

2026 State 4-H Horse Communications Contests

Regional Contests

Regional Horse Communications Contests will be held in a virtual format where youth record their presentation and submit for evaluation. The top 3 in each division of each contest will be invited to compete at the State 4-H Horse Communication Contest held during the State 4-H Horse Show held in Shelbyville on June 23, 2026. Instructions for virtual regional contest are listed below.

Regional Horse Communication Contest

Youth should create a video of themselves presenting their speech or demonstration in one of the three contests (Individual Public Speaking, Individual Demonstration or Team Demonstration) using the guidelines from the Tennessee 4-H Horse Program Rulebook available at <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1760.pdf> (also located at the end of this document). We encourage youth to use this opportunity to be creative during this time and take advantage of the ability to present demonstrations outside a traditional indoor setting.

Due to this format, there is no need to pre-register to participate. Youth should develop and record their presentations and submit them by 6:00 pm (Eastern) on Friday, May 15, 2026. Videos should be uploaded to YouTube and marked “Unlisted”. Instructions for using YouTube are located at the end of this document. Entries for each event are to be made at the respective link below. This is where you will enter the link to your video to be judged.

- Public Speaking – <https://tiny.utk.edu/26HorsePublicSpeaking>
- Individual Demonstration – <https://tiny.utk.edu/26HorseIndDemo>
- Team Demonstration – <https://tiny.utk.edu/26HorseTeamDemo>

Each video will be scored based on the typical rubrics that can be found in the Tennessee 4-H Horse Program Rulebook

(<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1760.pdf>). Submitted videos should be unedited with no splicing together of sections of presentations for the final version.

Guidelines and tips for recording your video

1. Reminder that no parental assistance/coaching should happen during the recording process similar to a contest setting.
2. Remember to speak loudly and clearly. Although not necessary, there are inexpensive microphones that can be purchased to use to improve sound quality.
3. Record your presentation in a quiet place where you will not be interrupted and free of other distractions. Remind anyone assisting you with the filming to silence their cell phones. If you are outside, watch out for the wind, cars, barking dogs and other noisemakers.
4. Record your video in a bright room or outside under shade or cloud cover. Avoid direct lights and/or bright sun.

5. If using a cell phone to record your video, turn it horizontal (landscape orientation).
6. If possible, a tripod or selfie-stick should be used to keep the camera stable during filming.
7. The youth should be in the center of the frame, looking directly into the camera. Be sure that all props that will be used can be seen easily.
8. The person recording should not move around but should remain in the same place similar to how a panel of judges would view the presentation.
9. Submitted videos should be unedited with no splicing together of sections of presentations for the final version.

SECTION 23: STATE COMMUNICATIONS CONTESTS

23.1.1. Eligibility

The TN State 4-H Communications Contest is open to junior, junior high and senior 4-H Members.

Members MAY NOT compete in a contest in which they have previously won FIRST place. Any 4-H member who competes in the communications contest at the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup **will not** be eligible to compete in that same contest at the state level.

Contestants can only enter ONE state communications contest.

The State 4-H Horse Communications Contests will be held virtually with youth presenting over a web platform at their local County Extension Office. This will be over 2-3 days in April.

23.1.2. Participants in the Public Speaking and Individual Demonstration contests may only compete as an individual (1 person). Participants in the Team Demonstration contest may only compete as a two-member team (2 people), within the same division.

23.2. Horse Public Speaking Contest General Contest Rules

23.2.1. Subject must pertain to the horse industry. Speeches not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judge(s)

23.2.2. No visual aids may be used.

23.2.3. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judge(s).

23.2.4. A public address system will not be used during the contest, but a lectern will be provided.

23.2.5. During the event, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, state and speech topic.

23.2.6. Speech length will vary by the age of the 4-H member. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) over or under the time range for each age.

– Junior members: 3-5 minutes

– Junior High members: 5-7 minutes

– Senior members: 7-10 minutes

23.2.7. Contestants should cite their major reference after the conclusions of their speech. This time will not be counted in the allotted time.

23.2.8. After the speech is finished, judges may question the contestant. Each judge shall ask each contestant a minimum of one question. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question, then answer it.

23.2.9. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and at the coaches' meeting.

23.2.10. Ties will be broken first by the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges' accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy scores.

23.3. Scoring of Public Speaking Contest

23.3.1. Introduction (10 Points)

A. Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject?

B. Was the introduction short and to the point?

23.3.2. Organization (15 Points)

- A. Were the main points easy to follow?
- B. Were the main points arranged in the best order?
- C. Were the sentences short and easy to understand?
- D. Was the speech interesting?

23.3.3. Contest and Accuracy (20 Points)

- A. Were the facts and information accurate?
- B. Was there enough information concerning the subject?
- C. Was credit given to the sources of information, if appropriate?
- D. Was the content appropriately related to the horse industry?
- E. Was the content of the presentation technical, scientific or complex in nature?

23.3.4. Stage Presence (15 Points)

- A. Was the speaker neat and appropriately dressed?
- B. Did the speaker talk directly to and look at the audience?
- C. Was the speaker's posture erect, but not stiff?
- D. Did the speaker refrain from leaning on the lectern?
- E. Did the speaker seem relaxed and at ease?

23.3.5. Delivery (20 Points)

- A. Did the speaker have appropriate voice control?
- B. Were all the words pronounced correctly?
- C. Did the speaker's facial expressions reflect the mood of the speech?
- D. If notes were used, was it done without distracting from the speech?
- E. Did the speaker seem to choose words at the time they were spoken as opposed to a memorized or ready-type delivery?

23.3.6. General (10 Points)

- A. Did the speaker convey to the audience a sense of wanting to communicate?
- B. Did the speech reflect the thoughts and personality of the speaker?

23.3.7. Conclusion (10 Points)

- A. Was the conclusion short and interesting?
- B. Did the conclusion properly wrap up the speech?
- C. Could the speaker handle questions easily?

23.4. State Horse Individual Presentation Contest General Contest Rules

23.4.1. The subject must pertain to the horse industry. Presentations not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judge(s).

23.4.2. This may be a demonstration or an illustrated presentation. No live animals may be used.

23.4.3. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judge(s).

23.4.4. A public address system will not be used during the contest.

23.4.5. Contestants must supply their own easels, but tables will be available.

23.4.6. Creative audiovisual aids may be used, but the contestant must be involved in making or designing them.

23.4.7. During the contest, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, state and presentation topic.

23.4.8. Speech length will vary by the age of the 4-H member. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) over or under the time range for each age.

- Junior members: 3-6 minutes
- Junior High members: 6-9 minutes
- Senior members: 9-12 minutes

23.4.9. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their presentation.

This will not be counted in the allotted time.

23.4.10. Following the presentation, judges may question the contestant. Each judge shall ask each contestant a minimum of one question. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question, then answer it.

23.4.11. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and will be announced before the start of the contest.

23.4.12. Ties will be broken first by the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.

23.4.13. Judges will consider the questions listed under each section.

23.5. Scoring the Individual Presentation Contest

23.5.1. Introduction (10 Points)

- A. Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject?
- B. Was the introduction short and to the point?

23.5.2. Organization (25 Points)

- A. Was only one main idea demonstrated or presented?
- B. Did the discussion relate directly to each step as it was shown?
- C. Was each step shown just as it should be done in an actual situation or was an explanation given for any discrepancies?
- D. Could the audience see each step?
- E. Were the materials and equipment carefully selected, neatly arranged and well organized?
- F. Were charts and posters used if and when they were needed?
- G. Were the key points for each step stressed?

23.5.3. Content and Accuracy (25 Points)

- A. Were the facts and information presented accurate?
- B. Was there enough information presented about the subject?
- C. Were approved practices used?
- D. Was credit given to the sources of information, if appropriate?
- E. Was the content of the presentation technical, scientific or complex in nature?

23.5.4. Stage Presence (10 Points)

- A. Was the presenter neat and appropriately dressed for the subject of the demonstration?
- B. Did the presenter speak directly to and look at the audience?
- C. Was the presenter too fast or too slow?

23.5.5. Delivery (15 Points)

- A. Did the presenter appear to enjoy giving a demonstration?
- B. Did the presenter have good voice control?
- C. Were all words pronounced correctly?
- D. If notes were used, was it done without distracting from the presentation?
- E. Did the presenter seem to choose words at the time they were spoken as opposed to a memorized presentation?

23.5.6. Effect on the Audience (5 Points)

- A. Did the audience show an interest in the presentation?
- B. Could the audience go home and carry out the idea?

23.5.7. Summary (10 Points)

- A. Was the summary short and interesting?
- B. Were the key points briefly reviewed?
- C. Did the summary properly wrap up the presentation?
- D. Could the presenter handle questions easily?

23.6. State Horse Team Presentation Contest General Contest Rules

23.6.1. The subject must pertain to the horse industry. Presentations not appropriately related to the horse industry can be disqualified at the discretion of the judge(s).

23.6.2. This may be a demonstration or an illustrated presentation. No live animals may be used.

23.6.3. Contestants may use notes. However, excessive use of notes may be counted against the contestant. This will be at the discretion of the judge(s).

23.6.4. A public address system will not be used during the contest.

23.6.5. Participants must supply their own props. Tables will be available for contestants.

23.6.6. Creative audiovisual aids may be used, but the contestants must be involved in making or designing them.

23.6.7. During the contest, the contestants may introduce themselves by name, state and presentation topic.

23.6.8. Speech length will vary by the age of the 4-H member. Three points will be deducted from the total score on each judge's score sheet for every minute (or fraction of a minute) over or under the time range for each age.

- Junior members: 6-9 minutes
- Junior High members: 9-12 minutes
- Senior members: 10-15 minutes

23.6.9. Contestants should cite their major references after the conclusion of their presentation. This will not be counted in the allotted time.

23.6.10. At the end of the presentation, judges may question the team members. Each judge shall ask each team a minimum of one question. Question time will not be counted in the allotted time. Contestants should repeat the question, then answer it.

23.6.11. Contestant order will be determined by a random drawing and will be announced at the specialist meeting.

23.6.12. Ties will be broken first by the judges' accumulated delivery score, second by the judges accumulated organization score and third on content and accuracy score.

23.7. Scoring the Team Demonstration

23.7.1. Introduction (10 Points)

- A. Did the introduction serve to create interest in the subject?
- B. Was the introduction short and to the point?

23.7.2. Organization (25 Points)

- A. Was only one main idea presented?
- B. Did the discussion relate directly to each step as it was shown?
- C. Was each step shown just as it should be done in an actual situation or was an explanation given for any discrepancies?
- D. Could the audience see each step?
- E. Were the materials and equipment carefully selected, neatly arranged and well organized?
- F. Were charts and posters used if and when they were needed?
- G. Were the key points for each step stressed?

23.7.3. Content and Accuracy (25 Points)

- A. Were the facts and information presented accurate?
- B. Was there enough information presented about the subject?
- C. Were approved practices used?
- D. Was credit given to the sources of information, if appropriate?
- E. Was the content of the presentation technical, scientific or complex in nature?

23.7.4. Stage Presence (10 Points)

- A. Were the presenters neat and appropriately dressed for the subject of the demonstration?
- B. Did the presenters speak directly to and look at the audience?
- C. Was the presentation too fast or too slow?

23.7.5. Delivery (15 Points)

- A. Did the presenters appear to enjoy giving a demonstration?
- B. Did the presenters have good voice control?
- C. Were all words pronounced correctly?
- D. If notes were used, was it done without distracting from the presentation?
- E. Did the presenters seem to choose words at the time they were spoken as opposed to a memorized presentation?

23.7.6. Effect on the Audience (5 Points)

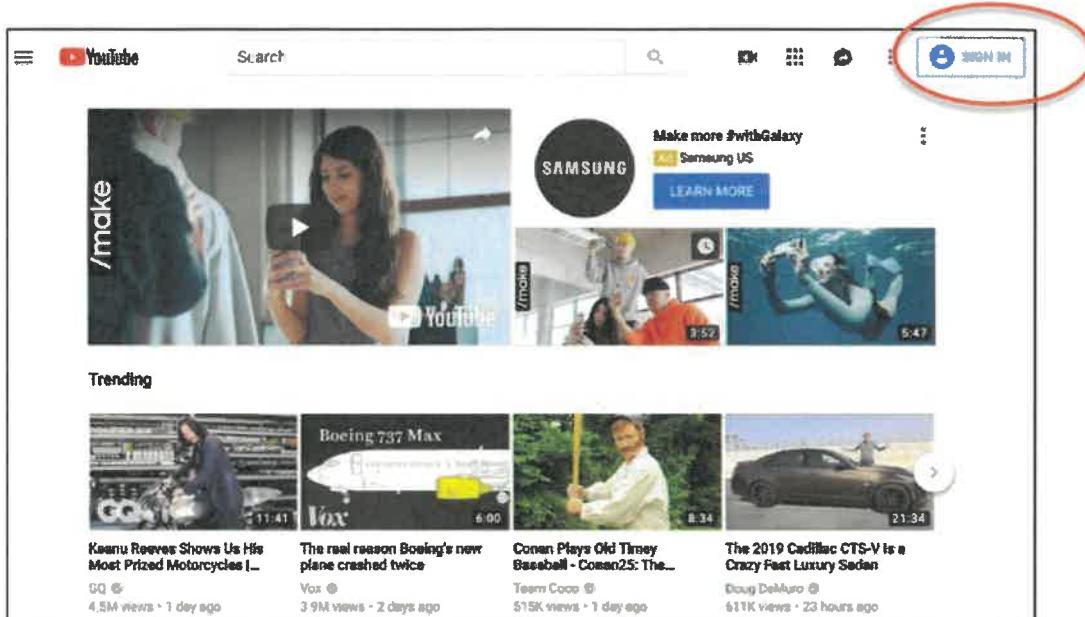
- A. Did the audience show an interest in the presentation?
- B. Could the audience go home and carry out the idea?

23.7.7. Summary (10 Points)

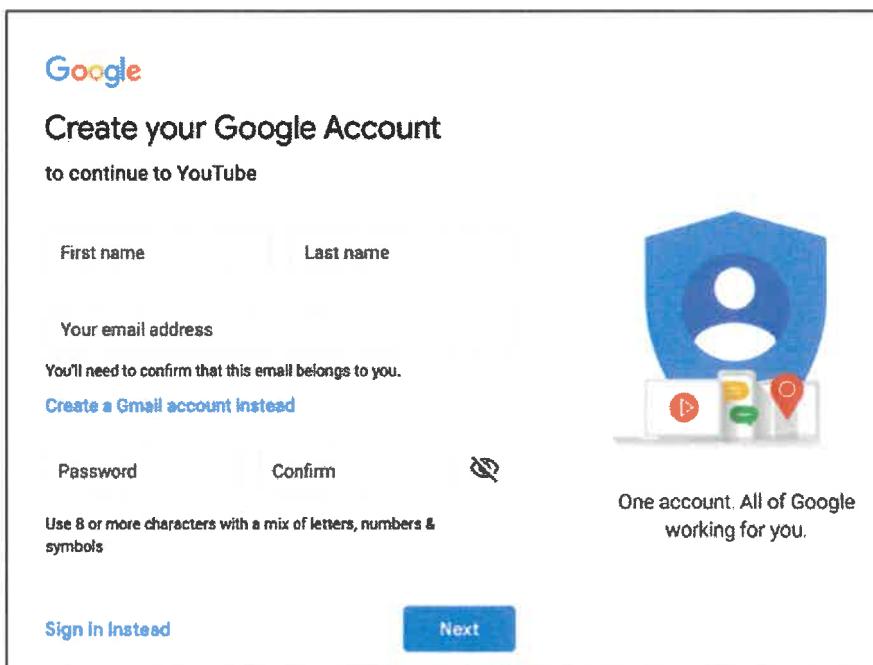
- A. Was the summary short and interesting?
- B. Were the key points briefly reviewed?
- C. Did the summary properly wrap up the demonstration?
- D. Could the presenters handle questions easily?

How To: Upload a Video to YouTube for Virtual 4-H Day

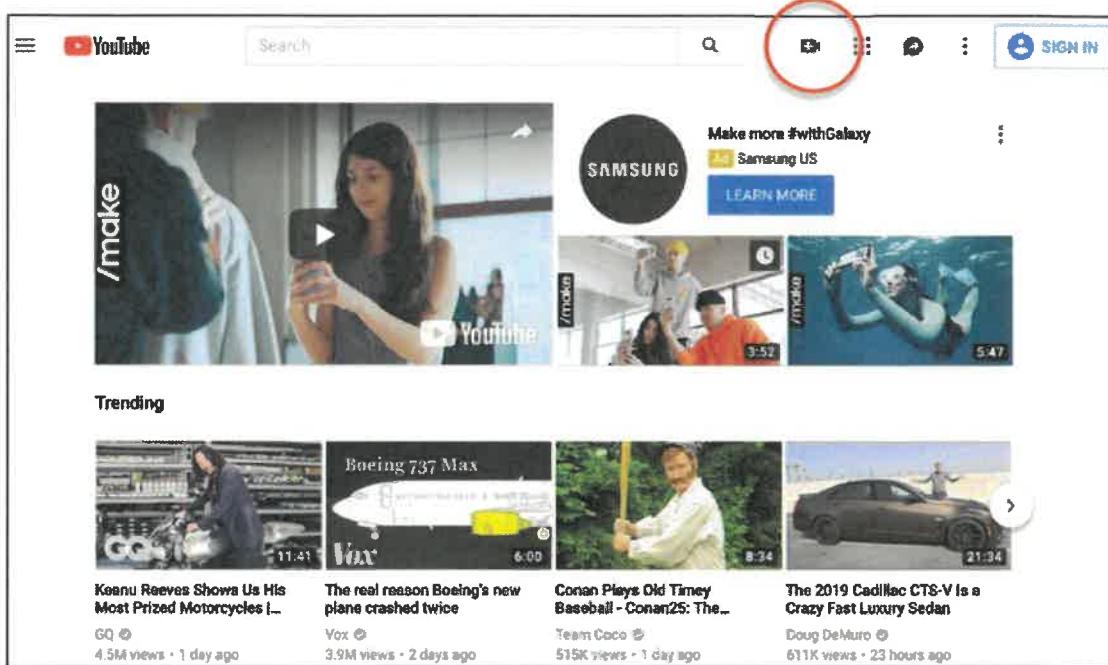
- 1) Please follow this link to upload your video to YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com>
- 2) Sign in using your Gmail account



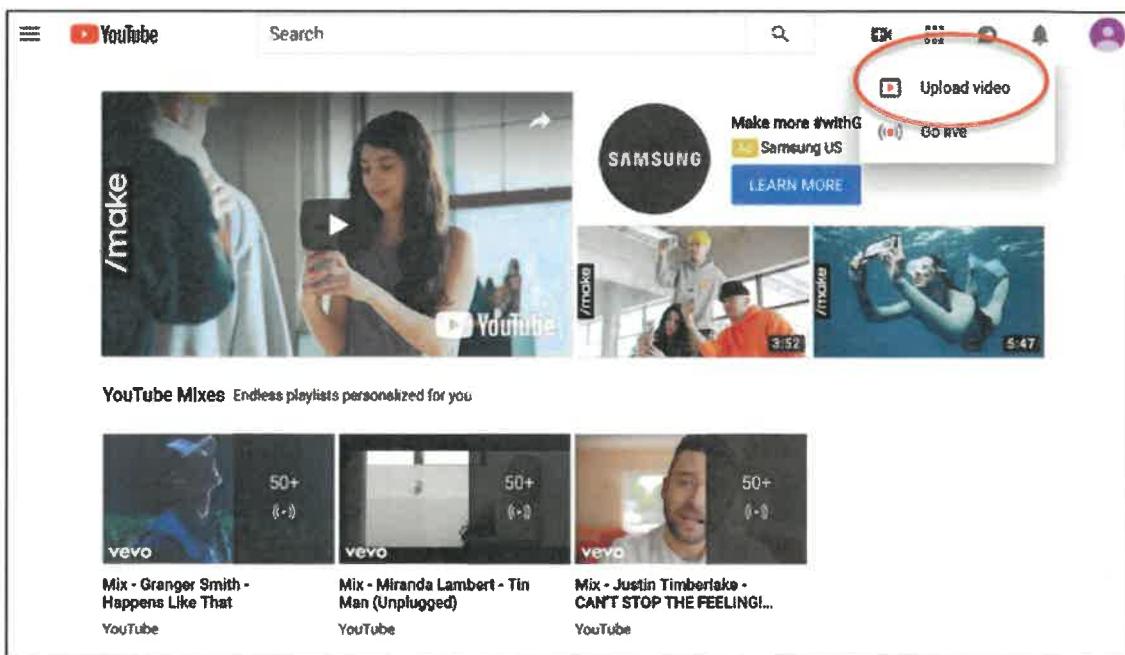
- 3) Or create a Google Account if you haven't already.



- 4) If creating a new account, verify your email and sign in.
- 5) At the top of the page, click **Upload** ()

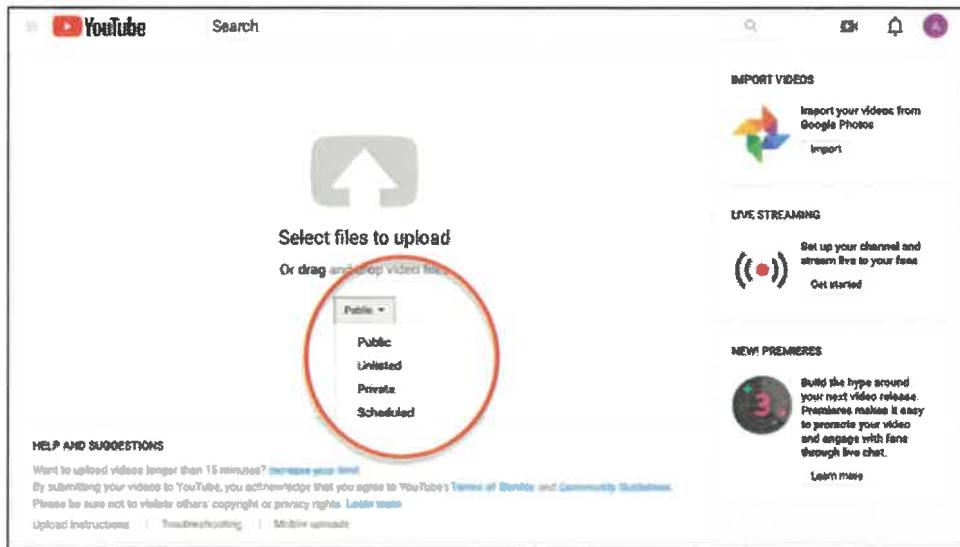


- 6) Select **Upload video**.

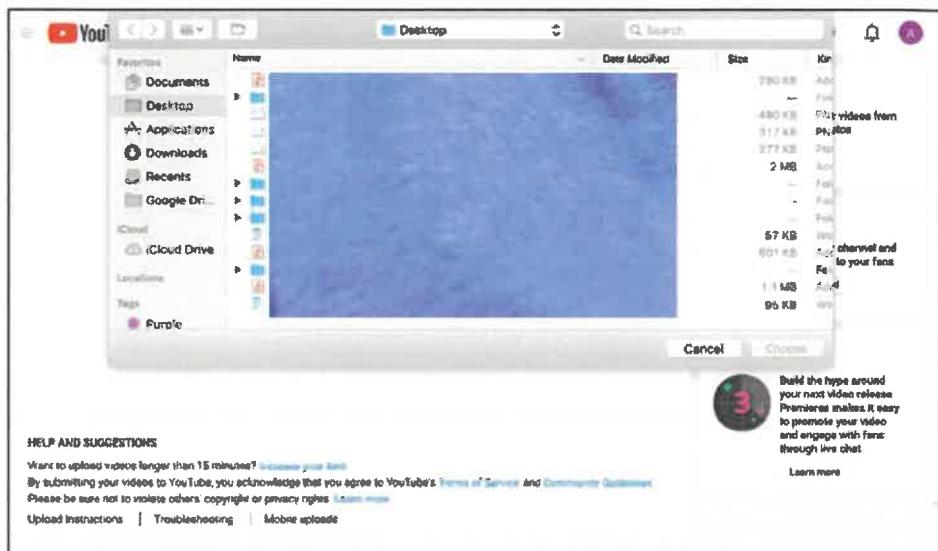


7) Before you start uploading the video, choose your video's **privacy setting**. For the purposes of 4-H Day requirements, we encourage you to choose unlisted.

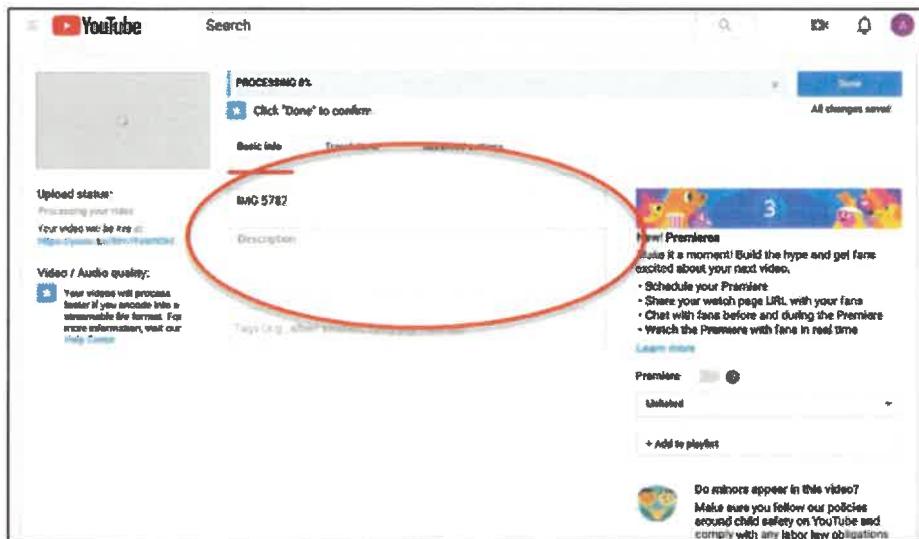
- **Unlisted videos** can be seen and shared by anyone with the link. Your unlisted videos won't appear to others who visit the "Videos" tab of your channel page and shouldn't show up in YouTube's search results unless someone adds your unlisted video to a public playlist (which we will not do).



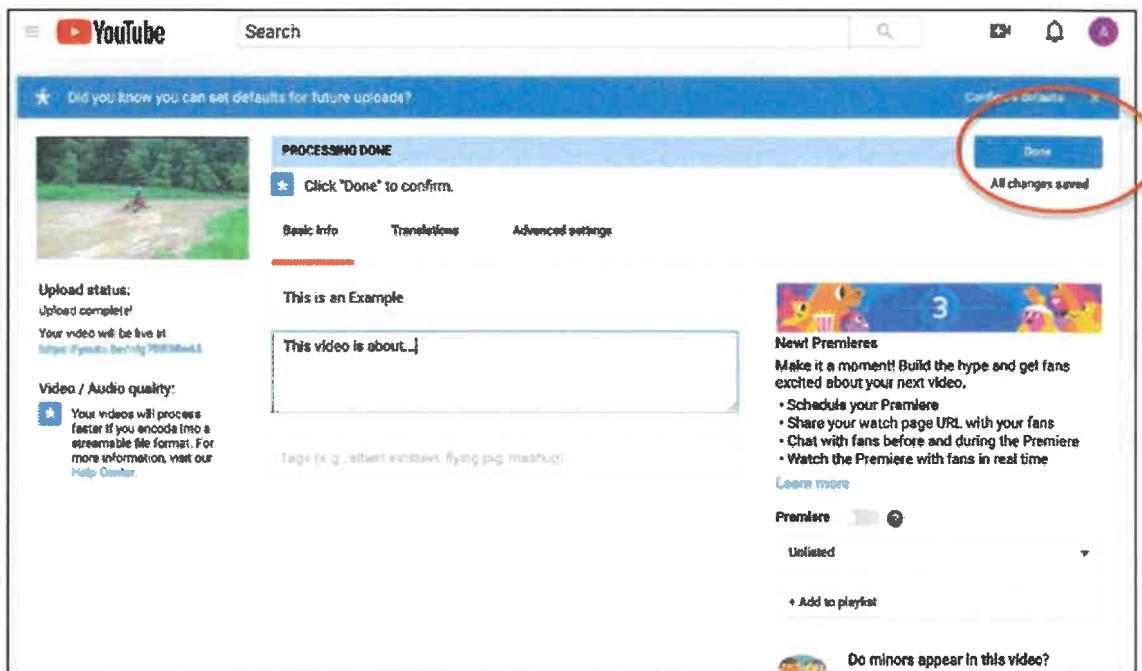
8) Select the video you would like to upload from your computer.



9) As the video is uploading, please add a title and description under the “Basic info” tab.



10) If you set your privacy settings to **public**, click Publish in the top right to finish uploading to YouTube. If you set the video privacy setting to **unlisted**, just click Done to finish the upload. If you don't click Publish/Done, your video won't be viewable by other people. You can always publish your video at a later time in your Video Manager.



11) Copy link provided as you will need to provide it to your 4-H Agent.

