

RIO BLANCO COUNTY PARTICIPATION POLICY

(Keep this for your file)

All members of all 4-H clubs (i.e. sewing or a livestock club) must meet a minimum meeting attendance of at least 50% of all their club meetings in order to exhibit and/or sell their projects in the 4-H portion of the County Fair. There will be no excused absences due to work, family or school activities. Medical excuses with doctors note or attendance at another 4-H activity will be accepted as an excused absence.

(EXAMPLE: If a club has six meetings, the youth must attend three. If the club has seven meetings, they must attend four. The actual number of meetings, what takes place, etc., will be up to each club leader. The policy is simply to attend at least 50% of all club meetings.)

Colorado State University recognizes 4-H enrollment on a 365-day basis. All youth who wish to enroll in the Rio Blanco County 4-H program may do so at anytime. However because of other deadlines, such as Wholesome Quality Meat Assurance Training, animal ownership, and club enrollment deadlines, youth enrolling in RBC 4-H after those deadlines may not be able to participate in all activities. **Project drop deadline is June 30th. All enrollments submitted after March 31st will be assessed a \$5 late fee.**

RIO BLANCO COUNTY CLUB MEMBERSHIPS: All members are encouraged to participate in a project and/or community club. If you choose to participate in 4-H through independent membership you must meet all 4-H independent membership guidelines set by Colorado State University as well as RBC policies. Therefore, independent members must (A) attend 50% of the Council meetings (January-July) or (B) develop a written alternative plan that must be approved by an Extension Agent before youth are officially enrolled.

Livestock and Horse members please note: According to policy, "4-H members will provide primary and continuous care of their project animal from project beginning to completion". Primary care is interpreted as providing day-to-day care of the project animals' nutrition and well-being. "Primary care" means that there may be rare circumstances when the youth may not be able to provide the necessary care for the animal at a particular time, as in illness, short vacations, family circumstances, etc. On such occasions, another individual may be called upon to provide "secondary" care. **As a 4-H member in the Rio Blanco County 4-H program you are subject to a random project check at anytime to verify primary care. If found in a random check that this rule is not being followed the youth will not be in good standings with the Rio Blanco 4-H program, disqualifying them from all county, regional, and state shows.**

Colorado 4-H implemented a change in the helmet rule for equestrian projects to add gymkhana events to the mandatory helmet use rule. The policy change took effect **October 1, 2006**. The policy states:

"A certified equestrian helmet with safety harness fastened in place is required in over fences classes, and gymkhana events, activities and practice sessions. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the 4-H member to see that the headgear worn complies with such standards and is in good condition. The State 4-H office encourages the use of ASTM certified/SEI approved safety helmets in all equine events. Protective headgear may be used in all classes and shall not be discriminated against."

MANDATORY ORIENTATIONS

- All first year 4-H members, along with their parent/guardian, must attend a Member Orientation Meeting. This should occur before their first club meeting.
- All first year livestock 4-H members, along with their parent/guardian, must attend a Wholesome Quality Assurance Meeting.
- All first year senior division members (age 14 by January 1st of the current year or senior members never having attended a WQA meeting), along with their parent/guardian, must attend an advanced Wholesome Quality Assurance Meeting.

Livestock members must attend their WQA meeting by April 1st or members will be placed on probationary status. Youth considered "not in good standing" or on probationary status are ineligible to show or sell at the RBC fair.

ENROLLMENT FEES

2010 enrollment fee will be \$20/member. The enrollment fee has been increased by \$5 to prepare for 2011 when the enrollment fee will be raised to \$30 due to higher fees from Colorado State University. Cloverbud enrollment fee is \$5. **A member is not officially enrolled until the enrollment fee has been paid.** The Rio Blanco County 4-H Foundation has donated \$10/member to offset the enrollment fee. Please make checks payable to "EXTENSION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES". Additional funds may be required for your project or club meetings. **Remember, all enrollments are due March 31st. After this dates they will be assessed a \$5 late fee.**