annex Building again. The rest of the schedule is: Feb. 12, March 12, April 9, May 7 and June 11.

Triple C Clovers 4-H Club Meeting – The first meeting of the Triple Cs was held on Jan. 2, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. in the great room at school. The members in attendance agreed on the following schedule for their meetings: Feb. 15, March 22, April 12, May 24 and June 14th. All meetings will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the great room at school.

Leadership Training – Your new club executive board members attended an officer training held on January 31st in Pueblo. The 9 youth who went; Casey Brandon, Kylie Carter, Kyleigh Martin, Kaya Huffman, Justice Saraceno, Dalton Wommack, Ryan Young, and Katlyn Freeburg, learned about their responsibilities of an officer in their clubs, Parliamentary Procedure, and how to make it fun! These newly elected officers are now the Custer County Teen Council that will be putting on the Custer County 4-H Camp. Look for more information in future newsletters. Thanks to the Custer County 4-H Foundation for helping send our youth to the Officer Training. Thanks to Erin and Joey Saraceno for driving too! We can't do it without our parent volunteers!

Meat Quality Assurance Class – The MQA class and trailer will be on March 14th at 10am at the annex. If you are a first time livestock exhibitor or are turning 14, this class is required. I highly encourage all to attend as we have experts in their fields teaching, and for the first time ever, the MQA trailer will be coming to Custer County! Please contact the office for more information.

Market Livestock Weigh in Schedule

Market Beef – Jan. 11 (done), March 15, May 31 and *June 28 (this one is optional)*

Market Sheep, Goats and Swine (swine –not sure yet) – April 26, May 31 and June 28.

Rabbits – to be determined.

Hunter Safety Certification - Hunter Safety will be provided this year to all 4-Her's and is required to participate in the 4-H shooting sports. This year's class will be held March 7-8th. Please contact the Extension office to put your name on the list. Please plan on attending if you are new to the Custer County 4-H Shooting Sports.

Public Speaking Contest - The Public Speaking event will be held on April 2nd. As you know this is an optional event and I encourage all of you to learn to hone your public speaking skills. These skills will prepare you for life happenings such as interviews and how to address crowds and individuals. This confidence building skill is invaluable to learn and have fun in the process! If you are a senior 4-Her, this can even provide the chance to compete at the State Conference held on the CSU Campus in June. Practices will start in February, but it's never too early to start practicing at home and even writing your speech. This is a wonderful chance to overcome your fears of public speaking.

Public speaking practices will take place on Mondays starting February 23rd and go every Monday through March 30th (except for March 23rd) from 4:15 to 5:15 at the Annex. Practices are not required but highly encouraged to get the most out of this experience. There are four kinds of speeches: prepared, demonstration, impromptu, and interpretive. For more information or to sign up, please contact the Extension office.

Retinal Scans for Colorado State Fair Animals

Please mark your calendars if you are planning to exhibit livestock at the State Fair. All livestock going to State Fair need to be brought to the Fairgrounds from 1-2 p.m. on May 17th. Each exhibitor will be responsible for the cost of \$5 per animal for the retinal scan. They will also pay for the mileage

reimbursement for Mr. Covington's travel to Westcliffe to perform the scans. More information will be sent out at a later date.

Robotics is back! Any youth wishing to participate in the 2015 Robotics team, please contact the office. The Robotics team will learn how to build and program robots, then compete with other teams from across the state. There will also be a robotics camp offered in July (more details to come). A leader for the elementary group is needed, no experience necessary. For more information, please contact the Extension office.

CAMPS:

District Retreat

All 4-H members, ages 13 to 18 are invited to attend the South Central 4-H District Retreat March 20-22, 2015 at the Silver Cliff Ranch near Mt. Princeton Hot Springs in Nathrop, Colorado. This is a very fun and educational camp, planned by our district youth officers and offered to our members at a great price. We highly encourage you to attend!

Registration fee is \$125 per member which includes meals while at the camp, lodging, workshops and a camp t-shirt. Deadline to register is Feb. 24th. Please stop by to pick up the registration forms. Additional information was emailed to all 4-H members in the correct age group. Check your email!

Grab the Torch Summer Institute in Colorado

The Colorado State 4-H Office has a working relationship with an organization called Grab the Torch. In 2014, this organization hosted one of their summer institutes in Colorado and 5 Colorado 4-H members attended. These members all expressed that this was a life changing event for them to attend. Once again, Colorado 4-H members high school age Freshmen to college age Freshmen are qualified to apply. The deadline to apply is March 15th. The cost is \$2,000 but there are many full and partial scholarships available through the State 4-H Office. There are ONLY EIGHT spots available for Colorado so if you are interested, you need to apply NOW!

An email blast will be sent out to all age appropriate 4-H members with more details. The application will only be available online. If you are interested, please give us a call, so we can help if needed.

Custer County 4-H Foundation

The Custer County 4-H Foundation is looking for board members. As a board member, you will help contribute to the 4-H youth by helping them attend camps and conferences, furthering their 4-H experience. Without the 4-H Foundation, camps would be very expensive and there would be no awards ceremony! For more information please contact the Extension office. We appreciate your willingness to help!

Courthouse will be closed on Monday, February 16th for Presidents' Day

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

2015 Custer County Fair

July 13-19, 2015