

# 4-H NEWSLETTER

alaska4-h.org

## "Hot Off the Grill" by Matthew



It is 2026 already! As we enter this new year full of resolutions and excitement, I want to inspire everyone to work on being your best in everything you do. I am extremely excited to see what this year will bring. I am excited to share some of the great things 4-H has done over the last two months.

Congratulations to the Alaska Hippology Team that just took first place at Western National Roundup. Team consists of Julie W., Anja W. and Alisha W. with coaches Emma M. and Lara W. Julie also took first place overall. Way to go team, we are so proud of you! (See page 7 for photo of our team!)



UAF photo by Leif Van Cise  
The UAF Community and Technical College building stands in downtown Fairbanks. The Tanana District office of the UAF Cooperative Extension Service and 4-H office has moved into the building. For more information, see page 10.



**Surprise! Over the holiday break, the UAF Cooperative Extension Service and 4-H office for the Tanana District moved to a new space!** The office is now located in downtown Fairbanks at the UAF Community and Technical College (CTC), 604 Barnette St., Room 205.

Hours remain the same, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. weekdays, or by appointment.

You can find the following friendly folks at the CTC Room 205:

- Leslie Shallcross, health, home and family development district agent, 907-474-2426, lashallcross@alaska.edu
- Matthew Anderson, 4-H program coordinator, 907-474-2427, mranderson@alaska.edu
- Amelia Sikes, food system research professional, 907-474-2426, absikes@alaska.edu
- Ronda Boswell, administrative assistant, 907-474-2450, rlboswell@alaska.edu

Come visit us in our new home! We look forward to seeing you!



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Calendar of 4-H Events
- 3 A Little Light Housekeeping
- 4-5 Community Outreach
- 6 Market Livestock Update
- 7 What's Happening
- 7 Congratulations
- 8 Scavenger Hunt
- 9 Air Rifle Training
- 10 Tanana District Office Move
- 11 Parting Shot

## CALENDAR



### PHOTOGRAPH SCAVENGER HUNT – ONGOING TIL SPRING!

Check out page 8 for details on how to be eligible for COOL PRIZES!

#### February

- 01 **Market Livestock Project Agreements are due!**
- 02 **Teen Club meeting**, 6 p.m.
- 03 **Livestock Committee meeting**, 6:30 p.m.
- 04 **Leaders Night Out! Come for fun, friends and food!** Learn to make a Ukrainian egg. Contact Patsy Perkins at 907-712-4544 or patsyjperkins@hotmail.com for location and to RSVP.
- 10 **Leaders Council meeting**, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 **Happy Hearts Day!**
- 15 **Youth and Leader Educational Scholarship Applications are due!**
- 15-20 **Youth in Governance, Juneau**
- 16 **Teen Club meeting**, 6 p.m.
- 21 **Mandatory Market Livestock Participants Meeting**, 10 a.m. Youth and a parent/guardian must attend this meeting or be sure to attend the other meeting on April 21 at 7 p.m.
- 21 **4-H Rifle Instructor Training**, Sitka



#### March

- 02 **Teen Club meeting**, 6 p.m.
- 03 **Livestock Committee meeting**, 6:30 p.m.
- 06 **Teen Club meeting**, 6 p.m.
- 08 **Daylight Savings Time begins**
- 10 **Leaders Council meeting**, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 **Leaders Council Higher Education Scholarship Applications are due!**
- 16 **Teen Club meeting**, 6 p.m.
- 17 **Happy Four-Leaf Clover Day!**



## A Little Light Housekeeping ...

### Market Livestock Project Agreement

Be thinking about the 2026 Fair Market Livestock Show, what animals you will raise for your project and all the fair offerings and fun times! The 2026 Market Livestock Project Agreement is due Feb. 1, 2026! **See page 6 for important dates to remember as we prepare for fair time!**



### Volunteer Hours

The hard work our volunteers do throughout the years is invaluable. 4-H would not run without all the volunteers. To show our stakeholders how important you are, I am requesting that each month you report those hours you volunteered.

Also, if your club has volunteered, you can report those separately. This information goes to stakeholders across the state and country.

I will be sending the following link ([Your paragraph text](#)) out each month to remind you about reporting these hours. Thank you again for all that you do for our youth and Extension.



### Scholarship Roundup – Application Deadlines!

There are a number of great funding opportunities available to help youth with educational opportunities after graduating high school, and to help youth and leaders with travel assistance to attend an event that enhances leadership skills and project knowledge. Take a look below and follow this link to more information and application forms: <https://www.uaf.edu/ces/4-h/quick-links/district-directory/fairbanks-tanana-district/forms.php>

- **Youth and Leader Educational Scholarships – Due Feb. 15 (for events happening April 1-June 30)**
- **Leaders Council Higher Education Scholarships – Due March 15**
- **Livestock Council Education Fund Animal Applications – Due April 1**

### Come Join Us!

#### Leaders Council Monthly Meetings

All leaders are welcome and encouraged to attend Leaders Council meetings, held the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Most meetings take place in person and a Zoom link is available, if requested in advance. We hope to see your smiling face and hear your great ideas soon!



#### Livestock Committee Meetings

Typically, the Livestock Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in February, April, May, September, October and November, and then as needed.



#### Enrollment and Trainings

We are well into the new 4-H year and still have some folks who still need to enroll – both youth and volunteers. If you are behind on enrolling, or on completing your volunteer leader trainings, now is the time to get finished up. If you are having any problems with enrollment or trainings, please reach out to me or Ronda.

## CONTACT US



**UAF Cooperative Extension Service and 4-H – Tanana District Office**  
**UAF Community and Technical College, 604 Barnette St., Rm. 205**  
**P.O. Box 758155, Fairbanks, AK 99775-8155**  
**907-474-1530, [www.uaf.edu/tanana4h](http://www.uaf.edu/tanana4h)**

**Matthew Anderson, Tanana District 4-H Program Coordinator – [mranderson@alaska.edu](mailto:mranderson@alaska.edu), 907-474-2427**

**Ronda Boswell, Tanana District Admin. – [rlboswell@alaska.edu](mailto:rlboswell@alaska.edu), 907-474-2450**



## Community Outreach

### Fairbanks Community Food Bank

The North Pole Ptarmigans 4-H Club collected 144 lbs. of food during its Thanksgiving Food Bank Drive, Nov. 17-23, organized by Kaelin T., with collection boxes at the district 4-H office, Fairbanks BEST Homeschool office, and from club members.

Several club families also volunteered time to the Fred Meyer East Food Bank Drive for Thanksgiving the weekend of Nov. 22-23. Fred Meyer East collected 10,294 lbs. of food, 270 Turkeys, and \$500 over three days.



### Halong Donation Drive

The 4-H district-wide donation drive for Halong evacuees, Oct. 20 to Nov. 25, was hugely successful with more than 1,970 items collected, ranging from household items, toiletries, and clothes to school supplies and toys. Drop off locations included the TD 4-H office and Fairbanks BEST Homeschool offices. This community service project was organized by the Free Rangers 4-H Club, Landry W. and Shelby W., and the North Pole Ptarmigans 4-H Club, Kaelin T. and Will T.

North Pole Ptarmigans club member Raeleigh S. also took the initiative and collected donations as well, getting a huge box of \$400-worth of toiletries.

All the donated items went to a collection site at Thrive Alaska and then directly to evacuees in Fairbanks and across the state for distribution.





## Community Outreach

### Fairbanks Pioneer Home

The Arctic Mavericks 4-H Club hosted a holiday social at the Pioneer Home in December. We sang songs, did a small talent show, made ornaments with residents, and shared holiday snacks. The 4-H members did an excellent job being hospitable party hosts and we were so thankful to be able to spread holiday cheer.



### FNSB Noel Wien Library

Tanana District 4-H clubs enjoyed an opportunity to sponsor a Christmas tree at Noel Wien Library's Festival of Trees for the month of December. The tree was decorated to represent the various aspects of 4-H. We also were able to have a table to talk to folks about our programs on opening day. Thank you to those that helped provide ornaments for the tree and helped to set up the tree inside the library.

During the month of January, TD 4-H set up a large display in the lobby showcase at Noel Wien Library. This was another great opportunity for 4-H to show just some of the projects we do throughout the year.



### THE COUNTDOWN IS ON FOR FAIR TIME

#### Some important dates for our livestock families to remember!

##### FEBRUARY

###### **Feb. 21: Mandatory Market Livestock Participant**

**Meeting**, 10 a.m., at 4-H office. Parent or guardian must attend. Must attend one of these meetings on Feb. 21 at 10 a.m. OR other meeting on April 21 at 7 p.m.

##### APRIL

###### **April 21: Mandatory Market Livestock Participant**

**Meeting**, 7 p.m., at 4-H office. Parent or guardian must attend. Must attend this meeting if you did not attend the other meeting on Feb. 21.

###### **April 26-May 4: Initial Weigh-in Week, Large Animals.**

Beginning weights of all large animal market projects (finished beef, feeder steer, swine, sheep and goat) must be turned in to 4-H office along with full-body, close-up picture of animal, date picture taken and 4-H tag number.

##### MAY

**May 1: Organized Weigh-in, Large Animals**, 4-8 p.m., at Tanana Valley State Fairgrounds, for those who wish to weigh their animals. Tagging and photos also to be available.

##### TBD

###### **Date TBD: Committee-sponsored Livestock**

**Showmanship Clinic.** Large livestock is Saturday and poultry, rabbits and cavies are Sunday.

##### JULY

**July 1: Med Check Day.** Check on any medicated feeds and all medications for withdrawal dates for all market animals.

**July 5-13: Weigh-in Week, Small Animals.** Beginning weights of all small animal market projects (turkeys, geese, ducks, chickens, rabbits and cavies) must be turned in to 4-H office along with full-body, close-up picture of animal, date picture taken and 4-H band number (tattoo number for rabbits).

**July 10: Organized Weigh-in, Turkeys, Geese and Ducks**, 6-7 p.m., at Tanana Valley Fairgrounds, for those who wish to weigh their animals. Banding and photos also to be available.

**July 25: Entry Day**, 1-6 p.m. at Largen Barn. Buyer contacts and record books due

**July 27: Barn/Pen Set-up Day;** potluck when work done, 5 p.m.

**July 30: Delivery Day. Delivery of Animals to Fair.** Small animals, 2-8 p.m., and large animals, 4-8 p.m. Remember, there will be a vet check before animals can be brought into the barns.

**July 31: Mandatory Barn Meeting**, 11 a.m.

**July 31: Official Fair Weigh-in**, noon-2 p.m.

##### AUGUST

**Aug. 7: Mandatory Barn Meeting**, 11 a.m.

**Aug. 7: Livestock Auction**

**Aug. 9: Animal Pick-up Day and Barn Clean-up**, 7 a.m.

**Aug. 23: Small animals delivered to buyer** unless other arrangements with buyer are made.

##### SEPTEMBER

**Sept. 10: Record books turned in to 4-H leader/FFA advisor** in order to be eligible for a market project next year.

Questions? Contact Matthew Anderson at

**907-474-2450 or [mranderson@alaska.edu](mailto:mranderson@alaska.edu).**



## What's Happening



### Volunteer Leaders – YOU are invited! Fun, Friends and Food on Feb. 4!

Come join other adult volunteer leaders for an evening of fun, friends and food. Tanana District Leaders Council would like to thank all district leaders for the many hours they put in with their clubs and the 4-H program. It is a chance to meet other district leaders (make some new friends), learn how to make Ukrainian Eggs and have a bite to eat in an relaxed adult setting.

**What:** Fun Ukrainian egg project led by Jan Hanscom

**Who:** Volunteer leaders

**When:** Wednesday, Feb. 4. Arrive between 5 and 5:30 p.m. Project takes about 3 hours.

**Where:** 666 10th Ave. Park on 9th street and go up the driveway. Entry door is there at the end of the house.

Not necessarily into making Ukrainian Eggs come for the food and friends.

Leaders Council will provide a sandwich bar and munchies and cover the material costs for making the eggs. Please RSVP so we can get enough food and all the needed supplies.

RSVP or questions, Patsy Perkins at 907-712-4544 or patsyjperkins@hotmail.com.



### 2026 National 4-H Conference April 10-25, 2026

The 2026 National 4-H Conference will take place April 10-15 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

Bringing hundreds of 4-H'ers to the nation's capital each spring, the National 4-H Conference is the flagship youth development opportunity of USDA, hosted by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). By providing opportunities for young people between the ages of 15 and 19 to share their voices with the federal government, this nationally recognized event is developing the next generation of leaders.

Experience unparalleled discovery, learning, professional development, and networking with 4-H'ers from around the world. During the Conference, delegates will become familiar with the government and share their voice with federal agencies and congressional committees with the goal of impacting change in America.



## Congratulations!



### Western National Roundup Award Recipients

Congratulations to the Alaska Hippology Team that just took first place at Western National Roundup.

Team consists of Julie W., Anja W. and Alisha W. with coaches Emma M. and Lara W. Julie also took first place overall.

Way to go team, we are  
so proud of you!





# Photography Scavenger Hunt



THE TANANA DISTRICT 4-H LEADERS COUNCIL IS HOSTING  
A 10- THEME, PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT FOR  
4-H MEMBERS IN THE TANANA DISTRICT.



First Prompt  
January 2026!

These 10 photo prompts may be compiled by the member to make up the scavenger hunt photos for entry into the Tanana Valley State Fair!

Division 1, Class E,  
4-H Communications.

Each Friday, a new photo theme will be announced via email. You will have one week to take your photos and enter them. Photo submissions will be entered into one of the four age categories: CLOVERBUD, JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE, SENIOR.

ALL WEEKLY ENTRIES WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A PARTICIPANT DRAWING OF A \$15 GIFT CERTIFICATE AND a 4-H T-SHIRT FOR EACH AGE CATEGORY. CLOVERBUDS WILL RECEIVE A WEEKLY CERTIFICATE

~ AND ~

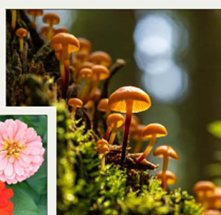
WEEKLY WINNERS IN EACH AGE CATEGORY WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A FINAL GRAND PRIZE DRAWING OF A \$30 GIFT CERTIFICATE AND A 4-H HOODIE.

Three  
ways to  
win!



QR code for submissions!

<https://forms.gle/YIXicC5Eg2TMY1V89>



Tanana Valley State  
Fair 2026!



All's Fair in Love &  
Spore



Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made five business days in advance to Alda Norris at <mailto:amnorris2@alaska.edu> or 907-474-7120. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to individuals with limited English proficiency upon request to [amnorris2@alaska.edu](mailto:amnorris2@alaska.edu).

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# RIFLE INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

## SITKA, FEB. 21, 2026



### LEVEL 1–RIFLE INSTRUCTOR TRAINING Requirements:

- Registered 4-H leader and 21 years or older
- Completed online introduction to the National 4-H Shooting Sports rifle program prior to the Sitka workshop. Cost: \$20. <https://4-hshootingsportscollege.com>
- One day of training in Sitka with instructor Velma Vining, on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 8 a.m. –5 p.m. All materials included. Registrants are asked to bring lunch. Sign up at <https://4h.zsuite.org>.



**Velma Vining** is based in Kodiak and is a member of the Alaska 4-H Shooting Sports Training Team. She is a 4-H volunteer who mentors youth in archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun shooting sports.



**For more information, contact Jasmine Shaw at [jdshaw2@alaska.edu](mailto:jdshaw2@alaska.edu), 907-747-9440.** Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made five business days in advance to Alda Norris at [amnorris@alaska.edu](mailto:amnorris@alaska.edu). Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to individuals with limited English proficiency upon request to [amnorris2@alaska.edu](mailto:amnorris2@alaska.edu). The University of Alaska (<http://www.alaska.edu/alaska>) is an equal opportunity/equal access employer and educational institution. The university is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination (<http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination>) against individuals on the basis of any legally protected status.



*We have moved downtown!*

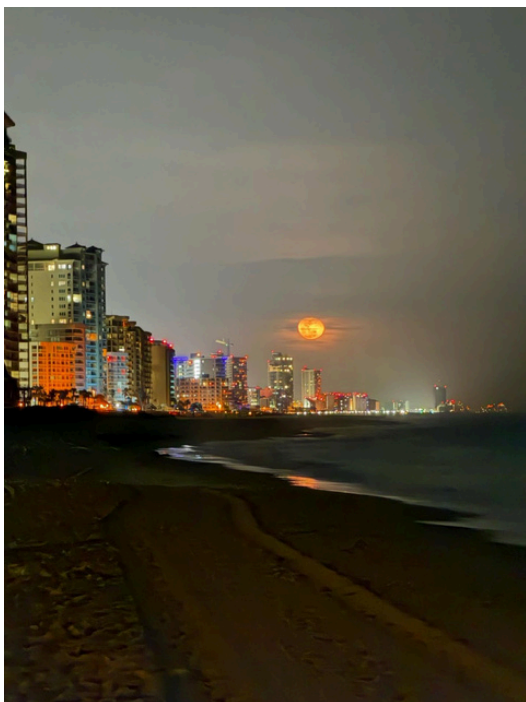
*Visit us at our new location*



**Tanana District  
Cooperative Extension Service**  
is now located on the second floor of the  
UAF Community and Technical College  
(CTC) building, 604 Barnette Street,  
Fairbanks.



## PARTING SHOT



### *Reflecting on Time*

*When I was on the gulf coast during the holidays,  
we got to see this incredible moon. My first reaction  
was to run upstairs and grab my professional  
camera to get a great picture, but I decided to just  
enjoy the sight instead. In a matter of moments,  
the moon was gone.*

*Just remember that things go by quickly,  
enjoy them for what they are before they are gone.*

*~ Matthew Anderson*

## REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

This work is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov), USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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