YELLOWSTONE COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER- NOVEMBER 2025

406-256-2828 301 N 27th Street – Old Chamber Building – 3rd Floor Mailing Address: PO Box 35021, Billings MT 59107-5021

https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html Facebook: Yellowstone County 4-H

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RONI BAKER

Thank you to the following folks that volunteered or brought animals to The NILE 4th Grade Agriculture Education Program. Jodie Drange, Trish Hays, Tom Tyler, Ann Tyler, Tenille Bomar, Stephanie Johnson, Mike Baker, Brenda Hermanson, Kat Pfau, Carson Adkins, Tate Ackerman, Wade Bekkedahl, Isabelle Brito, Kerstein Luhman, Cadence Sims, Grace Sedlacek and Brooklyn Kuhr.

Good Luck to all the new club officers for this 4-H year.

The Extension Office will be closed: Tuesday, November 11-Veteran's Day and Thursday, November 27-Thanksgiving.

Roni Baker, Yellowstone County 4-H/Youth Agent ronibaker@montana.edu

4-H FAMILY ORIENTATION NIGHT DECEMBER 9

If you and your family are new to 4-H, have only been involved for 1-2 years or want to learn more about 4-H opportunities, this fun, interactive training event is for YOU! Meet in the 4-H Building at MetraPark on Tuesday, December 9, at 6:00 pm. <u>Please RSVP</u> with the number of family members attending by calling the Extension Office (406-256-2828) by 5:00 pm **Monday**, **December 8**, but if you forget do not worry-we will purchase extra pizza.

FREE PIZZA! Fun, get-to-know-each-other icebreakers! As a family, explore the following:

- Favorite 4-H Project Station: Learn about some of the many diverse projects offered in Yellowstone County 4-H.
- **Record Book Station**: What is a record book? As a group, you'll fill out a giant sample record book and learn about 4-H recordkeeping.
- **Demonstration Station**: Watch 4-Her's give demonstrations and YOU be the judge. Learn what judges are looking for and how to give a good demonstration.
- **Teen Leadership and Summer Camp**: Learn about the 4-H teen program and activities and learn about 4-H summer camp.
- Award Station: Learn about the 4-H Awards program.
- **Opportunities in 4-H**: Older 4-Hers will share their favorite 4-H experiences from travels in and out of state to scholarships and more!

Don't miss out...we hope to see you there!

4-H EVENT/ACTIVITY PAYMENT AND DEADLINES

The goal of the 4-H program is to provide youth development and mentoring to school age children. The program focuses on teaching youth life skills that they will continue to use in their careers and adult lives. Some important parts of those skills are responsibility, punctuality, preparedness, and the consequences of not meeting deadlines.

Deadlines for member and leader enrollments, events, camps, fair, project adds and drops, etc. are set by the Extension Agent, 4-H Committees, and Fair chairmen. **Deadlines will be adhered to** facilitate event planning, to meet state deadlines, for funding documentation, and multi-county committee meetings, etc. **PLANNING COMMITTEES OFTEN MEET THE DAY AFTER THE DEADLINE**. Payment and scholarship requests (if applicable) are also due by the deadline unless other arrangements have been made with Roni prior. Lack of payment by the deadline, may result in the registration/entry not being accepted.

It is the responsibility of the 4-H family to check with the Extension Office to confirm our receipt of forms & payment (if applicable). We will not call, text, or email you. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

CLUB YEAR-END FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORTS DUE

Club Organizational Leaders received a copy of the annual Year-End Financial Summary Report. The report provides an open, public record of each club's finances and fulfills state and federal audit requirements. Reports are due October 31. Clubs will not be able to receive project books until the Reports are completed. With the IRS ruling governing 4-H funds it is imperative we have this report so your club can retain a checking account. Failure to meet the deadline may result in the loss of your club's charter and/or the closing of your club financial account(s).

ENROLL ONLINE USING ZSUITE BY NOVEMBER 15

To keep mailing out newsletters and sending emails to the appropriate audience, we need club re-enrollments completed online by November 15. Reenrollment instructions should have been passed out to each family at the club's October meeting. Instructions can be found on the Yellowstone County 4-H website on the How to Enroll page.

ARE YOU CHANGING CLUBS THIS YEAR? PAPERWORK IS REQUIRED.

Families changing clubs this year are REQUIRED TO COMPLETE the Changing 4-H Clubs Form that can be found and printed off the County 4-H website under "How to Enroll" at

https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/Enrollment.html. It is the family's responsibility to have the form completed, signed off by the Organizational Leader of the club you are departing and the Organizational Leader of the club you are joining. It is the FAMILY's RESPONSIBILITY to provide a copy of the completed form to the Extension Office.

Your family will not be in active status until the Extension Office has received the Changing 4-H Clubs Form.

DESIGN YOUR OWN PROJECT

Design You Own project offers an opportunity to develop and carry out a project of individual design. This means selecting a topic, deciding goals, obtaining resources and designing records. The member is responsible for developing the project with advice or direction of an adult. This project can cover any subject and may be related to any current 4-H project. Examples include ceramics, bookkeeping, and outdoor cooking. Design a project of special interest to you, as the success depends on your initiative. Those who select a worthwhile topic and become intrigued often do some of the best and most rewarding work. Members must complete and submit a project outline to the Extension Office by March 1.

4-H COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a 4-H Council meeting Thursday, November 6, 6:30 pm in the 4-H Building at Metra. All are invited to attend.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT NOVEMBER 22 AT THE MONTANA PAVILION

Family Fun Night is a carnival type fund-raising event. Each 4-H member is asked to:

- Sell pre-event gate tickets (raffle ticket). Be sure to bring one as gate admission.
- Bring a cake or pie for the cake walk or food booth.
- Work at their club booth.
- Bring glassware for the dime toss.

Just a reminder-your raffle ticket is your admission ticket. Everyone needs one to get into Family Fun Night. There will be announcements about Family Fun Night on the local radio and television stations. You will see and hear many 4-H leaders and parents.

Important dates to remember are:

November 21 Booth Set Up 5:00-7:00 pm

November 22 Family Fun Night 5:00-8:00 pm. Dance - Everyone (all ages) welcome 9:00-10:30 pm

FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT THE MONTANA PAVALION

4:30 pm - County awards given in project areas. (4-H members interviewed for them in November) Special Awards given:

10-year members
5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30-year leaders
Outstanding Member Awards
Outstanding Leader Awards
Alumni Awards
Friend of 4-H Award
Friendship Award
Club Secretary Awards
Saddle Up

Family Fun Night Club Booth Winners **5:00 pm** - Family Fun Night begins.

8:00 pm - Door prize winners announced. Silent auction closes. Club booth awards.

9:00 - 10:30 pm - 4-H Dance - Everyone is invited.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT SILENT AUCTION BASKET SALES

Once again, this year the Interstate Exchange Group will have baskets for sale at Family Fun Night. The money raised by each person goes into their fund to pay for their annual trip. Clubs <u>DO NOT</u> have the option to sell baskets as a club fundraiser.

Every year there are some awesome baskets. Be sure to check them out and bid on them in the Silent Auction. Please be prepared to pay at Family Fun Night (cash or check only).

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR FAMILY FUN NIGHT BINGO PRIZES

The Bingo booth gives out nearly 100 Bingo prizes throughout the night. They are asking for donations of small prizes for the <u>adult</u> winners that range in price from \$5 to \$10 dollars. Some ideas include gift cards, new movies, music, coffee mugs and coffee cards, men's items, candles, etc. You can also provide cash donations that will be used to purchase items. Please coordinate getting items/cash to the Extension Office by November 1. Questions? Call Kat Pfau at 406-670-1944.

LOTS OF GLASSWARE NEEDED FOR FAMILY FUN NIGHT WASHER TOSS BOOTH

Shepherd Tumbleweed will be doing the Washer Toss booth at Family Fun Night. Due to the booth's popularity each year, **LOTS** of glassware is needed-they are extremely low! Please take all glass donations to Family Fun Night set up, Friday, November 21, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Thank you for donating!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT DANCE

Come join the Yellowstone County 4-H Teen Leaders who will be hosting a dance as soon as cleanup is wrapped up after Family Fun Night, Saturday, November 23. The dance costs \$1.00 to attend and will run until 10:30 pm. This is a family event, and everyone is invited.

SENIOR SUPPLY DRIVE AT FAMILY FUN NIGHT

The Yellowstone County Ambassadors will be collecting supplies to donate to Morning Star, Aspen View, Parkview, River Ridge, Skyline Heights, and other senior housing facilities.

Needed items: lotion, shampoo, conditioner, snacks/candy, blankets/throws, beard trimmers, slippers, house shoes, socks, hair clips/ties, large print books/crafting items, cozy clothes, handwritten notes, your time offering a performance, a listening ear, or an educational presentation.

All donations are welcome and greatly appreciated and can be turned into the Ambassador booth at Family Fun Night.

INTERNATIONAL HOSTING & EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2025-2026

Delegates live with host families and experience aspects of daily life that allow them to more deeply understand both their host culture and their own culture. Here are the opportunities for you to travel to another country:

Argentina: July 11-August 3, 2026

Costa Rica: June 25-July 24, 2026 South Korea: July 15-August 14, 2026 Japan 4 week: July 8-August 7, 2026 Japan 8 week: June 10-August 7, 2026

Taiwan: July 8-August 7, 2026

For more information regarding these programs and for application access, please contact Dave Brink, Interim State Coordinator, MT4HIEP at david.brink@montana.edu or (406) 822-3545. Montana's application deadline for 2026 summer outbound exchanges is December 1, 2025.

There are opportunities for Montana 4-H families to host international youth from participating countries, both short-term, 3–4-week programs, and academic year programs (AYP). Families that are interested in hosting, have hosted in the past, or are curious about hosting, can obtain more information under the Host a Student section on S4HIEP website at https://www.states4hexchange.org/. It is an exciting way to learn about different cultures and teach youth about our own culture.

RECYCLE 4-H MATERIALS

As you begin the new 4-H year, please return any project manuals that have not been written in which you will not be using this year. We can use them for other 4-H members, which allows us to keep our enrollment fees to a minimum and helps our environment!

2026 GREYTAK CALENDARS

It's that time! The Montana ag calendars featuring Don Greytak will be available soon. Sale of this calendar generates funds for educational programs for Montana Youth in 4-H and for students studying agriculture at Montana Colleges and Universities. Your club may sell these calendars for \$15 each. Your club will earn \$5 for each calendar sold. For more information, contact the Extension Office at 406-256-2828.

2025-2026 4-H COUNCIL BUDGET

The 4-H Council budget for the upcoming 4-H year, which began October 1, will be voted on at the November 4-H Council meeting. Ask your Organizational Leader to see the budget if you are interested in what 4-H Council spends money on during the year. You can also contact Roni at the Extension Office for a copy.

RUBIK'S CUBE COMPETITION NOVEMBER 1, 2025

There will be a World Cube Association competition on November 1, starting at 8:30 am in the 4-H Building. Cubing competitions time a competitor's completion of mechanical puzzles that are operated by twisting groups of pieces, commonly known as 'twisty puzzles' like the Rubik Cube. Spectators are welcome! Lunch will be available to purchase.

For more information visit the <u>World Cube Association's website</u> at <u>https://www.worldcubeassociation.org/</u>. You can register to participate on the site.

If you have any questions about the competition, email Kim Ackerman at kcackerman@bresnan.net. Kim's son is a 4-H member who has Designed His Own 4-H project around cubing.

MSU 2026 FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Montana State University-Bozeman will be awarding many scholarships to academically talented Montana resident freshmen who apply for admission for the fall semester 2026. To be eligible, you must complete the following:

Apply for admission to Montana State University. Applications are available on the Montana State University Bozeman website at: http://catalog.montana.edu/undergraduate-admissions/ Have your ACT and/or SAT test scores sent directly to MSU from the testing company.

A variety of **additional scholarships** (with variable criteria) will be awarded by some academic colleges and departments to new freshmen entering in the fall of 2025. To be considered for these scholarships, you must apply for admission and submit the Freshman Departmental Scholarship application must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2025. This

NATIONAL FAMILY VOLUNTEER DAY IDEAS

National Family Volunteer Day is Saturday, November 22. Points of Light is a national organization who believes "The key to unlocking the light within us is to ensure that people feel empowered to act on their unique desire to stand up and say, "I can help." Visit the <u>Points of Light website</u> at https://www.pointsoflight.org/family-volunteer-day/ for information.

MONTHLY CLUB MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS

The following clubs turned in club minutes by the newsletter deadline:

Compass All Stars: Members discussed future fundraisers and doing Secret Santa for the holiday.

Pine Ridge Red Ryder: Member will sign and send thank you cards to businesses during National 4-H Week.

Shepherd Pioneers: Members discussed responsibilities for Family Fun Night.

Whips N Sticks: The club held a potluck dinner. Members plan a winter activity and getting items gathered for families in need during the holiday season.

Worden Riverdale: Officer nominations were submitted. Record books were due at the September club meeting.

4-H CLUB SECRETARY MINUTES TURNED IN FOR 2023-2024 4-H YEAR

Secretary minutes submitted October-September for the last three 4-H years. Ideally each club should have 11 since not many clubs meet during the month of August due to MontanaFair.

Club	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
Big Sky Thunderbolts	3	0	0	
Blue Creek Jumping Bucks	7	7	9	
City Kids	8	8	0	
Compass All Stars	0	0	8	
Cool Clovers	0	0	0	
Hesper Hustlers	6	5	0	
Huntley Eagles	0	0	0	
Kountry Kritters	0	0	0	
Laurel Roadrunners	0	5	0	
Lockwood Humble Bs	12	8	11	
Northern Lights	3	5	0	
Pine Ridge Red Ryder	8	8	10	
Project Rockin' Wranglers	3	3	5	
Ruff Riders	5	3	1	
Shepherd Lonestars	n/a	0	0	
Shepherd Pioneers	11	10	10	
Shepherd Tumbleweeds	2	4	0	
Shepherd Wranglers	0	2	0	
Whips & Sticks	0	0	1	
Worden Riverdale	0	6	9	
Yellowstone Mavericks	4	3	9	
Yellowstone Silver Spurs	7	7	2	

4-H SUPPORTERS

Many businesses and organizations in our community support 4-H. Each month I have been listing several of those supporters in the newsletter. I would encourage you to tell them thank you and support them in return. If you would like to submit names for this article, please send them to Roni.

4-H Supporter	Mailing Address		
Fagan & Cook	1555 Campus Way St, Ste. F, Billings MT 59102		
Western Ranch Supply	Box 1497, Billings MT 59103		

Ranch House Meat Co.	2032 Old Hardin Rd, Billings MT 59101
Kings Ace Hardware	1551 Zimmerman Trail, Billings MT 59102
Conney Livestock Trucking	328 Cooney Rd, Harlowton MT 59036
Animal Health International	1380 Minnesota Avenue, Billings MT 59101
Yellowstone Valley Parts & Equipment	4959 US Hwy 312, Billings MT 59105
Thomas Carnival	PO Box 92469, Austin TX 78709
Bobcat of Big Sky	2125 Old Hardin Rd, Billings MT 59101
Bravera Bank c/o Allen McCormick	4130 King Avenue W, Billings MT 59106
Project Mercantile c/o Mike Reiter	2416 3 rd Street, Worden MT 59088
Albertsons c/o Shawn Smith	3137 Grand Avenue, Billings MT 59102
Heights Eye Care	430 Lake Elmo Dr, Billings MT 59105

DEPARTMENT N MEETING

The Department N meeting will be Thursday, November 6, at 6:00 pm at the 4-H Building.

DEPARTMENT N (NON-ANIMAL) MEETINGS FOR PROPOSED 2026 MONTANAFAIR HANDBOOK CHANGES

All meetings will be held at the 4-H Building.

November 6, 2025: Department N Meeting at 6:00 pm

December 4, 2025:

Department N at 6:00 pm: DEPARTMENT N HANDBOOK CHANGES VOTED ON AT THIS MEETING.

Council Meeting at 6:30 pm or immediately following the Department N meeting.

All (Department A and N) handbook changes proposed by the committees will be voted on at this meeting.

All members, leaders and parents are encouraged to attend the meetings and provide input.

2026 EVENTS DAY INITIAL PLANNING MEETING

The first meeting for the spring 2026 Events Day will be held during the Department N meeting on December 4, at 6:00 pm. This will include planning for Showcase and Public Review, Communication Contest Day, and a variety of workshops. Each club needs to have a Showcase and Communication Contest representative attend the Dept. N meeting to plan for this big event.

This would be a good meeting to encourage a teen leader to attend along with an adult leader. With each club helping, the event is always a big success!

CERAMICS WORKSHOP DATES

The next Ceramics workshops are November 8, and December 6. Times are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm or 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Supplies are provided and there is lots of greenware and bisque to choose from for learning several techniques. Cost is \$1 to \$5 an item. A great wintertime project.

Please call Sheri Anttila at 406-633-5531 to let her know if you have any questions, need directions to her home, and to schedule a time as space is limited.

SHOOTING SPORTS MEMBERS GET SIGNED UP EARLY IN ZSUITE

4-H shooting sports members should get signed up soon after ZSuite enrollment opens on October 1, to participate in weekly workshops starting in December. Weekly archery, air pistol, and BB gun workshops teach progressive learning, so it is vital to start on time. If you are not enrolled and approved in the project in ZSuite, you cannot attend the workshops. No exceptions. (BLC/3/10/15)

4-H shooting sports curriculum is only to be used by a 4-H member enrolled in a county shooting sport program lead by a 4-H certified Shooting Sports leader. No shooting sports projects that involve firearms, air guns, or archery equipment may be taken independently without a certified leader.

To enroll in 4-H shooting sports, youth must be 9 years old on October 1 of the 2025-2026 year. The only exceptions are the BB Safety course, which is open to those turning 8 years old by October 1 of the 2025-2026 year, and the Western Heritage Project requirements.

If you have not yet connected with a Certified Shooting Sports Leader, please do so now. Workshops start in early **December**. Contact the Extension Office for phone numbers.

SHOOTING SPORTS LEADER MEETINGS

Are you interested in leading a shooting sports discipline or just curious what is happening around the county regarding shooting sports? Join us on the third Thursday of the month (September-April) at 6:00 pm in the 4-H Building.

SHOOTING SPORTS LEADER TRAININGS FOR 2025-2026

To be a 4-H Shooting Sports Certified Leader in the State of Montana, the following must be satisfied:

- 1. Be at least 21 years of age.
- 2. Be enrolled as a leader in their respective County. Passed a background check and successfully completed the Montana 4-H Volunteer Training Modules.
- 3. All training attendees must complete the four National 4-H Shooting Sports modules in ZSuite to be certified at the end of the practicum day. The code for ZSuite will be shared with the leaders that sign up to take the trainings.
- 4. Be trained and certified in any discipline(s) that they are teaching at the county level.
- 5. Participants must attend the entire training and successfully complete all aspects to receive their respective discipline certification.
- 6. Certification is good for seven (7) years. If the discipline is not taught in the first 2 years, the course must be retaken.

Miles City: December 5-7, 2025. Disciplines offered: Rifle, Pistol, Archery, Shotgun, Western Heritage (Sat. pm & Sun.) Belgrade: December 5-6, 2025. Disciplines offered: Rifle, Pistol, Archery, Coordinator Kalispell: December 12-13, 2025. Disciplines offered: Rifle, Pistol Archery, Shotgun, Muzzleloader, Hunting Skills, Coordinator.

For more information and to register, visit your ZSuite household and look under the Event section. Please call the office if you need assistance.

DEPARTMENT A (ALL LIVESTOCK) MEETINGS FOR PROPOSED 2026 MONTANAFAIR HANDBOOK CHANGES

All meetings will be held at the 4-H Building. Watch for location changes in the 4-H newsletter.

November 5, 2025: LIVESTOCK HANDBOOK CHANGES WILL BE VOTED ON AT THESE MEETINGS:

Small Animal Committee at 6:00 pm

Sale Committee at 6:30 pm

Livestock Committee Meeting immediately following the sale committee meeting.

December 4, 2025: Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

All (Department A and N) handbook changes proposed by the committees voted on at this meeting.

The Livestock Leaders Committee will preside over the 4-H Livestock program as deemed necessary and will be comprised of the following people who will be eligible to vote at meetings (Exception: In order to vote on yearly rule and policy changes, you must have attended the discussion of the proposal at the post fair meeting and/or the September meeting.)

- A. 4-H members enrolled in the Livestock Program
- B. **Junior Leaders** a member enrolled in the 4-H Livestock Program who is 14 years of age or older and is a member in the Livestock Program.
- C. **Livestock Leaders** Adult volunteers enrolled as leaders in a livestock project who work with members to gain knowledge. Leaders are encouraged to attend the monthly Livestock Leaders Committee meetings and should

encourage their members to do the same. They should inform themselves and members of upcoming activities, decisions, and deadlines.

A quorum will consist of members eligible to vote and who were present at the discussion meetings. Discussion meetings are held 2-3 weeks after MontanaFair. Handbook changes are voted on at the November 2, Livestock Meetings. Council will vote on changes at the December meeting.

All members, leaders and parents are encouraged to attend the meetings and provide input.

2025 NILE CONTESTS PARTICIPANTS

The following 4-H members competed in the respective contests at NILE this year.

Horse Judging: Macy Tatman, Kylie Tatman, Adeliah Curry, Carlee Bomar, Delilah Hale, Tanner Bomar, and Ava Hofer. Livestock Judging: Rex Koivu, Joy Mortensen, Julie Mortensen, Isabelle Brito, and Madison Turner.

2025 STATE HORSE SHOW & WORKING RANCH HORSE FINALS PARTICIPANTS

This fall the State 4-H Horse Show was held at the 406 Arena in Vaughn, Montana.

The following members attended: The following members attended: Molly Arnold, Kindley Bouchard, Adeliah Curry, Harper and Henry Gauer, Rayna Griffith, Ellie and Zane Johnston, Keegan Kennedy, Kaidence Osborne, and Ember Solberg.

The State 4-H Working Ranch Horse Finals were held at the 406 Arena in Vaugh, Montana. Keegan Kennedy and Clay Stott attended.

BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS SWINE SELECTION AND PREP WORKSHOP

Stillwater County Extension is hosting the last livestock selection and preparation workshop for the new show season.

Swine Saturday, November 1 @ 9 am ACE Civic Center, 16 Sheep Dip Road, Columbus

RSVP to Sarah Jane French, Stillwater County Agriculture and 4-H Extension Agent at 406-322-8035 or sarahjane.french@montana.edu.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					Oct. 31 Outstanding Member Acceptance response by 5 pm Club Year-end Financial Summary Report due in Extension Office	Nov. 1 8:30 am Cubing Competition 4-H Building 9 am Swine Selection & Prep Workshop ACE Civic Center in Columbus 10 am-1 pm OR 1-4 pm Ceramics at Anttila's
2	3	4	5 6:00 Dept. A Rule Change voting meetings 4-H Building	6 6:00 Dept. N Followed by Council 4-H Building	7 4-H Fall Leadership Training in Butte Nov. 7-9	8
9	10	11 Veteran's Day Office Closed	12	5-7 pm Outstanding Member Discussion Groups 4-H Building	14	15 Member & Leader enrollments completed in ZSuite 5 pm Rex Koivu Bingo Night 4-H Building
16 1-3 pm Outstanding Member Discussion Groups 4-H Building	17	18	19 6:00 Family Fun Night meeting	20 6:00 Shooting Sports Leader meeting 4-H Building	21 Newsletter Articles Due 5:00-7:00 Set up club booths for Family Fun Night	4:30 Awards Program 5-8 pm Family Fun Night Montana Pavilion at MetraPark
23	24 6:30 Exchange 4-H Building	25	26 6:00 Small Animal 6:30 Sale Comm., then Lg. Animal 4-H Building	27 Thanksgiving Office Closed	Tractor Supply Paper Clovers start (through Dec. 14)	29