

# 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

## Golden Plains Area Newsletter

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Golden Plains Area Web Site  
<http://goldenplains.colostate.edu>

CSU Extension 4-H Web Site  
<http://www.colorado4h.org>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

#### NOVEMBER

5 Head Leader Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Eckley  
7-9 CLC – Glenwood Springs  
11 Office Closed – Veterans Day  
16 District 1 Meeting – 2:00 p.m. Yuma  
17 Yuma County Fairboard Meeting – Wray  
27-28 Office Closed – Thanksgiving

#### DECEMBER

24-25 Office Closed – Christmas

### JANUARY 2026

#### JANUARY

1 Office Closed – New Years  
TBA Winter Fun Event  
10-25 National Western Stock Show & Rodeo  
16 4-H Day at NWSS  
23-25 LDC – Denver  
28 New Volunteer Training – Wray

### Considering New Projects for 2026?

4-H members are encouraged to branch out and try different projects. Remember, 4-H has a lot more to offer than just livestock projects! Please take the time to review the new state 4-H project list. If you have questions about any of the projects, please call your 4-H Agent to get the project requirements. For new members who are selecting projects, please ask questions about the project! Sometimes a project that sounds simple enough may have very involved guidelines, and many of the projects require more time than just the week before fair. Again, everyone is invited to contact their local Extension Office for more details about any new project being considered. That simple step will help reduce any “pre-fair stress.” For the most current list of state 4-H projects please either contact your Extension Office or visit the state 4-H website at [www.colorado4h.org](http://www.colorado4h.org).

# 4-H Enrollment is OPEN!

Please visit  
[v2.4honline.com](http://v2.4honline.com)  
to re-enroll.

Enrollment will close February 1st.



## Becoming a 4-H Family

With the start of the new 4-H, families will begin to discuss joining 4-H and what the roles and Responsibilities are for parents and youth. One key suggestion for all new families to remember is to make sure to ask lots of questions! Parents are vital to a successful 4-H club and to the success of their child in the program. Here are a few ways parents can help their child:

- Enroll in 4-H
- Select one or more 4-H projects to participate in
- Attend 4-H club meetings
- Determine club and county 4-H requirements
- Help your child complete any 4-H responsibilities he or she may have volunteered for or been elected or selected for
- Support your child's 4-H work:

Parents can support their child's 4-H project in many ways. For the 4-H members who have regular project meetings, parents will need to make sure the 4-H member attends the meetings. Parents can help gather any materials the child will need and arrange transportation to and from the meetings. If there is no project leader, parents will be asked to help their child with the project. The head club leader or Extension Office may be able to locate a knowledgeable individual who can help complete the project if needed. 4-H members will need to become familiar with their project materials and may need to complete various activities to complete the project. 4-H members will also need parental support and guidance when completing exhibits and record books for county fair.

While becoming involved in 4-H may be a big commitment, the benefits for both the 4-H member and parent are numerous. As a 4-H parent, you will get the opportunity to help your child learn and grow. You'll share in many wonderful experiences which will improve your relationship with your child. 4-H parents get the privilege of watching their child mature with confidence and success. Parents also benefit by feeling that they are contributing to the youth in the community.

Many 4-H parents worry about the time commitment of 4-H. While 4-H does take time, here is a simple breakdown of the time you can expect to commit to 4-H. The 4-H year runs October 1-September 30. 4-H is a year-long commitment. Most months (but not all) will have a club meeting which will typically last 30 minutes to 1 ½ hours. Depending on the project(s) that your child enrolls in, you can plan on 1-3 hours per week of project work. Keep in mind that most projects are not year-round commitments. The exception to this is typically livestock and animal projects.

There is always help available for new and "seasoned" 4-H parents. If you encounter questions or concerns during the 4-H year, consider asking the following individuals for help: the head 4-H club leader, a 4-H project leader, other experienced 4-H parents, other families who are enrolled in the same projects, and the Extension Office staff.



# A QUICK LOOK AT A COOL PROJECT

## Entomology

Insects are the perfect vehicle to capture the attention of youth who are interested in insects or utterly fascinated by them. Insects can be observed and collected in nearly every habitat in nearly every part of the world. As a group, their tremendous success can be attributed, in part, to their diversity of form and ability to adapt to a wide-range of environments.

Insects impact our lives daily and members will begin collecting insects to learn more about their characteristics.

Beginners will learn about insect form and function while upper units will focus on making insect collection tools, learning about insects and insect diversity.



A fair project would be an insect collection.

**IF YOU LOVE LEARNING ABOUT INSECTS, THIS IS THE PROJECT YOU NEED TO ENROLL IN! YOU ARE ABLE TO FIND INSECTS ANYWHERE YOU GO!!**



**CALL US  
NOW**

**970-332-4151**

[WWW.COLORADO4H.ORG](http://WWW.COLORADO4H.ORG)  
[JOLYNN.MIDCAP@COLOSTATE.EDU](mailto:JOLYNN.MIDCAP@COLOSTATE.EDU)

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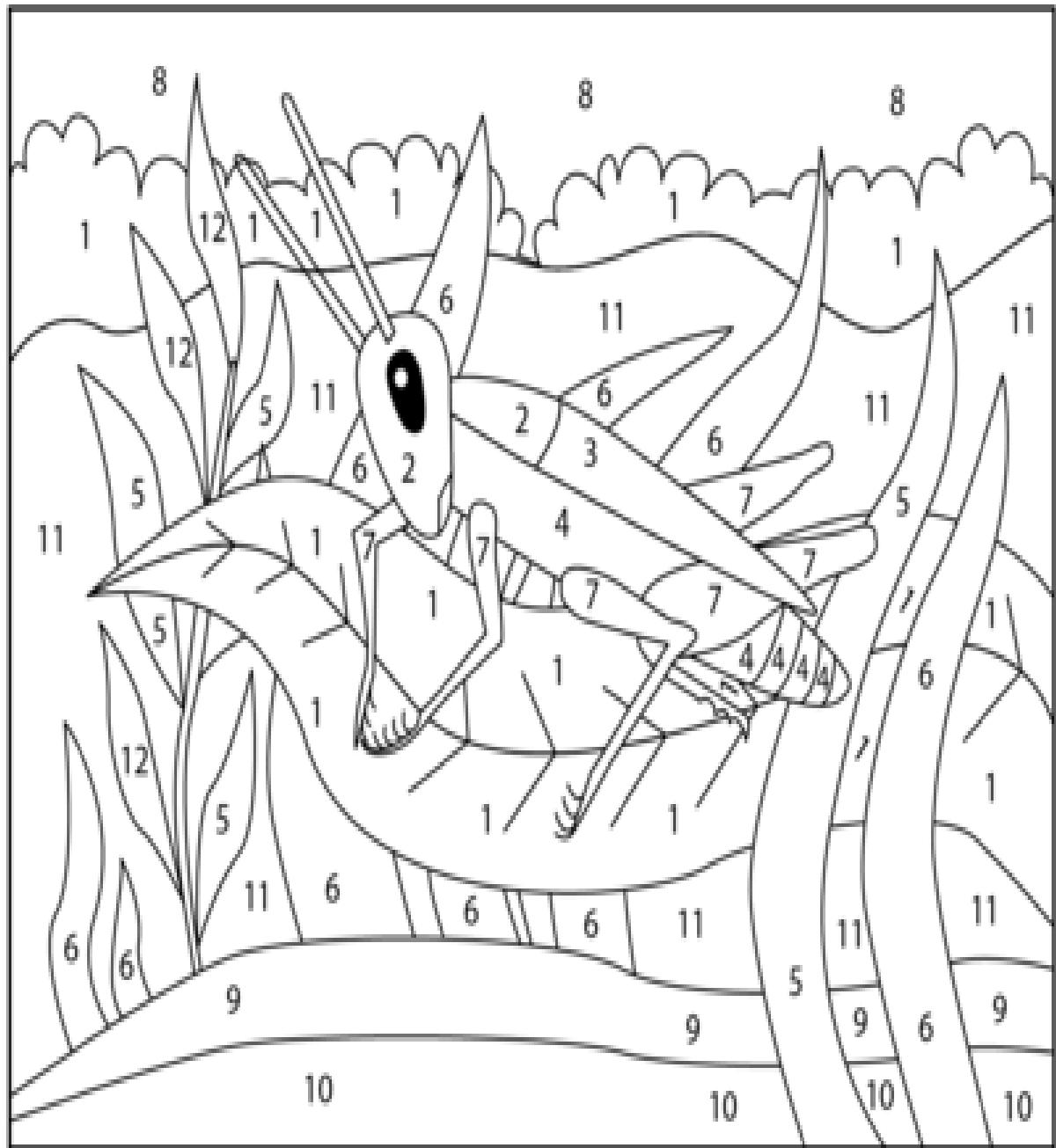
### NMBSTC Word search Entomology

E	D	N	Y	W	H	D	V	C	F	D	F
H	V	R	N	W	H	S	Y	L	Q	U	E
P	I	Q	O	O	O	R	O	L	W	P	E
O	H	N	L	N	N	W	C	N	E	A	P
L	E	I	U	O	E	S	H	S	C	W	X
L	K	L	V	R	Y	S	R	O	S	L	O
E	N	W	S	E	E	R	L	L	W	I	I
N	E	S	E	E	L	O	E	T	O	O	E
E	C	E	N	E	N	S	Q	K	R	H	E
E	T	E	E	Y	E	T	R	H	K	Y	Y
K	A	B	E	R	E	I	D	I	E	E	R
S	R	E	S	I	U	N	D	B	R	E	G
E	L	C	K	L	Q	G	E	E	S	O	O
Y	S	V	E	R	Q	A	R	B	I	E	E

BEES  
WAX  
QUEEN  
DRONES  
FLOWERS  
WORKERS  
POLLEN  
HONEY  
NECTAR  
COLONY  
HIVE  
STING

# Color By Number Fun!

1	9
2	10
3	11
4	12
5	
6	
7	
8	



# OPPORTUNITIES AND ACTIVITIES

## Blue Ribbon Livestock Blog

Are you new to livestock projects? Not new but need some advice or suggestions? Check out the Blue Ribbon Livestock Blog written by Scott Stinnett and other livestock agents around Colorado. The information found here is practical and helpful for your 4-H livestock projects. You can read these helpful articles that cover all species at [theblueribbonyouthlivestockproject.blogspot.com](http://theblueribbonyouthlivestockproject.blogspot.com).

## 4-H Livestock Judging



Have you ever wondered what the judges were looking for as you watched a livestock show? Would you like to make better decisions when selecting your 4-H livestock project animal? 4-H Livestock Judging is an exciting way to learn more about livestock selection and improve your public speaking and reasoning skills while having fun and meeting new friends. Livestock judging members improve their analytical, reasoning, speaking and communication skills, all of which are valuable tools they can use throughout their entire life. At contests and work-outs members meet and make new friends they will keep for a lifetime.

“My experiences in 4-H Livestock Judging changed me as a person and brought me out of my shell,” said Ben Cooley, associate professor of animal science and livestock judging coach at Northeastern Junior College. “I was a quiet young man, and the experiences gave me an opportunity to learn to speak in front of people. I gained confidence as well.”

“Livestock Judging gave me opportunities that I would not have otherwise had,” said Molly Witzel, former Kit Carson County livestock judging team member. “It taught me to express my opinion in a positive way and offered me a chance to develop leadership skills that I have used many times since.”

Colorado has 8-12 contests in which youth participate, culminating with the state livestock judging contest at Colorado State University in late June. The top three winning teams from the state contest are awarded the opportunity to travel to national contests in Denver, CO, Kansas City, KS, or Louisville, KY. During these contests, youth place several classes of four head of livestock, including beef, sheep, swine, and goats. They are placed on their value using their conformation and genetic profile. Each contestant individually analyzes the animals and decides how they think they should be placed and then marks their card accordingly. Following the placing of the classes, the youth give oral reasons for their placing to a judge. There are 3-6 reason classes for each contest. Colorado has one of the stronger youth livestock judging programs in the nation, and its youth are recruited by college livestock judging coaches across the western United States, with many receiving scholarships to assist in their education costs.

Livestock judging practices will be starting soon. If you are interested, please contact Travis Taylor in the Extension Office for more information.

## Western Heritage Project

The 4-H Western Heritage Project combines a comprehensive study of the Old West with the fastest growing shooting sports discipline in the world – western action shooting. The purpose of this project is to provide an avenue for 4-H members and adult leaders to experience the lifestyles and cultures of the Old West from the period of around 1860- 1900 through a living history approach to learning while instilling the concepts of gun safety and personal responsibility. Members dress in Old West clothing, shoot replica firearms of the frontier period, and expand their knowledge of U.S. history.

### Educational Impacts of the 4-H Western Heritage Project Include:

- Connecting today's youth with the values and traditions of our past
- Preserving and gaining an appreciation for the heritage of the Old West in the time period of 1860-1900
- Instilling an investigative interest in American Frontier history leading to personal research and increased knowledge of the Old West
- Recognizing the accomplishments and importance of both men and women from a variety of cultures and races that contributed to the history of the Old West
- Enhancing learning by participation in living-history using historically accurate, firearms, clothing, and accessories
- Encouraging visits to local, state, regional, and national museums

### 4-H Shooting Sports Outcomes Include:

- Learning and applying the fundamentals of the safe handling of firearms
- Placing life-skill development over competition
- Providing an enjoyable and action-oriented shooting sports activity that attracts and retains 4-H members and their families.
- Promote 4-H Cowboy Action Shooting and historical study to 4-H programs across the nation
- Each year culminates in a championship event where 4-H members shoot for the fastest time, take a history exam, and have their clothing knowledge assessed. It's not always the fastest shooter who wins.

This project is now active in Montana, Missouri, Texas, Oregon, Kansas, and Oklahoma with more states requesting training each year. Check out the website at <http://www.4-hwesternheritageproject.org/>



# REMINDERS & AWARDS

## Just A Reminder

All 4-H Members are required to do at least one community service project and at least one project demonstration/speech. Now is a great time to sit down as a club and start planning out these activities. While you are at it, take time to plan out yearly meetings, fundraisers, and club tours. Having a schedule ready in advance makes it easier for everyone to plan. Once you've set these dates, share them with our office so we can help promote them.



The add/drop deadline for Yuma County 4-H will be May 1, 2026. Please mark this date on your calendar so you will be enrolled in all your correct projects by April 30. There will be no project changes that can be made after this date.

## Congratulations to Achievement Award Winners

**FIRST YEAR MEMBERS:** Blake Amrine, Greyson Baucke, Kashton Blach, Eligh Boone, Payson Campbell, Braxlee Cowan, Austin Dodsworth, Ian Doyle, Jackson Dutton, Kerstyn Edwards, Tacey Fonte, Emmersyn Galles, Steele Galles, Jacob Heier, Anne Houlihan, Ty Janish, Vivienne Kettelson, Grace Lebsack, Jeremiah Lebsack, Caleb Mainord, Rebekah McDaniel, Deziah Pacheco, Julissa Pacheco, Kevin Reynoso Morales, Jacob Roundtree, James Saffer, Tinsley Schwartz, Knox Seward, Riley Smith, Tobin Smith, Lexi Snapp, Brock Soehner, Harvin Unger, James Unger, Rex Vetter, Annie Westerfer, Aiden Wingfield, Kyli Wiseman

**FIFTH YEAR MEMBERS:** Harper Barry, Cannon Beaver, Hannah Deering, Addison Doddridge, Layne Fonte, Andrew Horn, Ryker Kerst Josh, Gabe Leonhardt, Autumn Lungwitz, Orly Lynch, Mason Massey, Jema Mekelburg-Trejo, Wyatt Tracy, Laurynn Vetter, Tenley Weathers, Caleb Wilson, Karson Wiseman, Katie Wiseman, Lyla Witte

**TENTH YEAR MEMBERS:** Wyatt Fonte, Brodie Riggleman, Reese Weatherly

**ELEVENTH YEAR MEMBERS:** Andrew Buoy, Austin Hendrix, William Noble, Miles Rutledge

**FASHION REVUE MEDALS:** Jayda Mekelburg-Trejo, Tinsley Schwartz, Tressa Walker

### **RECORD BOOK WINNERS:**

**Senior Livestock:** Rebecca Whomble, Kayson Hatch, Sawyer Fonte, Luke Freeman, Wyatt Fonte  
**Intermediate Livestock:** Ansley DePue, Jaxon DePue, Charliann Soehner, Triston Steinbeck, Timothy Steinbeck, Serenity Westerfer, Wyatt Whomble

**Junior Livestock:** Jensen DePue, Tacey Fonte, Teagan Kelly, Brock Soehner, Adley Blach, Kashton Blach, Tori Fonte, Ted Hendrix

**Senior Horse:** Kayson Hatch, Tatum Soehner Brylee Meisner, Maggie Linman, Haley Smith

**Intermediate Horse:** Emmaline Drullinger, Logan Drullinger, Madisyn Janisch, Camille Lenz

**Junior Horse:** Payson Campbell, Shyann Janisch, Grace Lebsack

### **HORSE ADVANCEMENT LEVELS:**

**Western Level I** – Emmaline Drullinger, Madisyn Janisch, Addilyne Pagel, Keeli Waitman

**Western Level II** – Grace Jones

**Working Ranch Horse Level I** – Emmaline Drullinger, Madisyn Janisch, Grace Jones, Keeli Waitman

**Working Ranch Horse Level II** – Grace Jones, Tatum Soehner

### **HORSE SHOW AWARDS**

**Overall Junior Champion** – Addilyne Pagel

**Overall Intermediate Champion** – Raylee Blach

**Overall Senior Champion** – Will Noble

**Gymkhana Junior Champion** – Addilyne Pagel

**Gymkhana Intermediate Champion** – Raylee Blach

**Gymkhana Senior Champion** – Austin Hendrix

**Working Western Champion** – Kayson Hatch

**Ranch Horse Level II Champion** – Addie Noble

**Ranch Horse Senior Champion** – Austin Hendrix

**OUTSTANDING BOY AND GIRL ACHIEVEMENT**

**AWARD**

Anthony Emery & Hannah Stults

**"I DARE YOU AWARD"**

Anthony Emery

**EXTENSION AGENT'S AWARD**

Tatum Soehner

**CLUBS WITH PROJECTS 100% COMPLETED**

Ace High, Arena Magic, Beecher Island,  
Heartstrong Phoenix, Liberty Country Challengers,  
Pleasant Valley Hustlers, Sharp Shooters, Wauneta

**CLUBS RECEIVING GOLD SEALS FOR THEIR**

**CHARTER** Ace High, Arena Magic, Beecher Island,  
Heartstrong Phoenix, Liberty Country Challengers,  
Pleasant Valley Hustlers, Sharp Shooters, Wauneta,  
Westerneers



**2024-2025 Yuma County 4-H Council**

**Officers**

Morgan Stults – President

Brylee Meisner – Vice President

Sawyer Fonte – Secretary/Reporter

Victoria Granados – Treasurer

Megan Wacker – Historian

Taryn Tucker – Parliamentarian

Brylee Meisner & Sawyer Fonte – Senators

Grace Jones & Maddy Lapp – Alternate Senators

Shawna Fonte & Tom Mekelburg – Leader Advisors

**Herdsman Awards**

Beef – Westerneers

Dairy – Pleasant Valley Hustlers

Goat – Pleasant Valley Hustlers

Horse – Eckley Trailblazers

Sheep – Pleasant Valley Hustlers

Small Animal – Idalia Starlighters

Swine – Rainbow Explorers