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Creative youth 'take the cake' at 4-H cake decorating contest *Annual contest showcases artistic talent on edible 'canvas'*

Aurora, Colo. --- Frosting tubes flew at the 2009 Arapahoe County 4-H Cake Decorating Contest last Tuesday as contestants competed to earn the judges' nod and a prize ribbon by decorating a pre-baked cake in less than one hour.

The annual competition at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds invites 4-H members ages five to 18 to showcase the cake-decorating skills they have learned from a volunteer instructor in their local 4-H club. Each contestant is required to design and decorate one cake using a variety of decorator tubes and edible adornments or artificial trimming and then clean up their work area. Participants enter the contest in a beginner, intermediate or advanced unit based on their skill level. The contest resulted in unique and creative entries, from aliens to floral design.

"Cake decorating is one of the most popular 4-H projects and offer sweet rewards," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. "Youth who are engaged in 4-H can learn valuable life skills while tapping into their own individual talent and creativity."

Congratulations to the contest champions: Unit 1 Junior Champion Joey Yousling; Unit 1 Reserve Champion Jacob Osborn; Unit 2 Junior Champion Heather Crismon; Unit 3 Intermediate Champion Brianna Osborne; Best of Show and Unit 5 Intermediate Champion Ann Moorman; Unit 6 Intermediate Champion Heather Swain.

In 4-H, kids can learn unique skills in 270 project areas, ranging from gardening and rocketry to arts, leather-craft, photography, cooking, dog obedience, livestock showing and more. Arapahoe County currently is home to 255 4-H members in 29 traditional 4-H clubs, which are led by 83 volunteer leaders. The culmination of their hard work is exhibiting their projects at the Arapahoe County Fair, July 22 – 26. Visit www.arapahoecountyfair.com for a schedule of events.

For more information about 4-H, please call the Arapahoe County 4-H office at 303-730-1920 or visit www.arapahoeextension.org.

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Photos & Captions

Download contest photos: ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/pub/cm/4-H/2009CakeDecoratingContest

Trio: Arapahoe County 4-H members Samuel Gaffney, Joey Yousling and Ann Moorman show off their frosted handiwork at the 2009 4-H cake decorating contest. Moorman took the prize for “Best in Show.”

Crismon: 4-H member Heather Crismon won the Unit 2 Junior Champion ribbon at the Arapahoe County cake-decorating contest for her stellar alien design.