WASHINGTON COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

January

18   Shooting Sports Safety Meeting
2:00 p.m. Events Center, Akron

19   County 4-H Council Meeting
7:00 p.m. Extension Office

24-26   LDC Conference - Denver

February

14   Market Beef Weigh In
7:30 – 9 a.m. ECRC North of Akron

16   Extension Office Closed

March

16   County 4-H Council Meeting

27-29   Youthfest - Pueblo

April

15   Meat Quality Assurance (MQA) Training

Other Important Dates/Deadlines

Add/Drop Projects	May 1st
Dog ID	May 1st
Horse ID	May 1st
Market Hog ID	May 1st
Market Sheep/Goat Weigh In	May 4th

Office Update

Anne Mason's last day with our office was December 19th. Her position will be refilled but the process may take awhile. We are hopeful that the opening will be announced in late January. In Anne's absence, all 4-H questions can be handled by the rest of our office staff.

Shooting Sports

Shooting sports families should have received an email from our 4Honline system on January 5th. That email contains more information about the upcoming year. <u>All shooting sports members AND a parent/guardian MUST attend the shooting sports safety meeting scheduled for January 18th at 2:00 p.m. at the Events Center in Akron.</u> A full shooting sports schedule is included with this newsletter.

YouthFest

Members ages 11-13 have an opportunity to attend the state YouthFest event held each spring in Pueblo. Dates this year are March 27-29. Please note: an approved volunteer is needed to chaperone and transport members as office staff are not available on those dates. If you'd like to learn more about the event, contact Jamie.

Market Beef Weigh In

Members enrolled in Market Beef should have received a postcard with more details about market beef weigh in. Weigh In will take place on Saturday, February 14th from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. at the Eastern Colorado Research Center (located 17 miles north of Akron at 26204 Co Rd 57). Maps will be provided in an email reminder closer to the date -or- you can contact Jamie for directions. ALL market steers and heifers must be weighed in and tagged on this date to be eligible to show at the county fair. Please bring a bill of sale/brand paper to prove ownership. Breeding heifers are not required to be at weigh in.

State fair exhibitors – state fair animals are not required to be weighed in **BUT** are required to be tagged with a county tag. To nominate a steer or heifer, you will need to order DNA packets from the state fair website by March 23. DNA must be returned to the state fair by April 6th. You will also have to complete a paper nomination form available in our office that must be returned to us by April 1st. Please note, a premise ID is required to show at the state fair and will need to be included on the nomination form.

Meat Quality Assurance (MQA)

Our annual Meat Quality Assurance Training is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 15. Livestock exhibitors must attend their first and second year and at age 12 and 15 *(as of Dec. 31, 2025)*. Those required to attend will receive more information later this spring.

Planning Ahead for County Fair

County fair dates for 2026 are July 20-25. As we move forward to 2027, those dates will roll back one week. Dates for future fairs are July 26-31, 2027 and July 24-29, 2028.

State 4-H Website Changes

Please be patient as the state website undergoes major changes. Some of the page is complete but there are still missing pieces like the state fair requirements. Stay tuned as more information is posted over the next few months. If you are having trouble finding specific information, contact the office.

Member In Good Standing

Just a reminder that our county and state 4-H program have certain requirements for members to remain in good standing. The most important thing is participation! A member must attend a majority of meetings and meet all established program and activity expectations and deadlines. Other requirements include completing a project demonstration and a 4-H sponsored community service project.

Address Change? Project Change?

Be sure to update your profile at

V2.4honline.com

County 4-H Council

Do you want to get involved and help give input into county policies and activities? Everyone is welcome to attend our county 4-H council meetings. If you want to vote, each club can have two member delegates. Talk to your club if you are interested in being their representative. This year's meetings are scheduled for **Jan 19**, **Mar 16**, **Apr 20**, **Jun 15**, **Sept 21** and **Nov 16**. All meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Extension Office – Courthouse Annex.

Washington County
4-H Record Book Policy

Please read through the sections below for specific guidelines to match your project area. All record books are available online or a hard copy can be purchased upon request through the Extension office. Completed books should be turned in with a report cover, record book cover (available for purchase from the Extension office), or in a small binder.

General Projects: For all general projects, members are required to complete the Colorado State e-record. E-records can be found online at the state 4-H website (co4h.colostate.edu). Click on the programs and projects tab, select your project category, then select your project. The e-Record is found below official project materials at the bottom of the page. There are two versions available, one in Microsoft Word and the other an Adobe PDF file. These can be printed and completed by hand or filled out on the computer.

The general e-record book is turned in as part of the interview judging process. During interview judging, members will bring their completed project and record book for the judge. More details about interview judging are mailed out in the summer. Interview judging for general projects (except cakes/foods) is always held the Tuesday prior to fair. This year's interview judging is set for Tuesday, July 14th. Foods and Cakes books are due during their interviews held the following week during fair on Tuesday, July 21.

Horse: Members enrolled in horse are required to complete the Colorado State e-record which can be found online at the state 4-H website (co4h.colostate.edu). From the state website, click on the programs and projects tab, choose the animal science project category and then select the horse project. The e-record is below official project materials at the bottom of the page. These can be printed and completed by hand or filled out on the computer. Books need to include ALL horses that are identified as part of the project. Record books are due to the Extension Office by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14th.

Dog: Dog members are required to complete the Colorado State e-record which can be found online at the state 4-H website (co4h.colostate.edu). From the state website, click on the programs and projects tab, choose the animal science project category and then select the dog project. The e-record is below official project materials at the bottom of the page. These can be printed and completed by hand or filled out on the computer. Books need to include ALL dogs that are identified as part of the project. Record books are due to the Extension Office one week prior to the dog show – more details will be provided as we get closer to the date.

Livestock: All market and breeding livestock projects (swine, sheep, goat, beef, rabbit and poultry) will utilize the Washington County Livestock record book. Livestock record books must be completed in the member's handwriting and turned in by 4:30 p.m on Tuesday, July 14th. Books can be downloaded online by scanning the code to the left. Please note, these are NOT available on the state website!

Companion Rabbit: Companion rabbit is not considered a livestock project so members would complete the state companion animal e-record available on the state 4-H website (co4h.colostate.edu). From the site, click on the projects tab, select the animal science project category and then select the rabbit project. Look for the companion animal e-record with project materials at the bottom of the page. These can be printed and completed by hand or filled out on the computer. Books are due by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14th.