Contents by Subject Arrangement

- **ALL 4-H FAMILIES**
  - Welcome
  - Adult 4-H Leaders
  - Changes – 4honline
  - Electronic forms and standards
  - 4-H Project Literature Books
  - Project adding or dropping
  - E-records
  - Communications
  - Scheduling Change – Youth Council Feb. meeting

- **ANIMAL PROJECTS**
  - Animal Identification
  - Quality Assurance Program Participation Required
  - Dog, Horse, Llama
  - Livestock
    - Market Animal Weigh-in & ID
    - Livestock Seminars
    - Meat Quality Assurance

- **GENERAL PROJECTS**
  - Exhibit Requirements and E-records
  - Optional Project Meetings
  - Mandatory Shooting Sports Meetings

- **RETREATS/CAMPS/CONFERENCES**
  - Leadership Development Conference (LDC)
  - Youth Fest
  - Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)
  - District Retreat
  - Colorado 4-H State Conference

- **SCHOLARSHIPS**
  - Colorado State 4-H Foundation scholarships – graduating seniors
  - Elbert County specialty groups – graduating seniors
  - Elbert County 4-H LEMBKE – all Elbert County 4-H members

- **SPECIALTY CONTESTS**
  - Judging Teams
  - Performing Arts, Speech, Cake, Cooks

- **OTHER EXTENSION PROGRAMMING**
  - ECCO partnership for community development
  - Family and Consumer Seminars
  - Master Gardener Seminars – Year of the Tree
ALL 4-H FAMILIES

Welcome:
Welcome to a new 4-H year! We are so excited to have you as part of our Elbert County 4-H family! We’re looking forward to working with all of you to make your children the best they can be.

Adult 4-H Leaders:
Mandatory annual training and appreciation breakfast is Saturday, March 1, 2014, starting at 8am. RSVP required from all. 4-H leaders, who cannot make the mandatory training date, must make prior arrangements with 4-H Agent, Sheila Kelley to authorize an online option.

Changes:
A new 4-H year came with new procedures and gaining new technology life skills. This is the first year in Elbert County for families to enroll themselves using 4honline.com and we appreciate your patience as we all learn something new.
Don’t forget to register for upcoming state and district events in 4honline.com as well. If you have a change of phone, address, or e-mail, please make sure to login to your family profile in 4honline and update your family’s records.

Electronic Forms and Standards:
Although 4-H families electronically signed forms just a few months ago, please refresh yourself with the Colorado 4-H code of conduct and 4-H Dress code requirements.
Code of Conduct (English Version)
Colorado 4-H Dress Code
Remember, as a 4-H member you are a representation of high 4-H standards in both behavior and appearance at all times.
Also, basic 4-H member in good standing requires you attend your monthly club meetings, participate in a club community service, and give a public presentation.
4-H Club Leaders also had many new electronic forms and procedures to adapt to this year.

4-H Project Literature Books:
Literature orders were one of the procedure and fee changes. If your club leader submitted a check for the whole order to Extension by the end of January, then you should be able to receive your 4-H books at your February club meeting.

Project adding or dropping:
Projects can be changed added/dropped before April 1, using the traditional paper add/drop form. Additional literature can also be ordered using the same add/drop form if needed and the applicable cost of each book will be collected along with the form. The second batch order of 4-H Literature will not be made until after the April 1 deadline.
E-records:
Record books are required of each and every 4-H project. Like much of 4-H, record books are available electronically. Please visit the state website, http://www.colorado4h.org/project_resources/index.php, download your appropriate project e-records, and START keeping your project records TODAY!

Communications:
While we continue to do our best to get all information into these bi-monthly bulletins, some information will not yet be available. It is therefore extremely important that you read all 4-H e-mails.

E-mail blasts will include only those items that apply to a 4-H member in your family. 4-H Club leaders are sent a copy of each e-mail Extension sends out to keep them informed about everything happening in 4-H. If 4-H project leaders send an e-mail to project members the leader should be copying Extension so we are all in the same communication loop.

Extension e-mail addresses for 4-H questions can be sent to Extension Agent/Director: Sheila.Kelley@colostate.edu or county 4-H assistant Lore.Denson@colostate.edu or please feel free to call the Extension office at 303-621-3162. We also have a drop box outside our office door here on the fairgrounds Ag building. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 189, Kiowa, CO 80117. Please remember to stay in contact with Extension as we are here to help you have a positive 4-H youth development experience!

Our county Extension website needs complete updating and this project simply has not been allotted time by our staff, but we have hopes of a fully functioning site in the near future.

Scheduling Changes:
Youth Council - Since we will have a number of our officer team attending Youth Fest on Feb. 9, we are changing the Youth Council meeting to Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Ag Building. Make sure all club representatives know.

Link to Tentative 4-H Calendar Listing
An evolving annual calendar is in the works in 4honline, however there is some fine tuning yet, we will e-mail information on how and where to access the 4honline annual calendar.
ANIMAL PROJECTS

Animal Identification:
All animal projects that require an ID form (Dog, Horse, Llama, and Rabbit) must have each animal identified and the form into the Extension office each year.
Market Beef, Sheep, Goat, Swine, and Poultry are all identified at scheduled spring weigh-ins. See specific species news for more details.

Quality Assurance:
Quality Assurance program participation is required for ALL the following animal project members: Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Poultry, and Rabbit
Elbert County 4-H is offering the Meat Quality Assurance (MQA) program on three different dates in our county.
- March 5 & 6 in Kiowa, at the fairgrounds Exhibit Hall
- April 15 in Simla, at the school transportation shop
Each of our MQA program dates are set up as self-paced learning stations, open house style from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

DOG
Mandatory Dog ID forms due to the Extension office by May 1.
January 15, was the mandatory dog evaluation and orientation meeting. Complete Dog Project schedule available in e-mails.
Talynn Allen, Dog Superintendent and main leader, plus addition dog leadership team.
Dog Fun Matches are scheduled for Saturday, March 29 and June 28.

HORSE
Mandatory Horse ID forms due to the Extension office before May 1 (found in your e-record book)
If you would like to sign up for Working Ranch Horse, Roping or Horse Judging and weren’t able to when you initially re-enrolled, you may now go online and add them under “groups.” If you have questions, contact Lore at the office.
Horse Leaders meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Ag Building. We are always open to having additional horse leader help. Contact Extension if you want to volunteer as a horse leader.
Horse project e-mails contain more detailed information and a horse project seminar flier of events for 4-H families to print out.
- The Horse Project “Must Attend” Kick-off Event:
  Feb. 15 Ag building
  10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Saddle and Bridle Fitting
  12-1 p.m. Horse Pot-luck and Awards Luncheon
  1-1:30 p.m. MANDATORY Horse Safety Training

LLAMA
Mandatory Llama ID forms due to the Extension office before May 1
Becky Leach, Llama Project Leader
Watch for manuals and project meeting dates available in the future.
LIVESTOCK

MARKET ANIMAL WEIGH-IN & ID DATES (MANDATORY)
(Note time changes from previous years.)
• **BEEF** = Saturday, February 22, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Market Beef Weigh-In & ID followed by the just for fun Blow-N-Go Beef Show (sign up during weigh-in)
• **SWINE** = Wednesday, May 14, 4-7 p.m. – Market Swine Weigh-In & ID
• **SHEEP/GOAT/POULTRY** = Wednesday, May 21, 4-7 p.m. – Market Sheep, Goat, Poultry Weigh-in & ID

LIVESTOCK SEMINARS:
These 4-H Livestock Seminars are also open to the public, so encourage your neighbors, friends, and extended family to attend with you!
4-H members taking market, beef, sheep, swine, and/or goat projects who wish to qualify for the specialty Supreme Contests at the Elbert County Fair are required to attend at least one of the following livestock seminars. When more finalized information is available, a detailed email will be sent to all livestock project members.

*February 15*, Ag Building
2-3:30 p.m. Retinal scanning – livestock seminar (open to public)

*Mar. 1*, Ag Building
1 p.m. Temple Grandin - livestock seminar (open to public)

*Apr. 12*, Exhibit Hall
10 a.m. Brett Kirch - livestock seminar (open to public)

*May 18*, Dave’s Custom Cuts
Evaluating hanging carcass and cuts of meat
Offered at two different times (max occupancy of 20 per session)
1 p.m. livestock seminar (4-H members only)
3 p.m. livestock seminar (4-H members only)

MEAT QUALITY ASSURANCE:
Quality Assurance program participation is required for ALL the following animal project members: Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Poultry, and Rabbit
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• **March 5 & 6** in Kiowa, at the fairgrounds Exhibit Hall
• **April 15** in Simla, at the school transportation shop
Each of our MQA program dates are set up as self-paced learning stations, open house style from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
GENERAL PROJECTS
Visit the Colorado 4-H website to see what requirements are needed to complete your exhibit, e-record and manual:
http://www.colorado4h.org/project_resources/index.php

Recommended links on the Colorado 4-H website project resources:
- General Natural Resources
- Family Consumer Science
- CO State Fair 4-H Exhibit Requirements
- Colorado 4-H Project E-Records

Elbert County 4-H has some county-wide general project leaders. E-mail blasts will be sent to 4-H families enrolled in certain projects when meetings or workshops are offered. While the general project meetings/workshops are optional, the adult 4-H leaders’ time and expertise is valuable and they appreciate 4-H members contacting the leader directly to either confirm or decline attendance. Please make sure you contact your project leader(s)!

General Project Meetings:
- Cake Decorating – Johnie Patrick – three workshop dates TBA
- Decorate Your Duds – Cynthe McFarland – 3rd Tues/mo., 6pm, Ag Bldg.
- Electricity – Grant Family – TBD
- Outdoor Adventure Hiking – Wendy Walp - TBD
- Photography – Suzi Dodge –
  - March 14, 7pm, Ag Bldg. – Project Orientation Meeting
  - Apr, May, Jun – Field Trips, TBD by project group on Mar 14
  - July – Exhibit Preparation Meeting
- Robotics – Brian Howerton – TBD
- Sports Fishing – Rex Roberts – TBD
- Woodworking – Grant Family - TBD
- Vet Science – Nancy Ramsour – 3rd Fri./mo., 6:30pm, Ag Bldg.

Shooting Sports:
Shooting Sports, 4-H managing leader, Steve Villyard
There is a mandatory shooting sports orientation meeting, hunter safety is required, and practice attendance requirements. In the shooting sports project these are NOT optional.

4-H member and parent must attend ONE of the following scheduled
Mandatory Orientation Meetings:
Mar 11, 13, or 14, at 6pm, on the fairgrounds.

A Hunter Safety class is offered locally in Elbert County on March 21-23.
Please call the Extension office 303-621-3162 to pre-register.
4-H members who need their hunter safety and cannot attend, will need to contact the Colorado Division of Wildlife
http://wildlife.state.co.us/Education/Pages/EventsCalendar.aspx
for other hunter safety course offerings around the state.

Firearms Safety Certification, Sat, Apr 5, 9am, fairgrounds, Ag Bldg.

Practice schedules are provided at the mandatory orientation meeting.
RETREATS/CAMPS/CONFERENCES
Leadership Development Conference and 4-H Day at the Capitol
January 24-27, 2014.

Youth Fest Event Dates: Feb 7-9, 2014
Registration Dates: Jan 15-27, 2014 in 4honline.com
Youth Fest camp is for 9 to 13 year-old 4-H members.
The camp is in Larkspur at the Ponderosa Retreat Center.

Citizenship Washington Focus is a 4-H leadership program for high school
youth. Delegations of 15-19 year-olds from across the country attend this six-
day program at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Washington, D.C.
This year’s CWF program will be held June 21-June 28, 2014, all forms and
resume, along with your picture to the Elbert County Extension Office,
no later than February 24.

South Central District Retreat Dates: Mar 14-16, 2014
Registration Dates: Now-Feb 14 in 4honline.com
4-H members, ages 13 to 18, attend at the Silver Cliff Ranch near the Mount
Princeton Hot Springs in Nathrop, CO. District officers are elected here.

Colorado 4-H State Conference Dates: June 16-20, 2014
Registration Dates: will be in 4honline.com
Usually for 4-H members ages 14-18, includes County Youth Council Senators,
Senior Judging and Bowl Teams, and Public Speaking winners, State Officers
and Candidates, and other senior age group 4-H members who want leadership
experience while at the CSU Campus in Fort Collins, CO.

SPECIALTY CONTESTS
JUDGING TEAMS
RABBIT JUDGING Coach, Mary Brewer mbrewer387@aol.com or
303-646-3725
Rabbit project/judging practice meetings are on periodically scheduled
Fridays at 7 p.m. in the Ag Building. Judging meets are usually on
Saturdays.
Mary requests that 4-H members bring their rabbits and an ARBA
standards book if they have one.
Eastern Slope Rabbit Judging Contest, Saturday, February 22

LIVESTOCK JUDGING, Coach Garrett Miller, phone 303-619-9275
Practices begin mid-February
Eastern Slope Livestock Judging Contest, Saturday, May 3

HORSE JUDGING Coach Rex Roberts, phone303-805-2084
Practices begin late January
Eastern Slope Horse Judging Contest, Saturday, June 14

PERFORMING ARTS, SPEECH, CAKE, COOKS
• Performing Arts Contest, Saturday, March 8, 2 pm, Kiowa
  Fellowship Hall – South end of fairgrounds
• Speech and Creative Cooks Contests, Saturday, March 22,
  2 pm, fairgrounds Exhibit Hall
• Cake Decorating Contest, Saturday, June 14, 2:30pm,
  fairgrounds Exhibit Hall
SCHOLARSHIPS
Graduating Seniors:
The Colorado Foundation scholarships are available now and due April 1. They can be found at http://www.co4hfoundation.colostate.edu/scholarships.shtml.

The variety of county scholarships will be mailed to graduating seniors sometime in March once the Extension office receives them. Most of these have a July 1 due date.

ALL Elbert County 4-H Members
LEMBKE SCHOLARSHIP:
Three $1,000 scholarships available each year, one to each age group: Juniors ages 8-10, Intermediates ages 11-13, and Seniors ages 14-18. Basic qualifications to apply are that Elbert County 4-H members complete both a general project and an animal project and participate in a county specialty contest. Scholarship applications are due at the end of the 4-H year on September 30.

OTHER EXTENSION PROGRAMMING
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES SEMINARS
Elbert County Extension will be partnering with ECCO to present four community educational seminars.

- March – Adult Bullying
- May – True Colors Personality Profile
- July – Steps to Building Health and Wealth
- TBD – Outstanding Customer Service

We also have a couple of volunteers who will be taking Food Safety Certification classes this year and hope to offer food preservation and safety classes in the fall around harvest time!

MASTER GARDENER SEMINARS – YEAR OF THE TREE
Elbert County Extension, Master Gardener Volunteers, Colorado State University, U.S. Departments of Agriculture, and local Elbert County groups all cooperate to deliver researched based programming to our county communities.

- February – Tree Pruning and Care
- March – Tree Selection and Tree ID
- April – Tree Planting and Care and seedling giveaway
- May – Tree Pests and Diseases
- June – “Tree Party” Town Walk About in Elizabeth