



"Clover County News" Chaffee/Lake Monthly 4-H Newsletter

February 2026



Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

Mon. 2 February - County Council, BV/Zoom, 7 pm

Tues. 3 February - 4-H 101 Zoom Call, 5 pm

Thurs. 12 February - Cloverbuds, FG Meeting Room, 5 pm

Mon. 16 February - Office Closed, President's Day

Tues. 17 February - 4-H Record Book Training Zoom, 5 pm

Sun. 22 February - County Council hosting 4-H Open Skate Social, FG North Building, 4-6 pm

Mon. 2 March - County Council, Salida/Zoom, 7 pm

Save the Date!

The Chaffee County Fair & Rodeo will be July 24 - August 2, 2026. Mark your calendars!

Red Hot Reminders

4-H enrollment in 4HOnline, plus \$25/membership dues, were due on January 8, 2026. Payment completes your enrollment. Late enrollments may be subject to a \$25/member late fee.

Projects may be added/dropped in 4HOnline until May 15, 2026.

Mon. 2 February County Council - 7 pm

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/94668003934?pwd=baRc2qG84JvkYVxhLav569Gu5c8bqd.1>

Meeting ID: 946 6800 3934
Passcode: Council

Meeting in BV at
Scratch Connections
(106 Isabel Court) & on
Zoom



Save the Date!

June 15 - 28

Moonlight Mondays
fundraising period
for 4-H!



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Updated Project Record Books

The latest copies of 4-H Record Books are available in [this Google Drive folder](#). Contact Rebecca to learn which Record Book you need to use for your project!



February Birthdays!

Matt Harutun
Evan Tapp
Kathy Rohrich
Cora Talbot
Colton Cooper
Micah Howard
Aspen Calvert
Robert Hahn
Weston Cooper
Graydon Baxter
Adrienne Weber
Raylee Westphal
Katherine Cates
Abigail Tapp
Tina Stringfellow
Kayla Payne



New Projects!

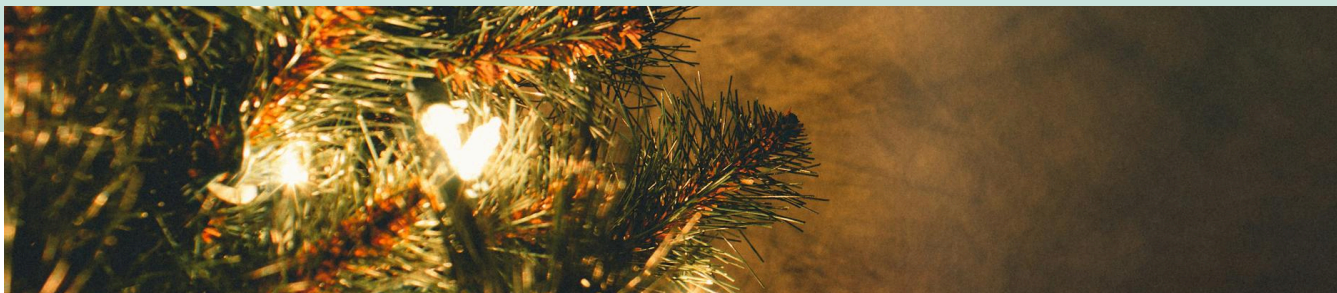
Contact Rebecca to learn about the new **Art of Ranching** project available to 4-H'ers! This project combines local history, family ranches, & is a great indoor project that complements livestock projects.

For 2026, Marty Glapa is offering **Electricity & Ham Radio** workshops. For Ham Radio, we will continue to learn about the basics of ham radio technology and operation, and do related projects such as building a radio transmitter and doing radio hunts where we hide the transmitter and try to find it using antennas we built. By adding the Electricity projects we will expand our ability to learn about how fundamental electricity/electronics work by doing various activities such as building electronic circuits. Combining these activities into a single workshop will also allow us to learn how electronics enable ham radio and many other electronic devices we use daily. Contact volunteer **Marty Glapa** to learn more! mjglapa@comcast.net. **Next workshop:**

February 24th
2 pm to 4 pm



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Colorado State Fair

Animal nomination forms are available in the office for the Colorado State Fair.

- Beef - due April 1 to Chaffee office
- Swine/Sheep/Goat - due June 1 to Chaffee office



Calling all skaters!



LET'S ROLL!

COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL SKATING SOCIAL



February 22, 2026
4:00-6:00pm
Chaffee County Fairgrounds
North Building

Bring your own skates or rollerblades, protective pads & a helmet. If you require equipment, please list your needs in the RSVP form.

Scan the QR Code above for more information and to RSVP by Wednesday, February 18th.

Interested in Hunter's Education?

Two Chaffee County Fair Board Members, and Colorado Parks & Wildlife employees, are looking to put together a CPW Hunter's Education course geared towards 4-H members and their families.

If you're interested in this certification, reach out to Rebecca. We need a minimum of 20 interested folks to consider hosting this class.

Tentative timeline is late spring/early summer 2026.

Jake Farber is also instructing a course on February 14 - contact Salida Gunshop to register.



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4-H 101 Calls

Join us for our monthly "4-H 101 Series" Zoom webinars. We'll be walking through the 4-H year step-by-step to help new families and interested folks learn more about 4-H. Topics may include:

- Q & A on specific projects
- 4HOnline database tips & tricks
- 4-H calendar dates & deadlines
- 5 components to a 4-H project
- What is a record book? How do you complete one?
- County Fair 101
- What is County Council?
- Becoming more involved
- and so much more!

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/96564936351?](https://zoom.us/j/96564936351?pwd=Ly85PGRVCKnHeTFWiN5UUNQauJpQiM.1)
[pwd=Ly85PGRVCKnHeTFWiN5UUNQauJpQiM.1](https://zoom.us/j/96564936351?pwd=Ly85PGRVCKnHeTFWiN5UUNQauJpQiM.1)

Meeting ID: 965 6493 6351
Passcode: LEARN4H

Next Call

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
5 pm

Ark Valley Humane Society Volunteer Opportunity

The Wertz family is coordinating a volunteer opportunity on 27 January from 6-8 pm at the FG Meeting Room. Join us & learn how to make beds for the dogs & cats at the shelter! Bring a sewing machine if you have one, but no skills needed. All supplies & education included. Complete your community service requirement for project completion!



CHAFFEE COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

2026 Rule Books

The 2026 Chaffee County Fair Handbook is live. Please reference this book for all Chaffee County Fair-specific rule information.

Read it here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EiqRatIQPFovhXJcxNANDdVDGO_39AA4/view

The 2026 Colorado State Fair 4-H Exhibits Requirements book is also live. We fully adopt this rule book for the Chaffee County Fair as it relates to indoor/general projects.

Read it here:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TcdsR4vaKqnnZS10ElnebzdWsbolsGWl/view>





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2026 Cloverbuds Schedule

Welcome to 4-H! We are excited you are interested in joining Cloverbuds, our program for kids aged 5-7. Below is our schedule for spring/summer 2026. These dates are subject to change and topics will rotate between areas such as animal science, plant science, culinary arts, creative arts, STEM, and others. Occasionally, we will have guest educators or a field trip.

Please call or email Rebecca S. Chrestensen, 4-H specialist, with any questions.
(719) 539-6447. Rebecca.sheriff@colostate.edu

Thursday, 12 February	5-6 pm	Cloverbuds, Fairgrounds Meeting Room
Thursday, 12 March	5-6 pm	Cloverbuds, Fairgrounds Meeting Room
Wednesday, 15 April	5-6 pm	Cloverbuds, Fairgrounds Meeting Room
Thursday, 14 May	5 pm	Cloverbuds, Buena Vista, Location TBD
Wednesday, 27 May	5-6 pm	Cloverbuds, Fairgrounds Meeting Room
Wednesday, 10 June	2:30 pm	Cloverbuds, Nathrop Fish Hatchery Tour
Wednesday, 1 July	5 pm	Cloverbuds, Fairgrounds Meeting Room
Saturday, 25 July	TBD	Indoor Judging at Fair, will receive a time slot for your Cloverbud



CHAFFEE/LAKE COUNTY 4-H Animal Knowledge Tests

Monday 27 April, 4:30-6 pm, BV

Monday 4 May, 4:30-6:30 pm, Salida

Tuesday 16 June, 10 am - 2 pm, BV

Wednesday 17 June, 10 am - 3 pm, Salida
or by appointment

Chaffee County Fairgrounds Meeting Room
BV Community Center
715 East Main Street, Buena Vista

Study Guides Available!

All 4-H'ers enrolled in the following projects must take and pass the test for your species:



Swine | Beef | Goat | Sheep
Chicken | Horse | Dog | Rabbit
Turkey | Duck | Geese | Yak



CONTACT REBECCA TO RESERVE A TIME TO TAKE
YOUR TEST(S)

REBECCA.SHERIFF@COLOSTATE.EDU
(719) 539-6447



Beyond Ready



Introducing Colorado 4-H: **Animal Science Discovery Project !**



Do you have an interest in animals, but don't have the ability to raise one?
Or do you raise animals and want to showcase what you have learned
through a static exhibit? This project is for you!



4-H members learn about an animal species of their choice,
excluding cats and horses. This project is open to youth who may
not be showing an animal, as well as those who wish to expand
their knowledge beyond raising and exhibiting an animal .

Curriculum for this project includes all the existing Livestock and
Dog manuals from The Ohio State or Pet Pals and Wildlife Science
manuals available from Shop 4-H.

Exhibit requirements include:



Completing an Animal Science
Discovery Display Board e-Record.

Creating a display board
illustrating a topic the youth
investigated during the 4-H year.



- Option to showcase your niche animal, if you own one!
- Can work with Rebecca to design your own unique project
- Perfect for 4-H'ers that have lizards, emu, fish, and other critters
- Eligible for Animal Science indoor project belt buckles

Contact Rebecca to learn more!





2025-2026 Chaffee/Lake County 4-H Calendar

Dates subject to change – please see the monthly newsletter for updates.

This document was last updated 26 January 2026

Contact Rebecca S. Chrestensen at (719) 539-6447

rebecca.sheriff@colostate.edu



October 2025

- 1 4-H Year Begins!
- 6-10 National 4-H Week
- 6 Office Closed - Cabrini Day
- 13 County Council, BV/Zoom, 7 pm
- 15 Quarterly Leaders Meeting, 6:15 pm
- 15 Cloverbuds, 5-6 pm
- 17 CLC Registration Deadline
- 20 4-H 101 Info Meeting, BV, 6-7:30 pm

November 2025

- 4 4-H 101 Zoom Call, 5 pm
- 7-9 Colorado Leadership Camp
- 15 Open House, FG N. Building, 10 am - noon
- 10 County Council, Salida/Zoom, 7 pm
- 11 Office Closed - Veterans Day
- 17 Cloverbuds, FG Meeting Room, 5-6 pm
- 24 LDC Registration Opens in 4HOnline
- 27-29 CSU/Office Closed - Thanksgiving

December 2025

- 1 County Council, BV/Zoom, 7 pm
- 9 Cloverbuds, 5-6 pm
- 24-25 Office Closed - Christmas
- 31 Office Closed - New Year's Eve

January 2026

- 1 Office Closed - New Year's Day
- 6 4-H 101 Zoom Call, 5 pm
- 7 LDC Registration Closes
- 8 4-H Enrollment & Dues Deadline
- 7-10 Western National Roundup
- 12 County Council, Salida/Zoom, 6:15 pm
- 16 4-H Day at Stock Show
- 19 Office Closed, MLK Day
- 21 Quarterly Leaders Meeting, FG, 6:15 pm
- 24-25 LDC - Denver
- 26 4-H Day at the Capitol
- 25 Beef Weigh-in, 1-3 pm
- 27 Volunteer Event at FG Meeting Room, 6 pm

February 2026

- 2 County Council, BV/Zoom, 7 pm
- 3 4-H 101 Zoom Call, 5 pm
- 12 Cloverbuds, 5 pm, FG Meeting Room
- 16 Office Closed - Presidents Day
- 17 4-H Record Book Zoom, 5-6 pm
- 22 4-H Open Skate Social, 4-6 pm, FG North Building

March 2026

- 2 County Council, Salida/Zoom, 7 pm
- 3 4-H 101 Zoom Call, 5 pm
- 12 Cloverbuds, 5 pm, FG Meeting Room
- 21 Cattlemen's Meat-In BBQ
- 21-22 District Retreat
- TBD YouthFest - Pueblo

April 2026

- 1 CO State Fair Beef Nominations Due
- 3-4 Meat Quality Assurance, tentative
- 6 County Council, BV/Zoom, 7 pm
- 15 Cloverbuds, 5-6 pm, FG Meeting Room
- 15 4-H Record Book Zoom, 5 pm
- 26 Swine/Sheep/Goat Weigh-in 1-4 pm
- 27 Animal Knowledge Testing, 4:30-6 pm, BV
- TBD National 4-H Volunteer Week
- TBD 4-H 101 Series Zoom Call

May 2026

- 1 Horse & Dog IDs due in 4HOnline
- 4 Animal Knowledge Testing, 4:30-6:30 pm, Salida
- 4 County Council, Salida/Zoom, 7 pm
- 14 Cloverbuds, BV, 5 pm
- 15 Project Add/Drop Deadline
- 25 Office Closed - Memorial Day
- 27 Cloverbuds, FG Meeting Room, 5 pm





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Contact Rebecca S. Chrestensen at (719) 539-6447

rebecca.sheriff@colostate.edu



June 2026

- 1 Animal Care & Housing Forms Due
- 1 State Fair Goat/Hog/Lamb Nominations Due
- 1 County Council, Leadville/Zoom, 7 pm
- 10 Cloverbuds, Nathrop Fish Hatchery, 2:30
- 16-19 State 4-H Conference in Fort Collins
- 16 Animal Knowledge Testing
10 am - 2 pm, BV
- 17 Animal Knowledge Testing
10 am - 3 pm, Salida
- 18 Office Closed - Juneteenth
- 15-28 Moonlight Pizza Fundraising Window
- 22 4-H Dinner Gathering @ Moonlight Pizza
- 25 Animal Knowledge Tests Due
- TBD Open Scales at FG
- TBD State 4-H Conference

July 2026

- 1 Cloverbuds, 5-6 pm, FG Meeting Room
- 2 Office Closed - Independence Day
(observed)
- 6 County Council, BV/Zoom, 7 pm
- 7 Fair Pen/Stall Reservations Due
- 7 Indoor Project Judging Sign Ups Due
- 7 Rabbit/Poultry Rosters Due
- 7 Horse Show Entry Forms Due
- 7 Livestock & Horse 4-H'er Fair Packets
available for pickup
- 11 4-H Record Book Zoom, 5 pm
- 24 County Fair Starts
- TBD Open Scales at FG
- TBD County Shooting Sports Contest

September 2026

- 7 Colorado State Fair Ends
- 7 Office Closed - Labor Day
Cloverbuds
- 14 County Council
- 27 Achievement Banquet
*(look for Club Charter
deadlines this month)*

Scholarships

CSU has a number of scholarship opportunities.
[Learn more here!](#)





Contact Our Office



Our office is open 7:30 am - 5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday. Occasionally we are out of the office at appointments or meetings. For urgent needs, please call ahead. Documents or payments can be put in the black dropbox next to the door if you stop in and we are closed.

Mailing Address

10165 CR 120
Salida, CO 81201

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Salida, CO 81201

Meet the Team



Monica Pless | Extension Director

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Nancy Hunt | Extension Administrative Assistant

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