

# THURSTON 4-H NEWS



WSU EXTENSION  
Thurston County

WINTER QTR | JAN-MARCH 2025

Animal Info. Due in  
4-H Online Soon!  
see page 6



A group of Thurston County 4-H teens attended the Country Living Expo hosted by WSU Extension Skagit County. The teens will be offering workshops this spring and summer on topics such as flower arranging, drop spindle, and baking!

## LOCAL 4-H'ERS ATTEND THE COUNTY LIVING EXPO

Event reports from our 4-H teens:

From Grace S. "...my siblings and I went to the Country Living Expo in Stanwood and I really enjoyed how much I learned. The majority of classes I took were fiber arts where I got to learn about the whole process of turning a raw fleece into yarn. Two of my classes were about learning the process of cleaning the wool and I got to watch the instructor wash, skirt, and card the fleece. I also took a class with her about the different spinning tools and how they are each different.

continued on next page (page 2).

## COUNTDOWN TO THE COUNTY FAIR!

7/31-8/3/25

The 2025 Thurston County Fair will be a four-day fair. The date change was necessary to secure a carnival for the fair. The carnival is a significant income generator for the fair and a draw for the general public visiting the fair so it was determined a date change was needed.

The 4-H volunteer Fair Superintendents have been working hard to plan for the new schedule. At this time, only the horse project will continue to operate on a five-day fair schedule.

If you have questions, please e-mail the 4-H Office at [tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us). We will notify families when the Fair Exhibitor Guide is ready for viewing. Please note: this year fair entry will be an online process. Watch for emails from 4-H Online for more details!

Looking for fair exhibit opportunities? The Washington State Fairs Association lists area fairs on their website. You may find it helpful to search their website at this link <https://www.wastatefairs.com/>.

Please note: Thurston County 4-H members must qualify for State 4-H Fair participation by attending a county-level qualifying event. For almost all projects this means exhibiting at the Thurston County Fair.



Grace S. learning about wool processing and spindle spinning at the Country Living Expo.

**CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE**

My last fiber art class was learning how to use a drop spindle and the instructors taught us how to pre-draft, spin, and ply a ball of yarn, this class was really fun and enjoyed being able to crochet with my own ball of yarn. The last class I took was on arc welding and the teacher was very good at his work and did a really good job teaching people like me, that have no idea what to do, how to identify the different sticks and what they are used for as well as welding our own pieces of metal and how to finish a bead. Overall the Expo was really fun and I had a great time but, I wish it wasn't so far away."

From Sasha S. "I recently went to the Country Living Expo in Stanwood. There were so many different classes to sign up for it was hard to choose. I did essential oils, spinning your own yarn, welding, and rabbit showmanship. The teachers were amazing and so helpful, my teacher for rabbit showmanship helped me when I was confused about how to pick one up.

I really liked how they had lots of little stalls where you could buy some of the resources that were in the classes like roving (wool ready to be spun), beeswax, raw honeycomb, and all sorts of essential

oils. Overall I loved the expo and am so excited for next year!"

From Marshal S. "Recently I went to a County Living Expo in Stanwood, Washington, with my fellow 4-H Friends. I loved it, because there were so many classes to choose from. I took beekeeping parts 1 and 2, buying or renting a property, lefes, and arc welding. My favorite was either welding or beekeeping.

I learned in beekeeping a lot about bees, like how to feed them, mating, swarming, and so much more. In arc welding, we welded on a piece of metal, and I did well. The lefes it was good and easy to make. It seems that I'm a little young for the property class, but at least I know now what to look for when I'm buying or renting a property. Overall it was great, but I would like it to be closer."



Thurston County 4-H teens at the Winter Break Teen Leader Retreat Bowling Night at Aztec Bowling.

**ATTENTION 4-H TEENS!**

**Hold the Date!** Thurston County 4-H Teen Leaders here's your next opportunity to have fun! You can earn community service hours!

**What: Service Activity - Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE) Olympia Egg Hunt set-up**

**Date: Sunday, April 20**

**Time: arrive at 10 a.m.** (hunt starts at 2 p.m.)

**Where: LBA Park** (meet near the playground)

Volunteers are needed to help set-up egg hunt boundaries for different age categories and hide eggs. If interested, please email:

[tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us) by **April 15.**



# EVERETT S. AND 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS CLUB MEMBERS STAY ACTIVE!

Article submitted by Everett S.

I'm Everett and I am 10 years old. This is my second year in the Shooting Sports 4-H project. There are so many things related to shooting sports that you can do in our area! This winter I have done two 3D archery shoots at the Tacoma Sportsman's Club. One was just for fun and a few of my friends from our club came and we all learned how to score a 3D archery target. The second archery shoot was competitive and all of us from the 4-H club got 1st in our different age groups. I had lots of fun shooting with my friends.

In January, I went to the Sportsman's Expo in Puyallup and learned a lot, like the different parts of a muzzleloader. I also talked with a group that does hunt trials, that's where you use dogs to hunt game birds. Hopefully, I can train my dog to do this because it sounds really fun and I think my dog would like it. One of the other booths there had a lot of different furs and skulls from local game and it was interesting learning about the different animals and feeling the differences in their coats.

I also participated in our first ever Shooting Sports National Quiz Bowl, some of the questions were really hard and others were pretty easy. We had

to answer questions about hunting, archery, riflery and even identify animal sounds.

My favorite thing I did this winter was to go duck hunting and crabbing in the Puget Sound with a view of the Space Needle, it was really cool. We caught lots of crabs and ate them that night with lots of butter, it was really yummy!

## National 4-H Shooting Sports Quiz Bowl, Thurston County Team Results:

**Junior Team** - 8th Place in the Nation, 2nd Place Western Region

**Intermediate Team 1** - 3rd in the Nation, 1st Place Western Region

**Intermediate Team 2** - 6th in the Nation, 2nd in the Western Region

**Congratulations Quiz Bowl Teams!**



Everett S. had a busy winter of 4-H Shooting Sports fun!



4-H KYG Conference participants from Thurston, Pierce, and King Counties visit the State Capitol Campus.

## WA 4-H TEENS CONVERGE IN OLYMPIA

Over the President's Day weekend 4-H teen leaders (high school age) from all over Washington State and their adult chaperones attended the Washington State University Extension 4-H Know Your Government (KYG) Conference in Olympia. KYG is a civic education program with topics that rotate every four years. Topics include: the Legislative System, the Judicial System, Elections and Party Platforms, and Politics and the Media. This year's topic was the Judicial System and 4-H members participated in mock trials as jurors.

Thurston County joined with King County 4-H and Pierce County 4-H to participate in pre-conference preparation meetings to prepare for the conference. During the pre-conference meetings teens learned about the court system, jury duty, and bias.

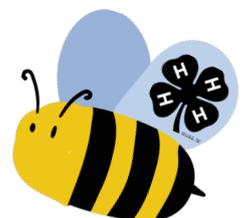
Contact the 4-H Office if you have a teen who might be interested in doing KYG in 2026. We are also looking for adult 4-H Volunteer chaperones. The 4-H Council provides scholarships to local teens so they may attend.

## NEW THURSTON 4-H BEEKEEPING PROJECT

Thurston County 4-H launched a new county-wide 4-H Beekeeping project opportunity in January. Sending out a big **Thank You** to Shawn Potter for stepping up to offer this new learning opportunity! Also a big **Thank You** to the Brighton Park Grange for welcoming the 4-H bee hives on their property for group learning. This is a county-wide 4-H project opportunity so youth from any 4-H club may participate.

4-H members are busy getting hives ready for the bees! So far the 4-H Beekeeping project has received donated hives, listened to guest speakers, and will receive donated bees very soon!

The next work party to fix up the hive location and continue to prepare hives is planned for the weekend of April 12 & 13. Watch for more details!





Justin A. takes his goat through the 4-H Pack Goat Challenge course during a past Lacey Rotary Duck Dash.

# GET READY FOR 4-H FUN AT THE LACEY ROTARY DUCK DASH, SATURDAY, JUNE 7!

On **Saturday, June 7, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, Lacey Rotary will hold their annual Duck Dash event at the Thurston County Fairgrounds. This will be the third year Thurston County 4-H will be partnering with Lacey Rotary to offer activities at the fairgrounds during their event.

4-H Clubs and/or project groups are invited to set-up events, exhibits, practices or demonstrations during the Duck Dash. At this time, we have the following activities happening during the Duck Dash: 4-H Horse Clinic in the Horse Arena, 4-H Pack Goat and Trail Dog Challenge in the East Arena (cow arena), 4-H Shooting Sport demonstrations, 4-H Outdoor Adventure Skill-a-thon table outside the Extension Office, and 4-H District-Level Public Presentations/Demonstrations (to qualify for County Fair participation).

If your 4-H club or group would like to offer an activity or experience during the Duck Dash please complete this survey by **April 15**. Click this link [Duck Dash Survey](#).

## 4-H PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS



We frequently hear from 4-H alumni and parents/guardians that one of the most valuable activities that 4-H offers is public presentations (also known as demonstrations and illustrated talks). Through public presentations, 4-H members not only learn public speaking, they also learn skills such as planning, how to communicate their thoughts and how to answer a question from an audience.

**There's still time to set the goal of giving a 4-H Public Presentation at the Thurston County Fair!** Check out this link for more details:

<https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/fair-resources/>

Most 4-H members prepare for giving a public presentation at the Thurston County Fair by following these steps:

- 1) First, practice at home.
- 2) Next, give a presentation at the 4-H Club level. Some 4-H clubs require giving a presentation at the club-level before moving on the county-level presenting.
- 3) Third, give a presentation at the district-level. Thurston County 4-H members must do a district-level practice presentation before presenting at the County Fair.
- 4) Lastly, present at the Thurston County Fair and possibly the State 4-H Fair in Puyallup! Members who earn a blue ribbon at County Fair qualify to present at the Washington State Fair.

**HOLD THE DATE** for District-Level Public Presentations. Pre-registration instructions will be sent out via 4-H Online in a few weeks.

**June 7, 11-2** (Extension Office during Duck Dash)

**June 18, 5-8** (Extension Office)

**June 30, 4-7** (Extension Office)

**July 13, 10-2** (Horse Barns, walk-on/first come-first served, no pre-registration)



Leanne S. giving a Public Presentation at the 2024 Fair.



## THURSTON 4-H COUNCIL VOLUNTEER DINNER

The Thurston County 4-H Council is your county-wide advisory board. The 4-H Council raises and manages funds to help support the Thurston County 4-H Program. The 4-H Council supports scholarships for 4-H membership, provides financial support to 4-H members attending camps and conferences, and purchases 4-H recognition items/awards to for county fair and achievement afternoon. All 4-H volunteers, parents/guardians, and 4-H teen leaders are encouraged to attend 4-H Council meetings to share your ideas and input!

### SEEKING SECRETARY -

The 4-H Council is seeking a Secretary. If interested, please email the 4-H Office at [tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us).

***Next meeting is the annual 4-H Volunteer Thank You Dinner! All 4-H Volunteers are invited to attend. Please RSVP so we can prepare the food order and thank you gifts!***

When: **Monday, April 28**, 4-H Volunteer Appreciation Dinner prior to the Fair Superintendent/4-H Council meeting. Fair Superintendents are asked to attend the April meeting.

Time: **6:30 p.m. Dinner, 7 p.m. meeting**

Where: Thurston County Fairgrounds, Heritage Hall

**Please RSVP by 4/21/25 to**  
[tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us)

## ANIMAL INFORMATION & CERTIFICATE DEADLINES FOR FAIR

For the 2025 fair season, 4-H animal project information needs to be uploaded into 4-H Online. **Every species should be uploaded this year.** This is due to the Thurston County Fair implementing the online Fair Entry system this year. You will want to have your animals entered ahead of time so you can select them as you do your fair entries. Watch for detailed instructions to come out soon!

Some species will still require the hardcopy animal certificates because 4-H Online does not collect enough detail on some species. We are extending deadline previously announced in the 4-H Calendar to give families more time to get their animals uploaded in 4-H Online.

**Due May 1** - Horse and Dog Certificates due and animal information uploaded in 4-H Online. For horse - members will need to fill out a hardcopy horse certificate and upload that document into 4-H Online with each horse profile. Dog members need to upload the Rabies Certificate/vaccination records.

**Due June 2** (6/1 falls on a Sunday so due 6/2) - Cat, Rabbit, Cavy, Pocket Pet, Poultry, Dairy Cattle and Goat Certificates.

**To upload in 4-H Online:** Log into family profile. Under the Member list, click the blue "view" button for the member adding animals. Click "Animals" in the left menu bar. Click "Add Animal". Click "Add New Animal". Fill in required information and click "Next". Fill out animal questions. Click "Submit". Some animals, like horse or dog, require photos and/or animal certificates to be uploaded before submitting.



## LACEY SPRING FUN FAIR, MAY 17 & 18

The Thurston County 4-H Council is looking for volunteers (adults and youth 4-H members) to help staff a 4-H promotional booth at the Lacey Spring Fun Fair. We plan to share information about 4-H and the Thurston County Fair while doing a simple craft with booth visitors. Helpers just need to show up and help. All materials will already be in the booth when you arrive. Volunteers will sign-up for 1 hour shifts. Two adult volunteers are required for each shift.

Lacey Spring Fun Fair is open to the public on:  
Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sunday, May 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Location: Saint Martin's University

If your 4-H club is interested in helping, please email [tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us).

**VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR TEENS:**  
High school students, helping at the Lacey Spring Fun Fair in the 4-H booth is a great way to earn your volunteer hours for graduation!

We also have other volunteer opportunities for 4-H teen leaders. Please contact the 4-H Office if you are interested in pursuing 4-H opportunities beyond the 4-H club level. Helping with county-level activities is a great first step to state and national 4-H leadership events!

## SMALL ANIMAL 4-H PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

**ATTENTION -**  
4-H Small Animal Project members/families. Small Animal 4-H projects include:  
cats, cavy (guinea pigs), rabbits, poultry, and pocket pets.



Spring weather brings more learning opportunities for youth with small animals. Hold the date/consider these upcoming learning opportunities! Families who attend the Monday, 3/31, meeting will have an opportunity to help schedule upcoming spring/summer project practices! These opportunities are open to youth who belong to any Thurston County 4-H Club.

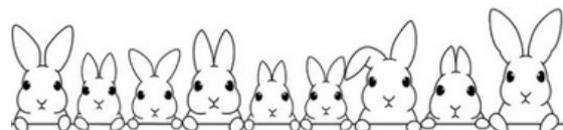
**Monday, 3/31 - Small Animal Project meeting, Extension Office, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.,** please leave animals at home for this first meeting. An introduction to the small animal projects and exhibiting at the Thurston County Fair will be covered to help you plan for fair exhibit.

**May 2-4 - SW Washington Spring Youth Fair, Chehalis.** This is a non-4-H affiliated youth fair open to all youth. There are practice opportunities for cat, cavy, rabbit, and poultry. Check-out the Youth Fair's website: <https://www.springyouthfair.org/>

**Saturday, 6/21 - Last Chance Clinic,** Petersen Barn at the Thurston County Fairgrounds, watch for more details.

**Monday, 6/30 - Small Animal Project meeting, Extension Office, 6:30 to 8 p.m.**

**Questions? Email:** [tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us)





**ATTENTION - NEEDED!** Two adult 4-H Volunteer Chaperones (enrolled 4-H volunteers) to supervise the Thurston County 4-H teen delegation to WSU Pullman for Teen Conference. Contact the 4-H Office to ask about this volunteer opportunity by **April 15**. Chaperone fees are covered. A state motor pool vehicle will be secured for transportation so chaperones don't need to use their own vehicle. If interested, please Email [tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us)

# SAVE THE DATES



## WASHINGTON STATE

## 4-H TEEN CONFERENCE

is a three-day conference with workshops and tours focused on career exploration, college readiness, leadership and life skill development for 8th - 12th grade youth & adult chaperones. This event will be held on the Pullman campus of Washington State University. Registration will be limited to 150 youth and will open April 21, 2025.

 <https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/stc/>

# JUNE

# 23-26 2025



**WSU EXTENSION PROGRAMS AND EMPLOYMENT ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. EVIDENCE OF NONCOMPLIANCE MAY BE REPORTED THROUGH YOUR LOCAL WSU EXTENSION OFFICE.**

**PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY REQUIRING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION MAY CONTACT THE WHITMAN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE AT 509-397-6290. PLEASE REQUEST THE ACCOMMODATION AT LEAST 10 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE PROGRAM OTHERWISE WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY OF ACCOMMODATIONS ON SITE.**



**OPPORTUNITY!** We are hearing great things about the Linn-Benton Community College Livestock Judging Camp! Families are on their own for this opportunity (to attend and to arrange hotel). Please note this is NOT a 4-H supervised event. However, 4-H members may request financial assistance from the 4-H Council to attend. If a 4-H club wants to attend as a group, please reach out to the 4-H Office for details on 4-H chaperoning and group trips. Email [tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us) if you have questions or for registration forms.

# LINN-BENTON LIVESTOCK JUDGING CAMP

2025



**JUNE 23RD TO JUNE 25TH**

**Location:** Linn-Benton Community College-- Albany, Oregon

**Ages:** 11- 19 years of age (as of 1/1/2025)

**Registration Fee includes:** T-shirt, judging manual, meals, reasons practice, live classes, contest on 6/25

**CAMP FEE:** \$125/youth \$30/adult

**Late Fee: \$25/entry after June 1st**



Thurston County 4-H Calendar  
2024-2025 4-H Year  
(October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025)

## 4-H CALENDAR UPDATES

Did you pick-up a 2024-2025 Thurston County 4-H Calendar? The Thurston County 4-H Calendar is a tool to help 4-H families navigate the 4-H year.

Calendar updates/new to add:

~~Wednesday, April 23, Baking/Kitchen Safety, 6:30 p.m., Zoom~~  
To be rescheduled

**Garden Project Sundays**  
at 2 p.m. at the fairgrounds on:  
**April 27, May 18, June 22 & July 27**

You can pick-up a calendar at the 4-H Office or download by visiting our website <https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/youth/whats-happening-in-thurston-county-4-h/>

## 4-H ONLINE DEADLINE

Deadline to enroll/re-enroll in a 4-H club or add/make changes to 4-H projects in 4-HOnline is **Tuesday, April 15, 2025**. Double check your child's 4-H profile in 4-HOnline to ensure the record is correct. 4-H projects need to match what your child plans to exhibit at the fair!

Washington State University (WSU), U.S. Department of Agriculture and Thurston County cooperating. Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. If you have a disability for which you seek an accommodation, please notify the WSU Extension Office seven days prior to the event.

## 4-H ORIENTATIONS

4-H Orientation (4-H Informational Presentation for potential volunteers/new 4-H families). This is the last 4-H Orientation option for the 24-25 year. If you are unable to attend 4-H Orientation on April 16, please email the 4-H office at [tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us).

4-H Orientations will begin again when the new 4-H year starts up again in October 2026. Pre-registration by April 15, is required. Orientation dates/times will be cancelled if no pre-registrations.

### Wednesday, 4/16 at Noon

When: Apr 16, 2025 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://wsu.zoom.us/joining/register/d-ajqDyhSU-6gwAeu8vYWg>

### Wednesday, 4/16, at 7 p.m.

When: Apr 16, 2025 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://wsu.zoom.us/joining/register/VgfegvykS8OdNr7qN9HPVA>

Please note: After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

## 4-H OFFICE

Contact 4-H staff  
[tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:tc4h@co.thurston.wa.us)  
360-867-2157



Need to meet with 4-H staff? Please contact staff before visiting the 4-H Office to ensure someone is there when you arrive.