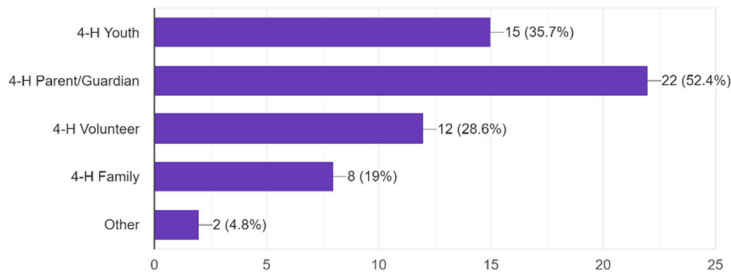


4-H End of Year Survey Results (42 Responses). You could complete the survey anonymously or provide your name – nine people did provide a name. Responses listed below in *italics* were provided to us outside of this survey throughout the 4-H year and at fair. For scaled questions, 1 is poor and 5 is best.

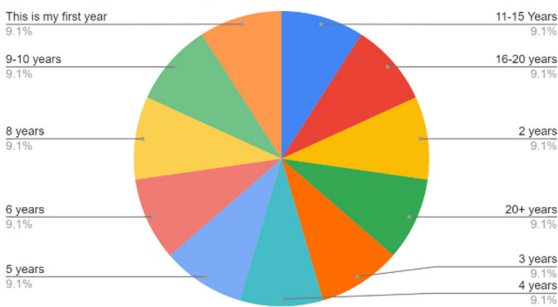
What is your involvement in 4-H (you can pick multiple answers)?

42 responses



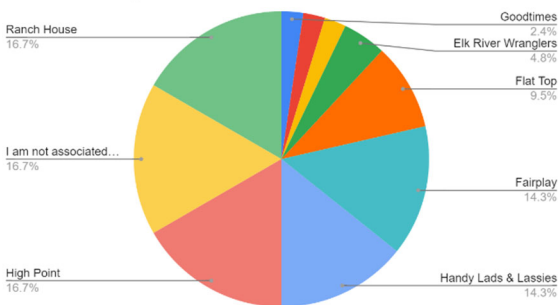
Takeaways: The majority of our respondents were parents, followed by youth and Volunteers.

How many years have you been involved in 4-H?



Takeaways: most 4-H families who completed the survey have been involved for 1-2 years.

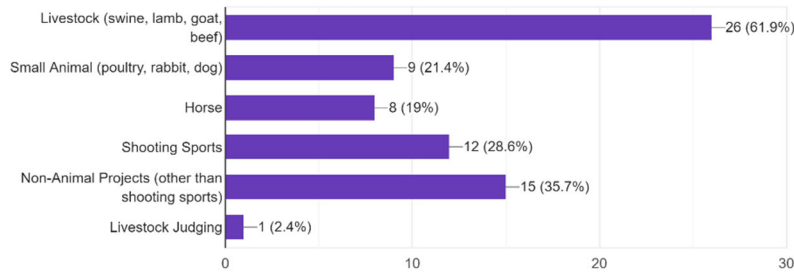
What club are you associated with?



Takeaways: the top responding clubs were Ranch House, High Point and those not associated with a club.

What project/s are you or your child involved in? (you can pick multiple answers)

42 responses

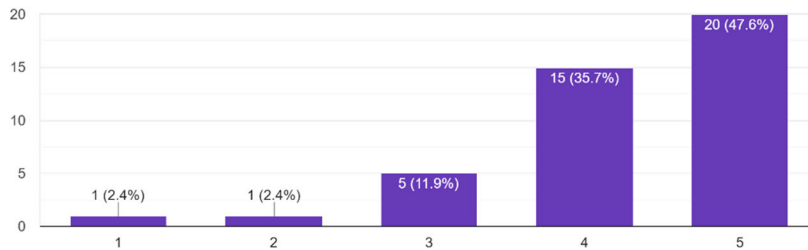


Takeaways: Of those who completed the survey most 4-H projects are livestock, with non-animal projects as the 2nd most common. Shooting Sports comprised 28.6% of responses.

4-H Newsletter/Communication –

4-H Newsletter - our bi-monthly newsletter. Please let us know how helpful the newsletter is for you.

42 responses



Takeaways: Overall, the majority of the respondents found the newsletter very helpful.

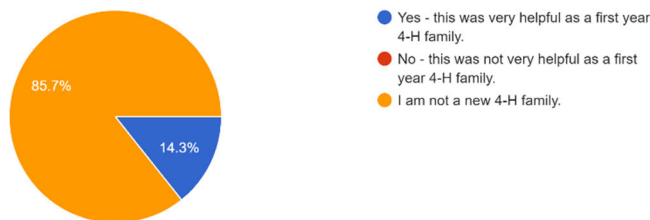
Comments or Suggestions to help us improve our communication with our 4-H Families.

- None, I think that this is an effective way to get the information out; lots of useful info- thank you!; My parents definitely have some problems but I get all I need.
- It is not viewer friendly on a phone.
- I like the format of the newsletter. There are times during the year that it does not seem like the newsletter is occurring enough by being only bi-monthly.
- There is a ton of information in the newsletter, which is great, but sometimes you either don't get through the whole thing or miss something. Not sure if every 2 weeks may help? It's a lot of work I know!
- A lot of repetitive information. There's a lot of information already so I don't need to read the same thing 3 times in one newsletter.
- Poor communication has resulted from shooting sports leaders about anything, even how to get in shotgun range etc., anything regarding state fair

New Member Onboarding –

Graph Question – “New Member On-boarding - new this year, we met personally with all new 4-H families. We hosted a New Member Dinner in March and if they missed the dinner we hosted 6 new member meetings across the county (2 each in South Routt, Steamboat and Hayden) to meet with families that could not make it to the dinner. Was this helpful to our new 4-H families?”

New Member On-boarding - new this year, we met personally with all new 4-H families. We hosted a New Member Dinner in March and if they missed the ...inner. Was this helpful to our new 4-H families?
42 responses



Takeaway – the majority of our respondents were not new this year, however, those who were new members, felt the onboarding process was helpful as a new family.

Suggestions on how to best educate our new 4-H families.

- Senior Members helping Jr members
- As a leader I think that this new member dinner was helpful. We didn't have a lot of new kids in our club but what we had hear was that it was beneficial for the new members to have this.
- We joined late so we played catch up the whole summer trying to learn about the meetings, events, and what we needed to prepare for the County fair.
- various projects for very diverse interests
- I found the requirements a lot to follow the first year but having gone through it once, I understand better. I feel communication with the specific club could be better.
- More local meetings
- It would have been nice to meet the superintendents for each project so that we would know who to go to for any questions about the project. We only briefly met them during Fair week.
- Greater detail on projects and work books
- **Please note: The New Member Dinner for this upcoming 4-H Year is March 20th.**

Project Workshops – We hosted many project workshops including both animal and non-animal projects this year. Please let us know if these were helpful, and what educational events you would like to see hosted in 2024.

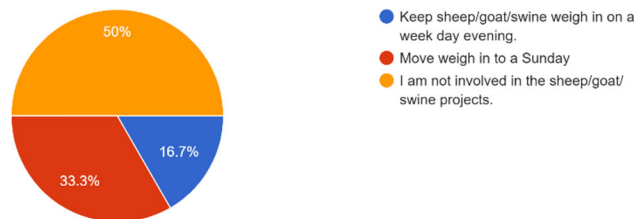
- Yes; N/A; Yes, swine workshop was great.; loved to connect with others with similar interests
- We didn't attend these. But it is a great idea.; We were unable to attend any of them as we moved up to Routt County in June.; They were great options. Unfortunately I was not able to make any of them. Hoped next year
- I think these will be beneficial if we continue to try to promote them and put them on. Consistency will increase participation.
- Would be great to do these more often. A couple of options for working record book sessions would be great.
- This were helpful and I think more poultry events could be present.
- More classes for goats

- Rabbit club was very helpful but wish it had been more days and earlier as there were many new members

Sheep/Goat/Swine Weigh-In

Sheep/Goat/Swine weigh in date - Would you prefer to have weigh in on a week day evening (3-6pm time frame) as we have done in the past or move this to a Sunday (similar to beef weigh in).

42 responses



Takeaway: The majority of those who responded to the survey are in favor of moving sheep/goat/swine weigh-in to a Sunday rather than a weekday.

Spring Weigh-In:

- We only had one pig, but I do feel like trying to make weigh in on a week day is challenging especially if your child is older and involved with spring sports.; I know there were quite a few parents struggling to make it to weigh in with it being on a week night.; I think it would be easier for families to have weigh in on a Sunday.; *One day weigh-in for sheep, goats, and swine*
- I would get rid of weigh in. Lots of other fairs do not have it. It only spreads sickness; *Eliminate Spring Weigh-Ins – travel to do tag-ins*
- Pig weigh in was so hard this year. So many sick pigs. We had to really fight to get ours back to health. Is there another option? Can it be done later when pigs are bigger/healthier?

Fair Weigh-In

- Weigh in ensure scale is certified and if it's bouncing give the benefit to the kid. If there is a discrepancy allow a re weigh. Or notify members especially new of the loss of transport and feeding and water before weigh in.
- Weigh-In Suggestions (lightweight animals)
 - *Have a challenge scale for animals not making weight*
 - *Open the scales all day during load in at the fairgrounds. Members will be allowed to use the scales for the day, until certain time, then during weigh-in there will be no weigh-backs*
 - *Re-weigh all animals less than 5 pounds from weight; I think that it would be advisable to allow re-weighs (if an animal is underweight within 5 pounds) for all species if necessary*
 - I do think that the minimum weight for pigs at fair could be adjusted. 4 classes of feeder pigs is too many!
 - Have all species superintendents be on the same page about re-weighs. Let's just have consistency.
 - if the weights are fluctuating and he calls the lower weight, which results in the animal to be underweight, why not just call the higher weight? Let's help the kids out

- A lot of pigs were getting really hot and stressed while waiting for their turn. Maybe having people sign up for a designated time slot so that there wasn't so much waiting?
- *Revisit the frame size and weights for steers; Beef – look at frame size*
- *Shorten weigh-in sheets to just tag# and determine family animals after weigh-in*
- I did breeding showmanship and did not have to weigh my goat.
- One thing I noticed is that many people were talking to Mr. Vogelaar as he was supposed to be calling weights. I think that we should request people wait to talk to him after he is finished calling weights.
- *Weigh-In ALL animals (swine, goat, sheep, and beef) on Tuesday night. This would help with conflicts of shows and weigh-ins on Wednesday morning.*

Exhibit Day – Comments and Suggestions

Exhibit Day - We would like to encourage more participation in Exhibit Day interviews and attending the Awards. What day works best for you to host Exhibit Day and Awards?

42 responses



Takeaway: Most Exhibit Day participants prefer Saturday interviews followed by evening awards.

- Everyone was helpful; I was not a part of the interviews or awards so I do not know.

Exhibit Day Timing

- I think it's hard for working families if it's on a work day; Exhibit Day in the middle of the week is hard.; *Exhibit Day on Saturday.*
- *Change times and do on a Friday.*
 - *5pm Fashion Revue (Royalty and 4-H at the Same Time)*
 - *6pm viewing*
 - *6:30pm awards*

Awards

- It is confusing for many that the awards are in the evening and therefore not well attended. It is actually a lot of back and forth for those involved in fashion revue; Communication about the awards was not consistent
- Shooting awards at exhibit day and no more fashion show.
- Give shooting awards!!!!!! Only announce top 5 overall then everyone can pick up an envelope with their position ribbons. Several kids that skipped shooting awards were at exhibit day and vice versa. Make them consolidate and get better attendance.

Involvement

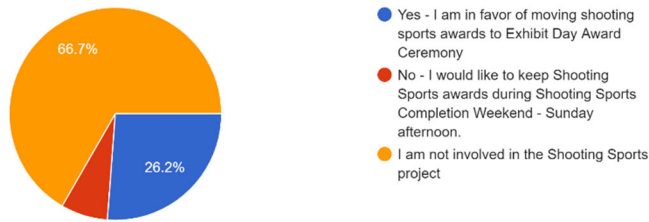
- No more pre-interviews you attend Exhibit Day on the day scheduled.

- This has always been a struggle to get people more involved. I have a few suggestions and concerns. Once again we are getting the same judges that know families in Routt County. I understand that finding judges are difficult, but it's not fair when the judges come from the neighboring counties and they know kids in our program. It's a disadvantage to the kids whom they don't know as well as it discourages the other competitors to the point they feel like, "why should I do this project again next year?" There are a lot of fun newer projects that kids could take and would be interested in but we need to do a better job on providing leaders for these projects. This is a different age in time and parents don't have the knowledge or time to help these kids with their projects and it's even more difficult when they come from split homes. I was involved with the Vet Science project and this was one our struggles is that one parent would bring them to a meeting and get the information and then the other parent would bring them for another meeting and complain that they didn't know about the information. We need to find a better system to communicate with all parents involved with a kid and make this easier on the parents and 4-H member.

Shooting Sports – Comments and Suggestions

Graph Question - "Shooting Sports Members/Families - The shooting sports award BBQ, which takes place Sunday afternoon of completion weekend, has not been well attended the past few years. Since all shooting sports youth attend Exhibit Day to present their project/interview, what are your thoughts on moving Shooting Sports Awards to the Exhibit Day Awards Ceremony (takes place the evening of Exhibit Day)?"

Shooting Sports Members/Families - The shooting sports award BBQ, that takes place Sunday afternoon of completion weekend, has not been well...remony (takes place the evening of Exhibit Day)?
42 responses



Takeaway: The majority of shooting sports families prefer moving their awards to Exhibit Day.

Shooting Sports Completion Weekend Awards – please share any additional comments and suggestions regarding shooting sports awards.

- We attended the shooting sports completion weekend but did not attend the BBQ. Our time slot for shooting was much earlier.
- *Have all .22 Rifle and Archery show up at 9am*
- *Shooting sports awards at Exhibit Day*

4-H Livestock and Animal Shows –

Livestock Show Comments and Suggestions:

- I think that this year's 4-H show, bbq and sale ran very well. Having a separate show day for the different market species is so important. It makes things so much less stressful than when it was all on one day.
- *How can we address no-shows/non-participation in dog*
- *Allow members to show more than 2 market livestock species; Allow kids to show more than 2 market projects to increase numbers*
- *Divisions for Beef (1. Heifer, 2. Club, 3. Non-Club Ranch);* In the market beef show we could do a division show to split up the herd and show calves. I have been to a few shows that work like this and it seems to work well.
- Move swine show earlier in day due to heat, showmanship after market
- Beef members need to be responsible for all aspects of their project... brand inspections specifically.
- I would really like to see the swine and lamb/goat shows run like the championship drive of the beef show. Line up or enter the ring when announced. Class 1...enter...class 2...enter. Get announcer on board to the pauses needed for the champion drive. This year all the swine went in and they were just announcing them all but it didn't give the championship drive a special quality that it deserve. With Jason Miller, it seemed to happen that way. I really liked that. I realize with swine that can be rather difficult also. With the lamb show, the championship drive was being announced and the kids weren't all in the ring. I would love to see this improved.
- More help at small animal barn so dad and I don't have to do everything.
- Being able to know ahead of time about the order of show would be nice so that kids can have their animals ready but also be able to watch the other shows.
- Once again it is difficult for a kid to show small animals in addition to large animals because of weigh in, outstanding exhibitor interviews and mandatory species meetings. Could we figure something out that would allow kids to make all of those things and still be able to show small animals?
- *Dog Show – Reminder to parents to bring shade tents; More tents and chairs for the dog show*
- *Double check age division for all members*

Judge Comments and Suggestions:

- Loved the rabbit judge! She was very willing to share knowledge to the new members.
- Loved the horse judge from Monday, she was super sweet and helpful. I really appreciated how she made sure to tell each kid how they could improve as well as what they did good. Would love to see her next year! Did not like the round robin horse judge as much, not super nice.
- New swine judge for next year.; Do not keep the same judge for two years in a row. There are so many judges out there, you can find a new one for each year.
- Inexperienced beef; As a 4-H member that participated in livestock judging through FFA I would like to see all the judges be more experienced and be able to give a good set of reasons.; Need more mature judges no young kids that know kids showing
- I think young judges make a difference as they keep the show relevant and high energy. They are fresher out of school and can talk on the mike really well and actually give reasons to help the exhibitors understand their ranking.; The livestock judges for swine, sheep, goats, and beef were good. They were up to date on trends and did a good job.

Breeding Animal Ownership Comments and suggestions-

- The breeding beef need a better way to confirm ownership. There isn't a way to confirm ownership of the breeding animal currently we just go by the honor system and that's a big loop hole for people

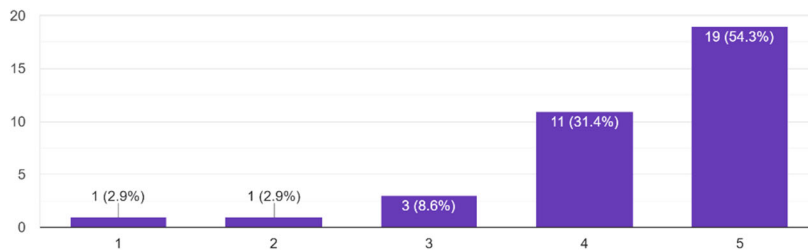
to go around. I think that we need to be checking their brand papers as well as we could either tag them in at the market beef weigh in or have them come to the weigh in with their brand papers and look at their bangs tags (government issued id) and then have them checked again at weigh in at fair. There are ways to insure the ownership of breeding animals that would be better than what we currently do now.

- *Breeding Lease Animals – should members be allowed to lease breeding animals?; How do we verify ownership of breeding animals*
- For breeding animal I think they should have to show proof of ownership of the animal they are showing from the brand inspector like market livestock. I don't think it's fair someone can bring in a "borrowed animal to show" for marketing they should be the rightful owner of the animal. 4H county fairs are about the kids it's not Stock Show.

BBQ –

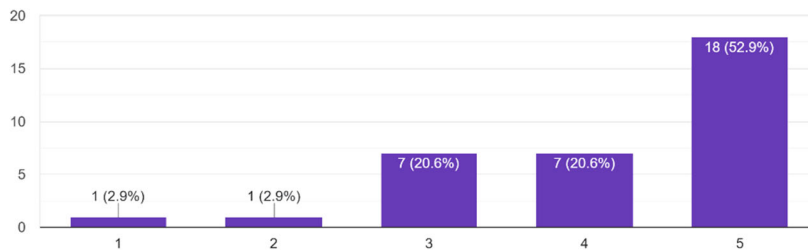
Graph Question – "Bobby Robinson Sr Memorial BBQ - the BBQ was FREE for the entire community thanks to our sponsors (Alpine Bank and Rhinehart Oil). We catered the event in house this year with many 4-H volunteers and served 700+ community members in two hours! And our beef was once again prepared in traditional Bobby Robinson fashion by Ed Camilletti and his crew of volunteers. How do you feel the BBQ went overall?"

Bobby Robinson Sr Memorial BBQ - the BBQ was FREE for the entire community thanks to our sponsors (Alpine Bank and Rhinehart Oil). We cate...volunteers. How do you feel the BBQ went overall?
35 responses



Takeaway: Over 85% of respondents felt the BBQ food and event was very good or excellent.

BBQ Food - We included the traditional Bobby Robinson Sr Smoked Beef and we provided tossed salad, fruit salad, baked beans, roll and dessert bars. How do you feel the BBQ food was overall?
34 responses



Food -

- The BBQ and food THIS year was MUCH better than last years!; The food was great this year! Let's do that again.; thank you for delicious food and good company
- Beef was great not other stuff
- Missed the pork and other varieties of meat.; Pulled pork option?;
- Maybe more diverse dessert options

Logistics

- Provide another tent for shade.; Another tent might be nice. Pretty hot in the sun.
- I think that there needs to be a check list of how things need to be set up for the BBQ. It was difficult to set up the BBQ and sale area with so many different adults telling the kids what to do and then someone coming behind telling them to do it a different way. We need to be on the same page and maximize everyone's use of time. By having a check list I feel that we can be more efficient in getting things done right the first time.
- Maybe extend time so it's not so crowded
- Having several filling stations really seemed to help the line move faster and more efficient.
- Early set up was great.

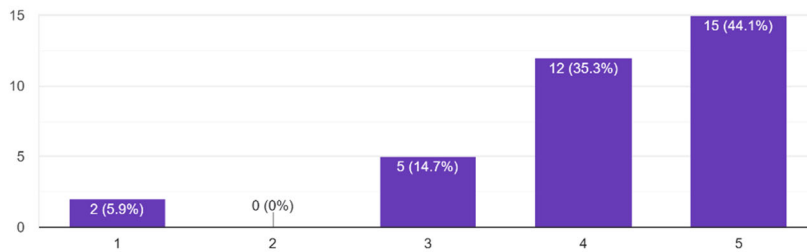
Other Comments -

- We didn't eat at the BBQ; Did not attend

Junior Livestock Sale –

Jr. Livestock Sale - How do you feel the Junior Livestock Sale ran?

34 responses



Takeaway: Almost all respondents felt positive about the Jr. Livestock Sale.

Photography –

- Update back drop
- Make sure buyers are reminded that they will take a photo when they get their numbers.
- The photographer needs to take a little bit of time and let the kids set up there animals. Pictures haven't been very good in the past.
- Need a better photographer still stuck in the old school

Comments and Suggestions for Buyers

- Just an idea... gold buckle seating for high buyers the previous year where they can get bar service etc. this could encourage others to spend x\$ to get gold buckle seating and thanks previous buyers for being so prominent in the sale. They also get front row so they can continue to buy for the youth.

- I have heard over the past couple of years from buyers that they would have paid more if someone would have bid them up. Could we make it known to our buyers before the sale starts that they could just tell the ring men that they would like to pay a certain amount? For example I want to pay \$10,000 for a steer and the bid opens at \$3,000. As the buyer I could just tell the ring men that I would like the steer for \$10,000.00. I don't think that buyers know that this is an option.

Add-Ons

- I would like a platform that we could log into to view who has added on to our kid's projects.

Sale Order

- I feel as though all grand and reserve animals should sell in the beginning of the sale.
- Could we get information of how they sort the whole sale out to our members before fair? I know that it is talked about in the grand champion drives of why they place every animal in that drive but it isn't talked about if you don't make the grand champion drive. It might inspire kids to want to set different goals for their projects.

Additional Comments

- Make rules universal
- More Marketing from Routt County and involve Routt County Commissioners to get more involvement.
- Generic
- Chad is great!
- Need to make it a no kill sale kids will get better prices; Make the sale a no kill sale kids will make better money
- I thought the sale was set up and ran very well.
- I would like to see a short commentary for each member. Not just their name. It is not personable. It's ok if the sale runs longer
- I thought that the deductions seemed fair this year.
- Would be great to have more fans/swamp coolers especially at sale/show. It is great for the livestock, but would be great to have more for the buyer area as well to really get air moving there.

Additional Comments and Suggestions –

Fair Set-Up

- Not entirely related to your survey, but wash pens need better set up, missing hoses this year. And shavings pile needs better management/clean up.
- *Move the fans to the middle of the barn; Move the Cooling fans to the middle of the barn;* the coolers were great if the doors can be shut they would work great!!!!
- DO NOT LET BEEF MEMBERS BLOCK THE DOOR WAYS!!!! An alley system needs to be set up for the wash racks for beef. I would move the swine alley so it is not blocking the center of everything.
- I really wish you had put up the backdrop this year like in years past. Kids were able to take their pictures throughout the week and the image was nice.; I hear several people asking if we had a backdrop for photos this year. I know that this has been something we have had since COVID and we didn't have it this year. Could we bring this back? It is nice to take photos with.
- The set up and break down could have been more organized.; Overall the 4-H year went well but the set up and break down could have been more organized.

Fair Clean-UP/Load Out

- allow non sale animals to go home
- If load out had a designated time (ie: 9am or something) per species, I think it would be better attended. Maybe someone needs to take charge or coordinating when kids need to be there and letting them know that?; Designate jobs and times a little more on the setup day for the sale?
- Set up and break down could have a little more direction. Hard for newer members to know what to do. Division of members first thing into different areas. Better direction for stall clean out - sweep to center or remove your own shavings? Maybe split times on break-down so those that need to leave can do an early shift. Others can have a later shift to help with the sweep out - that seemed to last a long time and there wasn't that much for everyone to do. Sign out for different areas, large barn, small barn, exhibit, etc??

Animal Stalling comments and suggestions –

- It was really nice to have the breeding beef to be allowed to stay at the fair all week this year, however it would be nice to be able to tie the heifers in line with the market projects. It makes it challenging for the younger kids to have them on different sides of the barn. It would make it easier to clean stalls as well as taking care of them if they were stalled next to the market projects.; *Animal Stalling – breeding beef and market beef animals together*
- *More stalls to put your 4-H Stuff in*
- *Phone numbers on Stall Cards; Add breed name to the animal cards on the pens*

Ag Experience

- I am done with the Ag Experience. Our livestock kids are busy with their animals and the culmination of their projects. As a leader, we ask our non-livestock members to help with this service, but they don't show. We are all working enough that week and don't need another job. I really don't think it has great value. It's not worth the energy.

Awards/Sponsorships:

- *How do we still recognize kids who go above and beyond in their projects/give awards when <5 members in the project?*
- *Can we assign clubs specific projects to gather awards for?*
- *Can we gather project specific and useful awards (i.e. sewing kits, show halters, etc...)*
- Why don't we do more fundraisers as a County to get things paid for? I would think that if we did even just one county wide fundraiser once a year we would have the option to maximize the amount of money raised for 4-H. We could use this money to pay for awards, ribbons, Judges, scale fees, sale fees etc. You could do a farm to table dinner, Oyster fry, or anything else and pair that with a silent auction. I feel like bringing the whole County together for 1 event would be more beneficial than going door to door like we do now. There is money in this valley we just need to be more diligent in accessing it. People are willing to donate we just need to teach our kids how to access this money.
- *Should we do Herdsman awards or other for Shooting Sports, and General Projects for Achievement Night?*

Outstanding Exhibitor Comments and suggestions -

- My daughter enjoyed not having a written test this year for the outstanding exhibitor.
- *Revamp the Outstanding Exhibitor Contest*
- *Inclusion of fair clean-up, blogs, Flood Days, etc.?*

Parking

- *No Horse Trailers parked on the North Side – no place for people to park. Put them at Dry Creek or old sale barn.*
- *Designated parking for BBQ Cooks until they are done. They were being asked to move as they were trying to clean-up.*

Volunteer Comments and Suggestions

- More education for volunteer project leaders.
- Clear updated contact sheets when kids are added or drop out of a project.
- *Club Page on the Routt County 4-H Website?*
 - *Minutes/Treasure Reports*
 - *Meeting Dates*
 - *Club Info (officers, leaders, contacts)*

Handbook Suggestions

- *Make a section listing approved showing equipment*
- *Carcass Contest – rules for qualification*
 - *Animals participating in the carcass contest must be an eligible Routt County market animal, and must have participated in a Routt County Fair market class. We will do our best to ensure that all lightweight animals, and any animal not shown in a Routt County market class will be scored, but not placed.*

Additional Comments:

- Beer garden shut down early to move to concert.
- I think the concert after the BBQ is really fun and a great way to finish off the night so definitely continue that!
- We loved the fair, the 4H leadership, and meeting the families. Since we were only able to attend the Dog Show events trainings starting in June, we were disappointed to only have a couple of sessions with the trainer Kathy as she travels much of the summer. My son did learn some things at those sessions so we really appreciate that.
- Get more 4-H clubs to be a part of the parade
- I personally see the numbers declining year to year. I know that you send out a spreadsheet that tracks this to the leaders but looking back over the years there are less and less animals in the barn. I think that there needs to be a serious conversation of how to get more people to do animal projects. There isn't a very large sheep show anymore and that used to be fairly large. In a neighboring county they have several barns available in the surrounding towns so that kids who live in towns have an option to take animal projects. I know that there is a location in Hayden but not sure that there is an option in North Routt, Steamboat, Stagecoach, or South Routt.
- N/A; None;
- Lacks excitement, very ho hum
- Don't have any ideas, but if I think of some I'll let you know!; Grateful for all you do to keep everyone happy!; Great year; Everything went very well this year ! Thank you!; Excited for next year!; I thought you guys did a good job, thank you!; I can't really right now but will send at a later date.; Pretty good job; Great first year!; All was fine. Can't please everybody. Stay positive; Overall went really well; Well done

2023-2024 Schedule Change Decisions from Survey

- Spring Weigh-In will be on a Sunday. It is scheduled for May 12th.
- Exhibit Day will be Saturday, July 27th for this upcoming year.
- Shooting Sports awards will be passed out during Exhibit Day Awards