

## 2024 Fair

The 2024 Dolores County Fair was a successful event with numerous activities and experiences for everyone! Starting on Wednesday, August 7th, with the open-class entries and the judging of the 4-H projects and the open-class exhibits; then ending on Sunday, August 11th with the second day of this season's last Jr. Rodeo. We had a total of nearly 250 open-class entries across the nine different departments, including items such as gorgeous quilts, beautiful flowers, excellent crafts, and magnificent vegetables and crops, to name a few. There were over 175 visitors that came to see the exhibits and vote for the People's Choice Award.

The open-class had an outstanding turn-out. The Art department had 84 entries and there was a three-way tie for the Sweepstakes Award. Zaylee Hankins, Valerie Weed, and Elizabeth Funk all received 15 points for their entries. The Field Crops department had 9 entries and David Fisher won the Sweepstakes with 22 points. There were 19 entries in the Large Fancy Works department, and Cindy Coffey won the Sweepstakes Award with 21 points. Eight items were entered into the Baked Goods department, and Fran Deegan won the Sweepstakes with 19 points. The Canned Foods department had 17 entries. The Sweepstakes Award was given to Patsy Smith, who had scored 28 points. The Crafts department with 35 entries also had a three-way tie for Sweepstakes. Dakota Lane, Trapper Vinger, and Christy Bryan each received 15 points. The Flowers department had 31 entries and a tie between Sandra Knight and Stephanie Knight with 28 points each for the Sweepstakes Award. There were 33 entries in the Fruits & Vegetables department and Patsy Smith won the Sweepstakes with 28 points. Finally, the Small Fancy Works department had 15 entries and Tammy Allen received the Sweepstakes Award with 40 points. There was a tie for the People's Choice Award between Cindy Coffey with her "Trip Around the World" large purple quilt and Christy Bryan with her Taxidermy Pine Marten. They each received 18 votes.

Our 4-H Livestock and Horse shows occurred on Thursday, August 8th, with five members showing their animals with pride and passion. To start the day, Eli Lane showed Dolores County's first ever 4-H market yak. It was only one of few yak to ever be entered into a livestock show in the state of Colorado. Eli and his yak, Junior, earned a blue ribbon, a Champion ribbon, and a Grand Champion ribbon. Next up was the market beef shown by Mykaela Fury and Ashley Fury. These girls displayed knowledge and experience that they gained from their participation in last year's show. Ashley and her steer, Charlie, earned a blue ribbon, a Champion ribbon, and a Grand Champion ribbon. Mykaela and her steer, Bubba, earned a blue ribbon, a Champion ribbon, and a Reserve Grand Champion ribbon. To finish off the morning, Hailey Kelshaw and Pepper Kelshaw showed their market sheep. Hailey and her lamb earned a blue ribbon, a Champion ribbon, and a Grand Champion Ribbon. Pepper and her lamb earned a blue ribbon, a Champion ribbon, and a Reserve Grand Champion ribbon. The 4-H Horse show happened later in the evening with Ashley Fury and Mykaela Fury showing their horses in multiple different disciplines. These girls competed in Showmanship, Western Riding,

Western Horsemanship, Reining, and a Cowboy Race. Overall, Ashley scored 345 points to win Grand Champion, and Mykaela scored 340 to get Reserve Grand Champion.

The Dolores County 4-H Club had multiple participants that entered projects into the fair with the chance to get their exhibits to the Colorado State Fair. Some amazing creations were displayed, showing the talent and dedication that our members have put into their projects. The most participation was in woodworking with eight exhibits. There were also two metalworking projects and one photography project presented. Dakota Lane with a multi-colored, wood cutting board, Zane Williams with gray shelves, Braxten Huskey with a natural-wood, cedar shelf, Dillon Vinger with a rocket stove, Trapper Vinger with flowers made from washers and a photo of a truck and sunset with mountains in the background had the opportunity to send their projects to the state fair. There were also two members that had companion chickens as their 4-H projects. Dakota Lane showed her chicken on Wednesday, August 7th during the 4-H judging.

After taking a year off, we brought back our Kid's Day. On Thursday, August 8th, during the afternoon, we had Allison Fähring selling baked goods, the Schamp girls selling cotton candy and shaved ice, and the Daves kids selling hotdogs, chips, and lemonade. Outside, the Public Health Office and Axis Health had games with prizes, and Eric Stiasny from the police department put on a bike race. We would like to thank them tremendously for their contribution to our fair. We couldn't have organized that day without them. The kids had a blast playing games, water fighting, and riding their bicycles!

On Friday, August 9th, the Small Animal Show and Ice Cream Social took place in the evening. Many community members and seniors, given transportation by the Pioneer Center, gathered to enjoy ice cream sundaes and root beer floats while they watched the children show their small animals. There were 12 participants in the show with animals varying from dogs and cats to pigs and praying mantises. The small animal show was judged by Kenny and Patsy Smith. Sam Spigner won the Grand Champion ribbon with his dog, Maverick, who also got the "Biggest Ears" award. Each kid got to enjoy the silly awards that they received, along with prizes and goodie bags. Everyone seemed to have had a great time and the children had fun showing their pets.

The final Jr. Rodeo of the summer wrapped up the fair on Saturday and Sunday. With the San Juan County Fair in Monticello happening the same weekend, there were fewer competitors than there normally are that participated in the events. However, there were still enough kids to have a good time and finish off the season. On Saturday, there was a pretty significant thunderstorm in the morning, but that didn't stop the fun.

Overall, the 2024 Fair was a success and full of fun for everyone! There was a great turnout for all of the events and lots of competition. For full results of all the events, visit the Dolores County Webpage. We are very thankful for all of the community members that contributed their time to help us out and those who participated in this year's events!