

# 4-H NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

2320 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue N, Billings MT 59101 406-256-2828

<https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html>

Facebook: Yellowstone County 4-H

## 4-H FOLKS IN FOCUS

We have moved! Stop by our new office, located at 2320 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue N. We are the white building on the southeast corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue N and N 24<sup>th</sup> Street. We have a parking lot with free parking!

It was so nice to see everyone at Family Fun Night. Thank you to all the club representatives who organized the booths. Congratulations to all the Award Winners.

Roni Baker

Yellowstone County 4-H/Youth Agent

## POST FAMILY FUN NIGHT MEETING

There will be a post Family Fun Night meeting on Thursday, December 4, at 5:30 pm in the 4-H Building.

## 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. Please RSVP with the number of family members attending by calling the Extension Office (406-256-2828) by 5:00 pm on 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-Hers 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 CAMP COUNSELOR AND COUNSELOR IN TRAINING (CIT) APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 12

If you are interested in becoming a Counselor or CIT, members must be 14 or older by June 8, 2026, to be a CIT (Counselor in Training). Members must be 14 or older by June 8, 2026, to be a Counselor. You must be a CIT for 1 year before you can apply to be a Counselor.

The application was emailed to members and can be printed off the [Yellowstone County 4-H webpage](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html>. The application **must** be in the Extension Office by **Friday, December 12, 2025**. All applicants will do an interview. If you are selected to be a Counselor or CIT, you **must** attend all Camp planning meetings which are held in Yellowstone, Carbon or Stillwater counties each month. You **must** attend the training session that will be held in May. Counselors and Counselors in Training go to camp on June 7, a day before campers arrive. Camp will be held June 8-12, 2026. Interviews will be held on Monday evening, January 12.

## APPLY TO BECOME A 4-H AMBASSADOR BY DECEMBER 12

Do you like to help plan and run county events? If you are looking for an opportunity for leadership within 4-H, send in an Ambassador application by Friday, December 12. Applicants must be 14 by October 1, 2025, to apply. The application was emailed to members and can be printed off the [Yellowstone County 4-H webpage](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html>.

## FRUIT SALE INFORMATION – SAVE THE DATE

All 4-H Clubs are required to participate in the fruit sale. Each club needs to have at least one representative present at this meeting.

**When:** Tuesday, January 6, 2026

**Where:** 4-H Building

**Time:** 5:30 pm

You will receive your club order forms, instructions and a sample of the delicious fruit that we will be selling.

## ENROLL ONLINE USING ZSUITE NOW

If you have not enrolled your family into ZSuite, this will be your last 4-H newsletter and potentially any email communication. Reenrollment instructions can be found on the [State 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/join/index.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/join/index.html> (WSS/10/13/16)

## 4-H RECORD BOOKS

4-H would not be the same without records. They're an important part of completing each project. They help set goals, keep track of attendance at meetings, record demonstrations and talks and a whole lot more.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO START YOUR RECORDS.** You should have a [My 4-H Year](#) record sheet and record sheets for each Department A (animal) and N (non-animal) project. This month be certain you have completed the goals section on each of your record sheets.

It is important to work on records all year long. It is easier to write down what you have accomplished as soon as you do it. This also means less work at the end of the year. Remember to record both "What I did AND what I learned" each time you make an entry in your journal.

An easy way to continuously add to your records is to do them electronically in ZSuite or on the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/recordsheets.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/recordsheets.html>

You will need to download and save the file and then you can type information into the records each time you have something to add.

## RECORD BOOK WORKSHOP HELPERS NEEDED

We are looking for organizational/project leaders, and parents to come and help us run stations for this workshop on January 24, 2026, from 10 am-12 pm, at the 4-H Building. Please let Roni know by January 2, if you would like to help.

## SIGN UP FOR SERVICE LEARNING VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOW

4-H Service Learning is...a volunteer service that you provide with no monetary compensation. It is hands-on involvement with community projects.

Examples of community service:

- Volunteering at your church as an usher, teaching Sunday School, directing the Children's church.
- Volunteering at a nursing home helping the residents.
- Volunteering at the local hospital as a Candy Striper.
- Volunteering at the Rescue Mission serving food, stocking the food pantry, cleaning tables, etc.
- Volunteering in your school, picking up garbage around the campus, helping with school functions like PTA events.
- Volunteering in the community cleaning up and beautifying parks, picking up garbage in ditches, cleaning graffiti off buildings.

- Organizing and implementing work crews for various projects around your community, painting a house, mowing a yard or shoveling a sidewalk for a neighbor needing help.
  - Relay for Life volunteering.
  - Ringing the Salvation Army bells during the holidays.
  - Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4-H community service activities but if you are a member of the specific group/organization, hours spent fundraising do not count. (car wash fundraiser, selling cookies, popcorn, fruit, etc.)
- Participating members will be recognized at Family Fun Night and prizes will be given out based on the number of hours you volunteered during the 2025-2026 4-H year - September 1 to October 31. Sign up on in your ZSuite account under Events.

Please turn in your complete Service Learning application to the Extension Office by January 2, 2026.

## 4-H PROGRAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A complete copy of this document is available at the Extension Office. Below is some information from that document that we wanted to share.

**Affirmative Action Policy:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Montana State University and the Montana State University Extension Service including the 4-H program prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital and family (parental) status and participation in Montana 4-H and its programs is open to all interested youth regardless of any of the above.

Individuals needing accommodation because of a disability may request this at the County Extension office. State and county 4-H Policies can be found on the [county 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hpolicies.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hpolicies.html>

## TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY 4-H PAPER CLOVER CAMPAIGN: IN STORE & ONLINE

For the twelfth year Tractor Supply Company stores in Billings and Laurel are again supporting local 4-H youth with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign, a national fundraising effort to benefit state and local 4-H programs where a TSC store is located. Since the fundraiser began in 2010, Tractor Supply has raised more than \$15 million for 4-H youth through this partnership, thanks to the dedicated support of Tractor Supply customers, Team Members, and 4-H students. 90% of donations directly support 4-H youth in the state it was raised, and the remaining 10% support national 4-H programming.

From Friday, November 28 through Sunday, December 14, shoppers at the Billings and Laurel TSC will have the opportunity to support 4-H by purchasing paper clovers for just \$1 at checkout. You can also donate by visiting [Tractor Supply's website](https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h) at <https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h>. All money raised will stay in our communities! Be sure to thank TSC when you purchase your clovers.

Tractor Supply Company, the largest rural lifestyle retailer in the United States, has been passionate about serving its unique niche, targeting the needs of recreational farmers, ranchers and all those who enjoy living the rural lifestyle, for more than 80 years. Tractor Supply offers an extensive mix of products necessary to care for home, land, pets, and animals with a focus on product localization, exclusive brands, and legendary customer service for the Out Here lifestyle.

## UNUSED 4-H MATERIALS

If you have any 4-H project books that you will not be using and **THAT HAVE NOT BEEN WRITTEN IN, PLEASE** return them to the Extension Office. We can reuse them and keep our costs down. Thank you!

## YOUTH LOANS AVAILABLE

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides financial assistance and business planning to help rural youth get a start on their futures. The Rural Youth Loan Program is designed to provide start-up funds to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with participation in 4-H clubs, FFA and similar agriculturally focused organizations. Call Bruce Johnson at 406-657-6135 or email [bruce.johnson@usda.gov](mailto:bruce.johnson@usda.gov). Application forms can be printed

off the [US Department of Agriculture website](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/youth-loans/index) at <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/youth-loans/index>

The Montana Department of Agriculture provides financial assistance through Junior Ag Loans. For more information, brochures and application forms visit the [Montana Department of Agriculture website](https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/E-G/Grants-Pages/Junior-Agriculture-Loans) at <https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/E-G/Grants-Pages/Junior-Agriculture-Loans> or contact Walt Anseth at 406-444-5420 or email [WAnseth@mt.gov](mailto:WAnseth@mt.gov).

## PEOPLE PARTNER GRANT

The People Partner grant program offers an opportunity for clubs and individuals to make a difference in the community with projects involving 4-H members in determining a need, completing a grant application, and implementing the project. Applications are available at the Extension Office or can be printed off the [Montana 4-H Foundation website](https://www.mt4hfoundation.org/grants.html) at <https://www.mt4hfoundation.org/grants.html>. Applications are due by February 1. Applications submitted by January 10 will be reviewed and returned with suggestions for improvement to the application to resubmit. Up to \$500 may be awarded to individual clubs by the Montana 4-H Foundation.

## START APPLYING FOR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

It's time for high school seniors to start applying for scholarships. MSU-Bozeman announces the Montana Premier Scholarship Program for fall 2026.

Hundreds of academic scholarships will be available to new freshmen from Montana who demonstrate academic promise based on ACT and/or SAT scores and grade point average. Leadership experience, activities, honors, and financial need may also be considered. Students must apply for admission on the [Montana State University website](http://www.montana.edu/admissions/) at <http://www.montana.edu/admissions/> and complete [the scholarship application](http://www.montana.edu/admissions/scholarships/index.html) at <http://www.montana.edu/admissions/scholarships/index.html>. Priority deadline is February 1, 2026.

Applications for the [State 4-H Foundation scholarships](http://www.mt4hfoundation.org/scholarships.html) can be found on the state 4-H website at <http://www.mt4hfoundation.org/scholarships.html>. The site has detailed requirements and deadlines.

The Yellowstone County Foundation offers scholarships of varying amounts to graduating seniors. The scholarship application will be mailed directly to members and can be printed off the County website. These are due April 1.

## COUNTY AWARD WINNERS FOR OUTSTANDING MEMBER

Congratulations to all the member winners and the adults and teens who checked member's record books or led discussion groups.

Helpers: Kate Mortensen, Stephanie Myers, Heather Pfancook, Joe Lynch, Kelda Gauer, Wade Bekkedahl, Dale Lentz, Brooke Rienhart, Keegan Kennedy, Brooklyn Kuhr, Kayla Koivu, Kristen Cesnik, Jeremy Hauge, Karen Kennah, Katie Curry, Michael Brito, Levi Osborne, Taylor Hauge, Tyler Kennah, Meghan Turner, Elizabeth Preble, Tenille Bomar, Emily Lynch, Holly Parks, Heather Beddes, Jacque Rouse, Teddi Vogel, Caroline Brito, Taylor Hauge, Laura Heaton, Meghan Turner, Rhonda Koivu, April Saunders, Kristi Dare, Grace Sedlacek, Jessica Johnston, Anna Clayton and Kim Ekberg.

M = Medal P = Pin C = Certificate

First Name	Last Name	Club	Award	Medal/Pin/Certificate
Lukas	Arkell	Blue Creek Jumping Bucks	Attitude	Pin
Lukas	Arkell	Blue Creek Jumping Bucks	Sheep	Medal
Molly	Arnold	Shepherd Pioneers	Achievement	Pin
Alex	Baze-Hogan	Compass All Stars	Cloverbud	Pin
Traden	Beddes	Shepherd Pioneers	Shooting Sports	Certificate
Tristen	Beddes	Shepherd Pioneers	Shooting Sports	Certificate

Wade	Bekkedahl	Hesper Hustlers	Ambassador	Pin
Brooklyn	Berg	Shepherd Tumbleweeds	Achievement	Pin
Carlee	Bomar	Shepherd Tumbleweeds	Poultry	Pin
Isabelle	Brito	Shepherd Pioneers	Horse	Pin
Isabelle	Brito	Shepherd Pioneers	Achievement	Pin
Colton	Campbell	Yellowstone Silver Spurs	Attitude	Pin
Madison	Campbell	Yellowstone Silver Spurs	Rabbits	Pin
Grace	Cesnik	Lockwood Humble Bs	Team Player	Pin
Grace	Cesnik	Lockwood Humble Bs	Helpfulness	Certificate
Jake	Cesnik	Lockwood Humble Bs	Team Player	Pin
Jake	Cesnik	Lockwood Humble Bs	Vice President	Pin
Karlyn	Clayton	Blue Creek Jumping Bucks	Attitude	Pin
Adeliah	Curry	Yellowstone Silver Spurs	Goat	Pin
Adeliah	Curry	Yellowstone Silver Spurs	Public Speaking	Pin
Emma	Delashmit	Lockwood Humble Bs	Team Player	Pin
Emma	Delashmit	Lockwood Humble Bs	Helpfulness	Pin
Aubrey	DelCamp	Worden Riverdale	Achievement	Pin
Brooklyn	DelCamp	Worden Riverdale	Swine	Pin
Natalie	DelCamp	Worden Riverdale	Swine	Pin
Grace	Ekberg	Worden Riverdale	Achievement	Certificate
Mabel	Ekberg	Worden Riverdale	Cloverbud	Pin
Hadlee	Fenton	Hesper Hustlers	Attitude	Pin
Rylee	Fenton	Hesper Hustlers	Attitude	Pin
Harper	Gauer	Yellowstone Silver Spurs	Achievement	Pin
Hayden	Gauer	Yellowstone Silver Spurs	Attitude	Pin
Henry	Gauer	Yellowstone Silver Spurs	Attitude	Pin
Cale	Hauge	Worden Riverdale	Sheep	Pin
Cale	Hauge	Worden Riverdale	Dairy Goat	Pin
Paige	Hauge	Worden Riverdale	Cloverbud	Pin
Reid	Hauge	Worden Riverdale	Sheep	Pin
Reid	Hauge	Worden Riverdale	Dairy Goat	Medal
Elyse	Heaton	Worden Riverdale	Sheep	Pin
Grant	Heaton	Worden Riverdale	Attitude	Pin
Bridger	Huleatt	Worden Riverdale	Cloverbud	Pin
Rhett	Huleatt	Worden Riverdale	Cloverbud	Pin
Sonja	Humphrey	Huntley Eagles	Attitude	Certificate
Eliana	Johnston	Yellowstone Silver Spurs	Vice President	Pin
Zane	Johnston	Yellowstone Silver Spurs	Woodworking	Pin
Tyler	Kennah	Yellowstone Silver Spurs	Attitude	Pin
Keegan	Kennedy	Shepherd Tumbleweeds	Horse	Medal
Rex	Koivu	Project Rockin Wranglers	Goat	Pin
Rex	Koivu	Project Rockin Wranglers	Sheep	Pin
Brooklyn	Kuhr	Hesper Hustlers	Ambassador	Pin
Adian	Lentz	Lockwood Humble Bs	Leadership	Pin
Aidan	Lentz	Lockwood Humble Bs	Sheep	Pin
Hadleigh	Lynch	Compass All Stars	Rabbit	Pin
Samantha	Lynch	Compass All Stars	Citizenship	Pin
Taytum	Lynch	Compass All Stars	Rabbit	Pin
Presley	Martin	Yellowstone Silver Spurs	Attitude	Pin
Caleb	Mortensen	Lockwood Humble Bs	Attitude	Pin
Caleb	Mortensen	Lockwood Humble Bs	Enthusiasm	Pin

Joy	Mortensen	Lockwood Humble Bs	President	Pin
Joy	Mortensen	Lockwood Humble Bs	Horse	Pin
Julie	Mortensen	Lockwood Humble Bs	Cooking	Pin
Julie	Mortensen	Lockwood Humble Bs	Horse	Pin
Beau	Myers	Lockwood Humble Bs	Goat	Pin
Beau	Myers	Lockwood Humble Bs	Attitude	Pin
Jacob	Myers	Lockwood Humble Bs	Attitude	Pin
Raegan	Nydegger	Lockwood Humble Bs	Helpfulness	Pin
Reagan	Nydegger	Lockwood Humble Bs	Sheep	Pin
Kaidence	Osborne	Shepherd Pioneers	Horse Project	Pin
Kaidence	Osborne	Shepherd Pioneers	Reporter	Pin
Amanda	Parks	Compass All Stars	Photography	Certificate
Matthew	Parks	Compass All Stars	Poultry	Pin
Sarina	Parks	Compass All Stars	Cloverbud	Pin
Sarina	Parks	Compass All Stars	Attitude	Pin
Myleigh	Penman	Lockwood Humble Bs	Cooking	Pin
Torchy	Pfancook	Lockwood Humble Bs	Team Player	Pin
Torchy	Pfancook	Lockwood Humble Bs	Achievement	Pin
Colton	Preble	Huntley Eagles	Attitude	Pin
Scarlett	Preble	Huntley Eagles	Costume Parade	Pin
Jett	Rienhart	Worden Riverdale	Swine	Pin
Kember	Rienhart	Worden Riverdale	Swine	Pin
Reece	Rienhart	Worden Riverdale	Swine	Pin
Eva	Rouse	Worden Riverdale	Sheep	Pin
Owen	Rouse	Worden Riverdale	Sheep	Pin
Owen	Rouse	Worden Riverdale	Helpful	Pin
Trigg	Rouse	Worden Riverdale	Sheep	Pin
Trigg	Rouse	Worden Riverdale	Helpful	Pin
Elizabeth	Saunders	Lockwood Humble Bs	Attitude	Pin
Elizabeth	Saunders	Lockwood Humble Bs	Participation	Pin
Amy	Schmidt	Lockwood Humble Bs	Leadership	Pin
Amy	Schmidt	Lockwood Humble Bs	Poultry	Medal
Cadence	Sims	Ruff Riders	Ambassador	Medal
Cadence	Sims	Ruff Riders	Leadership	Medal
Maverick	Sorensen	Project Rockin Wranglers	Swine	Pin
Maverick	Sorensen	Project Rockin Wranglers	Cake Decorating	Pin
Emma	Tempero	Worden Riverdale	Sheep	Pin
Lydia	Tempero	Worden Riverdale	Cloverbud	Pin
Mackenzie	Turner	Project Rockin Wranglers	Involvement	Pin
Madison	Turner	Project Rockin Wranglers	Sewing	Pin
Madison	Turner	Project Rockin Wranglers	Goat	Pin
Mason	Turner	Project Rockin Wranglers	Team Player	Pin
Corbin	Vogel	Worden Riverdale	Swine	Pin
Paisley	Vogel	Worden Riverdale	Swine	Certificate
Ava	Walker	Worden Riverdale	Swine	Pin

## FAMILY FUN NIGHT WINNERS

### Ticket Sales Winners

Placing	Member Name	Club	Number of tickets sold
1	Rafe McCaffree	Shepherd Tumbleweeds	660
2	Carlee Bomar	Shepherd Tumbleweeds	400

3	Aidan Lentz	Lockwood Humble Bs	60
3	Torchy Pfancook	Lockwood Humble Bs	60

#### Door Prize Winners

Placing	Prize	Winner
1	\$50	Claire Murnin
2	\$30	Heather Pfancook
3	\$20	Callie Clark

#### Best Decorated and Run Booth Winners

Placing	Winning Club	Booth game
1	Northern Lights	Speleo Cave
2	Shepherd Tumbleweeds	Dime Toss/Washer Throw
3	Compass All Stars	Feeding Time
4	Kountry Kritters	Cake Walk
5	City Kids	Ring on a String
6	Ruff Riders	Pig Race

#### Annual Awards

Award	2025 Winner
Friend of 4-H	ACE Hardware – Skip King
Friend of 4-H	Steve Kuehn
Friend of 4-H	Scheels
Outstanding Leader	Cheri Johannes
Outstanding Teen Leader	Ember Solberg
4-H Alumni Award	Huntington Family
4-H Alumni Award	Clint Spencer
4-H Alumni Award	Trish Hays
Friendship Award	Worden Riverdale

## RECOGNIZING OUR 2024-2025 COMMITTED 4-H VOLUNTEER LEADERS

The following leaders will be acknowledged at Family Fun Night for reaching 5, 10, 20, and 25 years of 4-H leadership. Thank you to these committed 4-H leaders for supporting our 4-H youth!

# of years as a 4-H Leader	Name	Club
5	Callie Clark	Worden Riverdale
10	Chasity Broadbrooks	Northern Lights
10	Christopher Dykes	Northern Lights
10	Daniel Robertson	Yellowstone Mavericks
15	Shelby Swanson	Countywide Leader
20	Barb Huntington	Lockwood Humble Bs
20	Les Huntington	Lockwood Humbel Bs
20	Kristina Murdick	Big Sky Thunderbolts
25	Deb Barta	Pine Ridge Red Ryder
25	Denise Ingram	Laurel Roadrunners
25	Gina Loose	Countywide Leader
25	Cindy Sundheim	Countywide Leader

## MONTHLY CLUB MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS

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

Blue Creek Jumping Bucks: Officer nominations were submitted. The club moved their meeting location.

City Kids: Members and adults signed up for committees. The club will shop for presents for those in need.  
 Compass All Stars: Members elected new club officers. Project books were distributed.  
 Lockwood Humble Bs: Members will wrap gifts at Shipton's Big R as a club fundraiser.  
 Pine Ridge Red Ryder: Members voted to support Flakesgiving and the senior drive at Family Fun Night.  
 Project Rockin Wranglers: The club will hold and awards banquet and potluck.  
 Shepherd Pioneers: Members gave project reports, and one gave a parliamentary speech.  
 Worden Riverdale: The club will donate a basket for the Christmas Stroll.  
 Yellowstone Mavericks: New members were introduced. The club assigned everyone a task for Family Fun Night.

## 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 thank them 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
Breanna Rolandson, Heavenly Homes Real Estate	4117 Iron Horse Trail, Billings MT 59106
Arrow Septic	8105 Hofferber Rd, Shepherd MT 59079
Les Schwab Tire Center	1146 Shiloh Crossing, Billings MT 59102
Stockman Bank	2700 King Avenue W, Billings MT 59102
Roger Daniel Insurance	2047 Broadwater Avenue, Ste. 1, Billings MT 59102
Betaseed	6734 Hesper Rd, Billings MT 59106
Industrial Sales & Service	PO Box 31234, Billings MT 59107
Blue Body & Paint	356 Scott St, Billings MT 59101
Blue Cat Bar, Grill & Casino	139 Northern Avenue, Huntley MT 59037
Billings Livestock Commission	2443 N Frontage Rd, Billings MT 59101

## DEPARTMENT N MEETING

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

## 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!

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

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

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.**

## DECEMBER CERAMICS WORKSHOP

The Ceramics workshop is on 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 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.

## NO LIVESTOCK MEETINGS IN DECEMBER

No Small Animal Committee, Sale Committee or Livestock Committee meetings will be held in December.

On January 28, 2026, the Small Animal Committee will meet at 6:00 pm. Sale Committee will meet at 6:30 pm and the Large Livestock Committee meeting will be held immediately following the Sale Committee meeting.

## CAT WORKSHOPS BEGIN DECEMBER 20

The first County Cat Project Meeting will be on December 20, 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at the 4-H Building. We will be learning about each other and our cats, decorating cookies and or making no bake cat treats for community service. We will have a brief discussion about record books. If anyone requires gluten free or sugar free cookies, please let me know. Bring any questions you might have to the meeting.

We have a Facebook page for anyone that would like to join. Yellowstone County Cat Project- please send a request to join, if a parent- please note the child's name in request. Meeting updates, agendas, and other tidbits will be posted there.

Feel free to bring your cats - exposing them to the sounds of the building and other people will be helpful for show nerves. We will go over the agenda and schedule for the rest of the year's meetings, which will be on the 3rd Saturday of Jan, Feb and March from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Show is tentatively scheduled for May 16. Looking forward to learning with you all this year.

Angie Murdick, Yellowstone County Cat Project Leader 406-208-3324 or [angies4hstuff@gmail.com](mailto:angies4hstuff@gmail.com)

## POCKET PET WORKSHOPS BEGIN DECEMBER 20

The first County Pocket Pet Project Meeting will be on December 20, 1:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m. at the 4-H Building. We will be learning about each other and our pocket pets and decorating cookies for community service. We will have a brief discussion about record books. Bring any questions you might have to the meeting.

We will go over the agenda and schedule for the rest of the year's meetings, which will be on the 3rd Saturday of Jan, Feb and March from 1:00 p.m. -2:00. Looking forward to learning with you all this year.

Angie and Kris Murdick Yellowstone County Pocket Pet Project Leaders  
(A) 406-208-3324

## 2025 SADDLE UP PARTICIPANTS AND TOTAL HOURS RIDDEN

Rider Name	Horse(s) Name	Total Hours Ridden	4-H Club
Keegan Kennedy	Reno, Smooch & Phoenix	235	Shepherd Tumbleweeds
Joy Mortensen	Murphy & Mike	156.75	Lockwood Humble Bs
Julie Mortensen	Taxi & Lena	139	Lockwood Humble Bs
Isabelle Brito	Flash, Tynda & Kitty	130	Shepherd Pioneers
Kaidence Osborne	Cinch	105	Shepherd Pioneers

## ARE YOU STARTING A NEW ANIMAL PROJECT THIS YEAR?

**Questions to ask if you are starting a new animal project.** There are many things you may not think or know to ask about your animal if you are planning on taking it to fair. **Please talk with your organizational leader or project leader, see the county website for fair handbooks, and attend county workshops to help you find these answers. This information will help you have a successful project to exhibit at fair.**



Does it need to be born by a specific date?  
What breeds etc. are shown at our fair?  
Is it OK to take animals that are intact?  
Is there a date I need to own my animal by?  
Does it need to be tagged? If so, when? How/where do I get this done?  
Have I taken a Quality Assurance class? Helmet Class for Horse?  
Do I need to sign up for a specific project (example, breeding for market animals or obedience for dog) to be able to show it the way I want to at fair?  
Are there weight restrictions for showing/selling this animal?  
What will I need to know to show/sell this animal?  
Are certain types of feed required?  
Are all medicines OK to use?  
What kind of housing will they require?  
What could they require in extreme cold weather? Extreme hot weather?  
14. What kind of exercise will my animal require?  
What kind of time commitment will I have to make to ensure I am doing everything this animal needs? (Just filling a self-feeder once a week or feeding twice a day and cleaning pen every other day?)  
Will I need any special equipment to get my animal ready to show? (clippers, fitting stand, etc.)

As we get closer to fair you will need to know:  
How do I fill out my registration to show this animal? What classes can I put them in?  
When do I take my animal?  
If it is a market animal, what are the requirements to sell?  
What do I need to provide for my animal's stay at the barn? (feed pans, halter, woodchips, etc.)  
What am I required to wear to show this animal?  
If I am NOT selling my animal, when can I take them home?

## MARKET BEEF TAGGING FOR MONTANAFair: SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

All market beef you are planning to enter for the 2026 MontanaFair must be tagged on this date. There are no exceptions. Each exhibitor can tag three animals in each species. Exhibitors can enter all 3 in their MontanaFair entry, but at the fair they must decide which 2 animals they will be weighing and exhibiting. Each exhibitor at the MontanaFair can only sell one animal.

The Beef tagging date for 2026 will be **Sunday, JANUARY 4** from **12:00 to 3:00 pm** at PAYS.

All exhibitors at the MontanaFair in Department A (livestock) are required to attend an MSU Extension Animal Quality Assurance Training prior to the MontanaFair entry deadline to be eligible to exhibit at the MontanaFair. Animal Quality Assurance Class will be from 1:00-2:30 pm and the Horse Helmet Class is from 3:00 am to 4:00 pm.

## 2025-2026 ANIMAL QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY & WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

All 4-H and FFA members exhibiting any animal in Department A (Junior Livestock) at MontanaFair are required to attend an MSU Extension **ANIMAL QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING (AQA)** (per state guidelines) provided by the 4-H Committee or an FFA Advisor/Agriculture Educator prior to the first MontanaFair entry deadline or exhibitors do not show. Yellowstone County has two 4-H age brackets for AQA training. Exhibitors must attend AQA as Beginners/Juniors (4-H age 8-13), and as a senior member (4-H age 14-19). This age is based on the exhibitors "4-H Age" – the age as of October 1 of the current 4-H year. Exhibitors must take Animal Quality Assurance the first year they reach each age bracket or the first year they are exhibiting in an animal project. All classes will include the same teaching materials and use the same forms and paperwork. Class content is determined by a committee and updated every two years. A parent or legal guardian must also attend the AQA Training.

There will be hands-on, group activities. Please plan on arriving on time with a parent with both staying for the complete 1½ hours. If you and your parent are not in attendance for the complete training, you may be asked to attend another session. Plan on attending a session early in the year so conflicts do not occur in your family schedule. **More workshops will NOT be added after the June 3 class. It is the final opportunity for 2026.**

The sessions in January, March and May are in person trainings. For the virtual sessions, people will log into the Webex meeting (Webex link information will be sent out via email prior to each session) to learn the information then go to the online program, pay their own \$12 fee, and take the online class. A copy of the completion certificate must be provided to the Extension Office.

**Sunday, January 4: 1:00-2:30 pm at PAYS (Public Auction Yards)**

**Thursday, February 12: 6:00 pm Virtual training**

**Monday, March 30: 6:30 pm Virtual training**

**Friday, April 24: 6:00 pm at the 4-H Building**

**Saturday, May 2: 9:00-10:30 am at PAYS (Public Auction Yards)**

**Tuesday, June 2: 6:30 pm Virtual training**

## MSU EXTENSION 4-H HORSE HELMET POLICY & WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

**Participants in the 4-H Horse Project are required to attend a Horse Helmet Workshop once as a beginner/junior 4-H member (8-13) and again as a senior 4-H member (14 and up).** This age is based on the exhibitors "4-H Age" – the age as of October 1 of the current 4-H year. Exhibitors must attend a Horse Helmet Workshop the first year they reach every age bracket or the first year they are exhibiting in an animal project. A parent or legal guardian must also attend the Horse Helmet Workshop.

After attending a 4-H Helmet Workshop, riders may choose whether they will wear a certified helmet. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the 4-H member to see that the headgear worn complies with such standards and is in good condition. The Montana 4-H Center for Youth Development encourages the use of ASTM certified/SEI approved safety helmets in all equine events. Protective headgear may be used in all classes and shall not be discriminated against. Helmet use is encouraged in all 4-H horse activities any time a 4-H member is around a horse. A certified equestrian helmet with safety harness fastened in place is required in over fence classes and gymkhana events, activities, and practice sessions. Gymkhana refers to horseback speed events (timed or un-timed) that do not use livestock. Events that usually fall in this category include, but are not limited to barrel racing, pole bending, keyhole races, stake races, rescue races, pony express race, etc. Events that are not intended to be included in this policy are events such as calf roping, team roping, goat tying, and team penning that may be timed but use livestock. **More workshops will NOT be added after the May 2 class. It is the final opportunity for 2026.**

**Sunday, January 4: 3:00-4:00 pm at PAYS (Public Auction Yards)**  
**Wednesday, April 15: 7:00-8:00 pm at the 4-H Building**  
**Saturday, May 2: 11:00 am-12:00 pm at PAYS (Public Auction Yards)**

## THE NIGHT CHECK: A VIDEO SERIES IN PREPARATION FOR CALVING SEASON

MSU Extension Cascade County created a series of videos to help cattle producers learn more about preparing for calving season. You can find the recorded webinars below:

Calf Care webinar with Sam Wyffels, PhD, MSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

Watch the webinar recording on [YouTube](#) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sc45sbHgcbw>

Feeding Before and After Calving webinar with Megan Van Emon, PhD, MSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

Watch the webinar recording on [YouTube](#) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQl6YfRG4c8>

Bred Heifers and Cows webinar with Rachel Endecott, PhD, Grey Horse Consulting & Goggins Ranch

Watch the webinar recording on [YouTube](#) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fb5Tvgwsry4>

Preparing for Calving webinar with Hannah DelCurto-Wyffels, PhD, MSU Professor and Rebekah Clark, MSU Student in Animal Science

Watch the webinar recording on [YouTube](#) at [https://youtu.be/URibut-X\\_VE](https://youtu.be/URibut-X_VE)

## 2026 MONTANA WINTER FAIR

The Montana Winter Fair will be held January 15-18, 2026 in Lewistown, MT. Information can be found online at the [Montana Winter Fair website](#) at <http://montanawinterfair.com/>, by calling 406-538-2200 or emailing [montanawinterfair@gmail.com](mailto:montanawinterfair@gmail.com).

## 2026 MONTANA STATE FAIR JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW

Anyone wanting to show at the 2026 Montana State Fair in Great Falls, MT should visit the [Montana ExpoPark](#) at <https://www.cascadecountymt.gov/213/2026-Montana-State-Fair> or call 406-727-8900 for entry information.

## END OF YEAR DONATION: SUPPORT THE YELLOWSTONE COUNTY 4-H FOUNDATION

Both the Yellowstone and Montana 4-H Foundations support 4-H educational learning experiences through scholarship. Tax deductible contributions help support today's young people. Please complete the following fields and mail with your check to: Yellowstone County 4-H Foundation, 2320 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue N, Billings, MT 59101.

### YELLOWSTONE COUNTY 4-H FOUNDATION

Enclosed is a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Please send acknowledgement to:

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

From (Donor's Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Yellowstone County 4-H Foundation

# DECEMBER 2025 4-H CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:00 Showcase Meeting 5:30 Post FFN Meeting 6:00 Dept. N 6:30 Council to follow <i>4-H Building</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 or 1:00 Ceramics workshop <i>79 Whitehorse South Road, Laurel</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:00 Family Orientation Night <i>4-H Building</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Counselor/CIT & Ambassador Applications Due in Extension Office by 5:00	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:00 Shooting Sports Leader Meeting <i>4-H Building</i>	<b>19</b> Newsletter Articles Due	<b>20</b> 11:00 Cat Workshop 1:00 Pocket Pet Workshop <i>4-H Building</i>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Holiday Office Closed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Jan. 1</b> Holiday Office Closed	<b>Jan. 2</b>	<b>Jan. 3</b>
<b>Jan. 4</b> 12-3 Beef Tagging 1-2:30 Animal Quality Assurance 3-4 Horse Helmet Wkshop ALL at Billings Public Auction Yards (PAYS)						