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4-H helps strengthen Arapahoe County's youth

As the 2005-2006 4-H year comes to a close, 4-H members are reflecting on the projects they've completed and the many new things they have learned. It's not just about the blue ribbon they won or the premium check that went into the bank, but also the new talents they've developed and the confidence they've gained. By also experiencing teamwork, leadership, citizenship and the value of communication, they're building a breadth of skills that will help them succeed in life.

In 4-H, children and young adults get the opportunity to participate and learn about a large variety of projects from raising animals and horse showmanship to clothing design, nutrition and photography. The 4-H slogan "Learn by Doing" typifies the program's hands-on approach to learning and allows youth to see the results of their hard work.

October 1 is the beginning of the 2006-2007 4-H year, and it's kicked off with National 4-H Week. This special week is an exciting time for 4-H members, parents, leaders and staff as they begin to plan out their year's projects and activities. It is also a time used to acquaint the public with today's changing and expanding 4-H program and invites potential members and volunteer leaders to join in the fun.

"The 2006 Arapahoe County Fair was a great opportunity for 4-H members to display their projects and it also provided us with an avenue to educate the public about our program," said Larry Hooker, 4-H Youth Development Agent. "I saw one 10 year old 4-H member show an entire family what we look for when judging a sheep. They loved it!"

"As we plan for the 2007 Arapahoe County Fair, we look forward to returning to the "new" Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and making this location our permanent home for the 4-H completion events," Hooker continued.

There's no better time to get involved with the 4-H Program and get it bursting at the seams in Arapahoe County. New faces, as members or volunteer leaders, are always welcome. If you are interested in receiving more information, please contact the Arapahoe County CSU Extension 4-H Office at 303-730-1920 or visit www.arapahoeextension.org.

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