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NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR:

In Review:
  4-H leaders, who were unable to attend the Annual 4-H Leader Training on Saturday, March 1, will have options for training e-mailed to them. Thank you to all the 4-H Leaders and families who did attend, bring food, help with childcare, and were patient with a need to flex our training due to the canceling guest speaker. Hopefully valuable insights were gained by all who participated.

Thank you:
  A huge thank you everyone who volunteered and offered impromptu help to bring the Dr. Temple Grandin presentation to fruition. There were well over 500 people in attendance!

Program Facility Use:
  Please be aware that we need to be sure we have our programs in the buildings we reserve with the fairgrounds manager. A couple of weeks ago, I used the Exhibit Hall when I’d reserved the Ag Building. It put the maintenance crew under pressure and, since the county is tracking the usage of our buildings, we need to be very careful we use them as reserved.
  Also, just a reminder on our 4-H clean up policy. When a 4-H event is held, my expectation is that your group will leave the facility as clean, if not cleaner, than before you used it. I’ve instructed fairgrounds manager Kyrei Zion to let me know if a facility is not returned to its expected cleanliness, she’s to inform me and I’ll have that group back in to finish the job. Remember, part of being able to use the buildings for free is that we agree to provide our own cleaning. We have a great year started and let’s celebrate our ability to use our awesome buildings by making sure we adhere to the rules!

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!

YOUTH COUNCIL:
  The next scheduled County Youth Council meeting is Sunday, April 13, 5PM, fairgrounds Ag Building. Club representatives please plan to attend. Attending and active participation at a youth council meeting can serve as a club meeting attendance substitute ONLY IF you pre-plan and confirm with your main club leader.

LEADERS COUNCIL – 4H SPRING FLING GALA – SAT. APRIL 26:
  Please plan to work and support this major fundraiser. Money raised helps provide scholarships to graduating 4-H high school seniors and scholarships to all ages of 4-H members in Elbert County to attend camps,
seminars, and programs throughout the state, region, and country, as well as provide general support for 4-H programming.

**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.

**MEAT QUALITY ASSURANCE:**
Meat 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 pm to 7 pm. Arrive before 6 pm.

**DOG**
Mandatory Dog ID forms can now be entered directly in 4honline and need to be added in each 4-H dog member’s 4honline record by May 1.
Please consult with your dog leaders or the Extension office for help adding your dog id in 4honline.
Dog Fun Matches are scheduled for **March 29 and June 28.**

**GOAT**
Goat Hike, Saturday, **March 22**, 10 am to 2 pm
Bring sack lunch and wear good hiking shoes. RSVP to Rebecca Zunker at beccamz@comcast.net or cell 720-560-8242.

**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.

*Mar 6 Equine Event Prep and Tack Swap*
*Apr 12 Showmanship for ALL*
LIVESTOCK

MARKET ANIMAL WEIGH-IN & ID DATES (MANDATORY)
(Note time changes from previous years.)

- **BEEF** = On Feb 22 there were 51 head of market beef, with 7 state fair designations, conducted retinal scans, and had several participate in the Blow-n-Go show that afternoon. A HUGE THANKS to everyone for all their help!
- **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:
Local Elbert County 4-H Requirement made by fair board
Most 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. E-mail blasts and the livestock seminar flyer have been sent to all livestock project members.

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

**Apr. 12,** Exhibit Hall
10 a.m. Brett Kirch - livestock seminar (open to public)
4-H’ers Role in Ensuring Safe Food

**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)

**May 31,** Ag Building
10 a.m. CSU representative from Center for Meat Safety & Quality
Production Animal Food Safety: Fact or Fiction?

MEAT QUALITY ASSURANCE:
State and Federal Requirement made by USDA
Meat 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
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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.
LIVESTOCK continued...

AMERICAN AGCREDIT
The Ag Youth Program provides interest-free loans to purchase and care livestock projects by FFA and 4-H participants nine years of age or older as of the beginning of the Fair year, and who demonstrate a “C” average or better in school. Project limits for replacement heifers or markets steer’s is $1,500 and $500 for all other project animals. Each student must keep accurate records available for American Ag Credit to review. At the end of the project, or when the animal is sold, funds must be repaid with full accounting. Brochures and applications to participate in this program are available at the Adams County Extension Office. The application can also be found at www.agloan.com, by clicking "Ag Youth Program" located on the homepage. Applications must be submitted no later than 60 days prior to the applicable fair and a parent and adult Club supervisors must sign as well.

http://www.agloan.com/no_search/agyouth/html5/

EL PASO COUNTY SELECT SALE AND PROSPECT SELECTION CLINIC
The El Paso County 4-H Livestock Advisory Committee will be holding its 11th annual club lamb, show pig and goat sale scheduled for Sunday April 6th at the El Paso County Fairgrounds. Preceding the sale will be a prospect selection, feeding and care clinic for lambs, goats and hogs. This will help you learn what you are looking for in a show prospect for each of these species prior to the sale. The clinics will start at 10:00 am. The sale will start at 1:00. Several County Fair Champions and Reserve Champions have been purchased at this sale in the past including the 2013 Reserve Champion Market Goat at the El Paso County Fair! Don’t miss this opportunity to learn and get your project for the upcoming year all in one day! There will also be an MQA held following the sale.

If you have any questions please contact Sonya at (719) 499-2036.

DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR CLOTHING CONSIGNMENT SALE
Are you tired of spending a fortune on fair clothes for one week of your kids’ life? The Cherry Valley Aggies 4-H Club in Douglas County invites you to a fair clothing consignment sale on May 17 at Kirk Hall at the Douglas County fairgrounds. It will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Items for sale include boots, hats, belts, show shirts and jeans. Boys, girls, ladies and gents all sizes. The sale is open to the public.
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

FASHION REVUE MODELING CLINIC:
All sewing related projects including decorate your duds and heritage arts wearable items can be modeled at the county fair 4-H fashion revue. Come learn about: how to write a commentary, hair, make-up, shoes, and how to walk on stage at a Fashion Clinic on June 14 from 9:30 am to 12 noon. Our own Elbert County Top Model, Katie Listul will be helping 4-H members learn all the fun that can be had at the Fashion Revue. Please plan to add sewing, decorate your duds, or heritage arts projects before the April 1 deadline!

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.
Practice schedules are provided at the mandatory orientation meeting.

A Hunter Safety class is offered locally in Elbert County on March 21-23. You have been invited to register for Hunter Education sponsored by the Elbert County Shooting Sports Program. If you have trouble with the registration or would like to invite another person please email me at cwalker@frontiergeotek.com. If you are registering more than one student you can use the same link in this email to do so. Just complete the first registration, use the link again and choose 'Update Registration' and follow the prompts.

Event Information:
Standard Course
Elbert County Fairgrounds
03/21/2014 at 06:30 PM (Friday)

Click here to learn more:
https://my.register-ed.com/invite/5310c7e1c6990

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.
GENERAL PROJECTS continued...

OTHER GENERAL PROJECT MEETINGS:

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)!

PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULES:

- **Cake Decorating** – Johnie Patrick – three workshop dates: Apr 12, May 31, and June 21. Must call cake leader 303-646-2934 or 720-635-7597. Live Cake Decorating Specialty Contest, Sat. June 14 at 2:30 pm
- **Decorate Your Duds** – Cynthia McFarland – 303-621-2010 – 3rd Tues/mo., 6pm, Ag Bldg.
- **Electricity** – Grant Family – 303-646-2149, project work meetings 7:30-8:30 pm in the Ag Building on Mar 14, Apr 11, May 9, Jun 13, July 11
- **Fashion Revue Modeling Clinic, June 14, 9:30 to 12 noon**
- **Horseless Horse** – Vicki Hutson – vhutson@gmail.com 4th Thurs/mo. night sessions are our official “horseless horse” meetings but are open to all horse project members.
- **Photography** – Susi Dodge –
  o March 14, 7pm, Ag Bldg. – Project Orientation Meeting
  o Apr, May, Jun – Field Trips, TBD by project group on Mar 14
  o July – Exhibit Preparation Meeting
- **Robotics** – Brian Howerton – 303-944-2286 – 7pm in Ag Building on Mar 10 & 24; Apr 14 & 28; May 12; Jun 9 & 23; Jul 14
- **Rocketry** - Chuck Schumacher, 303-805-1903 or schu2725@gmail.com; March 13, 7 pm, Ag Building; other meetings scheduled by group as needed.
- **Sports Fishing** – Rex Roberts – Determined ongoing basis by project member group. Scheduled outings.
- **Woodworking** – Grant Family - 303-646-2149, project work meetings 7:30-8:30 pm in the Ag Building on Mar 14, Apr 11, May 9, Jun 13, July 11
- **Vet Science** – Nancy Ramsour – 303-921-0734 – 3rd Fri./mo., 6:30pm, Ag Bldg.

**Pocket Pets**
If you are interested in a guinea pig for the pocket pets project or just to have at home for a pet, please give Amanda Johnson (mandas5@live.com) an email to get more information.
RETREATS/CAMPS/CONFERENCES
Leadership Development Conference and 4-H Day at the Capitol
January each year.

Youth Fest Event Dates: Feb 7-9, 2014
9 to 13 year-old members attend camp in Larkspur at the Ponderosa Retreat Center in February each year.

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, WAS no later than February 24. Delegates for 2014 to be announced on March 8 at the Performing Arts Contest

South Central District Retreat Dates: Mar 14-16, 2014
21 4-H members, ages 13 to 18, are registered to attend at the Silver Cliff Ranch near the Mount Princeton Hot Springs in Nathrop, CO. Two of our Elbert County 4-H members are running for District offices.

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.

JUDGING GROUPS
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
RESULTS:

LIVESTOCK JUDGING, Coach Garrett Miller, phone 303-619-9275
Practices are every Tuesday at 6:30 to 9 pm at the Kiowa Fellowship Hall. There are two mandatory parents meetings coming up April 29 and May 13. Judging contest meets are most Saturdays.
Eastern Slope Livestock Judging Contest, Saturday, May 3

HORSE JUDGING Coach Rex Roberts, phone 303-805-2084
Practices begin late January
Eastern Slope Horse Judging Contest, Saturday, June 14
**SPECIALTY CONTESTS**
**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, 4 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](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.

**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!
OTHER EXTENSION PROGRAMMING
FROM OUR ECCO PARTNERS
ECCO partner Plains Medical Center will be offering sessions to personally assist anyone who needs health insurance or is having difficulty applying for Medicaid or insurance through Connect for Health Colorado. Space is limited so call Nikki to reserve your spot right away at 720-389-9763.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES SEMINARS
Elbert County Extension will be partnering with ECCO to present four community educational seminars.
- April 15 – True Colors Personality Profile
  6:30 pm; Elizabeth United Methodist Church, Elizabeth
- July 15 – Steps to Building Health and Wealth
  6:30 pm; Elizabeth United Methodist Church, Elizabeth
- October 21 – Outstanding Customer Service
  6:30 pm; Elizabeth United Methodist Church, Elizabeth
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.
- March 12 – Tree Selection, Pruning, Care, and Tree ID
  7 pm, Elizabeth Middle School
- April 9 – Tree Planting and Care and seedling giveaway
  7 pm, Frontier High School, Elizabeth
- May 14 – Tree Pests and Diseases
  7 pm, Frontier High School, Elizabeth
- June 25 – “Tree Party” Town Walk About in Elizabeth
  7 pm, Elizabeth Town Hall