



# 4-H Tuesday News



## Features

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### 4-H Equine Program to Resume Open Office Hours

The State 4-H Equine Program is resuming open office hours! Join us any time between 6:30 and 7:30 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month to ask your horse program questions!

Use this link to [join the WA State 4-H Equine Program Open Office Hours Zoom](#).

Meeting ID: 977 1426 2502

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### Horse Protection Act Update

This post addresses the Horse Protection Act (HPA) in regard to the WA State 4-H Horse Program.

In short, the HPA is a federal law enacted in 1970 that seeks to address an animal welfare concern by prohibiting sores\* horses from traveling to or participating in shows, exhibitions,

sales or auctions. This is an important act. Soring is a cruel and inhumane practice used to accentuate a horse's gait. It is traditionally associated with gaited horse breeds, such as the Tennessee Walking Horse. A higher saturation of the breeds traditionally affected along with horse shows, sales and auctions tailored for these breeds are more common in other states, however, the potential for inhumane practice remains anywhere.

Therefore, recent revisions to the HPA included increased inspection and reporting requirements that were expanded to include all breeds and events (with some exceptions). The revised requirements were scheduled to come into effect on February 1, 2025, however, ambiguity within the revisions has sparked many questions and concerns throughout the equine community nationwide, resulting in a postponement of the effective date to April 2, 2025.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is the division of the USDA that oversees the HPA.

According to the [APHIS website](#), APHIS will issue guidance to stakeholders for the upcoming horse show season in light of the postponement of the new rule.

As of February 18, 2025, guidance has not yet been posted. At this time, no action is required.

We realize there is a lot of confusion and concern regarding the HPA's potential impact on 4-H and the process for meeting the requirements of this new rule. The WA State 4-H Equine Committee and State 4-H Office have been and will continue to monitor developments. As details become more concrete, we will communicate via Tuesday News and extension listserv email to inform our 4-H community of any steps necessary for 4-H to be in compliance. Again, at this time, no action is required.

\*Those interested in learning more about the HPA or soring may visit [the APHIS webpage dedicated to the Horse Protection Act](#).

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## Snoqualmie Valley Evergreens 4-H Presents 2025 Rabbit Show

Snoqualmie Valley Evergreens 4-H club presents their [2025 4-H Rabbit Show](#), April 6 in North Bend, WA. The event includes a bake sale, STEM Craft & Activity, a photo booth, and more.

Register by March 2nd for the Early Bird fee and an extra 5 raffle or activity tickets. Lunch is available for purchase.

Doors open at 8:00 am, and vet check is between 8:00 and 8:45 am. The show begins at 9:00 am.

Event Registrations and additional details are available on [Google Forms](#).



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## Attention Dairy Youth: Upcoming Dairy Events

Join a fun day of activities on Saturday, March 15th! Join a busy day including:

- **The Springtime Youth Calf Sale in-person interviews.** These will be held at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe. The grant application is due February 18th. Visit the [Springtime Youth Calf Sale](#) page for more details.
- **WA State Dairy Quiz Bowl:** held at 10:00 at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe.
- **Dairy Judging Workshop:** held at 12:30 at Groeneveld Farms with the help of Katie Ryks. Youth will learn how to judge a heifer, cow, give oral reasons and judge a class of 4 animals. Awards will be presented at the conclusion of the judging workshop. Those in attendance will be able to participate in a raffle for show supplies. Come and join the fun!

### Other Upcoming Dairy Activities

- [Whatcom County Dairy Days](#) April 11 & 12. Entries are due March 15.
  - [Evergreen Junior Dairy Show](#): April 25 & 26. Entries will be due March 18.
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# WSDA confirms HPAI in Mason County

“The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) confirms Mason County’s first case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI or H5N1) in domestic birds, detected in a small backyard flock of ducks.

The initial report of sick birds came in to state veterinarians last week, with confirmatory results received late Monday, Feb. 10.”

Please review the WSDA Press Release from Feb. 11, to learn more and find links to valuable information on how to protect your home flocks.

[Press Release](#)

[WSDA Avian Influenza website](#)

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Updated February 18, 2025

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