

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Golden Plains Area Newsletter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March/April 2026

March

- 2 DNA kits available to order for Colorado State Fair mkt livestock
- 13 Youthfest Registration deadline
- 14-15 Hunter Education Class (Open to Public) – Yuma
- 16 Babysitting Basics Class-Yuma (see flyer for details)
- 16 Yuma County Fairboard meeting-Wray
- 19 Quizbowl informational fun day-more info in newsletter
- 27-29 Youthfest – Colorado State Fairgrounds

April

- 1 Beef DNA due to Colorado State Fair
- 1 Colorado State Fair Beef nomination forms due to Ext Office
- 13 MQA – Yuma County Fairgrounds
- 14 MQA – Wray Roundhouse
- 15 4-H Council Meeting and trophy committee meeting – Vernon
- 18 Yuma County Classic Prospect Show (See flyer for details)
- 20 Yuma County Fairboard Meeting

May

- 1 Horse and Dog IDs due in 4-H online
- 1 Add/Drop Deadline
- 2 Lamb/Goat Weigh in – Yuma County Fairgrounds
- 4 Swine Nominations Due in Extension Office
- 17 Phillips County Showdown
- 18 Fairboard Meeting
- 25 Office Closed - Holiday
- 27 Explore new worlds of 4-H Camp-Ages 9-10 Burlington
- 29 Yuma County 4-H Council Movie Night - Yuma

Kit Carson County

817 15th Street
Burlington, CO 80807
(719) 346-5571

coopext_kit_carson@mail.colostate.edu

Phillips County

22505 Hwy 385
Holyoke, CO 80734
(970) 854-3616

coopext_phillips@mail.colostate.edu

Sedgwick County

315 Cedar
Julesburg, CO 80737
(970) 474-3479

coopext_sedgwick@mail.colostate.edu

Washington County

181 Birch Avenue
Akron, CO 80720
(970) 345-2287

coopext_washington@mail.colostate.edu

Yuma County

310 Ash, Suite B
Wray, CO 80758
(970) 332-4151

coopext_yuma@mail.colostate.edu

Golden Plains Area Web Site

<http://goldenplains.colostate.edu>

CSU Extension 4-H Web Site

<http://www.colorado4h.org>



GOLDEN PLAINS AREA
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Colorado State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Kit Carson, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma Counties cooperating.

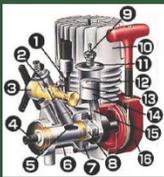
Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.



A QUICK LOOK AT A COOL PROJECT

Small Engines

Youth focus on basic small engine knowledge, study external engine parts, discover tools of the trade and learn the concepts behind what makes small engines work. Members will explore the uses of small engines and safety issues.



In lower units, In this you will learn about engine parts, tools of the trade, safety issues, and what makes small engines work. As you continue in this project, you will learn about tearing down and rebuilding an engine, using diagnostic tools, rules and regulations regarding small engines, selecting an engine, and potential small engine careers.

A fair project would be a display board that shows off some of the processes or skills you learned about. You could also bring an engine that you have worked on!

IF YOU LOVE LEARNING ABOUT TEARING AND WORKING ON SMALL ENGINES, OR DIAGNOSING AND TROUBLE SHOOTING, THIS IS THE PROJECT YOU NEED TO ENROLL IN!



CALL US NOW
970-332-4151

WWW.COLORADO4H.ORG
JOLYNN.MIDCAP@COLOSTATE.EDU

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/YUMACOUNTYCOLORADO4H



Exhibit Requirements

Please look at <https://co4h.colostate.edu/4h-resource/4-h-state-fair-exhibit-requirements/to> find information on State Fair requirements. This site also has a link to the e-records that you will use for all General and Home EC projects. Hard copies of all this information can also be picked up at the Extension office.

Display Boards

Project display boards are available for you at the Extension office for \$3.00 each. PS These are also great for the science fair and other school projects!

If you need hints and tips on making a great display board project, here are some things to think about.

SIZE
Display boards for the State Fair must measure 4 ft. wide x 3 ft. tall. They should be made of lightweight cardboard, but not poster board. Pre-cut boards are available at most craft and shopping centers. No part of your display may extend beyond these boundaries. No additional items may be included in front of the display board.

SHAPE
Design your exhibit so information fits on the display. Remember, you have one large surface, and two smaller side wings.

TEXT
Make sure that all the text on your display is easy to read. Use a large font for the title, and smaller fonts for the headings and body text. Text must be readable from 3-5 feet away. Use large bold letters. Dark letters on a light background works best.

ATTACHMENTS
When attaching pictures or objects to your board make sure they are secure. Use glue for pictures and paper, and consider wires, zip ties or staples to attach bulkier items. Do not attach items that are so heavy that your board can't stand up or fold.

SPACE
Your display should only discuss one main topic. This will help it look neat and uncrowded.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Quilting and Sewing Supplies

If you are enrolled in the Quilting or Clothing projects, please read!

We have had several generous donations of fabric. These donations are high quality quilting cotton and specialty fabrics such as synthetics, lace overlay, chiffon and panne velvet. We are thinking that these fabrics would help a member enrolled in a costume or formal dress unit in Units 3 and 5 but anyone interested can come in and take a look!

LIVESTOCK

Jackpot for Practice

Scott Stinnett, Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development / Livestock

Many youth exhibitors like to participate in jackpot livestock shows. They enjoy showing their animals, meeting fellow youth exhibitors and seeing how their new animals stack up in competition. But there is another reason to go to jackpot shows. PRACTICE.

A jackpot show is a great place to go through the experience of a show day and prepare yourself and your animals for the upcoming county fair or state fair. During a jackpot you can focus on what does a show day routine feel like and can help new and lesser experienced showman answer some important questions. How long does it take for me to get my animal(s) and myself ready for the showing? What did the judge say about my animal and what can I do to improve them? What did the judge say about my showmanship and what I might need to improve? How well did I and my animal(s) handle the stress of a show day?

Going to a jackpot show with the expectations of it being an educational experience and not worrying about how you placed or if you win, can help you make positive changes to make you and your animal ready for your county fair or state fair livestock show.

Jackpot contests near home:

April 18 - Yuma County Classic Prospect Show-Yuma County Fairgrounds (Market Beef)

May 17 - Showdown on the Plains – Phillips County Fairgrounds (Swine, Goat, Sheep)

May 30-31 – Colorado Breed Bash – Morgan County Fairgrounds (Market and Breeding Beef)

Donated Breeding Heifers

Breeding heifers will be donated to several exhibitors in the Junior Beef Breeding show at the 2026 Yuma County Fair. Intentions are to randomly draw a name out of exhibitors following the breeding show at the fair. The winner of the heifer must be eligible to show at the 2027 fair and must show the donated heifer in that show. Before accepting the heifer, the exhibitor must declare they have the facilities and means to care for the heifer for the year. The heifer will come from established Breeders in Yuma County, and all sponsored by the Yuma County Cattleman's Association, and other area ranchers. For more information, contact JoLynn Midcap at the Extension office in Wray.

Livestock Sales and Shows

If you are looking to purchase livestock or trying to find a show to attend, the State 4-H Office has been compiling a page with all the information you may need. Take a look at <https://padlet.com/dawnsanchez2/4-h-animal-opportunities-21azu0b9tcdbyso> to see flyers from around the state

Swine, Sheep & Goat Information

Swine members, leaders, or designated individuals within 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters will need to come to the Extension office and pick up ear tags and nomination information. Nomination forms will have instructions for tagging and taking photos of your livestock projects. The tags may be picked up after March 1, 2026, with completed nomination forms due back to the Extension office no later than Monday, May 4, 2026. The weight range of all market swine eligible to show in the market show is 220 lbs. to 300 lbs. Just a reminder that all swine must have ear notches by the nomination deadline. Any un-notched pig will be disqualified.

We will have a physical weigh-in for sheep and goats this year. Please plan to weigh in at the fairgrounds on May 2nd from 9a.m.-10:00 a.m. The weight range for market lambs is between 110 lbs. to 180 lbs and market goats must weigh a minimum of 55 lbs. and a maximum of 110 lbs. to be eligible to participate in the Junior Market shows at the Yuma County Fair.

Thank You's

- ~Yuma County Commissioners for providing \$5.00/member enrollment fee.
- ~JD's Barn for supplying tags for market animals.
- ~Idler family and the Tri State Livestock Exchange for letting us use your facilities for beef weigh-in
- ~ Matt Linman and Pat McGinnis for providing brand inspections
- ~Yuma County Fair board and Beef Superintendents and all other volunteers for providing help at weigh-in

Other Important Livestock Information

Notes from prior Fair board meetings:

One animal per family may be weighed in as a family animal in each species.

You may weigh in as many animals as you would like but still may only nominate four to show by July 17th.



MQA Certification/Recertification Workshops



You Must Attend an MQA Workshop

1. First 2 years taking livestock project.
2. Once at 12 years of age.
3. Once at 15 years of age.



Public confidence in our meat products is extremely important to the success of the livestock industry. Youth livestock projects play a key role in building or losing the trust of our consumers. It is important that youth livestock exhibitors exceed the standard in producing quality, defect-free livestock for our consumers. In the past, a small number of exhibitors have given youth livestock shows a bad name by using unethical and unsafe techniques to “win at all costs.” As a result, we have implemented a strong Meat Quality Assurance program in Colorado. Through the MQA workshops youth learn ethics and good production practices needed to produce a high quality, desirable product for the American Consumer. If you need to attend this year, you will be notified by your county Extension office prior to the workshop.

You have the option to test out of the workshop at 12 and 15 years of age but it is highly recommended to attend a workshop instead. The workshops allow for hands-on learning and experience. For those of you that participated last year, it will be the same layout.

There will be different stations relating to the 10 Good Production practices set up at each location and you will have the chance to observe and learn with real supplies and equipment. You will have the opportunity to come any time during the listed period as long as you are able to participate at each station. Allow yourself one hour. The following chart explains when and where the workshops will be. Keep in mind that dates and/or times and locations are subject to change so stay posted and be sure to call your local Extension office if you have any questions.

Eastern Colorado 4-H MQA Trailer Schedule 2026

DATE	DAY	COUNTY	LOCATION	CITY
MARCH				
9	Mon	Elbert	Fairgrounds	Kiowa
10	Wed	Elbert	Simla School	Simila
19-28		Cheyenne	Fairgrounds	Cheyenne Wells
		Kiowa	Fairgrounds	Eads
		Bent	McClave School	McClave
		Prowers	Home Ec Bldng, Fairgrounds	Lamar
		Otero/Crowley	Ark Valley Fairgrounds	Rocky Ford
		Baca	Fairgrounds	Springfield
30-31	-	Lincoln	Fairgrounds	Hugo
APRIL				
4	Sun	Sedgwick	Fairgrounds	Julesburg
6	Mon	Phillips	Fairgrounds	Holyoke
8	Wed	Kit Carson	Burlington Comm Center	Burlington
9	Thurs	Logan	Fairgrounds	Sterling
13	Mon	Yuma	Fairgrounds	Yuma
14	Tues	Wray	Round House	Wray
15	Wed	Washington	Fairgrounds	Akron
MAY				
1	Fri	Phillips	Classroom - No Trailer	Haxtun
11	Mon	Morgan	Fairgrounds	Brush
12	Tues	Morgan	Fairgrounds	Brush

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Yuma County 4-H Council Notes

Per the Yuma County 4-H Constitution, an officer candidate must “have attended 2 meetings of the 4-H council the current year”. If you are considering becoming an officer for the 2026-2027 year, please make sure to attend the April and June council meetings.

The last council meeting was held in Yuma, hosted by the Pleasant Valley Hustlers. A discussion was held to determine how to use the 21st Century donation. It was voted to put the money towards a new scale for the lambs/goats. Some of the announcements were:

- Add/Drop is May 1st.
- Sheep/Goat weigh in on May 2nd
- MQA on April 13th in Yuma and the 14th in Wray
- Photo Contest posters will be done very soon
- Hand Deliver Trophy Sponsors Letters by the end of February
- Youthfest March 27-29 in Pueblo, ages 11-13
- The next meeting is on April 15th at 7 in Vernon.

College Scholarships

If you are looking for scholarships to help fund the next step of your education, please call the Extension Office if you have not been getting the emails.

Quiz Bowl Teams

We are looking for members to participate in Home Economics, Livestock, and Horse Quiz Bowl teams. This process is similar to a knowledge bowl where you are asked questions and the first team to answer correctly gets the point.

The Golden Plains Area will have a Quiz Bowl funday on Thursday, March 19 in Burlington. If you are interested in the slightest bit about how this contest works, and maybe you want to participate at the State 4-H Conference, this is for you. We will practice horse, livestock, and FCS quiz bowl games and have activities and resources available to help make you competitive at this contest. Call your Extension Office if you are interested!

Fair Information

For up-to-date Yuma County Fair information, please visit yumacounty.net and select county fair. This site will have the schedule, fairbook, project requirements, pre-entry cards, and much, much more. This site will be updated continually, so if you can't find something, please check back at a later date.



YUMA COUNTY CLASSIC

APRIL 18TH, 2026

Yuma County Fairgrounds

410 W. Hoag Ave. Yuma, CO 80759

\$1000 PAYOUT TO CHAMPION MARKET ANIMAL

\$500 PAYOUT TO CHAMPION BREEDING HEIFER



**ENTRER ON THE
SHOWMAN.APP**

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK
YUMA COUNTY CLASSIC**

**MARKET AND BREEDING
SHOW!**

**BREEDING HEIFERS WILL
BE SHOWN BY AGE**

**CHECK IN &
WEIGH IN:**

SATURDAY 7 am—9 am

SHOW TIME:

SATURDAY @ 10 am

ENTRY FEE:

\$40/head BEFORE APRIL 4

\$50/head AFTER APRIL 4

Showmanship \$10

**BLOW & GO SHOW
BUT CAN BE FITTED**

**GENERATORS
ENCOURAGED**

**FIRST COME FIRST
SERVE ON STALLS**

FOOD TRUCKS ON SITE

**OPEN TO ANY 5-18
YEAR OLDS**

**CONTACT MARIYA MEKELBURG AT 970-630-1307 OR
NIKKI WEATHERS AT 970-630-9545 WITH QUESTIONS OR TO SPONSOR**

Babysitter Basics Training Class

Monday, March 16, 2026—Yuma

9am to 3pm



Cost: \$15.00 to cover materials and snacks
Bring a brown bag lunch and a drink



LEARN TO BECOME A RESPONSIBLE BABYSITTER

Session Includes:

- Child Safety
- First Aid & Emergency
- Feeding & Nutrition
- Stages of Child Development
- Discipline
- Ways to entertain children
- Business of babysitting

PRE- REGISTRATION REQUIRED by March 9, 2026

- Participants must be 11-14 years old
- Minimum of 8 registrations required
- Certificates upon successful completion of the course
- Students receive a First Aid & Emergency pocket card.
- Fill out the registration slip below and return it with the fee to:



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION**

CSU Yuma County Extension
310 Ash Street, Suite B, Wray, CO 80758
OR call the Extension Office - 332-4151
OR email: jolynn.midcap@colostate.edu

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Babysitter Basics Training Class Registration

Registration (with payment) due by March 9, 2026

Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Parent Guardian: _____ **Address:** _____

Guardian Email Address: _____ **Contact Phone Number:** _____