

4-H News to Know June-July 2015

Colorado
State
University

Extension

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It is very important that you read through the entire newsletter for any information that may pertain to you and your projects for the County Fair!!

There may be a few times that both Robin and Beverly are NOT able to be in the office. We will try to keep you posted with these necessary office closures. Call before you make the trip. THANKS!

Check out the new Custer County 4-H Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CusterCountyCO4H>

4-H Online updated – For those 4-H members that want to check their online enrollment, etc. the new url is: ***co.4honline.com***. If you bookmarked the other one, make sure to delete it. And if you do go in and make any changes – **REMEMBER, YOU MUST NOTIFY THIS OFFICE WITH THOSE CHANGES!!!!!!**

4-H Public Speaking Contest Results – The 4-H public speaking event was held back in April (my apologies for not getting this out sooner!). It was a great evening with four participants who gave their best. Kaya Huffman gave us a pep talk, Sheyenne Shy told us about haltering and breaking the 4-H steer, Ben Penkoff reminded us of how the 1980 US Olympic Hockey Team was inspired by their coach before the big game, and Justice Saraceno showed us how to identify a bug and how English isn't for everyone – very clever and super funny! They were excellent speakers and wowed the audience with their skills. Sheyenne Shy was our junior grand champion and Kaya Huffman as the reserve grand champion. Justice Saraceno was the intermediate grand champion with Ben Penkoff as reserve grand champion. We appreciate the energy these youth put into their speeches. I've said it before and I'll say it again, public speaking is one of the best skills you can develop because you will use it anywhere you go!



The Agricultural Innovators Experience was a program with 10,000 youth in eight states from urban, suburban and rural backgrounds that had the opportunity to develop the workforce skills to feed the planet. The AIE

will drive youth awareness of and interest in agriculture innovation and agriculture careers. Our very own Grace Watkins was chosen to participate in this program and came back to Custer County to teach others about her experience. Great job, Grace! We know you will go far in the world of Agriculture!

Fair Book Online – go to www.custercountygov.com/ext then go to the 4-H section for the Fair Book. Each family will be receiving a printed fair book as soon as they are back from the printers. We will keep you informed.

68th Annual Custer County Fair

The Fair is fast approaching! The dates begin on Saturday, July 11th with the Shooting Sports .22 and Shotgun Competition and the fairground clean up work session. The rest of the fair will be held from Monday thru Sunday, July 13-19th. We have fair schedules for the complete line up of the fair. That means from today, June 10th, there is only a month left to get all your project work done!

The Extension Office will move out to the fairgrounds before July 13th. We will not have the Extension Office at the courthouse open during the week of fair.

4-H Shooting Sports .22 & Shotgun Competition – will be held at the Sangres Shooting Club Range south of Westcliffe on Highway 69. The shoot will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will probably last about two hours. Due to Club Rules, the gates must be closed and locked at all times unless member supervision is provided. We are trying to get the supervision for the gate so it can remain open, but if not it will remain closed. So if you want to come watch, you must be at the Range before the 9 a.m. start time and must stay until the competition is over. We would like to invite the community to come watch but we must follow the rules of the Club.

Fairgrounds Clean up Scheduled – ALL 4-H AND FFA MEMBERS are required to participate in the clean up to get the fairgrounds ready for the fair. Mark your calendar NOW and plan to be there – Saturday, July 11th beginning at 8 a.m. A sign up sheet will be your only proof of participating so don't forget to sign in. Bring your rakes, mowers, weed eaters, shovels, fuel, etc. If you are unable to attend on Saturday and haven't made prior arrangements for other clean up duties, then you will be assigned clean up duties during the Fair.

Indoor Projects Interview Judging Required – All indoor projects – family & consumer science and general projects: cake decorating, heritage arts, visual arts, leathercraft, foods, clothing, scrapbooking, shooting sports, outdoor adventures, rocketry, photography, vet science, entomology, pocket pets, pet rabbits, and wildlife are required to go through the interview process for your projects. A 15 minute time slot is allocated for each project. A tentative schedule will be mailed out to each family. Please review and if the time doesn't work for you, please let us know as soon as possible so we can try to accommodate the change. A final schedule will be sent out to all families when it is confirmed. **SO PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAIL!**

4-H General & Consumer Science Record Books

All 4-H General and Consumer Science record books (photography, foods, woodworking, wildlife, rocketry, shooting sports, entomology, visual arts, cake decorating, heritage arts, scrapbooking, pocket pet, pet rabbits, leathercraft, outdoor adventures, vet science, etc. are to be turned in with your projects on Monday, July 13th between 7-8 a.m. After 8 a.m., your recordbooks will be considered late and points will be deducted from your score sheets.

Interview questions during your time slot on the schedule may include:

1. Why did you take the project?
2. What did you think you might learn in the project?
3. How much experience did you have before you started this project?

4. What did you like the most about the project?
5. What did you like the least about this project?
6. What did you do for the first time in this project?
7. Who helped you decide what your project would be?
8. Where did you get help?
9. What new things did you learn?
10. How will you use what you have learned?
11. What would you like to learn next?
12. If you were to do the project again, would you do anything differently?
13. How do you feel your project could be improved?
14. Technical questions about your project – what tips you used for cake decorating, how high your rocket flies, your target practice sessions, etc.

Volunteers Needed to keep the Home Ec Building Open during fair – We have tentatively scheduled the Home Ec Building to be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day of the fair beginning on Tuesday, July 14th and going through Sunday, July 19th till noon. We need your help to keep it open. Visitors to the fair will not be able to enjoy all the projects exhibited if we have to lock the building up. Please consider helping for any amount of time you can spare. Time slots are usually marked in 1 hour increments. Thanks for your help!!

4-H & FFA Livestock Project Packets – Don't forget to pick up your livestock exhibitor packets on Wednesday, July 15th before weigh in. Some forms need to be completed and returned to the Fair Office BEFORE you can weigh your animals.

Market Livestock Exhibitors – have you written your buyers letters yet? If you haven't, then there is still time to do that and include meal tickets for the Steak Dinner. These are not mandatory, but it is definitely a nice way to say "thanks for your support". These meal tickets are available at the Extension Office but must be purchased with no returns if tickets are not redeemed.

4-H Foundation sponsored Pork Dinner – Don't forget about the pork dinner that will be served on Thursday, July 16th beginning at 4 p.m. The proceeds from the meal will go to the Custer County 4-H Foundation. Please put it on your calendar and show your support!

Tools Lost – we are looking for a ratchet and socket that were used at the fairgrounds last year. We have not been able to find them yet. Please look in any of your tool boxes/bags to see if they were picked up by mistake. Or picked up to return and then just forgot to bring to the office.

Market Swine Weigh Ins by Appointments Only

Please call the Extension Office if you want to weigh your pigs and we will set up a schedule. There will be ONLY ONE Family per day allowed and each family will be responsible for clean up after the process. We will have a disinfectant spray to be used. We will arrange for a Fair Board member to be at the fairgrounds to open the gates and the scale. They will operate the scale and provide the supervision to ensure the disinfectant is applied properly and the area is thoroughly cleaned up. Your pigs will be checked in your trailer before they will be allowed to unload. If your pig is sick or has diarrhea, then DO NOT EVEN TRY TO BRING THEM!!!

Horse Written Test – Friday, July 10th, 3 p.m. at the Saddle Club Building. This is required for all horse exhibitors participating at the County Fair in Horse Events.

Market Livestock Weigh in Schedule

Market Beef – Jan. 11 (done), March 15(done), May 31(done) and June 28 (this one is optional) (2-4 p.m.)

Market Sheep and Goats – April 26(done), May 31(done) and June 28 (2-4 p.m.)

Rabbits – June 22 @ 9 a.m. All market rabbits eligible for the market sale must be identified and weighed.

2015 Fair Market Livestock Weights to Sell – Market Livestock weights must fall in the following weight range in order to sell at the Livestock Sale:

Beef – minimum 1,000 lbs., no maximum

Sheep – minimum 105 lbs., no maximum

Goats – minimum 55 lbs., no maximum

Swine – 220 minimum, 290 maximum

Rabbits – 2 lbs. minimum, 5 lbs. maximum

Market Rabbit Weigh in – All market rabbit projects will weigh in and be tattooed on Monday, June 22 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the fairgrounds. Sue Roberson, Rabbit & Small Animal Superintendent/Fair Board member will be performing the weigh in and tattooing process.

Beef Workshop – Tuffy Lawson will be at the fairgrounds on June 14th at 3 p.m. for this workshop. Steers can be weighed and he will assess their feeding for finishing by fair time. Review grooming and showmanship will be a part of the workshop. Other topics that will be discussed are: water, feed, frame, exercise, feet, hair, etc. Plan to come to this very informative workshop for your beef projects.

Practice schedules –

Archery – practice sessions on Tuesdays, 6 p.m. at the Cowboy Church.

Horse – with Marci – 4-H horse – Fridays @ 9 a.m.: June 12, 19 and 26, July 3 and 10.

4-H Horse Gymkhana – Mondays @ 6 p.m. – June 15 and 29.

Saddle Club members Gymkhana – Mondays @ 6 p.m. – June 22 and July 6 (time to be determined).

Horse – with Ashten Hutton -

Riding days will be at saddle club : Friday June 12th, 26th, July 3rd, 10th @ 5:30 pm

Written test study dates will be at Pizza Place, Please bring your own books and help pitch in for pizza!

Wednesdays, June 17th, 24th, July 1st, 8th @5:30 pm

Rabbit Cages Project – we are looking for 2” tall by 4” diameter (12-13 oz.) tuna or chicken, etc. cans to be used in the rabbit cages. These cans will be wired to the cages for food and water – **No More Overturned Messes!** You may bring them to the Extension Office.

4-H Project Requirements – The Custer County Fair follows the Colorado State Fair requirements on all your indoor projects. These projects are: cake decorating, clothing construction, entomology, foods, heritage arts, leathercraft, model rocketry, outdoor adventures, photography, robotics, scrapbooking, shooting sports, vet science, visual arts and woodworking. The 2015 requirements, e-records, tip sheets, score sheets, etc. are all posted on the State 4-H website @ www.colorado4h.org

AK-SAR-BEN competition – for those 4-H members that are interested in participating at the competition in Nebraska with their sheep, swine or goats, I have received the DNA kits. Please stop by to pick them up.

Jackpot Shows – Several of our 4-H youth have been attending jackpot shows around the area with some fantastic results – Lindsey Gillmore earned Grand Champion Market Sheep, Grand Champion Intermediate Showmanship; Morgan Foster won Grand Champion Jr. Showmanship, Reserve Champion in Light wt. market sheep; Kyle Rose earned Reserve Champion in Sr. Showmanship; Garrett Stepanich won 3rd place in Jr. Showmanship. Sierra Stepanich and Emma Rusk presented a good showing at the event as well. Congratulations!!

Robotics is back! Any youth wishing to participate in the 2015 Robotics team, please contact the office. The Robotics team will learn how to build and program robots, then compete with other teams from across the state. There will also be a robotics camp offered July 6-10. A leader for the elementary group is needed, no experience necessary. For more information, please contact the Extension office.

4-H Truck Raffle Sales have begun!

Tickets have arrived! Club leaders that are interested in selling the truck raffle tickets for a club fundraiser need to come into the Extension Office. This year, the clubs will receive 50% back from the ticket sales!! Ticket sales will end September 11, 2015.

More prizes have been added:

Grand prize - 2015 Ford Super Crew pick up

2nd prize - \$1450 cash

3rd prize - \$1200 cash

4th prize - \$1000 cash

5th prize - \$750 cash

6th prize - \$500 cash

7th prize - \$250 cash

8th prize - \$100 cash (5 prizes to be given)

This is twice as much as previously offered!!

Cost is \$5 each per ticket or \$20 for 5 tickets.

Let's get busy selling these tickets.

We will have the actual truck that will be raffled off at the Bluff for the Ride the Rockies event on June 20th. Come out to purchase your tickets for a chance to win it!! Other raffle tickets events will be:

July 4-5 for Independence Day celebrations

July 17, 18 & 19 for County Fair and Stampede Rodeo

Custer County Courthouse will be closed on Friday, July 3rd to observe Independence Day!

2015 Custer County Fair

July 13-19, 2015

4-H Shotgun and .22 Competitions will be held Friday, July 10th beginning at 9 a.m.



2015 Custer County Fair

July 13th through 19th

Did you know...

Any Custer County resident can compete at the Custer County Fair?

You Can Enter Your Exhibit in:

Call for Classes

Open Pantry (Preserved foods, Baked Goods, Beer, and Wine)

Needlework (Includes Clothing)

Arts and Crafts (Ceramics, Woodworking, Leathercraft, Macramé, Fiber, Weaving, Painting – oil and watercolors, Photography, Scratch work, Pastels, and others)

Floriculture (Cut Flowers, Arrangements, Centerpiece, Potted Plants)

Gardening And MORE

No Entry Fee Required

EXHIBIT CHECK IN:

Custer County Fair Grounds
Home Economics Building
Monday, July 13, 7:00 am

EXHIBIT JUDGING:

Monday, July 13, 9:00 am

EXHIBIT RELEASE:

Monday, July 20, up to 9:00 am

Show off your talent!

Call 783-2514 for complete rules and class information.

**CSU Extension, Custer County, P O B o x 3 6 0 205 S. 6th Street,
Westcliffe, Co. 81252**



FYI

June-July 2015

Recycling... This is just a reminder that the yellow recycling bins that have been behind the Sheriff's Office have been moved to the west end of the Fire Department right off of highway 69 going north to the Fair Grounds. You can recycle glass, aluminum, tin and steel cans in these bins. High Country Recycling works hard to provide recycling opportunities in Custer County. You can recycle cardboard, glass, plastic bags, bubble wrap, scrap metal, tin, steel and aluminum cans, phone books, catalogues/magazines, newspapers, file folders, and other paper at the Custer County Landfill.

THE CLIFF'S PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN is a great place to meet new friends and garden in a community setting. The garden is located just east of the Custer County High School. Take the Mission Plaza road just to the west of the Family Dollar, turn to the left and then turn to the left again. You can see the garden down the hill. The garden has private plots as well as a commons area. **THE COMMONS NEEDS YOUR HELP!** If you are interested in helping with the commons, it would be taking one day a week (if we can get the volunteers) to water, weed, and share in the harvest. Please call Robin at the Extension Office if you are interested in participating in the commons.

The CSU Extension Backyard Growers program continues - We are now offering many varieties of beans. They will be available at the Farmer's Market or at the CSU Extension office.

Miller Moths

CSU Planttalk June 10, 2015

The miller moth, which is a mature army cutworm, is a common pest in Colorado. The caterpillar stage of the cutworm is sometimes an important crop pest in the spring.

These moths are usually gray or brown with two characteristic light spots on each wing. They can be extremely annoying when they get into homes and cars, but they do not breed indoors or eat clothing, and generally die within a few days.

These pests overwinter as larvae in the soil, primarily in alfalfa and wheat fields in eastern Colorado. In the spring, caterpillars emerge to feed and complete their life cycle. Moths emerge in May or June, with the majority emerging during a very short period. During outbreak years, miller moth flights are typically 5-6 weeks long. However, most nuisance problems are 2-3 weeks. Wet weather and extremely cold winters may kill many of the cutworms.

Fall migrations (typically beginning the latter half of September) are smaller and less frequently observed than the spring migration. A possible explanation is that the moths seek summer flowers which provide nectar (food). Also, the cooler temps of higher elevations are less stressful to the moths.

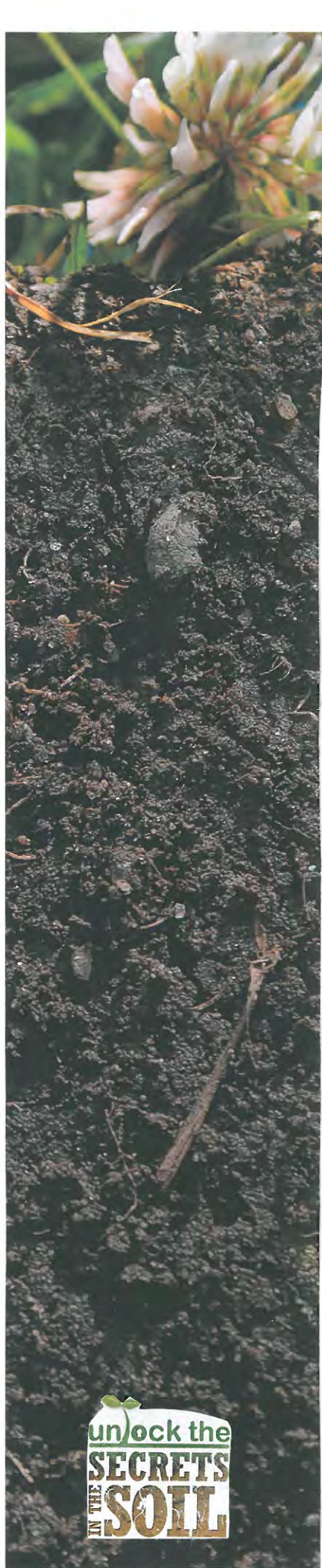
Insecticides are not effective at controlling these pests. The best controls are to seal any openings in the home, reduce the amount of lights at night or use non-attractive yellow lights. Landscaping considerations can be important to affect the number of millers because some flowering plants are used as a shelter by miller moths.

Once inside a home, moths can be controlled with a fly swatter or vacuum cleaner. Keeping a light suspended over a bucket of water during the night also can trap moths.

Remember that these insects are a nuisance, but pose no danger to humans, plants, clothing and fabric. Moths in the home do not feed or lay eggs.

For more information, see the following Colorado State University fact sheet – Moths in the Home #5.572





Custer County Conservation District's
75th Annual Meeting/Soil Health Field Tour
Thursday, June 18, 2015, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

At the Miller Ranch, 2042 CR 136, Westcliffe

In the Field Presentations by:

Joel Moffett, NRCS Soil Health Team

Jim Self, CSU - Soil, Water & Plant Testing Lab Manager

Joe Brummer, CSU - Forage Science, Native Grasses, High
Altitude Revegetation

Cost = \$10/person – includes lunch and educational
materials

**We will also conduct a Local Working Group
discussion to determine the top 3 - 4 highest priority
conservation concerns for our conservation district.**

**These concerns will then be sent to the Colorado
Association of Conservation Districts, Colorado State
Conservation Board and the Natural Resources
Conservation Service to establish statewide
priorities for 2016.**

Please RSVP at 783-2481 by June 11th.

Custer County Conservation District



Pet Health: Protect yourself and your pet from rising threat of rabies

by Dr. Ragan Adams | May 14, 2015 4:02 PM



[1]

A bat flying erratically during daylight hours, a raccoon slowly wandering down the middle of a road, a fox that does not run away when you approach, a dead skunk in your horse's corral.

What do these four wild animals have in common?

The animals in these scenarios are acting abnormally and could have rabies, a neurologic disease that is most likely fatal to unvaccinated humans and animals.

Rabies is a zoonotic disease – meaning it can be passed between animals and people – and confirmed cases have notably climbed in Colorado in recent years. With rabies clearly present in wild animals that are common in rural, suburban and urban areas, it is important that pet owners:

- Check vaccination records for their pets.
- Vaccinate any pets that lack current rabies vaccinations.
- Also vaccinate horses and frequently handled livestock, such as 4-H animals.
- Keep dogs leashed during walks.
- Notice critters in the environment, and watch for animals that seem sickly or act abnormally.
- Never approach or touch a wild animal that seems sick or acts strangely. Call a local animal control office immediately to report the time and location of such a sighting.
- Talk to a veterinarian for more information.

Rabies on the rise in Colorado

The main hosts of rabies in the United States are raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes and coyotes, in that order. In Colorado for the past 20 years, bats have been the primary rabies host; about 15 percent of the bats tested are positive for rabies.



[2]

Historically, bats are the No. 1 carrier of rabies in Colorado; about 15 percent of bats tested are positive for rabies. (Click to enlarge.)

But since 2007, Colorado has seen an uptick in the number of wildlife testing positive for rabies. Last year, 130 animals tested positive for rabies in Colorado, including 93 bats, 32 skunks and five others. Of these, 76 animals were known or strongly suspected of exposing 101 domestic animals and 57 humans to rabies.

The rise in confirmed rabies infection in skunks is concerning because these animals, unlike bats, live on the ground – just as we and our pets do.

The first 2015 report about rabid wildlife in Colorado[3] was issued April 20 by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Three skunks were confirmed to be rabid during one week in the counties of Adams, Arapahoe and Elbert on Colorado's Front Range. In the first four months of this year, six rabid skunks have been confirmed in these counties. For updated rabies information, visit your local health department's website.

Why is rabies a big deal?



[4]

Raccoons are the main host of rabies in the United States. (Click to enlarge.)

Rabies is a viral disease that affects the brain of mammals and is almost always fatal. The virus is shed in the saliva of a rabid animal and usually is passed to another animal by a bite. At the bite wound, the virus replicates and travels through the nerves to the brain.

Pre-exposure vaccination against rabies can prevent companion animals, such as dogs and cats, from contracting rabies from wildlife.

“Worldwide, more than 30,000 humans die of rabies each year, 99 percent of cases resulting from contact with dogs. In the United States, due to highly successful dog vaccination programs, transmission from dogs is now rare, eliminating the vast majority of human cases,” according to Bat Conservation International[5].

Livestock with which people frequently interact, like horses, 4-H sheep and goats, steers, llamas and alpacas, should also be vaccinated against rabies. Their thick hair coats make it difficult to tell if these animals have been bitten, and vaccination will decrease the chance that their human companions are exposed to the disease.

Dr. Keith Roehr, Colorado State veterinarian, encourages livestock producers to discuss with their veterinarians the best course of action regarding the vaccination of livestock herds.

What to do if you are bitten



[6]

Foxes, increasingly seen in suburbia, are rabies carriers, along with coyotes. (Click to enlarge.)

Many people are bitten by animals each year, and very few animals are rabid. Even so, the severity of rabies requires a very prudent course of action after any such bite:

- Immediately wash a bite wound with soap and running water for at least 15 minutes.
- Contact your healthcare provider, your local health department, animal control and/or Colorado Division of Wildlife.
- If the bite is from a wild animal, it can be captured and tested for rabies.
- If the animal is a domestic animal or livestock, it can be quarantined and monitored to see if it becomes ill from rabies.

“To keep yourself and your pets safe from the deadly rabies virus, keep your pets properly vaccinated and away from wildlife,” says Bill Porter, director of Animal Protection and Control for the Larimer Humane Society[7]. “Dogs and cats are always curious about abnormal-acting wildlife, and only a small bite is necessary to transfer the disease from an infected animal.”

For more information, visit:

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment[8]

Larimer County Department of Health and Environment[9]

CSU Veterinary Extension[10]

Dr. Ragan Adams, D.V.M., is a Veterinary Extension Specialist and senior research associate in the Department of Clinical Sciences[11] at Colorado State University.

Endnotes:

1. [Image]: <http://source.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/rabies.skunks.jpg>
2. [Image]: http://source.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/rabies.bat_1.jpg
3. report about rabid wildlife in Colorado:
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agmain/news/4202015-pet-and-livestock-owners-cautioned-about-rabid-skunks>
4. [Image]: <http://source.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/rabies.racoon.jpg>
5. Bat Conservation International: <http://www.batcon.org>
6. [Image]: http://source.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/rabies.fox_.jpg
7. Larimer Humane Society: <http://larimer.org/health/ehs/rabies.htm>
8. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:
<http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/rabies>
9. Larimer County Department of Health and Environment:
<http://www.larimer.org/health/ehs/rabies.htm>
10. CSU Veterinary Extension:
<http://veterinaryextension.colostate.edu/News/Rabies.shtml>
11. Department of Clinical Sciences: <http://csu-cvmb.colostate.edu/academics/clinsci/Pages/default.aspx>

Source URL: <http://source.colostate.edu/pet-health-protect-yourself-and-your-pet-from-rising-threat-of-rabies/>

**The Custer County Weed Advisory Board
Presents the 2015**

CUSTER COUNTY ANNUAL WEED TOUR

Saturday June 27th from 9:00am to 1:00pm

Presentation held at the Multipurpose Room at the school.

Tour to follow at the Rusk Ranch

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS THISTLES.

Free Lunch for Registered participants

Please call the CSU Extension Office to register at 783-2514 by June 24th
Or e-mail robin.young@colostate.edu

Sponsored by
The Custer County Weed Advisory Board