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For release: July 22, 2008

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Lil' Ranchers looking for buyers of their livestock

4-H Livestock Auction open to the public, July 26 at the Arapahoe County Fair

Littleton, Colo. --- Dozens of 4-H youth have spent the better part of a year raising, grazing and tending to lambs, hogs and steers in preparation for the 2008 Arapahoe County Fair Youth Livestock Auction, 6:30 p.m., Saturday, July 26.

There aren't many places where businesses and citizens can bid and buy premium meat straight from the farm nowadays but the Arapahoe County Fair continues this tradition as a way for youth learning the trade to be rewarded for dedicating their time, talent and substantial funds in raising a market animal. They follow quality production practices in nutrition, health, care and handling of their livestock to assure the meat meets high quality standards.

Community leaders, businesses and citizens are invited help youth raise funds to continue their education by bidding on and buying their animals. 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 involvement.

The process is simple. Just register before the auction to receive a bidder number and an animal sale list. As each animal is led into the ring, the auctioneer will suggest a bid in dollars per head, not per pound, i.e. \$150 for a lamb. Bid by raising your hand. The highest bidder buys the animal, signs the sale slip and selects how to manage their purchase. There are three options for managing your purchase.

- 1) **Buy back** – This option is best if you want to purchase an animal without having to take the meat home, or deal with a meat processing plant.
- 2) **Home** - Take the animal home or to a packer of your choice. Note you are responsible for transporting the animal and contacting the packer with cutting instructions.
- 3) **Packing plant** – This option lets you put meat directly in your freezer. Receive steaks, brisket, chops, roasts and more already cut, trimmed, wrapped, frozen and ready for eating.

For more information about the livestock auction, call the 4-H Fair Office, 303-636-2097.

Enjoy the 2008 Arapahoe County Fair, July 23 – 27, filled with fun for the entire family and at a simple Pay ONE price admission too. Just \$14 includes unlimited carnival rides, all concerts, activities and entertainment. This means you don't pay extra to watch the rodeo, huge fireworks displays or to participate in the mutton bustin', and you don't fork over any cash for face painting, camel rides or the brand new

demolition derby. Just pull out your wallet when you're hungry, are tempted to play the midway games or ready to take a souvenir home. Otherwise, keep that cash in your pocket and enjoy!

The Arapahoe County Fair is sponsored by Radio Disney, Wolf 92.5 FM, 105.5 Jack FM, KEZW 1430 AM Waste Management, South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce, City of Aurora, City of Littleton, E-470, Aurora Sentinel, Villager Newspapers, Potestio Brothers, Go Toyota Scion Arapahoe, Tagawa Gardens and Action Care Ambulance.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Fair, visit www.arapahoecountyfair.com to learn more.

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To download photos click on the following link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CA/>

Photo captions: 4-Her shows her prize steer during the Livestock Auction.