

## 4-H Newsletter December 2025



The Challenging Champs Club, based out of Power, collected food for the Teton County Food Pantry during their annual Trunk or Treat event. They went door to door in Power and also accepted donations from area community members and collected 410 pounds of food and \$135 donation to our local food bank!

Send us your club activity photos and information and we'll publish them in the 4-H Newsletter.

## On the Horizon

- Dec 8.....Livestock Committee Meeting, NewLife Church, Fairfield, 6 to 7 pm
- Dec 13.....**Teton County Livestock Judging Event at the Weatherbeater at 8:30 am**  
Sponsored by Spring Creek Club; **call Jon Redland at 406-581-7800** with questions!
- Dec 31.....**Teen Ambassador application due**, for new and returning youth
- Jan 4.....**Beef Tag and Weigh-in Day at the Weatherbeater at 2 pm**
- Jan 5.....4-H Council Meeting, Fairfield Public Library, 6 pm
- Jan 13.....**Market Beef Possession Deadline:** forms, photos, & fees to Office by Tue at 5 pm
- Jan 15-16....KMON Livestock and Poultry Judging, Great Falls
- Jan 17-19....Montana Winter Fair in Lewistown
- Jan 18.....Poultry/Rabbit Project Meeting, Williams' Place (see page 2), Sunday, 2 to 4 pm
- Jan 31.....**Camp Counselor application due, for Camp 2026**
- Feb 1.....**Club Descriptions for Visual Art grant money due!** (see page 2)
- Feb 24.....Camp Counselor planning meeting, 6 pm at Cascade Co. Extension Office
- Mar 14.....Save the Date: County-wide Communications Day

## *I'm so excited about 4-H in 2025-2026!* by Jenn Swanson



1) **Have a great photo of kids, animals, or scenery in Teton County?** Email them to the Ext Office at [Teton@montana.edu](mailto:Teton@montana.edu) and you may **make the front page** of the newsletter! Be sure to tell us who took the photo and your club name.

2) You don't have to have your market animal yet to **learn livestock judging**. Call Jon Redland about a **Livestock Judging event on Sat, Dec 13, 2025 at 8:30 am!**



3) Your Beef Superintendents (Levi Hodgskiss and Justin Paulson) and your Livestock Committee President (Ashle Morris) are hosting a **Beef Tag and Weigh-in Day**. Bring your beeves and 4-H tags to the Weatherbeater on **Sun Jan 4 at 2 pm** to get an official first weight and exchange handling and feeding tips!



4) The Market Animal Agreement form will be snail-mailed in early December - watch your post box! Contact your club leader or Jenn Swanson with questions. Note the county **market animal possessions deadlines, by species:**

- **Beef:** Tue Jan 13 by 5 pm
- **Swine:** Tue Mar 31 by 5 pm
- **Lamb & Goat:** Tue Apr 7 by 5 pm



5) Very **Naayy-borly!** Todd and Kate Banner are hosting **Working Ranch Horse practices** (with cattle) most Friday afternoons at 3 pm at their place at 1231 Hwy 89, Sun River, MT 59483. Email [montanacowhorses@gmail.com](mailto:montanacowhorses@gmail.com) for more info!



6) BokBokBok! The Williams family is hosting an all-club **Poultry and Rabbit Project meeting on Sun Jan 18 from 2 to 4 pm**. Please bring your project books! The meeting will be held in their "Big Red Barn" at 64 14<sup>th</sup> Lane NE, Vaughn, MT 59487. Please RSVP by calling or texting Trish Williams at 406-465-7656.

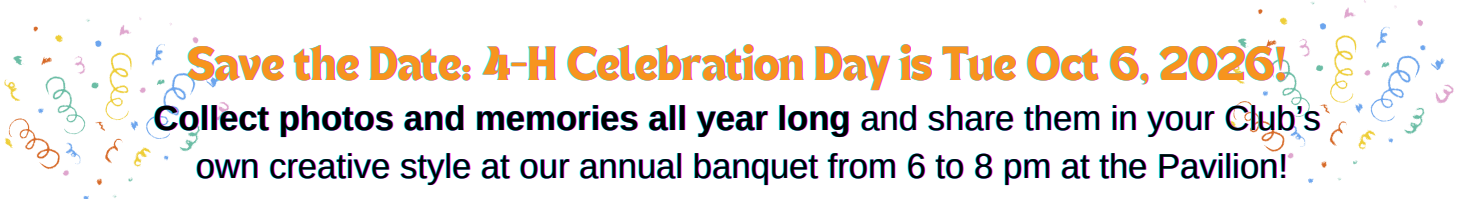


7) **Easy \$\$\$ for Visual Art Projects Available!** Thanks to the generosity of the Front Range Art Association, we have \$500 available for visual art supplies to be divided between Teton County's community clubs. Club leaders from Challenging Champs, Eager Eagles, Old Agency, and Spring Creek should send one (1) email each to the Ext Office at [Teton@montana.edu](mailto:Teton@montana.edu) with a description of your proposed project and supplies desired (**email descriptions due by Feb 1, 2026.**)



**Save the Date: 4-H Celebration Day is Tue Oct 6, 2026!**

**Collect photos and memories all year long** and share them in your Club's own creative style at our annual banquet from 6 to 8 pm at the Pavilion!



# Donated Sewing/Quilting Supplies Available

Several people have generously donated sewing project items including a sewing machine, a sewing machine with cabinet, quilting fabric, quilting books and sewing accessories.



If you are taking a 4-H sewing/quilting project or thinking about it, please stop by the Extension Office and check out all of the sewing goodies! The items will be given on a first come-first served basis!

## Meet Your New 4-H Council Members



### Iris Carlson - Vice President

Iris Carlson is a 6th grader at Choteau Elementary, her favorite subjects are reading, art and music. She plays the piano, tuba, ukulele, and is busy learning the guitar. She loves serving on student council in school. She played volleyball this year and is active at the Baptist Church. Iris enjoys baking, skiing, hiking, camping, and swimming. She is passionate about animals and growing plants. This is her third year in 4-H. Iris looks forward to serving as vice president for Teton 4-H Council.

### Alexis Morris- Secretary

Hi everyone! My name is Alexis Morris! I am so excited to serve on the Teton County 4-H Council. It feels like an honor! I am an alumna of Teton County 4-H where I was a member for 11 great years. I currently attend college Great Falls College MSU! While I am in college I am also working, serving on the livestock committee and helping my family out on our cow calf operation. I can't wait for this year!



## 4-H Council Updates

### Next meeting:

Monday, January 5 @ 6 pm  
Fairfield Public Library

### Agenda:

- Second Reading of Budget
- Planning Committee Members
- Discussion of changes to oversight of club bank accounts.

**Everyone  
is Welcome!**

### Reminder:

Club Attendance- one representative per club:  
Each club gets 2 votes (youth and adult)



# Upcoming Events for 4-H Teens



## Become a Teton County Ambassador

**County Ambassadors application is due December 31, 2025.**

Returning ambassadors have been mailed instructions on how to complete a cover letter and resume highlighting their 4-H career. First year ambassadors, 4-H age 13 and up, should click on the link below to complete the online form. A paper copy can be picked up in the Extension Office or mailed to you. Please give us a call if you would like a paper copy mailed to you.

## 4-H Camp 2026

**It's official, Teton County 4-H is collaborating with Cascade County 4-H for camp in 2026.** There will be an application process, and those applications will be due on **January 31, 2026**. Please contact the Extension Office if you would like to be included on the application list.

### **2026 Camp Counselor meeting schedule:**

February 24, 6 pm @ Cascade Co Extension Office

March 31, location TBD

April 28, location TBD

May- Camp Rotary Clean Up, date TBD

Adult camp chaperone volunteers needed at Camp Rotary.

**Save the date June 7-10, 2026**

## MONTANA 4-H REC LAB MARCH 27-29, 2026 | COLUMBUS, MT



The Teton County 4-H Council will provide half of the registration fee for youth to attend Rec Lab. Registration for Rec Lab will be available in your ZSuite account.



Hey, Club Presidents!  
Want to make your meetings more  
fun and engaging for your club?

Iowa State Extension 4-H has developed a great way to gamify your club meetings with the *Listening Beads Game*. In a nutshell, each person at the meeting is given a small item, like a bead, that is placed on the table in front of them and is assigned a word to listen for. Each person is assigned one word only. When a person hears “their” word, they get up and take the bead from that person who said the word. At the end of the meeting, the person with the most beads wins. We have lots of items that could be substituted for beads at the Extension Office.

Search [Listening Beads-Vibrant Clubs](#) on the web to get detailed instructions complete with word lists.

## Club Officer Reminders:

### Club Secretaries

- Email your approved meeting minutes to [teton@montana.edu](mailto:teton@montana.edu)
- Email the Extension Office your list of club officers

### Club Treasurers

- Use the Treasurer’s meeting form to prepare your treasurer’s report. Please make sure that the treasurer’s report is included in the meeting minutes. *\*\*check your Treasurer’s Binder for blank copies of the form\*\**
- Both of these documents need to be in your treasurer’s binder that will be audited at the end of the 4-H year.

# 2026 Teton County 4-H Fair Rotations

More detailed descriptions will be sent to each club as we get closer to Fair season!

## Eager Eagles

Exhibit Hall Set Up, Maintenance, Clean Up  
(Set up the Pavilion from 3 to 5 pm on Tuesday;  
Check Pavilion restrooms once daily during Fair;  
Clean up the Pavilion from 11 am to 1pm on Sunday)  
Recruit 3 Volunteers to be Greeters at the Pavilion  
(for three 3-hour shifts Thursday, Friday, Saturday)

## Old Agency

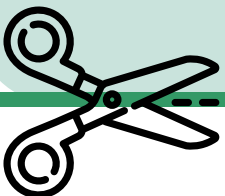
"Meat and Greet" 4 to 7 pm on Saturday  
(Help set up, serve, and clean up at the  
catered Buyer Appreciation Meal;  
Coordinate and display the 4-H Desserts Potluck)  
Concessions: sell concessions as a club  
fundraiser (optional) or recruit food trucks

## Challenging Champs

Be the Hospitality Team for Interview Judges  
(provide lunch and snacks for judges at the  
Pavilion on Wednesday at 11:45 am);  
and Create the 4-H Exhibit Hall Display  
(from 5 to 7 pm on Wednesday  
after judging is finished)

## Spring Creek

Weatherbeater Facility Management  
on Friday and Saturday  
(Twice daily maintenance of restrooms and  
twice daily emptying of trash cans; keep things  
looking spiffy before and during the Auction!)



*Hot tip - put this on your fridge now so you'll have  
plenty of time to prepare and get creative!*



# Join a 4-H Committee for 2025-2026!

Teton County 4-H Committee	Description	Meetings	# of Members (Suggested Minimum)
<b>Standing Committees</b> (Ag = Agricultural agent, FCS = Family & Consumer Sciences agent, adult member = parent or certified volunteer)			
Budget & Audit	Develops and then recommends to the 4-H Council an annual budget, which is voted on at 4-H Council	Meets 1-2 times each year in late Summer and/or Fall	<b>1 agent (FCS)</b> 4-H Council Treasurer 1 adult member, 1 youth member
Communications Day	Develops an agenda, contacts potential judges, reviews scoring rubrics, and helps set up and tear down on the day of the event	Meets 1-2 times each year in Fall / Winter to plan Teton County's Communications Day in Spring	<b>1 or 2 agents (FCS / Ag)</b> 1 or 2 adult members, 1 or 2 youth members
Fair	Designates annual Fair theme, creates the schedule of Fair activities, develops the Fair publicity plan	Meets 1-2 times each year in Spring, to plan Teton County's 4-H Fair in June	<b>1 agent (Ag)</b> 1 or 2 adult members, 1 or 2 youth members
Awards	Designates annual awards plan for 4-H competitions; may be the same members and meet at the same time as the Fair Committee	Meets 1-2 times each year in Spring, to plan Teton County's 4-H Fair in June	<b>1 agent (FCS or Ag)</b> 1 or 2 adult members, 1 or 2 youth members
Livestock	Attends to livestock project areas including animal husbandry education, livestock quality assurance education, safety and rules regarding the 4-H Livestock Sale and Carcass Competition	Meets on the first Monday of every other month (Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug)	<b>1 agent (Ag)</b> Officers (Pres, VP, Treasurer, Secretary), livestock superintendents, 1 or more adult members, 1 or more youth members
Horse Committee	Oversees equine education events, rules, regulations and safety of 4-H horse-related events and contests – in the case of an active horse project club, may be comprised of the horse project club members	Meets 3 to 4 times per year, or as needed	<b>1 agent (Ag)</b> Horse project club leader, 1 or more adult members, 1 or more youth members
Textile	Oversees textile educational events, offerings and competitions	Meets 1 or 2 times per year, in Fall and/or Spring, or as needed	<b>1 agent (FCS)</b> 1 or 2 adult members, 1 or 2 youth members
Record Book	Reviews guidelines for 4-H members' record book completions; reviews record books submitted for record book quality contest	Meets 1-2 times each year in the late Summer and/or Fall	3 adult members
<b>Special Committees</b>			
Exchange	Currently inactive; will activate when needed. An active committee is not needed to enroll in the Exchange project.	Meets only as needed to review Exchange policy	Ad hoc (only active as needed)

# Proposed 4-H Council Budget 2025-2026

4-H Council Budget	2024-2025	2024-2025	2025-2026
	Proposed	Actual	Proposed
<b>INCOME</b>			
Inc-Donations to 4-H		\$10,654.25	\$10,000
Inc-Sponsored Awards and Memorials		\$50.00	\$50.00
Inc-Club dues and 1% contribution	\$2,000.00	\$1,569.26	\$1,500.00
Inc-Boe Bros Foundation contribution	\$12,000.00	\$11,445.12	\$11,000.00
Inc-Grants to 4-H	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Inc-Pass-thru fees and other	\$775.00	\$584.44	\$600.00
Inc-Pass-thru donations to 4-H		\$500.00	\$500.00
Inc-Pass-thru grants to 4-H	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Inc-Camp registrations	\$2,000.00	\$1581.88	\$1,500.000
Inc-Livestock Judging registrations		\$36.00	\$36.00
Inc-Youth Education and Travel Funds	\$1,000.00	\$225.50	\$250.00
Inc-Project Manual Sales	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Inc-Greytak Calendar Sales	\$375.00	\$264.35	\$250.00
Inc-Specialty License Plates	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Inc-Transfer From Savings		\$0.00	\$0.00
Inc-Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Inc-Other	\$775.00	\$1201.00	\$1200.00
<i>Existing Acct Funds to Spend Down</i>			\$8684.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$35,570.00</b>

4-H Council Budget	2024-2025	2024-2025	2025-2026
	Proposed	Actual	Proposed
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Exp-Advertising (Not event-related)	\$1,000.00	\$514.73	\$550.00
Exp-Ambassadors Program	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Exp-Communications Day (incl. ads)	\$500.00	\$78.11	\$80.00
Exp-Fair (incl. ads)	\$6,500.00	\$11,580.07	\$12,000.00
Exp-Camp (incl. ads)	\$3,500.00	\$4,316.93	\$5,000.00
Exp-Congress (incl.ads)		\$765.00	\$800.00
Exp-Nat 4-H Week (incl. ads)	\$250.00	\$322.00	\$400.00
Exp-Livestock Judging Day (incl. ads)		\$36.00	\$40.00
Exp-Awards (all)	\$5,500.00	\$6895.18	\$7,000.00
Exp-State Dues & 1% Fee	\$2,500.00	\$2,407.86	\$2,500.00
Exp-Insurance	\$300.00	\$223.00	\$250.00
Exp-Capital Purchases	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Exp-Grant-related purchase or cost	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Exp-Curricula	\$2,200.00	\$2,729.17	\$3,000.00
Exp-Greytak Calendar Purchase	\$250.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Exp-Postage & Office Supplies	\$300.00	\$521.00	\$600.00
Exp-Volunteer/Admin Certification & Training	\$650.00	\$408.92	\$450.00
Exp-Pass-trhu Monies	\$	\$1,384.44	\$1,400
Exp-Other	\$	\$1,216.42	\$1,300
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$35,570.00</b>



## Contact Info/Resources

### Teton County MSU Extension

#### Mailing Address:

- PO Box 130, Choteau, MT 59422

#### Phone (voice call):

- 406-466-2491

#### Text only:

- 406-350-5373

#### Email (send club minutes, most questions/issues):

- [teton@montana.edu](mailto:teton@montana.edu)

#### Other:

- <https://www.montana.edu/extension/teton>
- <https://www.facebook.com/TetonCoExt>
- <https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h>



## Rec Lab

**2026** March 27-29

## Teton County Fair Dates

**2026** June 22-28

## Camp Dates

**2026** June 7-10

## 4-H Congress, Bozeman

**2026** July 7-10

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