Tuesday News – June 7, 2022

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Features

Two Decades Working With Youth Provides Background For New Interim 4-H Director

Mark Heitstuman

This feature originally appeared in WSU Insider on June 2, 2022.

Mark Heitstuman has spent over 20 years in Washington State University Extension, helping youths with livestock education, STEM programs, organizing youth camps, and more. He’s worked directly with 4-H students and volunteers as part of his job.

That experience will help Heitstuman as he steps into a new role as interim director of Washington State 4-H starting June 1.
“4-H is really welcoming to all youth. We can and do make a difference in the lives of young people,” Heitstuman said. “That starts with strong leaders that provide mentorship and help develop skills for students.”

The WSU alum wears many hats in WSU Extension: livestock and community development regional extension specialist, director of Extension for Asotin and Garfield counties, and interim director of Whitman County. He’ll give up the last position as he steps into the statewide 4-H role.

“Mark has a great deal of leadership experience and has worked with 4-H as part of WSU Extension for his entire career here,” said Vicki McCracken, associate dean and director of WSU Extension. “I’m looking forward to working more closely with him over the next year as he leads and guides our dedicated 4-H students, volunteers, faculty, and staff.”

4-H is delivered in Washington by WSU Extension. It’s part of a network of hundreds of land-grant universities serving more than 6 million children through 4-H, nationwide.

Heitstuman has three primary goals for the next year in 4-H:

- Stabilize student enrollment in the organization and increase the number of volunteer leaders for programs around the state.
- Work with 4-H faculty and staff to see what they’re working on and how the state-level organization can help and support them.
- Recruit and retain quality 4-H coordinators, who do much of the day-to-day work with parents and youth in the organization.

“4-H is a powerful force for good around Washington, and there are numerous studies that show the value in 4-H programming,” Heitstuman said. “But to continue the impactful programs we have, we need stability in faculty, staff, and volunteers. That’s how we help and support as many youths as we possibly can.”

A native and resident of Uniontown, Wash., Heitstuman said the call from McCracken asking to take on the interim 4-H director role took him by surprise. But he’s confident he’ll make positive progress on his goals for leading the state organization.

“I can work with a variety of different types of people and have broad experience in programs, especially for youths,” Heitstuman said. “I understand and value the role 4-H plays in helping young people around the state and the nation. I’m looking forward to the challenge of helping this vital organization succeed.”

Heitstuman takes over as interim director from Nancy Deringer, who is currently serving as interim associate dean for Student Success and Academic Programming for WSU’s College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences.
Wahkiakum and Naselle Robotics Teams Place 2nd and 3rd In International Contest

Naselle and Wahkiakum Robotics Teams

Wahkiakum County 4-H and Naselle and Wahkiakum School Districts robotics teams participated in the International SeaPerch Robotics Contest in Annapolis, Maryland, with the final competition taking place on Saturday, June 4th. 137 teams entered the contest from all over the world, participating in three divisions. The Wahkiakum and Naselle Teams competed in the Open Division, presumed to be the most difficult division of the three.
Saturday’s events started with the first competition – presentation of the team’s Engineering Report to other teams at 11:00 am. Students staffed our team table, answering other teams’ questions, while many of our other team members talked to all of the other teams at their own tables – all scouting for next year. Then after lunch, the team drivers got their robots passed through inspection, and waited….finally starting their runs at about 3:45 pm. Team drivers were frustrated that they did not get a perfect score on the Mission Course (one “battery” was dropped). Next came the Obstacle Course competition, where the teams’ best time at home was about 43 seconds. At nationals, the course was stretched out and some hoops turned in ways the teams had not practiced, resulting in a best run time of about 54 seconds.

The Robotics Contest “Battlefield”

After dinner came the awards presentation – and the announcements:
Second Place in Open Division for Engineering Design Report: Naselle
Third Place in Open Division for Obstacle Course : Wahkiakum
and finally,
Second Place in Open Division for Mission Course: Wahkiakum

In the first year of participation in SeaPerch. Wahkiakum and Naselle came home to southwest Washington with three trophies! In the Wahkiakum team debrief, the team talked about what was learned from scouting other teams and what can be done better to prepare for next year. Next season starts now for both teams.
Congratulations to the Naselle and Wahkiakum teams for their incredible accomplishment – particularly for a county of 4,200 people with limited school resources. The result speaks eloquently to what 4-H and school collaboration, plus awesome volunteers and community support can accomplish together.

Washington 4-H State Livestock Judging Contest Update

We are fast approaching the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest that will be held June 25th at the Grant County Fair Grounds in Moses Lake, Washington. The initial announcement was made in January, followed by the release of the rules and contest guidelines. A change for 2022 is the top three senior teams will be offered the chance to represent Washington 4-H at one of the Big 3 national contests, including the North American which boasts the National 4-H Contest. This will be a wonderful contest experience. Other new items for 2022 there is “NO” qualifying for the contest. We are looking to offer all youth the opportunity to participate in this learner-engaged event. Also, there is no limit on the number of individuals/teams that can enter in each division.

Some items that will need to be addressed prior to the contest, and expectations during the contest are listed below.

Prior to the 25th

- **We need coaches to work with local staff to complete the registration forms attached.** These forms are new for 2022 and do require a signature from a local extension professional confirming that all members who are listed on the registration forms are 4-H members and are in good standing at the local level and that the ages listed for each are accurate. **If the forms are not signed the youth listed will not be able to compete.** Teams (coaches) will bring the signed forms to registration the morning of the contest to enter.
• There is a separate entry form for Juniors, Intermediates, and Seniors. Please use the appropriate form for the appropriate contestant. You can enter up to 12 on one registration form. If you have more in one or more divisions then fill out another form.

• Registration forms are fillable PDFs. What does that mean? You have a choice. You can fill it out electronically and sign electronically. If you do so you can email back to us. But please forward a copy to your team coaches so they can bring a copy with them at the time of registration. If you choose old school? Print the form fill it out and provide a wet signature, again prompting your coaches to bring that form to the contest site for registration.

• There is a $15 per team and a $5 per individual entry fee that can be paid when teams arrive we will accept cash, check and card (which may require additional fees).

• We are also asking the Extension Professionals to send a list of potential participants (youth, volunteers and parents) that may be attending. This is to give an idea of head count for food, snacks and reasons takers. Please email a list of names (if you have them) or a copy of the registration form by the end of day June 17th to Bob at Robert.kestell@wsu.edu.

The day of the contest:

• Team members will be allowed to bring a writing pad or portfolio to take notes with. These will be checked by group leaders to assure that they are clean and no notes or canned statements for reasons.

• We will need all-hands-on-deck. This is going to take an army beyond the core committee so there will be an expectation that coaches, parents, and anyone who is not a youth participating in the contest will be expected to contribute as a group leader, reasons judge, animal mover, etc. We will call for helpers right at the beginning of the day. If we want the contest to start on-time be prepared to volunteer. We thank you in advance for any and all help.

Key Items:

• A list of potential participants emailed to Bob at Robert.kestell@wsu.edu by end of day June 17th

• Send forms to coaches and volunteers leading the charge for teams to participate in the state livestock judging event.
Be sure forms are complete and signed by the local Extension office. **The contest is on a Saturday June 25th and if we can’t confirm age and valid 4-H membership then teams will not be able to compete.**

Additional items are listed on the 4-H calendar of events with links to the schedule, rules and guidelines, as well as the travel opportunities. For additional questions please reach out to me at pskuber@wsu.edu. We hope to see your local 4-H members at the 2022 Washington State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest. Click [https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/events/](https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/events/) and you will be able to access information on June 25th on the statewide events calendar. This is where you will find the “Washington 4-H State Livestock Judging Contest – Rules and Guidelines” pdf as well as the “Washington 4-H State Livestock Judging – National Contest Team Travel” pdf and the “Schedule” for the day.

**REGISTRATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE ABOVE LINK!**

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**WSU CAHNRS Corner for June 7th**  
*STEM Opportunities Abound In Agriculture Fields*

Elizabeth Perez, Director, Recruitment and Retention, CAHNRS

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Hello, 4-H Community!

Today we’re sharing an article exploring STEM opportunities in Agriculture fields.

**CAHNRS News**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, HUMAN, AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES

**STEM Opportunities Abound in Agriculture Fields**

By Carmen Chandler, CAHNRS Academic Programs

Washington State University’s [Department of Crop and Soil Sciences](https://extension.wsu.edu) explores and conducts research in plants, soils, and pests to identify best practices to
improve crops and cropping systems. Crop and Soil Sciences strive to make foods safer, healthier, and more sustainable.

The department provides a wide variety of opportunities for students seeking STEM degrees. Opportunities range from lab, field, technology, education, and greenhouse employment. The multidisciplinary education within crop and soil sciences allows students to learn a broad set of skills to take with them into the workforce.

WSU Crop and Soil Science professor Arron Carter hires students from his classes to participate in several campus job opportunities. These opportunities are not
exclusive to soil science majors. Carter encourages any student with an interest in agriculture to search for opportunities early in their college career.

“I would be hard pressed not to find an opportunity for any student who has an interest in agriculture,” Carter said.

Hands-on opportunities allow students to discover the interdisciplinary learning behind various jobs in the Crop and Soil Sciences field. Technology is a key resource. Students have built equipment and assisted Carter with piloting drones on the field.

Carter believes the biggest misconception students find with his field is that they won’t be able to use their knowledge in multiple careers.

Hannah Peha, a junior Agricultural Biotechnology student, believes something similar: “I don’t think people realize the number of opportunities that there are in Crop and Soil Sciences.”

Hannah currently works as an undergraduate researcher for a barley breeder in the WSU greenhouse laboratory. She is involved in a pathology project working to identify a gene in barley that allows the pathogen to cause an infection in the plant. The research at WSU piqued her interest, and her goal is earning a Ph.D. in plant science before pursuing work in a laboratory.

Hannah took Carter’s plant breeding class, Crop Science 445, and is set to complete an internship at Columbia University this summer. She advises students who are interested in STEM to consider Crop and Soil Sciences. “If you want to be in a profession that helps people and not necessarily go into medicine, agriculture is the way to go,” Hannah said.

The Crop and Soil Science department is versatile, with many hands-on and applied programs that span many research areas. Professors have a range of connections that can aid students in finding jobs and internships outside of the university.

Carter advises students to engage in any hands-on opportunity they can. Using jobs or internships in education can allow students to discover the different areas
within the field. Carter frequently finds himself collaborating with many different professors and researchers across a wide variety of specialties. Students engaging in these opportunities graduate from WSU with a broad set of tools and knowledge that will help them discover future careers.

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**Small Equine to Be Offered at 2022 4-H State Fair**

New this year for our 4-H horse members with small equines are show rules for those counties who are interested in expanding their equine program. The Small Equine program was approved at the State Council meeting in October 2019. And yes...we are now getting them out. A thank you to the “ad hoc” Small Equine Committee of Connie Medeiros, Pat Pehling, Kim Lansing, Laura Shackley; Shelby Gossett, and Hannah Kruchek. Small equine will be offered this year at State Fair. If you have questions about Small Equine—please reach out to Connie at her email address of [mythicalmeadows@gmail.com](mailto:mythicalmeadows@gmail.com). Connie is also the State Fair Small Equine and Harness Driving Superintendent. More information will soon be coming regarding the details of the Small Equine classes being offered at the 2022 4-H State Fair.

**Small Equine Show Rules are now posted on the State 4-H Webpage! Click [HERE](#) to download them!**

*Submitted by Jennifer Leach, 4-H Equine Specialist (.25FTE)*
Washington State 4-H Youth Are Invited to NRCHA Youth Cow Horse Clinic in Eugene Oregon on June 25th and 26th

RSVP BY JUNE 19TH!

The National Reined Cow Horse Association and the Northwest Reined Cow Horse Association are hosting A FREE youth cow horse clinic in June in Eugene Oregon. We would like to invite the Washington State 4-H kids to attend!

RSVP by June 19 at nwreinedcowhorse@gmail.com
RV Spots: www.oregonhorsecenter.com
WSU 4-H Scholarships Offer Ability to Make the Best Better

By Denise Echelbarger, WSU Extension 4-H Youth Development Program
May 25, 2022

Washington State University (WSU) Extension 4-H Youth Development Program and the WSU College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) are pleased to announce the 2022 scholarship winners. We are proud to offer scholarship assistance to support Washington high school students currently enrolled as 4-H members.

Shannon Allen (Thurston County) and Kathleen Sciarotta (Kitsap County) each received the J. Orville/Helen Young and 4-H Fund Scholarship. Allen will be attending South Puget Sound Community College in the fall of 2022. She has been part of 4-H for eight years, has shown rabbits, pack goats, and participated in several leadership activities including teaching an after-school program about gardening, plants, and healthy living once a week. Sciarrotta will be attending Washington State University (WSU) Pullman in August with plans to major in neuroscience on the pre-vet track. She has been in 4-H for eleven years and had the opportunity to take on a 4-H Academy community service project event that boosted involvement with local 4-H clubs.

Molly Greiner (Skagit County), Alaina Houser (Thurston County), and Chloe Mattson (Kittitas County) were awarded the Lewis County Leaders 4-H Council Scholarship. Greiner plans to attend WSU Pullman in the fall and double major in biochemistry and English with her goal being to attend the WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine. 4-H has played an influential role in Greiner’s life for the past six years as she barely recognizes her painfully shy elementary school self as her leadership and organizational skills have developed significantly. Houser has been a member of 4-H for ten years and will be attending Oregon State University to major in environmental science. She hopes to become an involved leader and help the next generation of 4-Hers have as valuable an experience as she was given. Mattson will be attending the WSU Honors College and plans to study
biological science (with a pre-medical track) and Spanish. Over the last ten years in 4-H the projects Mattson participated in include lambs, food and nutrition, leadership, and Know Your Government.

**Haley Neumiller (Spokane County)** was the recipient of the **Thomas R. Quann 4-H Scholarship** and will be attending the University of Washington this fall to major in bioengineering to become a pediatric occupational therapist. In Neumiller’s seven years in 4-H she learned to seek opportunities to serve the community and owes many accomplishments to the skills and lessons she learned through the guidance from countless 4-H leaders and mentors.

**Olivia VanderVeen, (Whatcom County)** received the **O.M. Plummer Scholarship of the Oregon Community Foundation**, and will be attending Iowa State University to major in animal science and become a large-animal veterinarian. VanderVeen has been a 4-H member for nine years and has raised market hogs, dairy goats, rabbits, chickens, and more. Her goal is to use her education to give back to the community that she loves and has already given her so much through their support and countless opportunities.

**Tressa Wade (Grant County)** was awarded the **Woody and Joan Bernard 4-H Higher Education Scholarship** and will be carrying on a Vandal family tradition and attend the University of Idaho to major in animal sciences and minor in agriculture communications to seek a career in the field of genetics and artificial insemination (AI). Eleven years as a 4-H member has built Wade’s passion for agriculture which led to her desire to produce her own livestock and grow a cattle and sheep breeding business using AI.

**Katherine Moen (King County), Rosetta Renwick (Walla Walla County), and Aubree Triplett (Pacific County)** have all been 4-H members for over ten years and are the recipients of the **WSU 4-H CAHNRS Dettman Scholarship**. Moen will be pursuing a major in animal science with the pre-veterinary pathway in the CAHNRS program. She gained experience and knowledge, with the leadership roles in her club, as well as presenting on poultry care and handling, organizing community service projects, and teaching incoming members about 4-H and showing chickens. Renwick has wanted to attend WSU for as long as she can remember and the generous contribution towards her continued education will help make her goal of majoring in wildlife ecology a little easier to achieve. She showed swine for eight years, participated in livestock judging and oral reasons, and gave demonstration presentations to improve her public speaking and presenting skills. Triplett has carried on a 4-H family tradition with her livestock projects based on beef cattle, swine, sheep, rabbits, and marketing off livestock at her county auction. She will be majoring in agribusiness at WSU. Triplett’s thank-you letter shares a compassionate reminder that, “One of the biggest reasons I would love to give back to 4-H is because it has taught me countless life skills and blessed me with valuable memories and
friendships that will last a lifetime. Every child should get the opportunity to experience that like I did.”

Congratulations to all the 2022 award recipients that dedicated their 4-H experience “to make the best better,” and continue working towards accomplishing their next steps in higher education. For more information on the Washington State 4-H scholarship opportunities or to support 4-H visit extension.wsu.edu/4h.
Full Registration Information for the PNW Horse Judges Training Coming This Fall Is Now Available!

The full registration information for the PNW Horse Judge’s Training to be held in Wenatchee October 13th through 16th is now available!

DOWNLOAD THE INFORMATION PACKET HERE!
AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATES
Articles and Links

All About Avian Influenza

If you have poultry or know someone who does, please read through this material and use the links as needed. Currently, the surveillance areas are for 10 kilometers/about 6.2 miles and for 30 days from the point of origin, current information at https://agr.wa.gov/departments/animals-livestock-and-pets/avian-health/avian-influenza/bird-flu-2022, you can see when and where there are confirmed cases around the state. This first one is the updated WSDA website it has the daily update and a brand-new interactive quarantine area map. There is also a new map showing all of the positive locations in the U.S. As of May 17th, at 10 AM there are eight confirmed positive backyard flocks (small flocks), in eight different counties in the State of WA.

Fairs will make their own decisions but remember it is still early for most fairs to make a call on hosting poultry shows at county/community fairs and the surveillance is for 30 days. At this time, this is not a quarantine other than for the properties that have been depopulated.

Currently, migrations of wild waterfowl are the major mode/vector/fomite that is spreading Avian Influenza. However, attention to bio-security practices should be enhanced so that we (people) and our modes of transportation as well as other animals do not become fomites. There is MUCH more information below and many links to help answer your questions and a link to watch a recorded broadcast via YouTube with our WA State Veterinarian Dr. Amber Itle from 5/12/22.

Pam Watson, WSU Lewis County Extension 4-H and Poultry

Avian Influenza in Washington State – What all bird owners should know and think about ...

Avian Influenza is in Washington State and since birds use a flyway and don’t stick to the freeways it should be considered everywhere. Be extra careful during wild bird migration seasons (spring and fall) particularly wild waterfowl, to protect your flock from infectious diseases. Where possible keep birds inside or undercover and check coops, pens, and poultry houses regularly for areas that allow wild birds to perch, nest, or interact with domesticated fowl. Learn more about biosecurity at: bit.ly/DefendtheFlock

Resources (available in several languages).
Please report any unusual or high rates of illness or death in your flocks: WSDA Sick Bird Hotline at 1-800-606-3056.

For food safety questions, call WSDA Food Safety Program at 1-360-902-1876

Contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to report sick or dead wild birds Report Wildlife Observations (arcgis.com)

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HOW POULTRY OWNERS CAN PROTECT THEIR FLOCK

Below is a recording of a 2021 WSDA webinar on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and steps poultry owners can take to protect their birds from this disease. In this webinar you will learn:

- What HPAI is and signs to look for in your flock
- How the global conditions are similar to the 2014/2015 outbreak of HPAI that reached Washington
- What effective biosecurity means and practical steps you can take to protect your flock
- Where to find additional resources about biosecurity
- When and how to report bird health issues, including suspected avian influenza

You can watch the avian influenza webinar on YouTube.
Good morning! With an all-hands-on-deck response effort at WSDA to contain HPAI, I’m having trouble getting these emails out to you all in a timely way. Please regularly check these resources for up-to-date information. You can join our WSDA bird flu Facebook group, watch pre-recorded you tube videos, monitor our bird flu website and check our WSDA new release website for information about detections in new counties, as well as any guidance about shows and fairs. Please distribute widely. Don’t hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns. Responses may be delayed, but we will get back to you as soon as we can.

[Quick Links to HPAI Information in Washington]

Dr. Amber Itle, Washington State Veterinarian

Washington State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest
Set For July 19th
The State 4-H Dairy Judging contest determines the individuals that will represent Washington participating at the National event in 2023.

This year the contest will be held: on July 19, 2022, at the Fairgrounds in Monroe, Washington, starting at 11:00 am.

If you have an individual 4-H’er or team that wants to compete, please contact Gary Fredricks at 360-577-3014 Ext. 3 or at garyf@wsu.edu.

Gary Fredricks
WSU Extension\Cowlitz County
304 Cowlitz Way
Kelso, WA 98626
360-577-3014  Ext. 3
garyf@wsu.edu

4-H International Exchange Program Update

Have you ever wanted to experience another culture through hosting? Consider opening your home to a short-term visiting delegate. This summer we have twelve young people aged 13-15 visiting from Japan for about a month. We are looking for host families who have a child in the home of the same gender and within three years of age of the delegate. The 4-H International Exchange program is a learning opportunity that allows one to learn about another culture, develop friendships and learn something about oneself. Delegates are here to experience cultural immersion, not tourism, so there are no required gatherings, tours or site seeing requirements. We are looking for families who will open their
hearts to a short-term international experience. Although this is a 4-H opportunity, families do not need to be in 4-H to participate.

DATES: Sunday July 24-Monday August 15

REQUIREMENTS: A youth in the home of the same gender and within three years of age of the delegate, an open heart and an open mind. Screening process involves an application, references, background check and home interview.

For more information contact Carolyn Russo, carolyn.russo@wsu.edu

To start a host family application, visit https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/

Or learn more by visiting the national page www.states4hexchange.org

This week, we are featuring three girls who are looking for host families (contact Carolyn if you would like the full list of delegates)

Delegates are placed on a first fully screened basis.

Wakana, age 14 – Wakana loves dance and has practiced since she was very young. She is excited to meet lifelong friends on her exchange. Wakana also enjoys soccer, trying new foods, being in nature, the outdoors, movies, watching sports and shopping. She is in a track and field club. Her favorite school subjects are P.E. and English. Wakana describes herself as considerate, energetic, curious, honest and studious. Wakana has been learning English since she was very young.

Ayumi, age 15 – Ayumi is very excited to be part of an American family for the summer. Her interests include watching anime, reading manga and novels, ballet, shopping and seeing musicals. She also plays the cello and loves to sing. Ayumi really enjoys animals and wants to be around animals on her summer exchange as well as experience the outdoors, Ayumi’s favorite subjects in school are math and music. She describes herself as considerate, outgoing, energetic, sociable, and tolerant. She is excited to learn more English this summer.

Kanako, age 15 – Kanako really enjoys movies, dance, shopping and watching TV. She has been in dance for many years and loves K-pop and American pop music. She is excited to practice English and communicate during her summer home stay. Kanako likes sports such as badminton, ping pong and basketball. Kanako describes herself as talkative, cheerful, considerate, tidy, and outgoing. She has some minor allergies to dust and pollen but can manage them on her own.

Carolyn Russo
Grant County 4-H Program Coordinator
WSU Grant County Extension
1525 E. Wheeler Rd.
State 4-H Ambassadors Present the 4-H Youth of the Month for May!

The Washington State 4-H Ambassadors recognize the 4-H Youth of the Month honoree for May, Adrian Islas of Benton County! The Ambassadors are proud to highlight 4-H youth monthly throughout the year!

Adrian Islas

Favorite Part About 4-H: Adrian enjoys being with his 4-H community and learning showmanship from peers.

What 4-H Has Taught You: 4-H has taught Adrian about asking questions, getting help if you need it, good showmanship, and volunteering at the food bank.

Biggest 4-H Achievement: He is proud to have received second place in his county’s championship lamb show.

How Did He Get Into His Project: His sister did FFA and introduced him to showing lambs.

Favorite Food: Quesadillas!

Future Career: Adrian hopes to go into science and computer engineering.

2022 Washington State Jr Horse Show Coming June 24th Through 26th!

NEW! REVISED ENTRY FORM!

ENTRY FORM DEADLINE IS JUNE 10th

Celebrating its 60th anniversary, the Washington State Junior Horse Show will be at the Yakima State Fair Park on June 24-26. A Sue Sultze Ranch Horse Clinic is scheduled for June 23. Entry Form deadline is June 10. Buckles and Premium Money will be awarded!

https://extension.wsu.edu/yakima/4-h/4-h-events/4-h-horse-events/
The REVISED (5/17/2022) 4-H ENTRY FORM can be downloaded HERE!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Washington State Junior Horse Show!

![Save the Date! 2022 Washington State Junior Horse Show](image)

### COVID-19 RESOURCES

#### 4-H COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

**UPDATED MARCH 12, 2022**

Washington State University has adopted the Governor’s updated mask policy which is effective March 12, 2022. This policy eliminates the general masking requirement in both indoor and outdoor situations, unless specifically required for a particular location for health reasons (such as clinics). Also eliminated is the general requirement for social distancing among vaccinated individuals. WSU has extended the relaxation of the masking and distancing requirements to those employees who have exemptions from the vaccine requirement (for religious or medical reasons) and have approved accommodations at their workplace.

**WSU Extension has therefore adopted the following:**

**Vaccination Requirements Continue**

The vaccine mandate for WSU employees and volunteers remains in place. WSU employees and volunteers must be fully vaccinated or have an approved exemption with an accommodation on file to engage in work with WSU Extension.
**Masking Policy Changes**

WSU Extension has adopted the Governor’s mask policy effective March 12, 2022. This policy eliminates the general masking requirement in both indoor and outdoor situations, unless specifically required for a particular location such as health care settings and public transportation. This extends to individuals who have an approved accommodation based on a medical or religious exemption, who no longer are required to wear a mask as a condition of that accommodation.

**Social Distancing Changes**

WSU Extension applies the relaxation of social distancing requirements to those volunteers who are fully vaccinated or have an approved exemption with an accommodation (for religious or medical reasons) on file at their workplace or county office.

**PLEASE NOTE – individual offices and locations may continue to require masking and/or distancing at the office level for all office programs in light of local risks and conditions.**

**GOVERNOR INSLEE’S VACCINATION PROCLAMATION**

Announcement Revised September 7, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee issued a health and safety proclamation on August 20, 2021, in response to a continued state of emergency that exists in all counties due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The health and safety proclamation, as ordered by the Governor, includes employees, contractors and volunteers engaged in activities with state agencies and in educational settings. **Therefore, WSU (including WSU Extension and the 4-H program) is required to comply with Governor Inslee’s recent vaccination proclamation directives.**

With regard to volunteers, below are a series of references, deadlines and explanations that provide further details.

- **The Proclamation (21-14.1) can be found HERE.**
- **Deadline:** All current WSU Volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated or exempted by October 18th. Volunteers who are not fully vaccinated or who do not have an approved exemption on file by October 18 will be put on inactive status. They will not be able to engage in any volunteer activities with WSU Extension until proof of full vaccination can be observed or until an exemption request has been reviewed.
- **Proof of vaccination:** Contact your local 4-H office for information on how to share proof of your vaccination status..
**Exemption process:** The state-level exemption process (for religious or medical reasons) can be found at https://extension.wsu.edu/volunteer-exemption/

More information on WSU’s Vaccination Policy is available on the web at https://extension.wsu.edu/vaccination-policy/.

Questions regarding WSU’s Vaccination Policy can be directed via e-mail to extension.vaccinepolicy@wsu.edu

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**A Reminder: COVID-19 Resources Available from WSU Extension**

The WSU Extension COVID-19 Updates and Resources page is updated as new information becomes available. The Link to the page is https://extension.wsu.edu/covid-19/

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**WASHINGTON STATE RESOURCE GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS: Caring for Your Family During COVID-19**

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families has created a resource for parents during COVID-19. The WASHINGTON STATE RESOURCE GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS: Caring for Your Family During COVID-19 was developed to help parents and their families navigate the pandemic and the days to follow.

The publication is available at https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/FS_0039.pdf