

Section 3: Programs

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Section 3: Programs

1. Youth Programs

a. Quality Assurance (QA)

The purpose of QA is to teach youth and adults good livestock production practices. Quality Assurance classes are encouraged in each county. These classes focus on following safe nutrition and management practices of livestock. Youth learn to ensure their livestock practices perform at their highest levels and are a safe, wholesome product for consumers.

A past Wyoming 4-H Issue Team developed the curriculum available in each office through a hard copy or CD. This curriculum includes a PowerPoint presentation, activities, and resources for each level of Quality Assurance (Three levels in total).

Levels should be targeted for age groups.

Level 1=Junior (8-10 years old)

Level 2=Intermediate (11-13 years old)

Level 3=Senior (14-18 years old)

While each county has livestock project and livestock sale requirements in, teaching youth on quality assurance is important for all regardless of the age.

Contact the Wyoming State 4-H Office for more information.

b. Character Counts

Character Counts is a framework of education to teach youth how to be a person of good character. The six pillars of character are Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. The Character Counts

framework can be used in many ways but is supposed to be fun and used educationally to teach good character.

This curriculum is so the youth you are teaching will have better character and not so they can judge others' character.

The great part about Character Counts is that it can be incorporated into everything. It is not to be used to create more work. It should be implemented with everything we do because we are trying to create better youth, and Character Counts emphasizes outstanding character and life skills.

Character Counts is mostly used at the county level but can be implemented at all levels. There is an insert created by our fellow educators for newsletters.

There should be several Good Ideas books in each office with activity ideas that can be used with all different ages and at all different times. The Internet has many Character Counts activities as well. Training volunteers on this topic is fairly easy so they can implement it in their clubs and activities. Have fun with it!

For more information on Character Counts, visit www.charactercounts.org or contact the state 4-H office.

c. National Youth Science Day

National Youth Science Day is put on by National 4-H to rally for year-round 4-H Science programming, and bring together youth, volunteers, and educators to simultaneously complete the National Science Experiment. The national website <http://www.4-h.org/4-h-national-youth-science-day/> has information on each year's experiment, including youth and leader guides. There is also a toolkit for planning and promoting the experiment in your community.

The Wyoming 4-H STEM Issue Team has a goal of purchasing at least one science kit for each county to participate in NYSD each year. This will continue as long as funds are available.

d. Youth Leadership Education

Leadership is a life skill members need to develop. The 4-H Leadership Development Project provides intermediate and senior members the opportunity to learn about the qualities and competencies needed to be a leader. Leadership is not doing things for the group- it is helping the group decide what needs to be done and how.

i. WYLE-Wyoming Youth Leadership Experience

- The Wyoming Youth Leadership Education program was developed to ensure youth have the necessary skills and abilities to provide leadership, growth, and vision in the 21st century. The program and curriculum provide instruction in a variety of areas including self-assessment, communication, group dynamics, business etiquette, teambuilding, and youth in governance.

The WYLE curriculum also incorporates the Josephson Institute's Character Counts to reinforce core values needed to be good citizens and provides the support and framework for the six competencies required in good leaders. Good leaders need a solid foundation of character- the ability to distinguish right from wrong, to make the right decisions, and understand how every action has a consequence.

- WYLE can occur any time during the year at a club, county, or area level. Counties often combine for area training on a weekend.

- Each county office should have a white notebook containing the complete curriculum. This program includes hands-on activities, background information, and resources to assist in this process. This program was designed to be taught to youth ages 13-18. The curriculum contains a suggested implementation plan, but the program is flexible to meet your needs.

ii. UW Career Days

This opportunity is offered at various times and includes time spent at the University of Wyoming campus. Youth meet with various colleges and schools and tour the campus.

Contact the State 4-H Youth Specialist for more information.

2. Volunteer Programs

a. Master Volunteer (MV)

Master Volunteers strengthens and enhances a 4-H volunteer's educational background in the 8 Essential Elements so they are more effective in their volunteer roles at the local, area, and state levels. As part of the training, MV are expected to give 20 hours of service back to 4-H over the next year. The training takes place every two years in conjunction with State Leader's Conference.

For more information, contact the 4-H Volunteer Specialist at the state 4-H office.

b. Judges Training

Judges Training is usually hosted by areas at various times that certify judges for judging 4-H static exhibits. The training focuses on youth development, awards, and experiential learning. Participants practice interview judging with youth to

prepare them for interview judging at fairs and contests. A certification handbook is used at the training.

Contact the state 4-H office or go to https://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/EMPLOYEE_RESOURCES/4H_Files/Judges_Training_Handbook.pdf for the Wyoming 4-H Judge's Certification Handbook.

c. Leader Training

- i. County level:** Counties are encouraged to offer opportunities for volunteers to train in various areas of the 4-H program. Examples include: record books, club leadership, project leadership, online modules, etc.
- ii. State Leader's Conference** is a yearly event for adult and youth volunteers to connect, discover, share ideas, and energize their own portions of 4-H. Volunteers attend workshops to gain knowledge and personal experiences from other volunteers. A volunteer award ceremony recognizes volunteers for a wide range of volunteering efforts.
- iii. Western Region Leaders Forum** is a regional conference for 4-H volunteers to attend workshops, receive training, hear speakers, and network with 4-H volunteers from 13 states in the western region.

WRLF is in a different state each year.

For more information, contact the 4-H Volunteer Specialist at the state 4-H office. A fact sheet on Wyoming 4-H volunteers can be found in Appendix, Section 3, Volunteers, or online at https://www.uwyo.edu/employee_resources/4h-files/fact-sheets/volunteers.pdf

3. Project Exhibition

The 4-H program recognizes the value of participation to showcase, exhibit, and otherwise demonstrate an individual member's accomplishments and skills

development. A common way of exhibition is fair participation; however, it is not a requirement for 4-H involvement.

a. County Fairs

Local exhibit, display, and experiential opportunities may be organized, managed, and offered by 4-H at the local, area, or county level, with approval of county 4-H staff. In most cases, this is done by working with their county fair board. All events and exhibitions solely for 4-H members are subject to 4-H program guidelines. Junior exhibitions and events are collaborative efforts with FFA and fair boards. Junior shows and events are not 4-H sponsored.

Additionally, individual fairs may create local rules. They may be stricter than state rules, but should not conflict with them. If members choose to participate in the county fair, they must follow the fair's rules.