

Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001
Phone: 303-795-4284
Fax: 303-738-7894
www.co.arapahoe.co.us

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Contact:

HALEY MCKEAN

Communication Services Specialist

Direct: 303-636-1945

Mobile: 303-726-6608

E-mail: hmckean@co.arapahoe.co.us

Raise your hand and bid your heart at County Fair youth livestock auction *Arapahoe County 4-H youth benefit from sale of locally-raised market animals*

Aurora, Colo. --- Up-and-coming ranchers in the Arapahoe County 4-H youth program have spent the better part of a year raising, grazing and tending to market animals for exhibition and sale at the 2010 Arapahoe County Fair, July 21-25.

Citizens and businesses are encouraged to bid on and buy the locally-raised lambs, hogs, goats, poultry and beef in support of local youth at the County Fair Youth Livestock Auction, 6:30 p.m., Saturday, July 24. Bidders also are welcome at the pre-auction barbeque at 5 p.m., sponsored by Bennett's Bar-B-Que.

Buying an animal can stock your home freezer with top-quality meat, help you throw that barbecue or block party, or give a one-of-a-kind gift that shows your community support. Proceeds of the sale of each animal will go directly to the 4-H exhibitor. In 2009, \$48,365 was generated at the sale, thanks to the generosity of auction buyers.

The 4-H animal project is one of the most valuable tools for teaching responsibility to youth, who dedicate their own time and resources to care for an animal and learn a sustainable business practice. Participants follow quality production practices in nutrition, health, care and handling of their livestock to assure the meat meets high quality standards.

Interested bidders may pre-register for a bidder package and tickets to the barbeque by calling Kath O'Malley at 303-261-7743, or register on-site at the auction for a bidder number and an animal sale list.

To bid, simply raise your hand as the exhibitor leads their animal into the auction arena. The highest bidder buys the animal, signs the sale slip and selects from the following three options to manage their purchase:

- 1) Packing plant – This option lets you put locally-raised meat in your freezer. The auction committee will manage transporting the animal to be processed. You'll receive steaks, brisket, chops, roasts and more already cut, trimmed, wrapped, frozen and ready to enjoy.
- 2) Take home – Take the animal home or to a packer of your choice. You are responsible for transporting the animal and contacting the packer with cutting instructions.
- 3) Buy back – This option is best if you want to make a donation to the youth participant for the purchase price of the animal, without having to take the animal home or make arrangements with a meat processing plant.

The Arapahoe County Fair offers an incredible value, with gate admission that includes parking and full access to all events, concerts, rodeos, livestock shows, a petting zoo, mutton bustin' for youth and more. Thrill-seekers also will find the best bargain of the summer for a wristband with unlimited carnival rides.

On Wednesday-Thursday (July 21-22), enjoy \$5 gate admission, or \$15 for admission and unlimited carnival rides. From Friday-Sunday (July 23-25), enjoy \$10 gate admission, or \$25 for admission and unlimited carnival rides.

Arapahoe County Fair sponsors include Waste Management, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, City of Littleton, E-470, Go Toyota Scion Arapahoe, Potestio Brothers, Royal Crest Dairy, Sinton Dairy and media sponsors CBS4, 92.5 The Wolf, Mix 100, Radio Disney, *Aurora Sentinel*, *I-70 Scout*, and *The Villager*.

For directions, a schedule of events and to download a coupon for \$2 off the carnival pass, visit www.arapahoecountyfair.com.

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To download a photo, please click on the following link:

<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/pub/cm/FAIR/2010>

2009 Auction.jpg- 4-H member Brooke Hanlon sold her grand champion steer to John E. Cavey and Steer Bucks at the 2009 Arapahoe County Fair Junior Livestock Auction.