

## **Teton County Tips for Record Books**

Record books help you indicate what you did and what you learned. Be sure to show evidence that you were learning and doing something in 4-H!

- ☆ Make sure all record sheets are signed – first page, livestock, etc.
- ☆ Include a picture of you (possibly your school picture) on the My 4-H Year form.
- ☆ You may re-create the records or use the records found on-line. Just be sure to include all information requested on original forms.
- ☆ Include year tabs on the side.
- ☆ Write goals for your project and 4-H year at the beginning of the year.
- ☆ Be sure to include all projects for which you enrolled. If you did not complete a project, add a note to say that you didn't get it completed.
- ☆ Use the "Record Book Completion Criteria List" and the "Record Book Quality List" as guidelines for filling out records.
- ☆ Need to complete "blue" sheet and animal sheet for all animal projects.
- ☆ Use spell-check if using a computer.
- ☆ Proofread.
- ☆ When listing project costs be sure to include all costs and to assign a fair market price to items that you didn't have to pay for out of pocket.

For example, if you are raising a steer and you are using hay from a family ranch it still costs something. Figure out how much a ton of hay costs at market price and then figure how many tons of hay you used to feed your steer. The point of the project is to learn what it would take to raise a steer. Include any postage costs or advertising costs for marketing your animals. Stamps now cost \$.37 so if you mail any sale invitations, that cost should be reflected.

Another example, if you do several projects in foods, you may want to compile an expense sheet for basic ingredients --

Flour	5 lb bag	\$2.79
Sugar	5 lb bag	\$3.29
Vanilla	6 oz.	\$5.89

Then you can estimate how much of each item you used. The true cost of your project may be hidden in your family's grocery budget, but the project cost something just the same.

For photography, know how much a roll of film and developing cost and how many rolls of film you developed. If using your family's computer for a project, research the cost per page to print items (this information can be found in Consumer Reports). You will have to work a little to find costs for some of your projects. Save receipts, use on-line resources to estimate prices, visit stores to determine true cost. You may have travel costs involved with getting to meetings, fair, camp, etc. Believe it or not, gas and vehicles do cost. The state rate is roughly \$ .36 per mile. Figure how many miles you travel for 4-H and add that into your project costs.

- ☆ For income, fair premiums should be recorded as well as any other prize money or money made from a sale of your project.
- ☆ When asked about promoting 4-H you could include any thank you's sent to donors for awards, livestock project buyers, wearing 4-H t-shirt, talking to friends about 4-H projects/activities, participating in the food drive, sending buyers invitations, writing letters to the editor, submitting thank you notes for publication.
- ☆ Perhaps insert a project story for each project. This story can be hand-written or done on the computer and could include what you learned in the project.
- ☆ You may include a calendar, but you should still list out activities where requested on forms, etc.
- ☆ Books should have clear detail on animal feed records. Some of the books we have seen make us wonder if the animals ever got fed, since nothing was written down in the feed record.
- ☆ Your book should tell about you and your learning experiences in 4-H. We want your book to be a reflection on the high quality work you do in 4-H. Some books merely tell us that a 4-H member is too lazy to complete very simple forms; whereas other books tell us that a 4-H member sees the value in what they learn in 4-H and is willing to invest the time and effort to share that value with others.

