

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER- OCTOBER 2025

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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

All the input from everyone at the Department A & N Post MontanaFair meetings is appreciated. MontanaFair handbook changes will be voted on at the 4-H Council Meeting December 4, at 6:30 pm.

Save the Date: 4-H Family Fun Night is Saturday, November 22, 2025, in the Montana Pavilion at MetraPark.

Remember to email both Brandy (brandy.butler@montana.edu) & Leslie (leslie.idstrom@montana.edu) when sending emails to the 4-H Office. Either can assist you with any question.

Roni Baker - Yellowstone County 4-H Youth Extension Agent

CLUB FUNDRAISING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

With the new year beginning, we want to address club fundraising policies and procedures. Please remember to follow the state 4-H Fundraising Policy that can be found on the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html>, under the 4-H Policies section. The Fundraiser Planning Worksheet should be completed and provided to Roni Baker for approval BEFORE a fundraiser begins. Roni will advise the club if they may proceed and if adjustments must be incorporated into the original plan.

Currently, clubs may only accept cash or checks for payment. No online, third-party payment can be utilized, including but not limited to Venmo, PayPal, Stripe, Square, Apple Pay, Et. al. Do not deposit cash into a personal account and write a personal check to the club. All cash and checks must be deposited directly into the club checking account.

Keep accurate records of starting cash, receipts, expenses, income, ending cash, names of winners and amounts they received. Record anything that would be of assistance in addressing any disputes regarding prizes, raffles, cash, and checks, etc. After the fundraiser, a completed Fundraiser Report Form must be given to Roni Baker within 60 days after the conclusion of the event. Thank you for adhering to these policies. Please contact the Extension Office with questions.

4-H WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGES FOR YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Remember to check the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html) at [www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html) when looking for forms and information. You will find photos of recent events and reminders of upcoming activities on the [Yellowstone County 4-H Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/yellowstonecounty4h) at www.facebook.com/yellowstonecounty4h. Visit the [Yellowstone County Ambassadors](https://www.facebook.com/yellowstonecountyambassadors) page at [www.facebook.com/yellowstonecountyambassadors/](https://www.facebook.com/yellowstonecountyambassadors) to learn about events and activities our Ambassadors will be hosting for members. If you have not visited these pages and clicked "Like", please do so soon!

ARE YOU CHANGING CLUBS THIS YEAR? PAPERWORK IS REQUIRED.

Families changing clubs are **REQUIRED TO COMPLETE** the Changing 4-H Clubs Form that can be found and printed off the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/Enrollment.html) under "How to Enroll" at 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.

ZSUITE 4-H ENROLLMENT OPEN

All members and leaders must enroll themselves through the ZSuite program. Instructions for enrollment can be found on the [state 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/resources/4henrollment/index.html) at www.montana.edu/extension/4h/resources/4henrollment/index.html. Should you have

questions, please use the ZSuite Live Chat Support found in the lower righthand portion of the screen. Some clubs allow electronic payment through ZSuite while others want members to pay fees to the club. Please ask your club Organizational Leader should you have question regarding paying for dues.

DESIGN YOUR OWN PROJECT

Design Your Own project offers an opportunity to design and carry out a project of special interest to you. 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 can cover any subject or be related to a current 4-H project. Examples include bookkeeping and outdoor cooking. Those who select a worthwhile topic and become intrigued often do some of the best and most rewarding work. Your success depends on your initiative. Members must submit a project outline to the Extension Office by March 1. The outline can be found on the Project Record Sheets page of our website: <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/recordsheets.html>.

SUCCESSFUL RECORD BOOKS

Start your record book at the beginning of the 4-H year. Write goals for the year at the BEGINNING of the year. You should try to write at least three goals for each part of the book.

My 4-H Year: The front page must be completed including three goals and leader's signature. Every section must be complete, including promotion and communication. If nothing was done in an area or section of a record sheet, write "none". You should have a project journal for every project listed on the sheet. Your picture should be attached.

Non-Animal Project/Financial Journal: Project/financial journals are needed for every project. Project sheets need to contain the name of the project and the year these records were kept. Every section needs to have something written in it. Including three goals and financial records. Transfer financial totals to back page.

Animal Record & Journal: Animal journals need to be included for every animal project, including cat, dog, and pocket pet. These are for all animal projects, not just market projects. Include animal category (i.e., beef, dog, etc.), your name and the years the records were kept, plus a leader or parent's signature. One Animal Record & Journal can be used if the same animal is used in more than one project. Each section should be complete or if noting applies, write "none".

To help organize your records, either make a "sloppy copy" of your forms or use a calendar as you go through the year. Keep up with this and then the job of completing your record book at the end of the year is easy.

Make sure your record book is complete. This is a "record" of your 4-H story. It is fun to look back at what you did while in 4-H. Make it complete enough that a person who is not familiar with your project could pick up your record book, look through it, and it will make sense to that person.

Additional things you may wish to include (not required) in your record book:

- Additional pictures of any of your 4-H experiences, projects, etc.
- Ribbons or pictures of ribbons. Certificates or awards received.
- Other items you wish to add to your book.

RETURN UNUSED 4-H PROJECT BOOKS TO EXTENSION

If you have any 4-H project books that are not being used and have not been written in, PLEASE return them to the Extension Office. We re-use them to keep costs down.

LEADERS, 4-H NEEDS YOUR INPUT!

As we begin a new 4-H year, we want to remind you that decisions are made by those who regularly attend county meetings. We encourage you to participate in this process. If you are new to 4-H, Council and Committee meetings are an important resource filled with knowledgeable people and information about various 4-H projects and programs. So, what are you waiting for? Jump in and get your feet wet! Our meetings are posted in the newsletter calendar; we'd love to have you join us! It's also a great way to meet others involved in similar projects to share information.

OUTSTANDING MEMBER/CLOVERBUD NOMINATIONS DUE OCTOBER 17

It is time to Nominate 2024-2025 Outstanding 4-H Members/Cloverbuds! Outstanding Member Nominations can be completed online on the [Yellowstone county 4-H website](http://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html) at www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html. Just type in the information and hit the submit button!

An outstanding 4-H Member/Cloverbud must have 4-H related achievements that measure above and beyond other members and 4-H expectations. To compete for county awards a member must have a gold seal on their record book. Anyone can nominate a Member (another member, leader, parent, or self-nomination). A nominee provides four reason specific examples regarding why the member is outstanding in a specific award area. Nomination deadline is 5:00 pm Friday, October 17.

A hard copy Nomination Form can be printed off the [Yellowstone county 4-H website](http://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html) at www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html and faxed (406-256-2825), emailed, or mailed to the Extension Office by the deadline. Questions? Call the Extension Office at 406-256-2828. (EDL/1/3/16)

4-H AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE OCTOBER 31

Clubs that are nominating individuals or businesses for the 4-H Friendship Award, Friend of 4-H Award, Outstanding 4-H Teen Leader Award, Outstanding 4-H Leader, and Outstanding 4-H Alumni Award, please do so by October 31. These special awards need input from everyone. Forms were included in club enrollment packets organizational leaders picked up from the office. We know you can think of someone. Talk to your club organizational leader.

CLUB YEAR-END FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORTS DUE OCTOBER 31

Club Organizational Leaders have 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. Completed reports are due to Extension by October 31. Clubs WILL NOT receive project books until this report is submitted. ***Remember to balance the Year-end Financial Summary to the bank account statements, NOT the checkbook register!**

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).

Register in ZSuite by October 19. ***You can register in [ZSUITE](http://4h.zsuite.org/) at 4h.zsuite.org/ any time and your registration will roll over to the new 4-H year that begins October 1. Please be sure to enroll for the new 4-H year by updating any personal information and completing all waivers prior to the start of this event. You can complete/update your club/project enrollment after the event if needed.***

FAMILY FUN NIGHT SILENT AUCTION BASKET SALES

Once again, the Yellowstone County 4-H Interstate Exchange Group will have baskets for sale at Family Fun Night November 22. The money raised by each person helps to pay for their 4-H Interstate Exchange trip. Clubs will not have the opportunity to sell baskets as a club fundraiser.

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

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY AMBASSADORS' FAMILY FUN NIGHT SENIOR SUPPLY DRIVE

Yellowstone County 4-H Ambassadors will putting on a Senior Supply Drive during Family Fun Night. Bring your donations of hygiene items, snacks, comfort items, clothing, etc. to their booth on Family Fun Night and the supplies will be delivered to local senior housing facilities.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR FAMILY FUN NIGHT BINGO PRIZES

The Bingo booth gives out nearly 100 bingo prizes throughout the night. We are asking for donations of small prizes for

adult winners that range in price from \$5 to \$10. 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 having all donations 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 Tumbleweeds 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 contact Kathy Peck 406-670-8756 (call or text) to coordinate delivery of glassware. Thank you for donating!

RECOGNIZING GOOD DEEDS AT MONTANAFAIR

The following names were placed in the "Good Deed Box" in the Expo Center during MontanaFair. These young people were kind, helpful, courteous, and friendly. We know MANY others should be recognized also! Next year take a moment to drop a name in the box!

Kora Selle	Rayna Griffith	Sophia Wagner	Lyndin Marble	Jordan Trupka
Harrison Cook	Dylan Pearson	Karlin Clayton	Lukas Arkell	Berklee Bacon
Carson Adkins	Delilah Hale	Saphron Myers	Brandon Myers	Maria Murdick
Cale Hauge	Carlee Bomar	Hazel Long	Rylee Fenton	Karter Shivar
Owen Rouse	Reid Hauge	John Blankenship	Olivia Plath	Alice
Tripp				

A few comments from the Good Deeds box:

Helped the dairy goat section move fencing and saw dust.

Helped me during the sheep show by holding my extra Columbias.

Helped me wash both of my pigs

For teaching me to walk with my pigs head up.

SERVICE LEARNING LOGS DUE OCTOBER 3

Service Learning Logs are due to the Extension Office by Friday, October 3, 2025 (must be postmarked by). The last day to enter volunteer hours is September 30. Awards will be given at Family Fun Night. Questions? Call Chris Martin at 406-248-1425.

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK OCTOBER 5-11, 2025

National 4-H Week is October 5-11, 2025. This week gives us a chance to highlight remarkable 4-H youth and showcase their experiences. You can wear your 4-H t-shirt, plan an event, put up window displays, handout flyers, post about 4-H on social media, decorate 4-H member's school lockers, recognize 4-H members at a school sports game or any other ideas you may have.

The 2025 National 4-H Week theme "Beyond Ready" focuses on preparing youth to be Beyond Ready for life and career.

A toolkit with suggestions and resources can be found on the [National 4-H website](https://4-h.org/resources/professionals/marketing-resources/4-h-week-toolkit/) at 4-h.org/resources/professionals/marketing-resources/4-h-week-toolkit/. Be sure to click on the long list of ideas on how to celebrate National 4-H Week in our county. These tools are designed to help you leverage National 4-H Week in the media, on social media and in your community.

REGISTER FOR FALL TEEN LEADERSHIP TRAINING NOVEMBER 7-9, 2025

You are invited to attend the Fall Teen Leadership Training that will be held in Butte, November 7-9, 2025, at the Copper King Hotel. Youth participants must be 14 on October 1, 2025, to participate.

Fall Training is the annual leadership development retreat for Montana 4-H Ambassadors and Teen Leaders. The event is planned, implemented, and evaluated by the State Ambassador Officer Team. Youth will leave the weekend prepared and excited to take the knowledge and skills they have gained and apply them in their counties. It is also a great place to have youth leaders exchange ideas and create a statewide network of resources. They have planned a very exciting

event this year with a great leadership speaker and some great hands on workshops for ambassadors and teen leaders to build their skills.

Registration cost is \$195, including lodging (2 - 4 people to a room) meals Saturday and Sunday breakfast and program costs. Yellowstone County 4-H Council will pay \$160. 4-H attendees do need to pay \$35 and for your own t-shirt if you want one.

RUBIK'S CUBE COMPETITION NOVEMBER 1, 2025

There will be a World Cube Association competition on November 1, in the 4-H Building. Cubing competitions time a competitor's completion of mechanical puzzles that are operated by twisting groups of pieces, commonly know as 'twisty puzzles' like the Rubik Cube.

The time and schedule of the event have yet to be determined and will be released on the [World Cube Association's website](https://www.worldcubeassociation.org/) at <https://www.worldcubeassociation.org/> within the next two weeks. You can also 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. Spectators are welcome!

ATTENTION ALL 4-H CLUBS: ADVICE FOR STARTING THE NEW 4-H YEAR OFF RIGHT

Plan your year; give guidance but let the kids make choices-don't forget to have fun! Recruit help! Elect new officers!

- Community Service (Choose at least 1 project per club.) Ask the 4-H office for ideas.
- Fundraisers (decide how to raise money for 4-H camp, MontanaFair, club events, etc.) The 4-H office has materials about fundraising.
- Field Trips (learn & have fun)
- Guest speakers (informative & fun)
- Club Demonstrations (relaxed atmosphere-have each member do one; prepare for Communication Day.)

4-H CLUB OFFICER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The officer and committee systems are a good way of dividing jobs and responsibilities among club members in an orderly way. The number of officers needed is determined by the size and type of club. Club officers are usually elected annually, near the beginning of the 4-H year. A leader or parent should be responsible for helping officers carry out their responsibilities. Encourage the officers to attend officer training when it is offered at the county or state level.

President: Prepares the agenda with other officers and leaders and presides at club meetings.

Vice-President: Assumes duties of President in their absence. Responsible for committees that are working on assigned tasks.

Secretary: Keeps complete and accurate records/minutes of each club meeting. Writes all club correspondence. Keeps club attendance and all other club records up to date.

Treasurer: Handles all club money. Keeps accurate and up to date financial records. All checks should be co-signed by club treasurer and an additional account signer.

Historian: Maintains and updates the club's history book to preserve information for future club members.

Reporter: Writes news stories about meetings and special events for the local newspaper.

The Extension Office has handbooks for each of these offices. Ask your leader for one or stop by the office.

4-H LICENSE PLATES

Montana 4-H License Plates are still available. All application or renewal of license plates is handled by the county treasurer. Cost of the plate is \$35 which supports the 4-H program at the county and state level.

MONTANA 4-H FOUNDATION INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING GRANTS AVAILABLE

Available Funds: \$2,000 in grant money.

Application Deadline: November 1 (main deadline) and April 1 (if funds remain).

Source of Funds: Montana 4-H Foundation at MSU-Bozeman

Grant Criteria: Innovative youth or adult volunteer leader educational programs. Program efforts currently conducted are not eligible. Programs currently being conducted in other states qualify. Project must have potential to be replicated in other Montana counties. Project can reach existing or new audiences.

Application team and teaching team (can be different) must include an Extension staff person, an adult volunteer, and a teen volunteer.

Project and evaluation must be completed within one year of submission deadline. Full grant criteria and the online application can be found on the [Montana 4-H Foundation website](#) or www.mt4hfoundation.org/. Contact Roni Baker at the Extension office to discuss ideas!

YOUTH LOAN PROGRAMS FROM THE MONTANA & U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The **Junior Agriculture Loan** is available to youth ages 9-11 with a maximum of \$3,500 for up to five years. Youth ages 12-21 may borrow a maximum of \$8,500 for up to five years. Application forms are available on the [Montana Department of Agriculture website](#) at agr.mt.gov/Topics/E-G/Grants-Pages/Junior-Agriculture-Loans or by calling Walt Anseth @ 406-444-5420 or WAnseth@mt.gov

The **Rural Assistance Loan Program** is available to individuals 18 years of age and above for a maximum of \$75,000; terms vary by loan type. Information about this and other rural assistance programs can be found on the [Montana Department of Agriculture website](#) at agr.mt.gov/Topics/Q-Z/Rural-Assistance or by calling 406-444-3144.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to individual young persons to start and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs. The project being financed with an FSA Youth Loan needs to provide an opportunity for the young person to acquire experience and education in agriculture-related skills. Youth between 10-20 years old may apply for loans up to \$5,000. For more information visit the [USDA Farm Service Agency website](#) at www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/youth-loans/index

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY MEMBER & LEADER NUMBERS FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS

The following is an update on our end of year enrollment data. Be sure to encourage your members and leaders to join again. Recruit new families to your club.

Year	Members	Leaders	Clubs
2020-21	473	230	25
2021-22	477	211	25
2022-23	482	201	25
2023-24	457	175	23
2024-25	471	159	23

4-H SUPPORTERS IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Many businesses and organizations in our community support 4-H. Each month several of those supporters are listed in the newsletter. You are encouraged to write/tell them thank you and support the businesses in return. If you would like to submit names for this article, please send them to Roni.

4-H Supporter	Mailing Address
Aldrich Lumber	3210 Pureview Ln, Billings MT 59106
Mad Cow Garage	4615 Grand Ave, Billings MT 59106
MH Equipment & Ag Resources	5400 US Hwy 312, Billings MT 59105
Musser Brothers Auction	PO Box 22035, Billings MT 59104
Roger Daniel Insurance	2047 Broadwater Ave, Ste. 1, Billings MT 59102

RDO Equipment	5221 Midland Rd, Billings MT 59101
Sunbelt Supply	1309 Monad Rd, Billings MT 59101
Yellowstone Bank – Laurel	PO Box 7, Laurel MT 59044

MONTHLY CLUB MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS

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

Blue Creek Jumping Bucks: Members proposed new officers for the coming year.

Huntley Eagles: Members gave short reports on what they accomplished at MontanaFair.

Lockwood Humble Bs: Club members were nominated for officer positions.

Shepherd Pioneers: Members were reminded to complete their Saddle Up Hours on Horseback logs.

DEPARTMENT N (NON-ANIMAL) 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.

October 10, 2025: MontanaFair rule change proposal forms due in the Extension Office by 5:00 pm (not postmarked by)

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.

MONTANAFAIR DEPARTMENT N PREMIUM CHECKS AND ERRORS

Please note that checks will be mailed approximately 30 days **after** the end of fair AND checks will be **voided 120 days after issue date. MetraPark will be enforcing the 120-day cancellation notice.** Any checks not deposited or cashed will be null and void 120 days after issue date. If there is a problem with your premium dollars for the MontanaFair, call the Extension Office by **October 31**. Errors must be resolved before this date as MontanaFair accounts are closed out for the year.

CERAMICS WORKSHOP DATES

Get ready for a new 4-H year. Dates are Saturday October 11, 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.

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!

SHOOTING SPORTS MEMBERS & LEADERS GET SIGNED UP EARLY

4-H members should get signed up soon after ZSuite enrollment opens on October 1, in order to participate in the 2025-2026 4-H year shooting sports weekly workshops which start in November. Weekly archery, air pistol, air rifle, 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.

All 4-H Shooting sports curriculum is only to be used by a 4-H member enrolled in a County Shooting Sport programs 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 exception is 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.

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.

October 10, 2025: MontanaFair rule change proposal forms due in the Extension Office by 5:00 pm (not postmarked by)

October 22, 2025: Horse and Colt Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm

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 3rd 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.

HORSE & COLT 2026 MONTANAFAIR HANDBOOK CHANGES

Changes must be submitted on the MontanaFair Proposed Rules and Policy Change Form by October 10, 2025, to the Extension Office by 5:00 pm (not postmarked by).

Proposed Horse MontanaFair handbook changes will be voted on at the October 22, 2025, Horse and Colt meeting in the 4-H Building at 6:00 pm. Anyone who was an active 4-H member or leader during the 2024-2025 year can vote at the meeting.

MONTANAFAIR DEPARTMENT A HERDSMANSHIP CLUB WINNERS

Thank you to everyone that served on the 2025 Herdsmanship Committee and those who voted.

Animal Species	Winning 4-H Club (Plaque)	Animal Species	Winning 4-H Club (Plaque)
Horse	Yellowstone Silver Spurs	Llama/Alpaca	Ruff Riders
Sheep	Huntley Eagles	Small Animal Overall	Compass All Stars
Goat	Shepherd Tumbleweeds	Large Animal Overall	Huntley Eagles
Beef	Lockwood Humble Bs	Poultry	Shepherd Tumbleweeds
Swine	Worden Riverdale	Rabbit	Shepherd Tumbleweeds

RETURN YOUR SADDLE UP RIDING HOURS BY OCTOBER 3

Saddle Up forms are due to the Extension Office by Friday, October 3, 2025 (must be postmarked by). The last day to log riding hours is September 30. Awards will be given at Family Fun Night. Questions? Call Johanna Heupel at 406-670-9932.

MONTANA 4-H HORSE HELMET POLICY 2025-2026

A certified equestrian helmet with safety harness fastened is required in over fence classes and speed events at shows and any practice sessions (clinics, open riding).

Participants in the 4-H horse project are required to attend a helmet education workshop and/or view the video "Every Time, Every Ride" once as a junior 4-H member (4-H age 9-13) and once as a senior 4-H member (4-H age 14 & over). The Montana 4-H Center for youth encourages the use of ASTM certified/SEI approved safety helmets for all equine events. Helmet use is encouraged in all 4-H horse activities any time a 4-H member is around a horse. Watch for scheduled horse helmet workshops in the January 2026 4-H newsletter.

2025 PATRICK K. GOGGINS JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SALE-BUYER THANK YOUS

Be sure to let the individual or business who bought your animal know how much you appreciate their support. **Checks will be mailed 45-60 days after the sale AND after it is confirmed that your buyer thank you(s) has/have been sent** (remember to let your club leader or the Extension Office know when you have delivered/mailed your buyer thank you).

BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS SELECTION AND PREP WORKSHOPS

Stillwater County Extension is hosting a series of livestock selection and preparation workshops for the new show season. An email (sent September 9) containing detailed information was sent to members enrolled in beef, sheep, goat, or swine projects.

Beef	Thursday, September 25 @ 6 pm	Stillwater County Extension Office, 17 N 4 th Street, Columbus
Sheep/Goat	Thursday, October 16 @ 6 pm	Stillwater County Extension Office, 17 N 4 th Street, Columbus
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.

2025 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS STEER SHOW WINNERS

Each year the Eastern Montana Fair Board invites Grand and Reserve Champion market steers from 14 eastern Montana Counties to the Champion of Champions Steer Show. Jake Cook of Huntley Project FFA was awarded Grand Champion. The competition was held in August during the Eastern Montana Fair in Miles City. Congratulations!

NILE JUNIOR FED MARKET SHOWS

Jr. Fed Market Lamb and beef shows are on Saturday, October 11. Jr. Fed Market Swine and goat shows are on Sunday, October 12. The Junior Fed Sale will take place Monday, October 13, at 4:00 pm. To enter online visit [the Nile website](https://thenile.org/) at <https://thenile.org/>.

OCTOBER 2025 4-H CALENDAR



4-H Building

Cleaning Schedule

Kountry Kritters: September 13-26

Whips & Sticks: September 27 - October 10

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 NO Dept N Mtg. 6:30 4-H Council <i>4-H Building</i>	3 Saddle Up & Community Service Logs due in Extension Office by 5pm 4-H Volunteer Institute <i>Billings</i>	4 4-H Volunteer Institute <i>Billings</i>
5 National 4-H Week October 5-11	6	7	8	9	10 Fair rule change Proposals Due in Extension	11 9 am-1 pm OR 1-4 pm Ceramics at <i>Anttila's</i>
12	13 OFFICE CLOSED COLUMBUS DAY NILE Livestock Judging Contest	14 NILE Horse Judging Contest & NILE Meat Judging Contest	15	16 6:00 Shooting Sports Leader Meeting <i>Location will be emailed</i>	17 Newsletter Articles Due Outstanding Member Nominations Deadline by 5 pm	18
19	20	21	22 6:00 Horse & Colt Committee <i>Location will be emailed</i>	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Outstanding Member Acceptance deadline Club Year-end Financial Summary Report due in Extension	Nov. 1 Rubik's Competition <i>4-H Building</i>