



2026



DELTA COUNTY 4-H NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026!

Your guide to what's inside:

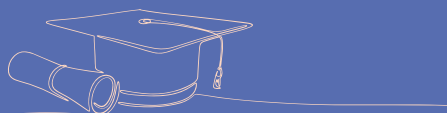
- Record Book Policy
- Dog & Horse Info
- Record books - Online
- Interview Judging Date
- Your 4-H Age
- Scrapie Tag Info
- General Project Info
- Important Dates & Deadlines
- Record Book Covers
- Ear Tag Handout
- Swine Ear Notching
- Livestock Nomination Info

Springtime is the time of year when thoughts turn to graduations, high school in particular, which is seen as one of the biggest changes in a young person's life. Your families are extremely proud of you, as are we. After the commencement speeches are read, and all the good advice bestowed, the topic of conversation turns to what you'll do next.

Our graduating 4-H'ers will begin to make tough choices in their lives, and no amount of advice can get them through those moments. It's the "doing" in 4-H over the years, the disappointments and victories that will get them through. It's also about realizing that adults do things for youth, even when they don't get paid, for the sheer enjoyment of helping. And finally, it's giving back as an adult to a program that helped you grow strong. In short, when you leave here, don't forget why you came.

We wish all our graduates good health and prosperous journeys to whatever their journey brings. Remember, the most important thing is to be a productive adult, no matter what you are doing. We'll miss you, but we are excited that it's your time to move on.

The fireworks begin on your graduation day. Each diploma is a lighted match. Each one of you is a fuse. Now, go out and light up the future!



What Is your 4-H Age???

Do you know if you are a junior, intermediate or senior member? Do you even know what this means? If not, here is an explanation: the age you were on December 31, 2025 is the age that determines your 4-H age. A junior member is any member between the ages of 8 and 10 years old as of 12/31/25; an intermediate member is any member between the ages of 11 and 13 years old as of 12/31/25; a senior member is anyone who was 14 years or older as of 12/31/25. This means that if you turned 11 in March of 2026, you are still considered a junior member for your projects this year. That is your 4-H age!

- Junior member ~ ages of 8 - 10 as of 12/31/25
- Intermediate member ~ ages 11 - 13 as of 12/31/25
- Senior member ~ 14 years or older as of 12/31/25



COUNTY FAIR INTERVIEW JUDGING DATE!

Members with 4-H general projects (the projects that are exhibited in Heritage Hall during the County Fair) need to be aware of the day and date for Interview Judging. Interview Judging will be held Friday, July 31st beginning at 9:00 AM in Heritage Hall.

Be sure to mark this date on your calendars! A full schedule of interview times will be mailed in early July. More information will be available in upcoming newsletters.



IMPORTANT!

DATES AND DEADLINES!!

An important part of 4-H is being responsible. Members meeting deadlines is a part of this responsibility. Some important upcoming deadlines are listed below. *(Please remember: ALL deadlines are 4:30 PM on the due date. Mailed information must reach the office by the due date.)*

- **June 18, 2026** - Last day to take horse written levels tests. These tests will not be given between June 18 and August 31, 2026
- **June 19, 2026** - Office closed for Juneteenth
- **June 20, 2026** - Delta Invitational Shoot, Eckert Range
- **June 26, 2026** - ALL county fair 4-H/FFA pre-entries and Open class livestock pre-entries due - 4:30 PM, Delta 4-H Office
- **July 16, 2026** - Delta County Fair Shoot, 8:00 AM, Eckert Range (shotgun, muzzleloading, air rifle)
- **July 18, 2026** - Delta County Fair Shoot, 8:00 AM, Eckert Range (archery, .22 pistol, .22 rifle, Western Heritage)
- **July 19, 2026** - Dog project record books due to Extension Office by 4:30 PM
- **July 31, 2026** - Interview judging for 4-H General Project Exhibits and Shooting Sports Premier Exhibitor Contest participants. Interviews begin at 9:00 AM at Heritage Hall on the Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss.
- **Aug 3 thru Aug 9, 2026** - Delta County Fair, Hotchkiss CO
- **Sept 4, 2026** - ALL 4-H livestock, horse, dog and shooting sports record books due by 4:30 PM at the Delta 4-H Office. 4-H general project record books for those members who DID NOT exhibit at the county fair are due at this date and time as well.



Have you uploaded your
4-H Dog Identification
info?



In order for dogs to be shown at the 2025 Delta County Fair all dog identification information must be uploaded into the 4HOnline program by 4:30 PM on May 1, 2026. Instructions on how to do this are available in your dog record book. Members must designate all dogs that will or might be participating in their 4-H project.



IMPORTANT HORSE

The highest level test that a member has taken and passed (both written **and** riding) as of June 26, 2026 is the level that member will be allowed to exhibit in at the 2026 Delta County Fair. Written levels tests **will not** be given between June 18, 2026 through August 31, 2026.

Delta County Horse Leaders who are giving horse levels **riding** tests need to be sure to turn in all completed tests to the Delta Extension Office. This is the *only* way we have of knowing which members have passed their tests. If you do not turn in this info, we will assume the information we have on file is the most current info available.

L
V
E
L
S
I
N
F
O



ATTENTION HORSE MEMBERS!

It is that time of year again! Don't forget to have a horse ID for each horse that you may ride uploaded into the 4HOnline program, plus a \$5.00 fee per horse identified, turned in to the Delta Extension Office by 4:30 PM on **May 1st**. (Fees are not to exceed \$20 per family.) The horse ID upload information and instructions may be found in your e-record.

Delta County Invitational Shoot



June 20, 2026 ~ 8:00 AM
Eckert Range, Eckert CO

This event is designed to give 4-H members an opportunity to practice their skills in a fun, competitive setting. Participation in an event where members are discovering what it is like to be in an actual competition with members in their age groups from other counties is a great learning experience.



This activity is open to members from Delta, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, Garfield, Gunnison, Moffat, Routt, Rio Blanco, Montezuma, La Plata and San Miguel counties. It's a day filled with fun, competition, and making new friends!



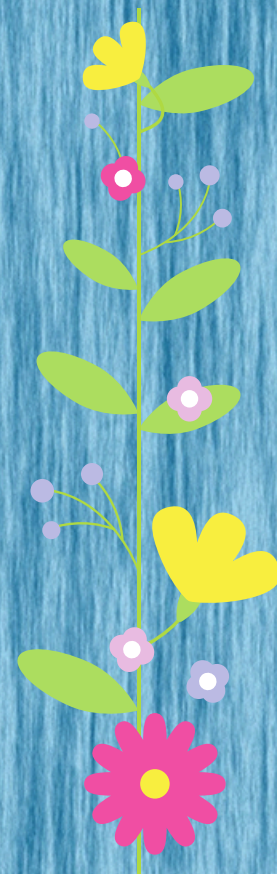
Registration information will be available soon!



DELTA COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

2026 Horse & Dog Identification Due Date

The due date for BOTH Horse Identifications and Dog Identifications is May 1, 2026. All information for these two species must be entered into 4HOnline by 4:30 PM on the above listed date in order for animals to be shown at the Delta County Fair. *Instructions on how to do this are available in your 4-H Horse record book and your 4-H Dog record book.*



ATTENTION: Delta County 4-H members MUST officially make all project additions and/or deletions on or before May 1, 2026.

Members who have not dropped projects that they do not want to participate in, and who do not turn in a completed record book, will not be allowed to enroll in that project area the following year. In addition, members who do not enroll in a project by the above date will not be allowed to show in that project in the 2026 Delta County Fair.

LIVESTOCK RECORD BOOKS

ALL SPECIES – ONE BOOK!

This 4-H year, the livestock record books will be **ALL** species in one book. This means that if you are enrolled in beef, sheep, and rabbits your information for all three species will be in **one** record book.

This way of filling out livestock record books will be for all 4-H'ers in the TRA. Please watch your emails and future newsletters for the details on the correct way to do this.

There will be no change to horse and dog records.



SHEEP & GOAT EXHIBITORS.....

The Colorado State Veterinarian's Office would like to remind each exhibitor that, when purchasing sheep and goat projects for fair or exhibition, to make sure these animals are correctly identified with scrapie tags. This means that before leaving the premises of the producer you are purchasing your animals from, you need to make sure that your project is properly identified with a scrapie tag.

For those placing scrapie tags in the ears of sheep and goats, place the tag between the main two ribs on the inner third of the left ear.

For more information, please go to the Colorado Department of Agriculture website:

www.colorado.gov/AG

Or the USDA website:

www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health

or

www.eradicatescrapie.org



State Fair Rule for General Projects!

If a member enrolls in two units of the same project (for example: leathercraft. A member enrolls in Unit 2 and Unit 3) they must exhibit in the higher unit. When a member takes two units at the same time, they should master the skills of the lower unit and therefore exhibit in the higher unit.

Record Book Cover Requirement

ALL record books must be turned in enclosed and secured in binders. Please hole punch your pages and use either ACCO or brad type binders. Three ring binders are still acceptable, however we do ask that they be no more than 1 inch thick. Be sure to double check that ALL pages/photos/receipts are securely attached inside your binders. The member name and project should be clearly visible on the outside of the binder. (If you have a see-through cover that the front page of your record book can be seen you can skip this step.) The 4-H Office is not responsible for items that are lost from record books.

Colorado 4-H State Conference

Theme:

“Hands in the Dirt,
Roots in the Ground”

Price: \$175

(Youth and Adult)

State Registration

Deadline Dates:

May 15, 2026, 5p.m.

4-H Ages: 14-18

Go to 4HOnline to
register today!



June 16-19, 2026

CSU

Ft. Collins, CO

DELTA COUNTY FAIR

PRE-ENTRY & RECORD BOOK

DUE DATES

All 2026 Delta County Fair pre-entries are due by 4:30 PM on June 26, 2026. This includes the following:

- 4-H and FFA Livestock pre-entries
- Open Class livestock pre-entries
- 4-H and FFA Exhibit Hall pre-entries
- 4-H Shooting Sports Event pre-entries



These entries **MUST** be signed by both the 4-H or FFA member and their leader or advisor. Unsigned entries **WILL NOT** be accepted. **Pre-entry forms will be available at the Delta County Extension Office in early June.**

Open class exhibit hall entries will be accepted Tuesday, August 4th at Heritage Hall on the Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Record books for the following members/projects are due by 4:30 PM on Friday, September 4, 2026:

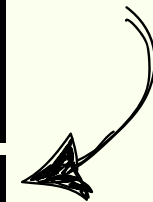
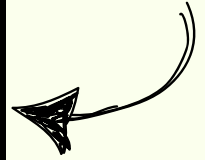
- 4-H and FFA Livestock pre-entries
- Open Class livestock pre-entries
- 4-H and FFA Exhibit Hall pre-entries
- 4-H Shooting Sports Event pre-entries



Members who have projects in the above listed categories that do not turn in a record book will not be allowed to enroll in that project next year.



**See
These
Ears??**



**They
need
some
bling!!**

**Ear tag hand out for
Swine**
will be held
**Saturday,
May 2nd from
9:00 - 11:00 AM at
the Delta County
Fairgrounds**

Sheep & Goat
weigh-in/tag pick up will
be at the Livestock
Office on the
Fairgrounds on May 2nd
from 9:00-11:00 AM.

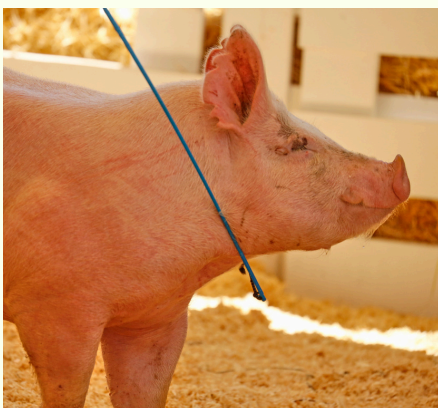
**Cost is
\$7.00 per tag.**

**Nomination
deadline for
all 3 species is
4:30 PM
on May 8, 2026.**



ATTENTION SWINE PROJECT MEMBERS!

ALL market swine must be **ear notched AND tagged** by May 8, 2026. The ear notches and DCF Fair tag must be visible in the member's uploaded nomination photos.

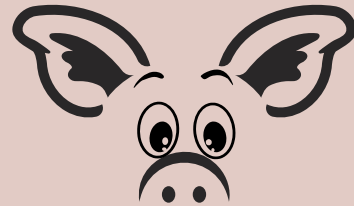
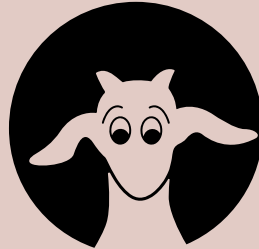
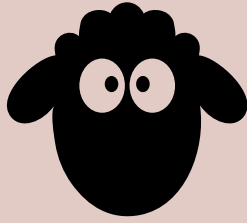


Market Animal Uploads

ALL market animal exhibitors are required to upload nomination information into 4-HOnline. Here are the due dates:

Market Sheep, Goats and Swine - 4:30 PM - May 8, 2026

Please remember that nomination information uploads include 4 photos of your animal (member must be included in one photo), Livestock Affidavit for Bred & Fed animals. and the new Animal Care and Housing Form.



Record Book Policy

All Delta County 4-H members with general projects (those that are displayed in the Exhibit Hall) who do NOT bring an exhibit to the 2026 Delta County Fair will be required to turn their record books in on September 4th which is the same date that the livestock, horse, dog and shooting sports record books are due. (This date will be published in future newsletters.) The 70% completion requirement will apply to these books. In addition, general project members who do not participate in the 2026 fair and fail to turn in their record book(s) will not be allowed to participate in those project(s) the following 4-H year.

READ ON....



**FAMILY NOMINATION INFORMATION
ON THE NEXT PAGE!**

FAMILY ANIMAL NOMINATIONS

(LARGE ANIMALS ONLY)

Family nominations of Jr. Market Livestock will be accepted. At the time of nominations, all exhibitors may “family nominate” all animals according to the following guidelines:

1. The exhibitors must legally reside in the same household and are siblings, step-siblings, or legally adopted.
2. The exhibitors must all permanently reside in the same county.
3. The livestock must be in continuous care of the exhibitors residing in the same residence.
4. Livestock must not be sold or transferred out of the exhibitor’s custody at any time after the nomination process is complete.
5. The individual who will be showing the family nominated animal MUST be declared at the time of pre-entry. An animal can only be entered by one exhibitor, or the entry is considered invalid and the animal is not eligible to show.

At initial nominations, there will be no limit on the number of animals nominated. However, because of space limitations, only 2 market animals per exhibitor for goats, sheep, swine and beef and be brought to and exhibited at Fair.

Entry procedure:

- The Delta County Fair pre-entry deadline is **June 26, 2026**. Animals being entered must have an official nomination on file to be eligible.
- Siblings may nominate the same animal but may NOT pre-enter the same animal.
- At the time of pre-entry, the final exhibitor decision must be made. Animals found to be double entered (one animal in multiple exhibitors names) will be considered an invalid entry.
- The exhibitor entering the animal must have cared for the animal daily from the time of nomination.
- Animals nominated, but not officially entered, will not be eligible to show.



Delta County Bred & Fed Producer & Delta County Bred & Fed Youth Producer Program Information

Delta County Bred & Fed Producer Information

- ONE time registration - deltacountybredandfed.com
 - ~ Please update *only* if information has changed. Otherwise its a one and done
- Reasons to register:
 - ~ Listed in producer directory online and in printed version available in various Delta County locations

Delta County Fair Bred and Fed Classes

- Delta County Fair (DCF) exhibitors need to complete the yearly DCF affidavit to show at the DCF in bred and fed classes
- Registration complete on Fair entries
- Steers need brand papers (brand from Delta County)
- Sheep and goats need scrapie tag (scrapie tag from Delta County)
- Swine need ear notches

Delta County Bred and Fed Youth Producer Program

- Yearly enrollment through Delta County Bred & Fed (DCBF) website - deltacountybredandfed.com
- Declare enrollment in DCBF program on Fair entry forms
- Reasons for additional enrollment through DCBF website:
 - ~ Youth producer spotlight (required component)
 - ~ Information regarding what species for youth producer
 - ~ Eligibility to receive Youth Producer grants
 - ~ Option to compete in the Youth Producer class at the June Classic Jackpot
 - ~ Possible educational opportunities (new in 2025)



May 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<p>1 Enrollment & project add/drop deadline, 4:30 PM Horse and dog uploads due, 4:30 PM</p>	<p>2 Delta sheep & goat weigh-in/tag-pick up and swine tag pick-up, Fairgrounds, 9-11 AM</p>
3	4	5	6	7	<p>8 Delta Sheep, Goat, & Swine information uploads due, 4:30 PM</p>	9
<p>10 </p>	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	<p>25  Offices Closed</p>	26	27	28	29	30
31						

To all of our wonderful 4-H Moms, Grandmothers, and Aunts - or anyone that is in the role of a mother! - that help our 4-H kids to be successful....

You're an inspiration to your entire family, sharing your kind and caring spirit with everyone around you.



Wishing you a day filled with everything you love.



CONTACT US!
Delta County 4-H
525 Dodge Street
Delta CO 81416
970-874-2195

Jackie Shea
4-H Extension Agent
jackie.shea@colostate.edu

Karen Scheele-Nittler
4-H Executive
Assistant
knittler@deltacountyco.gov



DELTA COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

An equal access and equal opportunity University
<https://col.st/110t3>

Important Upcoming Dates!

- May 1 - Enrollment and Project Add/Drop Deadline, 4:30 PM
- May 1 - Horse and Dog ID uploads due in 4-HOnline, 4:30 PM
- May 2 - Swine Tag Pickup, Delta Fairgrounds, 9-11 AM
- May 2 - Sheep/Goat weigh-in/tag pick up, Delta Fairgrounds, 9-11 AM
- May 8 - Sheep/Goat/Swine nominations due, 4:30 PM
- June 5 - Delta Invitational Shoot entries due to office, 4:30 PM
- June 18, 2026 - Last day to take horse written levels tests. These tests will not be given between June 18 and August 31, 2026
- June 19, 2026 - Office closed for Juneteenth
- June 20, 2026 - Delta Invitational Shoot, Eckert Range
- June 26, 2026 - ALL county fair 4-H/FFA pre-entries and Open class livestock pre-entries due - 4:30 PM, Delta 4-H Office

All dates in this calendar are tentative and subject to change.