



## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## NEWS RELEASE

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Date: 3/20/15

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### **WELD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE HIRES STERKEL FOR THE JEAN HOSHIKO MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT POSITION**

WELD COUNTY, CO – The Weld County Board of Commissioners and Weld County Extension Office are pleased to announce the addition of Kim Sterkel to the 4-H Extension team. Sterkel was hired as a part-time extension employee to fill the Weld County 4-H Foundation Jean Hoshiko Memorial Endowment position. She will work to expand the reach of 4-H in Weld County and develop new educational opportunities for Weld County 4-H members.



4-H is a development organization that offers more than 50 projects and community service opportunities in areas including clothing construction and apparel, foods and nutrition, large and small animal care and training, wildlife, leadership, citizenship, wind power, electronics and model rocketry. 4-H teaches decision making, record keeping, good health practices, public speaking and other life skills to all kids ages 5-18.

"4-H is a great program for kids of all ages," said Commissioner Chair Barbara Kirkmeyer, herself a former 10-year 4-H member. "It provides many activities that help kids learn and grow as individuals."

Sterkel received her Bachelor's Degree from Colorado State University (CSU) in both Animal Science and Agriculture Business. She completed her Master's in Agriculture with a concentration in Extension Education this past December, also from CSU. Sterkel was selected for the endowment position because of her passion and enthusiasm for 4-H as well as her experience and knowledge of the agricultural industry. She grew up on a small farm in Erie where her family raised sheep, goats, horses and cattle.

"I was an active 4-H member for 11 years, and I know that is what truly helped develop my passion for animals and agriculture," said Sterkel. "The experiences I had through 4-H motivated me to pursue my career in Extension, and I am beyond excited to share that with others in the community, county and state."

Bill Jackson, President of Weld County 4-H Foundation said, "4-H created an endowed position to oversee the continued success and stability of Weld County 4-H. I'm happy to know that we have enough funds to hire a part-time person for the endowment, I would encourage everyone to consider contributing so we can make this a full-time position as soon as possible."

For more information about Weld County 4-H or to donate, visit [www.weld4h.org](http://www.weld4h.org) or call 970-304-6535.

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