



Teller County 4-H Member Handbook

Making the Best Better

**Colorado
State**
University

Extension

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Welcome

Welcome to the family of 4-H and a learning experience that will last a lifetime. In our Teller County 4-H Program, we learn by doing and strive to make the best better.

4-H has and continues to teach new skills through 4-H projects, as well as people skills learned through communication, demonstrations, meetings, citizenship and working together as a team. Leadership is learned through becoming a responsible person and training received from camps and workshops.

I challenge each of you to get involved, do your best and strive to reach each goal you set. You'll never fail if you try. We're looking forward to working with you in our Teller County 4-H program.

Teller County Extension

The Colorado State University Extension (CSUE) Office is 800 Research Dr., Ste. 224, Woodland Park, CO 80863.

Mark J. Platten, Teller County Extension Director

Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office may rarely be closed for lunch. On occasion the office may need to be closed when vacations and/or meetings overlap, but we try to be here on a regular basis. Phone: 686-7961 or email: mark.platten@colostate.edu

Purpose of this Booklet

The purpose of this booklet is to acquaint you, the family, with 4-H - specifically with:

1. How your child or children will benefit.
2. How 4-H operates.
3. The background and philosophy of 4-H.

Through the eyes of a young person, a 4-Her will:

1. Learn, make, or do things that appeal and are meaningful to them.
2. Make friends, belong to a group, and give and receive acceptance.
3. Have a good time, which makes learning appealing and enjoyable.

Through the eyes of an adult, each 4-Her will one day become a contributing and caring adult to his/her community. The knowledge and life skills learned by participating in 4-H should provide a means to attaining this end. From an adult viewpoint, 4-Hers will:

1. Develop an inquiring mind and a desire to learn.
2. Make decisions and solve problems.
3. Relate to and work with other people.
4. Develop a concern for their community and the people in it.
5. Build their confidence and self-esteem.

The Objective of 4-H

The objective of Teller County 4-H is to train young people to become successful individuals with leadership skills. Success means different things to different people. In Teller County 4-H, success means completing what you start. 4-H offers many interesting and challenging projects for all age groups and skill levels. 4-H members are required to take and complete a minimum of one approved project each year they are in 4-H. They may take more than one, and many do, however the goal is for a member to successfully complete the project(s) started. This builds confidence and starts the habit of successfully completing tasks. As everyone knows, habits are hard to break.

Leadership training is taught initially in the local 4-H club. Upon learning the basics of leadership, members may pursue advanced leadership training at the county level by participating in Junior Leadership Council and/or by joining the Junior Leadership Council Club.

Vision of 4-H

The 4-H Youth Development program is a world leader in developing young people's ability to become productive citizens and catalysts for positive change to meet the needs of a diverse and changing society.

Through 4-H Youth Development education, youth will:

- practice effective problem-solving and decision making skills;
- practice responsible health behavior;
- be environmental stewards;
- possess positive work attitudes and skills;
- value diversity;
- have a strong sense of community and social responsibility;
- contribute to positive relationships with families, peers and community;
- demonstrate communication and leadership skills;
- value lifelong learning;
- feel the personal pride that comes with mastery; and
- feel valued and utilized as a resource in the community

Mission of 4-H

The mission of the 4-H Youth Development program is to create safe, supportive environments in which diverse youth and adults can reach their fullest potential. In support of the mission, Extension will:

- provide formal and informal community-focused experiential learning;
- help youth develop skills that will benefit them throughout life;
- foster leadership and volunteerism in youth and adults;
- build internal and external partnerships for programming and funding;
- strengthen families and communities; and
- use research-based knowledge available from the land-grant university system and other sources.

The accomplishment of this mission will result in capable, competent and caring citizens.

Values

The CSUE 4-H Youth Development Program believes in the following value statements:

1. Youth development is the focus of all program activities. The 4-H Youth Development program allows individuals to unlock their potential through:
 - active involvement in self-determination of learning activities;
 - quality experiences that stimulate skills for living and lifelong learning;
 - relationships that empower people to help themselves and each other voluntarily; and
 - interaction with caring adults and peers to create a positive, family-like support system.

2. In successful youth development education, partnerships are essential for:
 - resource development;
 - program innovation;
 - delivery capabilities;
 - creating and delivering caring environments; and
 - access to research-based knowledge.

3. Volunteerism is fundamental to:
 - delivering quality programs;
 - developing adult educational capacity; and
 - teaching youth to volunteer.

4. Diversity strengthens the ability of the 4-H Youth Development Program to:
 - develop positive values among program participants in today's global society; and
 - provide opportunities for program involvement regardless of economic, social or cultural status; age; religion; disability; or gender.

New Member Need to Know

The following is a general progression of what new members should know to be successful in 4-H:

1. Identify what 4-H community club is best for you (you can get this information from the office.)
2. Fill out the enrollment materials online, select project(s), and pay your enrollment fees to the county.
3. Attend monthly club meetings (required to attend 50%) and get involved in the various activities, fundraisers, leadership, and community service opportunities. You will receive regular emails from the county office, please read them to stay abreast of what's happening in the county.
4. Connect with your project leader(s) (they should contact you by the end of January at the latest), become familiar with the project requirements, set goals, and start your record book. Your project meetings are usually conducted outside of the club meetings.
5. By April you should have a good start on all your projects as well as your record books. You will need to do a demonstration before fair for your project to "qualify" as completed. This can be done at the club or project meetings. If you fail to complete a project, you will not be able to take that project the following year. You must complete at least one project to complete the 4-H year.
6. In June you should receive forms to fill out for county fair. There are minimal charges depending on what projects you take. Fill out the forms and return to the Extension office.
7. County fair is the first full weekend in August (July 27- August 3, 2020). You must have your project completed, a demonstration for each project, a record book for each project signed by your project leader, and the fair entry forms to participate in the fair.
8. You must complete at least one project each 4-H year, attend at least half of your community club meetings, and contribute to club fundraisers and community service projects each year to "complete" 4-H overall each year. If you don't complete for 4-H, you will need to take a year off before re-enrolling.

Basic 4-H Information

4-H Pledge (This is recited at each meeting so it is good to learn as soon as possible).

I Pledge My Head to Clearer Thinking (touch the forehead with right hand)
 My Heart to Greater Loyalty (place your right hand over your heart)
 My Hands to Larger Service and (hold out both hands, palms up)
 My Health to Better Living (hands by your side or behind you)
 For my club, my community, my country and my world.

Motto

To Make The Best Better

Emblem

The 4-H emblem is the four-leaf clover with the 4 “Hs” standing for: Head, Heart, Hands and Health.

Colors

The 4-H colors are green and white. Green symbolizes nature’s most common color and represents life, springtime and youth. White symbolizes purity.

Membership

Approximately 6.8 million youth are 4-H members throughout the United States.

4-H Year

A new 4-H year starts October 1st of each year and ends September 30th of the following year. Continuing members and volunteer leaders must re-enroll each year.

Age for Membership

4-H membership is open to all boys and girls who are no younger than 5 years old and not older than 18 years old on December 31 of the current enrollment year.

How 4-H Operates

Simply put — 4-Hers learn by doing. Members like to 1) learn, make and do things with other youth and 2) belong to a group. Thus, the 4-H club exists as a group led by adult volunteer leaders.

There are five key components to a successful 4-H club:

1. Getting acquainted. This is especially important for younger and new 4-Hers. A get acquainted activity at each meeting helps everyone feel more involved.
2. Deciding what to do. This happens at the beginning of the 4-H year and whenever a group or committee gets together. A 4-Her also decides what project(s) to work on.
3. Action. This is when things happen. It is the meeting, tour, picnic, camp, or project work.
4. Measuring progress. This can happen at every meeting when 4-Hers talk about what they have learned, made or done.
5. Celebration. This is helping 4-Hers feel good about what they have done. This could be a party, an achievement banquet, or sharing a success story one-on-one.

Who's Who and What's What in 4-H?

Local Community Club Level:

1. 4-H Member:

Any child 5-18 years of age who participates in a local 4-H group or activity.

2. Community Club Leader:

A volunteer who is responsible for the organization part of the club.

3. Project:

A learning experience for the 4-H member in which they learn, make or learn to do something. Each member must complete at least one project by completing the record book, demonstrating that project, and exhibiting the project (at the county fair or some other approved public site).

4. Project Leader:

A volunteer who helps members as they learn, make or do something. This person can be a 4-H parent who agrees to help with a project. It may also be a Junior Leader or a person from the community who has knowledge in a particular subject matter area. The club and project leaders must re-enroll each year. They have mandatory background checks conducted every three years as well as mandatory training to ensure they are providing the training in alignment with the state requirements.

5. Parents:

They are very important to the success a child may have in the 4-H program. Parents are encouraged to attend monthly meetings and project meetings with their child. All county-wide events are open and parents are encouraged to attend. Their key role is the support they give to their children by helping them keep commitments, think through decisions, and meet goals. Parents are often asked to help in other capacities such as fundraisers, community service projects, and as coaches or as chaperones at events.

County Level

1. Extension Director and 4-H Youth Agent (Currently Vacant):

They are the professionals who administer the 4-H program in Teller County.

2. Extension Office Manager:

Usually, they are your first contact in the office. They handle enrollments, project literature orders, camp registrations, county fair entries, etc. Due to budget cuts, this position is currently vacant which means the Extension Director has to absorb these responsibilities.

3. Board of County Commissioners:

The Board of County Commissioners work with Colorado State University Extension to provide Extension Services for the residents of Teller County. They not only provide a substantial budget for Extension work in Teller County but also support the youth of Teller County.

4. Extension Advisory Committee:

The County Advisory Committee helps the Extension Office identify public needs in the areas of rural development, agriculture, home horticulture, renewable energy, natural resources, and 4-H/youth development. After needs have been determined, the Advisory Committee works with the Extension Office in developing programs to meet these needs.

5. *4-H Junior Leader Council (Currently Disbanded):*

The Teller County Junior Leader Council is the governing body of all chartered 4-H clubs. The Council has monthly meetings to conduct county-wide business and activities. It is governed by its own constitution and by-laws. The Council elects officers every November. It is important for each club to be represented by one or more members-in theory, the club officers. In addition, meetings are open to all Teller County 4-H members, parents and leaders with an interest in the business of the Council. Leaders and parents are encouraged to be observers only, allowing the work of the Council to be carried out by the members. This is an excellent opportunity for members to acquire additional leadership skills.

6. *Senators and Alternates, Leader Advisors:*

Senators, Alternates and Leader Advisors are our representatives at all State 4-H and District events. They are elected and serve in a very important leadership capacity for the district and state.

7. *Teller County 4-H Foundation:*

The 4-H Foundation is a non-profit organization and was organized in 1984 when some property was donated to our 4-H Council. With the sale of the land, the money was set up in a money-market fund, where only interest from monies would be used for 4-H leadership activities, including District Retreat, Youth Fest, Citizenship Washington Focus, etc. The foundation also provides project scholarships of \$25 or more depending on available funds to help offset the cost of projects. Ask for an application if you are interested in this scholarship. They also provide scholarships to graduating seniors each year based on their contributions and involvement in Teller County 4-H. Again, an application must be filled out and turned in to the Foundation to be considered for this award.

8. *Teller County Association of Fairs and Shows (TCAFAS)*

The TCAFAS board consists of volunteers dedicated to providing a quality “fair experience” to 4-H youth and all Teller County citizens. Elected officers oversee and maintain cooperation through communication with the Extension Office and volunteers. This brings 4-H and County committees together to organize and conduct a well-rounded fair.

State Level

1. *Colorado State University Extension (CSUE):*

Colorado State University Extension provides the extension specialist support, materials, and state level leadership for the 4-H program in Colorado in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture. Extension Agents attend numerous training and professional improvement meetings provided by CSUE. The CSUE agents also conduct adult programming in a variety of areas including: Natural Resources, Agriculture, Family/Consumer Science, Small Acreage Management, Renewable Energy, Horticulture/Gardening, and Youth Development.

2. *Colorado 4-H Foundation:*

This is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established in 1952. Its mission is to raise and disburse funds in support of the Colorado 4-H Youth Development Program. Accordingly, they support a wide variety of Colorado 4-H, international, national, regional, state and county programs. The Foundation is located at the State 4-H Office. It is headed by the Executive Director who coordinates business with the assistance of trustees representing all regions of Colorado. The Foundation program and operating budget receive the majority of funding from individuals, 4-H alumni, foundations & private and corporate organizations.

County and State Fair Information

County Fair:

The Teller County Fair is the first full weekend in August, beginning the previous Monday and ending Sunday (July 29 through August 4, 2019). This is the opportunity for all 4-H members to exhibit their projects. All members receive recognition with ribbons and some qualify for top honors in the form of trophies or plaques. These are awarded at the Achievement Banquet in October.

All indoor 4-H judging is based on the “Danish” system of awarding ribbons. Each ribbon represents a standard of accomplishment. A judge may feel that everyone in the class has achieved the blue ribbon level and consequently, there could be an entire class of blue ribbons. On the other hand, the judge may feel that none of the exhibits in a particular class has met the blue ribbon standards and the entire class may receive a red or white ribbon.

White - project does not meet requirements for the class

Red - project meets all requirements for the class

Blue - project meets all requirements for class and is an excellent example

Horse, dogs, and livestock classes are awarded ribbons through 6th place.

Cloverbud projects will be awarded participation ribbons.

We do our best to hire qualified judges to judge the Fashion Review and County Fair. Everyone must keep in mind that the judge was hired to place the class or contest and his/her opinion is the official placing. We will abide by the judge’s opinions. Occasionally, we (parents, leaders, Agents) do not agree with a judge’s decision. We are each entitled to our own opinion; however, our opinions do not change the judge’s official placing.

In order for members to complete in 4-H they must exhibit their project, either at fair or club, etc. The fair provides the opportunity to show what you have learned and to receive an evaluation of your project work. Completion is an important facet of 4-H. Members and clubs set a very special goal, 100% completion, and is something all clubs should work towards.

A “Fashion Revue” is held during the Teller County Fair and is open to all 4-Hers. There may be workshops on modeling, make-up, and choosing accessories. This gives the 4-Hers an opportunity to acquire techniques to make them more comfortable while working on stage and stairs. Participants may bring their outfits or material and patterns to work within the workshops.

The Teller County Fashion Revue judging occurs Wednesday evening of fair either at the fairgrounds or an appropriate site. It is open to the public and results of the judging are decided that evening.

4-H projects in clothing, leathercraft, knitting, crochet, and Decorate Your Duds are eligible for Dress Revue. There is also a competitive division for Open Class fair entries. Accessories, wearable items, or a combination can be modeled.

Youth who take livestock or animals as projects have additional requirements to complete their 4-H projects. Please ask for the fair board requirements dealing with dates the animals must be purchased by, weigh in, tagging, Meat Quality Assurance Classes, etc.

County Fair Guidelines, Rules and Information:

We recommend that you review this section of this booklet at least 3 times a year. We always do our best to print various deadlines in the 4-H newsletter; however, we occasionally miss getting all the information into the newsletter. For more detailed information about the County Fair, see the Teller County Fair Book, published each year in July.

General

1. All 4-H exhibitors must be enrolled in the Teller County 4-H program.
2. All exhibits must be this 4-H year's work.
3. Exhibitors must provide their own liability insurance (for market livestock, signing a waiver).
4. All exhibits remain on the fairground throughout the fair.
5. All indoor projects will be interview judged. Only members who submit an Indoor Entry Form by the deadline will be scheduled. Projects judged without an interview are not eligible for a blue award. Members may arrange a video interview through the Extension Office.
6. The 4-H Project Record book for all indoor projects must be complete and accompany the exhibit.
7. Cloverbud exhibits will be displayed without judging and will receive a participation rosette.
8. Cloverbud 4-H members may not show any kind of animal.
9. Each year prior to the fair, we (parents, 4-Hers, leaders, fair board members, and agents) help setup the fair grounds. This activity involves sweeping the 4-H building, moving the display cases, setting livestock panels, and other miscellaneous chores that need to be done before the fair. Wear your work clothes.
10. Following fair everyone is asked to help with clean up and to "put the fair to bed".

State Fair:

The first place award in each indoor project unit is eligible to compete at the State Fair with indoor projects from all other Colorado counties. These exhibits are taken to State Fair for judging by the Extension Office personnel.

Achievement Program:

This recognition event is usually held the third or fourth weekend of October. The Extension Office coordinates the activities with the Fair Board. Trophies and awards are presented to members, leaders, and clubs for contests, judging, record books, years of membership, leadership, etc. Awards for the county's Outstanding 4-Hers of the Year and the Friend of 4-H are the highlight of the evening. This special event is the end of one 4-H year and the beginning of another and should be attended by 4-Hers and their families. Watch your emails for dates and other details regarding this important event.

Camps and Conferences

Dare to Be You Leadership Camp (DTBY):

District and Regional officers work together to provide leadership workshops to train 4-H members in leadership development for a future role. The camp is open to 4-H members ages 11 to 13. It is usually held in November with the location changing.

Colorado Leadership Conference (CLC):

This camp is a state wide camp sponsored by the State 4-H Officer Team. The camp is designed to give youth in grades 6-9 a chance to develop their leadership skills. CLC is usually held in November with the location changing each year.

Leadership Development Conference (LDC):

This Conference is state-wide and is held in conjunction with the Senator/Leader Meetings held in February. It is open to members and leaders age 14 and older who would like to develop their leadership skills and participate at the state level. The County Senators, and Leader Advisors attend the mid-winter state meetings during this conference.

Youth Fest:

Youth Fest is a state-wide camp sponsored by the Colorado 4-H State Senate and is open to 4-Hers 9 to 13 years of age. The camp is an opportunity to meet other 4-Hers from all over the State. There are lots of exciting workshops, games, activities and a dance. Youth Fest is usually held in late February or early March.

District Retreat:

This event is held in the spring of the year. The Teller County Senator(s) travels to the determined site for this Camp. It involves Leadership training, recreation, and District elections. Thirteen counties in the South Central District come together to participate. District Retreat is open to all 4-Hers 13 years and older as of December 31st of the current 4-H year.

Camp Eagle:

Camp Eagle is the County's camp for members age 8 through 13. Camp workshops are presented by the senior (14-18 year-olds) 4-H members. This camp is held the first weekend in May at varying locations across the county. Camp Eagle is a great opportunity for younger members to attend camp locally and meet other members in the County.

June Conference:

This State 4-H Conference provides great training and an opportunity for 4-H members, leaders, and Extension agents to strengthen their leadership skills. It also hosts the following state contests including: Livestock Bowl, Livestock Judging, Consumer Choices, Consumer Bowl, Horse Bowl, Horse Judging, Hippology, Horse Demonstration and Public Speaking, Prepared Speech, and Extemporaneous Speech. It is open to youth 14-18 years old.

*****Applications and health forms are required for all camps and conferences. *****

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can youth participate in 4-H and other organizations at the same time?
Members of 4-H often participate in other youth organization at the same time. There is no objection to this, but the member should not use the same project articles (garments, animals, etc.) in both organizations.
2. Can members enroll in more than one county?
Youth may join 4-H and enroll in projects in only one county and may participate as a member in only one county fair.
3. How are membership years counted?
Membership begins at the first year of enrollment in the program and continues until the time as the individual discontinues enrollment.
4. When do we join?
We expect returning members to submit their re-enrollment forms no later than 4:30 p.m. on November 15th. New members may enroll at any time during the year; however, members enrolling after January 31 are not eligible to show their projects in the 4-H division at the county fair. They are expected to participate at the club and county levels by attending meetings, assisting with club fund raisers, and exhibiting at the county fair in open class (if possible).
5. How do clubs function?
One or more adult volunteer leaders are in charge of each of the various community clubs within the county. The membership elects officers, usually at the October or November club meeting. Each club conducts its own business and fundraisers. Currently, there are four community clubs.
6. Are there funds available to help leaders meet training expenses?
Yes! Our volunteer leaders are essential to the 4-H program. When leaders attend regional, state or national training opportunities, there are scholarship funds available through the office.
7. How do new leaders learn all they need to know about 4-H?
There is a lot to learn about 4-H! Our new leaders attend an orientation held in the County. This is a must before they begin working with 4-H youth. We encourage all leaders to attend Regional Leader Training, 4-H Leader's Forum (a state event) and Western Regional 4-H Leaders Forum (involves the western states). We are always here to help with questions. Just call the office.
8. How do we know what is going on in the Teller County 4-H Program?
Attend your club meetings pay attention to the emails from the county office. The emails are our primary method of letting members and families know what is happening. I usually send out information and forms for enrollment, camps and conferences, county fair, and any other events or news that requires a response or action needed.

Tentative Yearly Calendar

January

New Enrollment Closes
 Western 4-H Roundup
 National Western Catch-a-Calf Contest
 National Western Stock Show
 Market Beef Weigh-in

February

Leadership Development Conference
 Youth Fest
 Add/Drop Deadline for projects

March

District Retreat
 Must own & have in possession Breeding Beef
 & Dairy Cattle

April

Meat Quality Assurance Classes

May

Must own & have in possession Dogs
 Must own & have in possession Breeding Sheep,
 Dairy Goats, Market Sheep & Swine
 Sheep & Swine Weigh-in
 Horse Id in 4-Honline by the 1st

June

Must own & have in possession Horse, Rabbits
 and Poultry
 State 4-H Conference

July

County Fair Entries Due
 Fair Grounds Clean-up
 County Fair Horse Written Test

August

County Fair
 State Fair
 Livestock Record Books Due

September

Livestock Record Books Judged
 Officer Record Books Due
 Yearly Award Nominations Due

October

Re-enrollment Begins
 Achievement Banquet

November

4-H Officer Elections
 Dare to be You Camp
 Colorado Leadership Conference

December

Early Enrollment Deadline
 Must be enrolled in 4-H Beef Project by the 31st
 and have your animal purchased.