



## Kittitas County 4-H FOCUS



### Calendar

February 1	<b>Project Enrollment Deadline for Fair Participation in Horse, Livestock, Small Animal, and Family &amp; Consumer Science</b>
February 1	Mealtime Manners, 3:00-5:00 p.m., Armory Hall
February 2	Scholarship Information Night, 6:30 p.m., Armory Room A
February 9	Horse Panel, 5:15 p.m. Armory Room A
February 12	4-H Cat Project Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center
February 13-16	Know Your Government Conference, Olympia
February 16	Presidents Day-Office Closed
February 17	Livestock Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Armory Room A
February 22	Know Your Government Meeting, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m., Armory Room A
February 24	4-H Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Armory Room A
March 1st	Youth Officer Training, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m., Yakima County Resource Center
March 12	4-H Cat Project Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center
March 17	Livestock Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Armory Room A
March 21	Beef & Dairy Pre-Show, Beef Weigh-In, and Judging Contest, 7:00 a.m., Bloom Pavilion
March 31	4-H Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Armory Room A



### Club Business

#### 4-H Council Meeting

Someone from each club needs to attend 4-H Council meetings. Meetings are held the last Tuesday of every month, except August and December. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 24 in Armory Room A at 7:00 p.m. Please join us!

#### 4-H Forms and Policies Online

Kittitas County 4-H forms and policies are available on the [Kittitas County Extension Website](#).

#### 4-H Demonstration Tips

The winter months are a great time to do your 4-H demonstration! Refer to “Getting to the Point: How to do a 4-H Public Presentation” (EM4787E) and “Public Presentations, Demonstrations, and Illustrated Talks” (EM4788) at the Extension Office or online at [WSU Extension Publications](#) for help in putting together your presentation.

More helpful tips:

- Choose a topic you know well so you’re able to understand & answer questions
- **Be sure to use visuals (poster)**
  - Poster Tips
    - \* All Titles should be **at least 2” tall and 5/16” thick, supporting text should be 1 1/2” tall (or larger) and 3/32” thick**
    - \* Black on yellow works well
    - \* Check to see if it can be seen from a distance
    - \* Use a straight edge if writing freehand
- Use a loud and clear voice
- Be prepared for questions
- Note cards are clues-don’t write it all out and read it
- Time your presentation. Juniors try for 3-8 min., intermediates 5-15 min., seniors 8-20 min.
- Don’t forget!!!
  - \* A zinger (opening statement to catch attention)
  - \* A closing
  - \* Repeat questions

#### Record Book Tips – February

- Accommodations are made for 4-Hers with learning/physical disabilities. A note requesting accommodation must be included with the member’s book when it is turned in for the Up-to-Date check in July.
- Update Calendar and Project Diary (Level 1) or Project Journal (Level 2) with February dates.
- Project Highlights – Know Your Government members-problems could include issues at meetings, with assignments, roles played at conference.
- Financial Summary – Know Your Government members-there is no beginning value for KYG. Ending value will include conference registration (transferred from your project journal).
- Permanent Record – Record Know Your Government in Project and Exhibit Summary, page 2/3. Record KYG Conference in 4-H events attended, page 9.



# Teen Opportunities

## Kittitas County 4-H Scholarships

Kittitas County 4-H Council is sponsoring six scholarships in the amount of \$2000 each:

- **4-H Endowment Trust Fund Scholarship**-Awarded to a graduating senior who is actively involved in the 4-H leadership project.
- **Jeanette K. Burghart 4-H Memorial Scholarship**-Awarded to a graduating senior who has been actively engaged in 4-H Know Your Government (May have been current and/or earlier years.)
- **Barbara Schnebly Shaw A Scholarship**-Awarded to a graduating senior who excelled in demonstrations and/or club leadership.
- **Barbara Schnebly Shaw B Scholarship**-Awarded to a post-secondary student who excelled in demonstrations and/or club leadership.
- **Kittitas County 4-H Leaders Council A Scholarship**-Awarded to a graduating senior who has been actively involved in Kittitas County 4-H at the club and community level.
- **Kittitas County 4-H Leaders Council B Scholarship**-Awarded to a graduating senior actively involved in Kittitas County 4-H at the club and community level.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a current or former Kittitas County 4-H member.
- Have a cumulative high school/college GPA of 2.0 or better.
- Intend to pursue post-secondary education through trade school, 2-year college, or 4-year college.
- Submit a cover letter introducing oneself. Give a brief history of your 4-H experience.
- Submit the Kittitas County 4-H Scholarship General Application form.
- Submit a resume that includes your 4-H involvement.
- Submit two letters of recommendation focusing on your 4-H involvement, leadership qualities, and community service. Should not be from any family members or leader(s) who helped with the application process.
- Submit current transcripts-can be unofficial.
- Submit an essay on your 4-H experiences and how they have affected you. Essay should be: Times New Roman, size 12 font, double spaced, and no more than 750 words. Include adequate details of what 4-H has done to prepare you for the future addressing the following:
- Growth in values of 4-H: Head, Heart, Hands, Health
- Challenges overcome
- Community service in and out of 4-H
- Leadership involvement in 4-H
- Demonstrations

Submit most recent complete 4-H Record Book. Will be reviewed for:

- Completeness
- Appearance/Presentation
- Quality of details
- Submit most recent KYG 4-H Project Record if applicable.

Only one application package needs to be submitted to be considered for all scholarships. An interview with the Scholarship Selection Committee will be scheduled within two weeks after the application closes.

Applications will be reviewed and selections made by the Scholarship Selection Committee.

Scholarships will be forwarded to the school of recipient's choice upon proof of enrollment. Funds must be spent within 18 months of announcement.

No more than one scholarship award may be given to an applicant. Applications are due April 1, and are available at on our website on the [Awards and Scholarships](#) page.

## Washington State 4-H Scholarships

The application for the WSU/4-H Scholarships is open now! Enrolled 12th grade 4-Hers who have participated in 4-H for a minimum of two years are eligible to apply for one of sever different scholarships Details can be found on the [4-H Scholarship webpage](#).

## Swauk Teanaway Grange Scholarship

The Swauk Teanaway Grange has scholarships available to high school seniors. Applications can be found on the [Swauk-Teanaway Grange](#) website.

## Friends of the Fair Scholarships

Friends of the Fair are offering scholarships to 2026 Kittitas County High School Graduates. Applications and more information are available at [Friends of the Fair Foundation](#).



# Foods & Clothing Information

## Sewing & Stitchery Expo

The Sewing & Stitchery Expo will be held February 26-March 1 in Puyallup. For more information visit the [Sewing & Stitchery Expo](#).



# Dog Project Information

## 4-H Dog Project Contest Practice

The leaders of Hard To Beat would like to invite all 4-H Dog Project members to three Dog Contest Practices in 2026. Each will be held in the Heritage Center at the Fairgrounds and begin at 6pm on the 5th Thursdays of the month when they occur. Dog Judging, Dog Bowl, and Skill-a-thon are our contest for the 4-H Dog Project.

This event will be members only, no dogs, and should be a fun time of fellowship and learning!

The contest competitions will be mid August on Fair Agility day again, also in the Heritage Center.

Save these dates:

- Thursday, April 30th, 6pm in the Heritage Center at the Fairgrounds
  - Thursday, July 30th, 6pm in the Heritage Center at the Fairgrounds
  - Sunday, August 16th, AM Agility - Lunch - Contests
- Pre-Show for dog will be held June 25**

# Cat Project Information

## 4-H Cat Project Meetings

4-H Cat Project Meetings have been scheduled. Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center at the Fairgrounds/Event Center. Upcoming dates are:

February 12  
March 12  
April 9

All 4-H Cat Project members are encouraged to attend!

**Pre Show for cat will be held June 11**

## Livestock Project Information

### Livestock Committee Meeting

The next Livestock Committee meeting will be **Tuesday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m. in Armory Room**

A. Meeting dates have been set for 2026 - 3rd Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m. with one exception \*

March 17  
April 21  
May 19  
June 16  
August 11 \* 2nd Tuesday  
September 15  
October 20  
November 17

Every club with livestock projects needs to have a representative at Livestock Committee meetings.

### Beef & Dairy Pre-Show-March 21

Beef project members should begin to plan for the Beef Weigh-In, Pre-Show, and Judging Contest to be held on Saturday, March 21 in Bloom Pavilion at the Fairgrounds. The schedule will be in the March FOCUS.

This is a required event for Beef and Dairy Members. Members who have a conflict with the March 21 date are required to write a letter to the Livestock Committee Chair, 901 E 7th Avenue, Suite 2, Ellensburg, WA 98926 asking to be excused from the Beef Pre-Show by March 17th. The letter needs to be written by the member requesting the excuse, address the reason for not attending, and who will weigh the animal. The Livestock Committee will review these requests. Members must have another exhibitor weigh their steer in their absence.

### Attendance at Pre Fair Activities

The **Beef Pre-Show, Swine Weigh-In/Clinic, Sheep Pre-Show, and Goat Pre-Show** are required activities for members to attend to be able to show and sell their Livestock at the Kittitas County Fair. If there is an emergency or problem with attending these events a letter must be written to the Livestock Committee **PRIOR** to the event. *The letter needs to address the reason for not attending pre-shows or clinic, who will weigh and show the animal in a feeder class (if applicable), a plan to make up the missed activity and be written by the member requesting the excuse.*

## 2026 Livestock Dates

The dates for livestock events have been set at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds:

March 21	Beef/Dairy Pre-Show
May 30	Sheep Pre-Show
May 30	Goat Pre-Show
June 14	Swine Weigh-In & Clinic

## Animal Health Record

Members need to bring a copy of the Animal Health Record to be filled out and signed by the producer when purchasing their project animal(s). Animal Health Records are available at the Extension Office or at [4-H Record Books](#) under Animal Project Add Sheets.

All species (steers, dairy cattle, lambs, goats, and swine) are required to upload a copy of the health record signed by the original producer and information up-to-date when registering for Fair, and must turn in a hard copy at Fair Vet Check.

## Kittitas County Quality Assurance Checklist/ YQCA

Kittitas County 4-H is using a quality assurance checklist to encourage, promote and track skills and knowledge as they advance through the livestock program. This checklist is a multi-year document that will be kept in record books. It is available from the Extension Office or at [4-H Record Books](#) under Animal Project Add Sheets. This is in place of the YQCA curriculum. The in-person YQCA training can also be used-contact the Extension Office for more information.

## 2026 UI/WSU Youth Livestock Field Days

Registration is now open for the [2026 WSU/UI Youth Livestock Field Days](#). The events are open to all youth, and the \$10 registration fee includes lunch. Adults who attend the events must also register. Spaces are limited, and these events often fill up. [Register](#) today!

## Washington 4-H State Livestock Judging Contest

The 2026 Washington 4-H State Livestock Judging Contest is scheduled for Saturday, June 27 at the Grant County Fairgrounds in Moses Lake. This contest has no requirement for qualifying, just come and participate.

Registration opens on April 1. Early registration ends on May 29 at 9:59 p.m., with late registration closing on June 12, 2026, at 9:59 p.m. Registration will be done through 4-H Online.

For more details, visit the [Event Page](#).





# Horse Project Information

## Horse Judging Contest Information

There will be two judging contests held. 4-H Horse Project members are required to participate in one county horse judging event to be eligible to compete at the Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair and complete the 4-H year. For members to be eligible to judge on the Kittitas County 4-H State Horse Judging team, they must judge in two county judging events completing oral reasons.

The first 4-H Horse Judging Contest will be held on **Monday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m. in Bloom Pavilion**. Classes TBD; Horse parts worksheet and oral reasons.

The second 4-H Horse Judging Contest is scheduled for **Sunday, June 28, at 8:00 a.m. in Bloom Pavilion during Horse Training Days**. Classes TBD; Oral Reasons.

## 4-H Horse Project Rules

Rules that are followed for 4-H Horse members are in the “Washington 4-H Equine Program Rule Book” that was revised 10/1/2025. It may be printed at [Washington State 4-H Equine Rule Book](#) or purchased at the Extension Office.

## Horse Certificates Due April 30

A Horse Certificate needs to be filed for each horse being carried as a 4-H Horse Project. Certificates must be turned in to the Extension Office by 5:00 p.m. on April 30 to be eligible to exhibit the animal in the 4-H Division of the Kittitas County Fair. **The certificate needs to be signed every year.** For a horse that will be used for the first time the leader or member may pick up a 4-H Horse Certificate (C0233) at the Extension Office or print at: are available at the Extension Office or at [4-H Record Books](#) under Animal Project Add Sheets. This needs to be filled out and brought back to the Extension Office to be signed. The member keeps the original and puts it in their record book, and the Extension Office makes a file copy. If this same horse is used in following years the original needs to come in each year to be signed at the Extension Office. If a horse is leased then a Kittitas County Lease form must be used. A copy of the lease is filed with the horse certificate.

**2026 Fair Theme**  
**“Country Charm From the Farm”**



## 2026 HORSE 4-H DATES

April 6	1 <sup>st</sup> Horse Judging – Bloom Pavilion – 6:00 pm
April 11	Bits & Buckles Schooling Show - Bloom Pavilion 8am – 7pm
April 30	Horse Certificates Due by 5:00 p.m.
May 9	4-H Spring Leader’s Show – Rodeo Arena—8am – 7pm
June 15, 22, 29	Monday Night Riding – Rodeo Arena—7-9 pm
June 27-28	4-H Horse Fair Training Days, Bloom Pavilion 8am-8pm
June 28	2nd Horse Judging, Bloom Pavilion, 8:00 a.m.
July 6, 20, 27	Monday Night Riding – Rodeo Arena 7-9pm
July 17-19	4-H Horse Pre-Show – Bloom Pavilion & Rodeo Arena – 8am – 8pm
August 3	Monday Night Riding – Rodeo Arena 7-9pm
August 7	State Fair Interest form due by 5:00 pm
August 18	Junior Horse Fair: Barn Open for Decorations
August 19	Junior Horse Fair: R.V. Parking Open
August 20-23	Kittitas County Junior Horse Fair – Bloom Pavilion & Rodeo Arena
September 3-7	Kittitas County Fair
October 4	4-H Fall Leader’s Show – Bloom Pavilion – 8am – 8pm



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Washington State University Extension helps people develop leadership skills and use research-based knowledge to improve their economic status and quality of life.

Alison White, Regional Specialist  
 4-H Youth Development  
[alison.white@wsu.edu](mailto:alison.white@wsu.edu)

Amy Alder  
 4-H Program Manager  
[amy.alder@wsu.edu](mailto:amy.alder@wsu.edu)

Andrea Morse  
 Extension Assistant  
[amorse@wsu.edu](mailto:amorse@wsu.edu)



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