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## **Arapahoe County Fair Open Class Pre-Entries Open through June 23**

*Calling all gardeners, knitters, painters and bakers*

**LITTLETON, CO** – There's fair fun for everyone at the 2017 Arapahoe County Fair. Open class exhibit pre-entries are open through June 23. The three main entry divisions are living arts, horticulture and floriculture. Special contests are also back this year, including new tallest sunflower and decorated cabbage head contests.

Living arts includes culinary arts like baking and canning, visual arts, fiber arts such as quilting and knitting and creative skilled arts like leathercraft. Spun yarn is a new living arts class this year. Gardeners can enter their prized herbs, vegetables and fruits in the horticulture division. The floriculture division includes flowers, grasses and arrangements.

Special contests include decorated cabbage head, tallest sunflower, fastest fingers knitting, baked fruit pie, chocolate cake and pie eating. The pie eating contest will be held 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 5 p.m. Sunday. There is no pre-entry for this contest.

There are two age divisions for entries; ages 18 and under and ages 19 and over. Entrants do not need to be members of 4-H to participate and can live in any county in Colorado. Winners earn ribbons, cash premiums and bragging rights. Open class exhibitors can enter as many classes under a division as they like but cannot enter more than two exhibits per class.

The pre-entry deadline is 4:30 p.m., June 23 for living arts, horticulture and floriculture entries. Pre-entry is not required but is recommended and is only \$1 per entry. Walk-in entries are \$2 per entry. Living arts walk-in entries are also accepted 9 a.m. – noon and 4 – 7 p.m., July 24 and 8 – 10 a.m., July 25. Horticulture walk-in entries are \$1 per entry and are accepted 7 – 10 a.m., July 27 and floriculture walk-in entries are accepted 7 – 10 a.m., July 28. Exhibit check in and judging times vary by division.

All Open Class living arts entries will be displayed in the main exhibit hall and floriculture and horticulture entries will be displayed in the exhibition hall for the duration of the Fair. Exhibits will be released 6 p.m., July 30 with the exception of baked fruit pies and chocolate cakes which will be released immediately following judging.

For full details on entry, admission and judging please download the Open Class book and entry forms at <http://bit.ly/Openclass> or call the CSU Extension Office at 303-730-1920.

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