

GALLATIN 4-H

2025 Annual Report

Volume 112

Number 01

Head

Heart

Head

Health



Prepared by Colyn Wiening



Gallatin County 4-H

adjective:

- of or relating to a program set up by the U.S. Department of Agriculture originally in rural areas to help young people become productive citizens by instructing them in useful skills (as in agriculture, animal husbandry, and carpentry), community service, and personal development



Leadership

noun:

- the action of leading a group of people or an organization
- the state or position of being a leader



Volunteers

noun:

- a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task.
- a person who works for an organization without being paid



Supporters

noun:

- a person who approves of and encourages someone or something
- one that supports or acts as a support



Finances

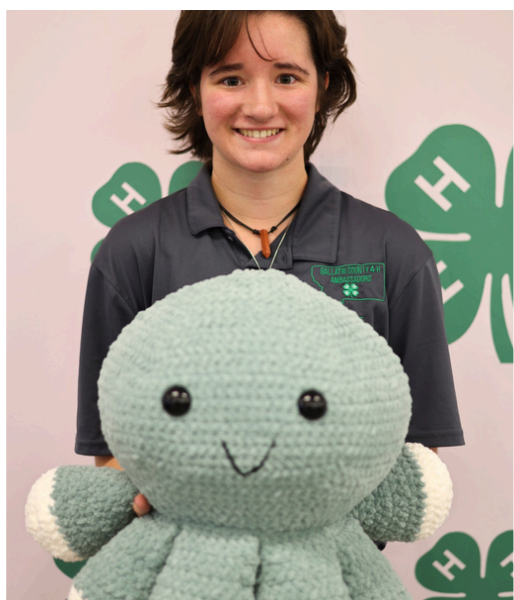
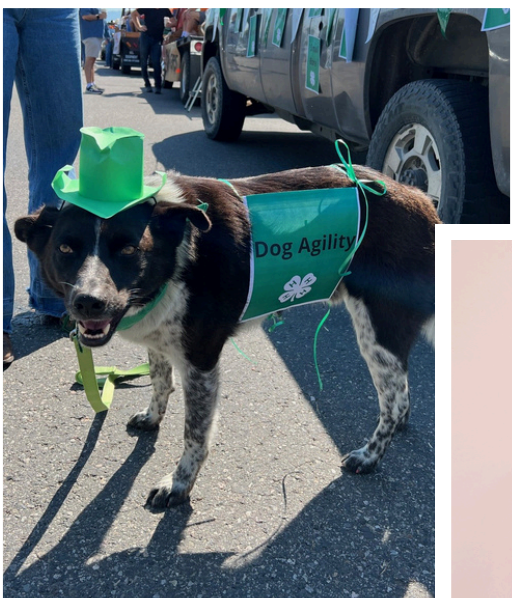
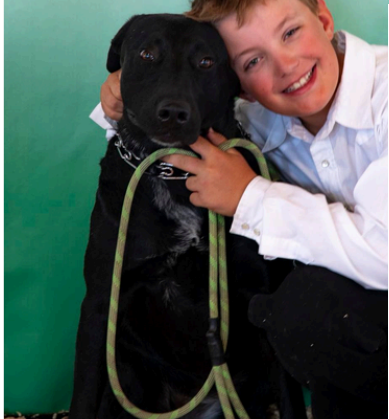
noun:

- money or other liquid resources of a government, business, group, or individual
- the obtaining of funds or capital

verb:

- to furnish with necessary funds
- to raise or provide funds or capital for

Gallatin County



A Year of Growth and Gratitude in Gallatin 4-H

- 4-H Extension Agent Molly Yurdana

The 2024-2025 4-H year was one of record growth and meaningful change for Gallatin County 4-H. With 675 youth members—the highest enrollment since before COVID—and 138 certified adult volunteers, the program continues to thrive as a cornerstone of youth development in the community. With 12 active clubs across the county, the program serves youth from urban, suburban, and rural areas through a wide range of project offerings to provide youth with opportunities to develop confidence, citizenship, and life skills that will last a lifetime.

Youth participation expanded into several new projects, including Livestock Judging, Welding, and Quilting, while long-standing favorites such as Cloverbuds, Dog Obedience, Robotics, Baking, and Sewing continued to thrive, many reaching full capacity due to strong interest and demand. In addition, county-level educational workshops offered youth instruction on record keeping, interview skills, and parliamentary procedure. Volunteer development remained a priority with a Winter Volunteer Training Series, facilitated in partnership with various MSU Extension professionals, to provide learning sessions on positive youth development, leadership, and program planning. These efforts strengthened volunteer confidence and supported consistent, high-quality programming across clubs and projects. A focus on continuous improvement guided internal operations throughout the year under the theme "Revise and Revamp." The office and 4-H committees worked collaboratively to streamline processes, update materials, and realign budgets to better serve the emerging needs of youth and families. Our program celebrated 44 graduating seniors in 2025, the largest class in recent memory. Maintaining active involvement among older youth remains a statewide challenge, and this milestone reflects the effectiveness of local leadership and program diversity in keeping teens engaged through their senior year. In response, the Gallatin County 4-H Foundation committee expanded its scholarship program to include support not only for traditional four-year degrees but also vocational and apprenticeship pathways—reflecting the diverse futures our 4-H members pursue.



4-H 2025



Hands, Heart, and Hard Work

- 4-H Extension Agent Molly Yurdana

The 2025 program year showcased the dedication, creativity, and strong work ethic that define Gallatin County 4-H members and volunteers. Through experiential learning, leadership opportunities, and community engagement, Gallatin County 4-H continues to empower youth to live the 4-H pledge—using their hands for larger service, hearts for greater loyalty, and hard work for lasting impact.

The 2025 Gallatin County 4-H/FFA Fair serves as one of the program's most visible and impactful events. 4-H families contributed more than 2,000 volunteer hours preparing fairgrounds and facilities to host 344 youth exhibitors and over 1,000 animals across multiple species. A total of 393 market animals were sold, reflecting the dedication and responsibility of local youth. The livestock sale once again exceeded \$1.4 million, underscoring the community's ongoing investment in youth agricultural education. The fair continues to serve as a capstone experience, providing members with opportunities to demonstrate learning, professionalism, and community connection.



Due to facility and management challenges, the 4-H Café was not operated during the 2025 Big Sky Country State Fair. Rebuilding or re-envisioning the Café remains a key objective for 2026, as it has traditionally served as a major fundraiser, service project, and public engagement space.



In the meantime, Gallatin County 4-H continued to manage concessions at Montana State University home football games and other events at Bobcat Stadium and the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse. This partnership offers meaningful fundraising opportunities and hands-on experience in customer service, teamwork, and financial management; providing both program income and valuable visibility for 4-H in the community.

Teen leadership development remained a hallmark of the program. The County Ambassador Team was re-established, with teen leaders mentoring younger members and contributing to county-level initiatives. Gallatin 4-H was represented at all major statewide events, including Fall Leadership Training, Montana 4-H Congress, and the Legislative Breakfast. The 2025 Gallatin 4-H Camp welcomed 66 campers supported by 38 trained teen counselors. The “Out of This World” space-themed program emphasized hands-on educational, recreational, and creative learning experiences.

Through the collective efforts of members, volunteers, and community partners, Gallatin County 4-H continues to build lifelong skills in leadership, service, and citizenship.





Why Community Service Matters

One of the core goals of 4-H is helping members become engaged, responsible citizens, and a big part of that journey is giving back through community service. When 4-H members take part in community service, they not only improve the world around them, but they also gain new skills, build character, and develop empathy for others. Let's explore why community service is such an essential part of 4-H and look at some meaningful project ideas for clubs!

Why Community Service Matters in 4-H

Community service helps 4-H members:

- **Build Character and Compassion:** By helping others, youth learn about the importance of kindness, empathy, and understanding.
- **Learn Responsibility and Leadership:** Taking on projects—big or small—encourages responsibility, dependability, and leadership.
- **Connect with Their Community:** Community service projects help 4-H members become active in their communities and foster a sense of pride and belonging.
- **Strengthen Skills for the Future:** From teamwork to planning and problem-solving, service projects provide hands-on experience with skills that will benefit them in all aspects of life.



Picking up trash in the
community park

Spring 2025



4-Hers teaching Gallatin
County 4th graders

Farm Fair 2025



Volunteers teaching teens
about car maintenance

Spring 2025

Community service is a rewarding, essential part of 4-H. Through service projects, members not only support their communities but also grow as individuals, making a positive impact along the way. Whether it's planting trees, serving meals, or simply spending time with those who need companionship, every 4-H member has the power to make a difference. So, get together with your 4-H club, choose a project, and see the positive impact you can create!

Popa. (2024). Re: University of Florida Extension Service Blogs: Why 4-H Members Should Get Involved in Community Service (and Ideas to Get Started!)

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/charlotteco/2024/11/25/why-4-h-members-should-get-involved-in-community-service-and-ideas-to-get-started/>

Who We Are



3.5 - Office Staff
1 - 4-H Extension Agent
.5 - Ag Extension Agent
1 - 4-H Program Manager
1 - Extension Admin

Youth Members



388 Female
281 Male

Clubs

12 Active Clubs
444 Club Members
225 Members at Large
(no club affiliation)



Volunteers

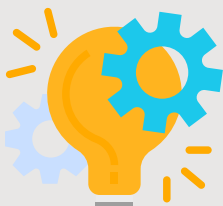
139 Certified Adults



Projects

Most Popular:

Swine: 130 members
Archery: 89 members
Beef: 62 members
Cloverbud: 57 members
Dog Obedience: 50 members



2025 Leaders of the Year

New Club Leader of the Year: Christine and Elsa Sommers-Austin (Hyalite Hawks)
New Project Leader of the Year: Cody and Amy Brownell (Livestock Judging)
Project Leader of the Year: Ginny Francis (Quilting) & Jenni Holzworth (Swine)
Co-Leaders of the Year: Erin Neil, Katie Taylor and Krista Pancich (Baking)
Club Leader: Lindsey Klebenow (Shining Mountaineers)
ULC Committee Member of the Year: Monika Johnson
Market Livestock Committee Member of the Year: Brittany Harwood
Gallatin County 4-H Volunteer of the Year: Rachel Colton



2025 Friends of 4-H

Business: The Connect Group

Individual: Jill Melum

Organization: Manhattan Volunteer Fire Department



Each year the Gallatin County 4-H Foundation provides monetary scholarship awards to outstanding 4-H members. These scholarships are generously sponsored by Harris and Elizabeth Kirk Trust. These scholarships can be spent on anything the member would like. To be eligible for this award, youth fill out an Achievement Journal and winners are determined off a points-based scoring system. The 4-H Member of the Year Award winners are recognized at the end-of-year awards celebration for their outstanding achievements and involvement in 4-H.



1st Place:

Bonnie Radke - Senior

Jake Oostema - Junior

2nd Place:

Madison Oostema - Senior

Bridger Noonan - Junior

3rd Place:

Hazel Nash - Senior

Isa Capp - Junior

2025 Higher Education Scholarship Recipients

Alexa Smieja - Doney Scholarship

Elsa Austin - Foundation Scholarship

Bode Naffziger - Market Livestock

Morgan Pavlik - Market Livestock

Sophie Stewart - Foundation Scholarship

Lizzy Brownell - Foundation Scholarship



GALLATIN 4-H
FOUNDATION

Finances

Unlimited Leaders Council

The mission of the Gallatin 4-H Unlimited Leaders Council (ULC) is to teach life skills by providing positive, hands-on, and educational opportunities for and with youth, through the recruitment, training, and development of caring 4-H volunteers in the hope of creating healthy, proactive futures in a global world.

The primary purpose of the Unlimited Leaders Council (ULC) is to provide guidance and assistance to the county Extension staff in planning and conducting educational programs. In addition, the 4-H council advises the county Extension staff in the establishment of the county 4-H policies that are not in conflict with the state 4-H policy statement. Gallatin County Unlimited Leaders Council is the governing body of Gallatin County 4-H and all the committees within the county 4-H program.

Gallatin 4-H Foundation

The mission of the Gallatin 4-H Foundation is to aid and promote, by financial assistance and support, all types of 4-H Programs and other Extension Youth Programs.

Market Livestock Committee

The purpose of the Market Livestock Committee is to develop and promote all livestock projects (Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goat, Rabbit, and Poultry) in 4-H and FFA on a county-wide basis. They provide members the educational experience and support to responsibly raise, care for, and sell their 4-H/FFA market animals; organize & facilitate the Gallatin County 4-H/FFA Market Sale; create and enforce the FairBook Rules specific to all livestock species; and work together as a committee to set and enforce the standard for all livestock projects.





4-H Youth Leaders' Endowment -

To support the efforts of Gallatin County 4-H teens to conduct summer camp, attend leadership training, and participate in other teen events in Montana and nationally.

Summer Camp Sponsorship \$4,200

- To support the annual summer camp efforts.

Livestock Endowment \$3,727

- To support the livestock projects and their needs with barn maintenance.

New Project & Club Support \$750

Chaperones for State Events and \$1,696

National Event Attendees

- To fund areas of project support and event chaperones.

Net Unrealized Earnings/Loss on Investments \$45,750

2024 Ending Value on Principal Assets \$395,753

Other Assets \$41,138

Total Net Worth on December 31, 2025 \$436,891



GALLATIN 4-H FOUNDATION

Harris and Elizabeth Kirk Trust Fund \$800

Gallatin County 4-H Member of the Year; 2 Winners: one Junior and one Senior member

Doney Scholarship \$2,000

Scholarship for a senior planning to study an ag-related major in higher education.

4-H Scholarships \$4,000

Scholarship for a senior who has been a 4-H member for all 4 years of high school.

Loretta Turner Memorial \$305

Award of Excellence given to members in the food projects, cooking, baking, and cake decorating

Market Animal Scholarship \$4,000

Scholarships for seniors who are active members in market animal projects.



Unlimited Leaders Council (ULC)



All Photos - Summer Camp 2025

Revenue: \$ 35,096

Donations
Enrollment Fees
MSU Concessions

Fair Account

Donation Income: \$19,080
Expenses: \$21,186
Expenses include Fair premiums for 4-H exhibits, meals for judges, ribbons, banners and other Fair supply needs.
Net Income: \$-2,106



Expenses: \$43,847

State Events Attendee's Support
Leader Training and Programs
Member Training and Programs
Project Achievement Awards
Program Development
County Contests:
Communications Day
Better Batter Baking Contest
Stir-Ups Cooking Contest
Business Expenses



**Ending Year
Net Income:** \$-8,751
Invested Funds: \$162,826



Market Livestock Committee (MLC)

GALLATIN COUNTY 4-H/FFA MARKET SALE FINANCIALS



Market Sale: \$1,450,184

With a growing number of 4-H members joining market projects, our sales total continues to climb too. The Market Sale committee does keep a small 5% commission to help fund the following year's sale expenses.



Project Auction Baskets: \$5675

Projects have a silent auction of baskets filled with fun and exciting items to help earn money to fund programs and prizes for their project.



Exhibitor Take Home: \$1,347,007

This money goes straight to the 4-H members, projects from auction baskets minus the 5% retained for next year's fair expenses.



Expenses: \$ 1,453,744

These sale expenses include tents for Fair week, judges, animal transport, tables, chairs, BBQ food, and catering to feed our buyers and families on sale night and many more! (Also includes payouts to exhibitors)

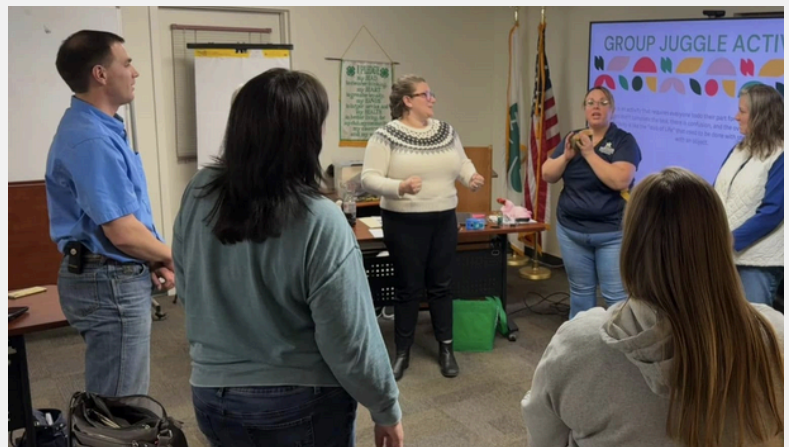


Net Income: \$-3,560.37





Community donations play an important role in supporting Gallatin 4-H. Local businesses, organizations, and individuals contribute to 4-H because they believe in our mission and see the positive impact we have on our youth and the community. These donations can take the form of monetary gifts, in-kind donations, or sponsorships for specific events and programs, such as the Fair and Senior Scholarships.





2025 Foundation Donors

Door Tech
 Swan Land Company
 Aquatech
 Big Sky Propane
 Bittco LLC
 Comfort Inn Bozeman
 Iron Horse Exteriors
 Jackson Contractor Group
 JK Appraisal & Consulting
 Manhattan Bank
 Monarch Heating and Cooling
 Premier Systems Heating and Cooling
 Rockin B Ranch
 Taylor'd Services
 Wining Landscapes
 Basecamp Gallatin
 Cashman Nursery
 Casto Construction
 Chris Duncan
 Kevin Scott DMD
 Montana Embroidery
 Monteriors
 Pacific Recycling
 Quality Ready Mix
 Red Bird Coffee
 Rob & Judy Brownell
 Rocky Mountain Supply
 Iona Burkholder
 Joel Larsen
 Marilyn Kennelly

Paul Peterson
 Randy's Tech Service
 Timber Line Ranch
 Western Ranch Supply
 Zoot Enterprises
 John Johnson
 Mike Clow
 Sharon Ditterline
 Jane Stroh
 Erin Yost
 Kristen Drake
 Jennifer Sonnichsen
 Renee Gaugler
 Alisa Scott
 Elizabeth MacConnell
 Caity Ruh-Kirk
 Rachel Ruggles
 Nancy Stevenson
 Erin Neil
 Jamie Okes
 Anna Collins
 Megan Gibson
 Patricia Cosgrove and Erich Pessl

2025 Fair Sponsors

Murdochs
 Big sky country State fair
 Qwest farm credit
 Daniel's Gourmet Meats and Sausages
 Swan Land Company

Montana State fund
 First security bank
 Sign construction
 The Icehouse
 Gallatin County 4-H Foundation
 Rocky Mountain Supply
 Northwestern Energy
 Summit Dental
 Edison Electrical Contractors Inc
 Rising Sun Auto Repair
 Kenyon Noble
 Bank of the Rockies
 Lehrkind's
 Montana Embroidery
 McDonald's
 Core & Main
 Park Electric Cooperative Inc
 Signs Solutions
 Alpenglow Animal Hospital
 Martel Construction
 Knife River
 Yellowstone Orthodontics
 Stockman Bank
 Manhattan Bank
 Montana Farmers Union
 L&L Site Services
 Carquest Auto Parts
 Four Corners Saddlery



GALLATIN



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