

Hello,

Thank you for wanting to be a part of the 4-H Art of Ranching project for 2024. Here is some additional information and next steps for you.

### **Why should youth take part in the Art of Ranching project?**

There is something magical that happens when youth interview their elders in a community. The Art of Ranching project is a collaboration between researchers, 4-H youth, and community members to collect and preserve the stories of the past, particularly stories about agriculture. Every agricultural family, every farm, every ranch has a unique way of operating. This project aims to capture the stories those involved with agriculture have to tell. It engages 4-H youth in doing oral history interviewing, archival research, storytelling, and public presentation to collect and preserve those stories. In doing so, the project helps facilitate the sharing and transferring of this unique agricultural knowledge to younger generations.

### **What ages can take part in this project?**

The Art of Ranching project is open to 4-H ages, 8-18 years of age.

### **What do the youth need to do to complete this project?**

- Youth will identify a Historical Topic related to Colorado agriculture (a ranch, farm, family, business, entity or landscape) who wants to participate. This could be their own family ranch/farm, a local ranch/farm/business/landscape, or a local long-time agricultural family.
- Make contact with a local historian, historical society, library, or museum to learn more about local history and to do some research on their project. Complete the History Sketch found in the 4-H manual.
- Complete the Oral History training. We have a video you can watch or you can take part in a zoom training session.
- Schedule the interview. Be prepared with a list of interview questions and bring the completed History Sketch. Make sure to secure the narrator's signature on the Informed and Use Permission form (found in the manual).
- Complete a narrative of your Historical Topic and submit it to the Art of Ranching project historian at CSU for submission to History Colorado's Colorado Encyclopedia.
- Present your completed project twice (ex. – club demonstration, local museum, classroom, assisted living program, etc.).
- Art of Ranching Project Resources:
  - [Project Manual](#)
  - [Record Book](#)
  - [Project Requirements](#)
  - [Judging Score Sheet](#)

**What is the suggested timeline for completing the Art of Ranching 4-H project for the 2023-2024 4-H year?** (Note – this is a suggested timeline. Youth can join later but will have a shorter amount of time to complete the project requirements (if competed within a 4-H year). And youth/leaders can take advantage of the support the Art of Ranching team has set up or complete the project on their own.)

- October – February: Recruit youth, research historic topics and pick a topic for each youth to complete for this project.
- March – May: complete the Oral History Interview training (video or via Zoom training) and set-up your interview with your Historic Topic ~~contact~~[narrator \(the person the youth interviews\)](#).
- May – July: Write your narrative and share with the Art of Ranching intern for critiques. Present your project twice before your Exhibit Day. Compete at Exhibit Day.
- August 23 – help at the Centennial Farm and Ranch award celebration at the Colorado State Fair. This is not required but is a lot of fun. Routt County makes a trip out of it and stays in the dorms and enjoys a day at the state fair.

**I am a leader/volunteer helping youth with the Art of Ranching project. Are there ~~re~~ resources I can access for this project?**

- The Art of Ranching team has put together a statewide support system for you to implement the 4-H Art of Ranching project in your community.
- We will be hosting monthly zoom calls for youth/parents/leaders on the last Tuesday of each month at 7pm starting in January 2024 to help guide you and your youth through this project. This is a great place to ask questions, [facilitate](#) accountability, and to learn what other youth are doing across the state. Please reach out to [Tami Eggers](#) for the Zoom link.
- Leaders/Volunteers – we host a weekly AOR team call every Thursday at 11am. Feel free to join this call and ask questions, get updates and learn what other counties are doing across the state. Please reach out to [Tami Eggers](#) to be added to this weekly Team call.
- We have two CSU Intern/s to support the project this summer and they may be able to travel to your county too.
- Leaders helping youth with the Art of Ranching project can access project leader resources in the [Art of Ranching manual](#).

**Meet our AOR team:**

Tami Eggers, Project Director, Routt County 4-H Youth Development Specialist

Leisl Carr Childers, Project Historian, Associate Professor Department of History at CSU

Jacie Rex, Project Coordinator, Douglas County 4-H Youth Development Specialist

Dale Mize, Project Consultant, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

We look forward to meeting each of you on one of our support calls. Please let us know if you have any other questions.

Thank you,

*Art of Ranching Project Team*