



December 8, 2025

TO: Extension County Agents/Support Staff
FFA School Advisors
2025 MontanaFair Junior Livestock Exhibitors (outside of Yellowstone County)

FROM: Roni Baker *Roni Baker*
Yellowstone County 4-H Extension Agent

RE: 2026 MontanaFair Junior Livestock Show

**Yellowstone County
Extension Office**

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msuextension.org/yellowstone

This letter is being sent to inform you of the dates to tag animals for the 2026 MontanaFair in Billings. The 2026 MontanaFair will be held August 7 - 15.

All exhibitors who are not Yellowstone County 4-H or FFA members are required to pay a \$50 fee per animal tagged for the MontanaFair. Fee is subject to change in the future. Fees will be due at tagging. Tagging fees are not refundable. Tagging fees are not MontanaFair entry fees. These funds will be used to support the MontanaFair Junior Livestock program. Due to the size/number of exhibitors and length of the fair this fee increase has been implemented. Yellowstone County 4-H members do two separate fundraisers during the year to help support the fair. Out of County Exhibitors will also pay an increased selling fee/% which is determined after the sale based on overall costs.

MontanaFair is our Yellowstone County Fair. Exhibitors and their families who are not Yellowstone County residents have the privilege of attending the MontanaFair. It is not a right. We appreciate the level of knowledge and competition Out of County Exhibitors bring and many have been helpful in sponsoring prizes, volunteering, etc.

All (non-Yellowstone County) sheep, beef, goat and swine market animal exhibitors can sell in the Junior Livestock Sale ONLY if they are in the top 5 in their class.

All individuals are required to bring their animals to PAYS (Public Auction Yards) in Billings on a specific date at a specific time. Those dates are listed below.

Beef Tagging – Sunday, January 4 in Billings, MT

12 PM to 3 PM at Public Auction Yards (PAYS)
1:00 - 2:30 pm - Animal Quality Assurance Class
3:00 - 4:00 pm - Horse Helmet Workshop

Swine/ Sheep/Goat Tagging – Saturday, May 2 in Billings, MT

8:00 - 11:00 am at Public Auction Yards (PAYS)
9:00 - 10:30 am - Animal Quality Assurance Class
11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Horse Helmet Workshop

*The Montana State University
Extension Service is an
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Mountains & Minds

Each exhibitor can tag three animals in each species. Exhibitors can enter all 3 on their entry, but at MontanaFair check-in they must decide which 2 animals they will be weighing and exhibiting. Each exhibitor at the MontanaFair can only sell one animal. Animals must be tagged specifically for the MontanaFair. A market animal tagged for the MontanaFair cannot be shown or sold at another 4-H or FFA Junior Livestock Show/County Fair. This rule does not pertain to open shows (should they be available).

If the weather causes a problem for you to get to Billings on the beef tagging date, please contact Roni Baker at the Extension Office (256-2828 or 698-6838), Bill Cook (406-670-0689) or Jon Springer (406-465-5912). NO alternate date will be offered for beef, sheep, swine, and goat tagging.

A scale will be available to weigh your animal(s) at tagging time. Steers do not need to be halter broke to be weighed.

All exhibitors at the MontanaFair in Department A (livestock) are required to attend a MSU Extension Animal Quality Assurance Training prior to the fair entry deadline to be eligible to exhibit at the MontanaFair. Exhibitors must attend a session their first year as a beginner/junior and as a senior or the first year they exhibit. They must attend the 1½ hour training with a parent or legal guardian. A training session will be held on tagging day for those who can attend. You can also attend any of the other trainings that will be offered. Contact the Extension Office for detailed information. Several counties around the state are also offering this training. Members can attend a local training session with approval from the Extension Agent. MontanaFair exhibitors must attend the training prior to the fair entry deadline of June 26, 2026.

The Exhibitors Handbook will be online by the end of May. MontanaFair manages registration online at montanafair.com. MontanaFair's entry deadline for the 2026 MontanaFair is June 26, 2026, by 11:59 pm – no exceptions. Entries received after 11:59 pm on June 26, 2026, and before 11:59 pm on July 3, 2026, will incur a \$50 per exhibitor late fee. No late entries will be accepted without payment. Entries submitted after 5:00 pm on July 3, 2026, **will not** be accepted by MontanaFair. Tagging an animal for the MontanaFair does not enter it in the fair. You must also go online at montanafair.com and complete the entries.

All MontanaFair exhibitors and their families are required to follow the rules and expectations for the MontanaFair. This includes barn lock up times, parking guidelines and general politeness/sportsmanship. Violation of any rule or regulation may result in forfeiture of all premiums and awards, disqualification, expulsion or probation of the exhibitor (or organized groups the exhibitor represents) and the exhibit or livestock involved in the violation. Probation, disqualification, expulsion or other disciplinary action will be final.

Thank you. Please reach out with questions.