CREATING A FOUNDATIONAL COUNTY CONTEST STRUCTURE
IDENTIFY COUNTY CONTESTS

OPTION 1: SOCIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Gather youth in your area and play a game of Connection. Ask each youth to say what their favorite activity is in 4-H and outside of 4-H. If you need more information, ask them to also say what their siblings’ or friends’ favorite activities are. As each youth names hobbies/project areas, other youth should say “Connection!” when they have something in common. The youth may then choose one person who had a connection, and then it is their turn to list hobbies and project areas. As the facilitator, you should identify which county contests have the most interest from youth in your area as they list topics. Be sure to pay attention to the youth’s ages - some contests may be more popular in different age divisions.

OPTION 2: IDENTIFY EXISTING CLUBS & MATCH THEM TO COUNTY CONTESTS

Identify the areas of highest interest that are already happening in your club. Which areas may not be participating at the state or national level? Which youth or volunteers seem most excited to expand their club’s experience?
REFER TO THE COUNTY CONTESTS HANDBOOK AND IDENTIFY WHICH AREAS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN IMPLEMENTING, THAT YOU BELIEVE WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR COUNTY, OR THAT A VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COUNTY WOULD BE EXCITED ABOUT HOSTING. LIST POTENTIAL COUNTY CONTESTS BELOW:

As you think about implementing county contests, it is important to think about who could help you facilitate (youth leaders, volunteers, interns), and where you would host the event.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTEST</th>
<th>FACILITATOR</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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HOSTING COUNTY CONTESTS

COMBINING EVENTS

As you determine which contests will be popular in your county, try grouping together similar topics. For example, Hippology and Horse Public Speaking may help to boost numbers in both contests if they are hosted together.

EXAMPLE OF CONTESTS THAT COULD BE HELD ON THE SAME DAY

- HEALTHY CUISINE
- 4-H HORSE PUBLIC SPEAKING
- IMPROMPTU PUBLIC SPEAKING
- HORSE BOWL
- ALL TALENT CONTESTS
- FASHION REVIEW
- CHEF EXTRAORDINNAIRE
- 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING
- 4-H DEMOS
- LIVESTOCK BOWL
- SHOP SMART

ACCOMMODATING LARGE GROUPS

As you determine which contests will be popular in your county, try grouping together similar topics. For example, Hippology and Horse Public Speaking may help to boost numbers in both contests if they are hosted together.
Quick Tips for a Successful County Contest

1. Run the contest just like the State level contest
   - Use the same rules for the younger contests as the State rules so that the younger youth will be familiar with the rules once they compete at State.
   - Hold the contest at the same time and place for all ages so that the younger youth can learn from the seniors and the seniors can act as mentors.
   - Use the State level judging sheets to prepare youth for State.

2. Give an incentive
   - Give 4-H bucks out at Achievement night to those who participated in contests.
   - Give points to youth who participate and give prizes at the end of the year based on the number of points earned.
   - Give all age groups ribbons and highlight the outstanding individual or team from each age division.

3. Utilize leaders/teen council members
   - Use leaders by teaching them about county contests and have them help facilitate the contests.
   - Use Teen Council members to teach Jr. Teen Council members and other youth about the contests and let them practice beforehand.

4. Focus on the skills
   - Have a mock contest where youth learn the basic skills of the contest. (Example: Instead of having a normal cooking contest, have a mock contest where youth learn new and simple skills such as measuring ingredients to prepare them for an actual contest.)
   - Hold a different contest or contest areas every month to lighten your load.

5. Spread it out!
   - In Bowl contests, have the winning senior team go against the winning junior and intermediate team at the end of the contest. Most of the time, the scores are very close and the youth love having fun competing against another age group!
CREATE A COUNTY CONTESTS TIME LINE

As you establish which contests have the most interest in your county, start determining when the best times would be to host each contest. Pay attention to what else may be happening within your community - remember that youth from every age division will be involved. For example, if there is another event that attracts a similar audience, you should be sure you aren’t competing for attendance. Below, block out dates that may conflict with other activities.

ESTABLISH A DAY OF THE WEEK

Notice what days seem to be most open to your schedule. It is helpful for families in your county to know that all contests fall on the same day of the week. As you schedule contests, try to determine when those in your county would be most available.

SEND OUT NEWSLETTER

When you have finalized the logistics of your county contests for the year, you should start sending out the information to your 4-H members and families.
Weber County 4-H offers many different contests each year. Contests are a great way for youth to demonstrate what they have learned. Contests are FREE and are open to all enrolled youth 3rd to 12th grade. Each event will require pre-registration a week prior to the contest. 9th to 12th grade youth that earn a blue ribbon at the county contests will be eligible to compete at the state contest level in July 2016.

You can find the complete details and judging forms for each contest on the county website at www.webercounty4-h.org (under Contests). Following is a brief summary of the current contests offered in Weber county.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contest Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>Favorite Foods: Contestants prepare their favorite foods dish at home. The dish can be an entrée, dessert, salad, snack, beverage, or appetizer. The contestant will bring the completed dish, set it up on an attractive place setting, interview with judges, and then the judges will sample the prepared dish.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 22, February 25, March 25, April 22</td>
<td>Robotics Challenge Nights: Youth enrolled in robotics clubs will have the opportunity to compete in robotic challenges.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>Chef Extraordinaire: Youth plan, prepare and serve a nutritionally balanced dinner for four guests and a judge within a three hour time limit. The recipes selected should not contribute excessive amounts of fat, sugar, or sodium. Special consideration will be given to those recipes that are high in vitamins, minerals, and fiber. Contestants must clean up within the three-hour period.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>Healthy Cuisine: Youth plan and prepare a nutritionally balanced, affordable meal for two judges. This is a timed, 1-hour contest with 45 minutes to cook the meal and 15 minutes to clean up.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 11</td>
<td>World of Work: Contestants will come prepared with a completed resume, job application and description. You will be given an interview time in which to complete a 10 minute interview. Contestants should treat this contest as if they were actually going through a job application and interview process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>Talent Contest: Youth share a talent performance in the discipline of their choice such as vocal, drama, dance, instrumental, comedy, etc.</td>
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<td>March 5 &amp; 19, April 16</td>
<td>Shooting Sports: Each participant may compete in three shooting activities, an outdoor skills test, and complete a written test. Individual scores will be determined from the combined target scores (500 points maximum) and the outdoor skills test (100 points maximum). The written test score (100 points maximum) will be used as a tie-breaker.</td>
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GET THE WORD OUT!!

Use multiple methods to spread the news about the opportunities in your county. Use the following checklist to be sure you are reaching the best audience:

- FACEBOOK
- INSTAGRAM
- EMAIL
- NEWSLETTER
- PROJECT SPECIFIC GROUPS (SHOOTING RANGE, ETC)
- 4H ONLINE
- TEXT MESSAGES (AVAILABLE THROUGH 4H ONLINE)
- HANG FLIERS
- LOCAL PUBLISHINGS
- WORD OF MOUTH (REMIND PEOPLE!)

WHAT DOES A GOOD SOCIAL MEDIA POST LOOK LIKE?

Remember to include the “who”, “what”, “where”, “when”, “why”, and “how much”. 
CONSTRUCTING THE REGISTRATION

4H Online is a great tool to keep track of youth who want to compete in your contests. There is a variety of ways to create your registration. If you want to keep a open registration that encompasses all contests, you can use a template that is already built in the 4H Online program. Using 4H Online, you can manage entries, run reports, send reminder emails/texts, and approve memberships. If you need help setting up your county contests on 4H Online, contact the State 4-H Office.

KELSEY ROMNEY, ALICIA TEUSCHER, JOSHUA DALLIN | UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

County Contests can be an excellent opportunity to recruit volunteers. Usually each contest should be judged by two people, so that their scores may be averaged. Here are a few types of volunteers you can potentially recruit to judge a contest:

☐ A VOLUNTEER WHO IS PARTIALLY INVOLVED, BUT WANTS TO EXPERIENCE MORE OPPORTUNITIES IN 4-H.

☐ A VOLUNTEER WHO IS INVOLVED IN ANOTHER CLOSELY RELATED PROJECT AREA.

☐ PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN ARE NOT COMPETING IN THE SPECIFIC CONTEST.

☐ AN EXPERT IN THE PROJECT AREA IN THE COMMUNITY.

☐ A FRIEND OF 4-H.

☐ A POTENTIAL SPONSOR WHO SHOULD SEE THE TALENT IN 4-H YOUTH.

Remember to involve youth volunteers in every contest. Involving those who aren’t competing gives them an opportunity to see where they could improve in their own contests, and if they may want to try something new in the future. Below are potential tasks for youth volunteers:

☐ CONDUCT THE PLEDGES.

☐ CREATE AND GATHER THANK YOU CARDS TO JUDGES FROM COMPETITORS.

☐ MANAGE RUN TIME FOR CONTESTANTS.

☐ REACH OUT TO POTENTIAL JUDGES IN PLANNING STAGES.
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Each contest should have awards for the winners, and possibly certificates for participants. If ribbons are not available, stickers indicating which placing the youth received should be placed on the certificates.

Certificate of Participation

Presented to

Leslie Price

for participating in the

4-H Fashion Revue Contest

Ali Teuscher
4-H Extension Educator
March 17, 2016

Award Sticker
SHORT TERM GOALS
1-9 MONTHS

1. WHAT

   ______________________________

   HOW
   ______________________________

   WHEN
   ______________________________

2. WHAT

   ______________________________

   HOW
   ______________________________

   WHEN
   ______________________________

3. WHAT

   ______________________________

   HOW
   ______________________________

   WHEN
   ______________________________

AT LEAST ONE GOAL FROM EACH STAGE SHOULD INCLUDE JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE 4-H YOUTH.
GOAL SETTING
MID TERM GOALS
9-12 MONTHS

WHAT 1.

HOW

WHEN

WHAT 2.

HOW

WHEN

WHAT 3.

HOW

WHEN
GOAL SETTING
LONG TERM GOALS
12-15 MONTHS

WHAT 1.

HOW

WHEN

WHAT 2.

HOW

WHEN

WHAT 3.

HOW

WHEN