

SANDERS COUNTY DISPATCH

February

- 1 Gabriel Rueda
- 3 Anneka Turner
- 4 Kylie Silva
- 6 Zoe Kifer
- 12 Chase Sauter
- 13 Sophia Laffriniere-Thornhill
- 13 Clinton Weedeman
- 14 Quentin Hagerman
- 15 Brielle Clarke
- 16 Edward Fairbank
- 21 Katherine Wessely
- 26 Paisley Helvey
- 29 Daniel Suess

March

- 2 McCoy Newton
- 4 Ailie Avilla
- 5 Jebediah Browning
- 6 Isaiah Schork
- 6 Blaine Helvey
- 10 Wade Mosher
- 15 Reesa Rodriguez
- 15 Tatum Willis
- 16 Dechlan Neeson
- 17 Grady Dana
- 18 Michaela Champneys
- 21 Bhaltair Edwards
- 26 Samuel Clarke
- 27 Elsie Myers
- 28 Aveline Cross
- 30 Ivan Dana



Sanders County 4-H Meat Raffle Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone's efforts last years meat raffle fundraiser was a huge success! We are hoping to have another successful raffle this year.

Please help support the Sanders County 4-H Council's efforts in fundraising by selling Meat Raffle tickets. We are expecting each member (not to include Cloverbuds) to sell 10 tickets.

Tickets will be given to club Organizational Leaders during Communication Days. The raffle drawing will be Sunday, September 6th during the Sanders County Fair. Please make sure to turn in your tickets and money in to your club leader as soon as you get them sold.

If members wish to sell more than the requested 10 tickets, the 4-H council will be awarding the top 5 sellers a gift certificate to a local business!

SANDERS COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL MEAT RAFFLE

TWO 1/2 HOGS DONATED BY
FIRST SECURITY BANK

1/4 BEEF DONATED BY
3R SIMMENTAL RANCH

WHOLE LAMB DONATED BY
GOD'S COUNTRY FARM LLC

BISON BURGER BOX (12 LBS)
DONATED BY HARLOW BISON
RANCH COMPANY

TICKET PRICES: \$10.00 EACH

Raffle will take place Sunday, September 6th, 2026

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

SANDERS COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL
MEAT RAFFLE

*Thank you for supporting
Sanders County 4-H!*

Take a peek at what's inside!

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Learning Lab Kits

There are Beef, Horse, Sheep, Swine, Poultry and Plant ID Learning Lab kits available for checkout from the Extension Office. Additionally, Dairy kits are available from the State 4-H Office. If you would like to check out any of these kits for a project meeting contact the Extension Office.

Whats Our Responsibility When Involved in 4-H

Unable to be at the sale with your market animal? Unable to attend the required number of club meetings? Rules are meant to be fair to everyone, as well as provide structure to the 4-H Program. However, we realize that unusual or special circumstances do arise from time to time that need to be considered. The Sanders County 4-H Council has made available a **Request for the Rule Exemption** form. This form is to be completed by any 4-H member who requests a special consideration regarding any county rule that is in place. The request should be given to the Club Leader first for signature. If it needs to be reviewed further it will be considered by the Sanders County 4-H Executive Committee. Hopefully, thinking through the questions will allow members to look at the large picture and how the request will affect not only themselves but those around them.

The form can be picked up at the Extension Office or can be found on the Sanders County 4-H website at the following link: montana.edu/extension/sanders/sanderscounty4Hforms.html If you have questions about the form, or when to use it contact the Extension Office.

Reminder!

The 4-H Council will no longer be able to offer a Multi-County camp discount for Communication Day's presenters or funds to help cover Congress costs.

They will continue to award the top 4 junior presenters at Communication Days (12 yrs old & younger) a scholarship to Multi- County camp for Demonstration & Illustrated Talk. They will also award the first place finishers in Favorite Foods and Stir-Up's a camp scholarship. Members 13 yrs old and older (too old to attend Multi-County camp) within the top four will earn a trip to State 4-H Congress in Bozeman. The first-place presenters for Video, Career Communications, Prepared Speech and Stir-Up's will also receive a scholarship to attend Congress. Council will still have Jake Legard funds available for the cost of Multi-County camp if it is needed.

More Multi-County Camp information can be found here: montana.edu/extension/sanders/multicountycamp.html

Check Out The

MSU Extension Website!

You can find a lot of very helpful information on our website including:

- New Family Orientation
- Record Book Information
- Club Resources
- Project Resources
- Volunteer Information
- Grants & Scholarships
- Teen Leadership
- Awards
- Events
- Newsletters & Minutes
- Forms
- School Enrichment Resources
- and much more!

montana.edu/extension/sanders/4h.html



Camping Coordinator

We are needing a volunteer or volunteers to fill the Camping Coordinator role during fair! If you are interested please call the Extension Office.

4-H COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Meetings are open to all senior members and leaders. They are held every other month at 6:00 pm. The location is being alternated between the Extension Office, Minnie's in Thompson Falls and Linda Cooks home in Plains.

February (Extension Office)

April (Linda Cooks Home)

June (Minnies)

August (Linda Cooks Home)

October

December

We encourage all interested to attend in order to keep communication and information lines open to all 4-H clubs and members.

Montana 4-H STATE AWARDS

The Montana 4-H State Awards program is in place to recognize the Outstanding accomplishments of 4-H members who have reached a standard of excellence in a project area. State Award winners have gone above and beyond regular project work with a focus on leadership, communication and community service.

All applicants must be 14-19 years old prior to October 1 of the current 4-H year. Application and more information may be seen at this link.

montana.edu/extension/4h/programs_and_events/awards/state-awards.html

**Application deadline to apply for a state award is
May 1 (postmarked).**

Please forward complete applications to:

Montana 4-H Center
Attn: State Award Application
210 Taylor Hall
Bozeman, MT 59717

**You may also upload your application through
the website above.**

State Award Recipients are recognized during the Banquet at Montana 4-H Congress in July and are eligible to attend National 4-H Congress in November.

SANDERS COUNTY 4-H

IS ON INSTAGRAM

Follow us!

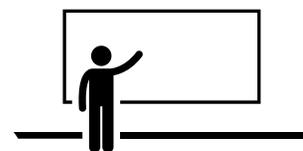


@sanders_county_4h

Example Videos of Demonstrations/Illustrated Talks and Video Competitions

If you are interested in seeing videos of other 4-H members doing presentations click on the link below and then on the contest. You will see resources for each of the communication categories. The demonstrations and video categories provide videos to watch. This could be very helpful for you to know how to prepare your presentation. Enjoy!

montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/4h_communication/



2026 REC LAB

Youth Participants must be 13+ as of October 1, 2025 and adult chaperones must be at least 21 years of age

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



March 27-29, 2026 / Columbus, MT

What is Rec Lab?

Rec Lab stands for Recreation Lab and means that everything is hands-on and fun!

This event is a 4-H member favorite: It provides an opportunity for youth and adults to enhance their leadership, communication, and team building skills in an action-packed and interactive setting.

Rec Lab programming provides participants with tips for being a better club, camp, and community leader.

As soon as registration is open we will send out an email!

Registration Fee: \$110

*Registration fee includes lodging, snacks, meals, t-shirts, workshops and exciting speakers.

More information can be found here:

montana.edu/extension/4h/programs_and_events/events/rec_lab/index.html



Exciting News!



As many of you know, our beloved 4-H Extension Agent, Juli Thurston, retired last April. Since then, we have been actively searching for the right person to fill her role, and we are thrilled to announce that Jamie Schmidt from Plains was hired and started at the beginning of January as our new 4-H Youth and Development, Horticulture and Natural Resources Agent.

Jamie is getting settled into the office while preparing for upcoming classes and programs she'll be leading. We are very excited to welcome her to our Extension Community!

Jamie looks forward to meeting the needs of the Horticulture, 4-H and Natural Resource Programs while developing long lasting relationships with Community members. She hold a Master's in Secondary Education and a Bachelor's in Earth Science Education, and a certificate in Sustainable Food and Farming. Her experience includes teaching High School Science, advising FFA, and assisting local producers with implementing practices to mitigate resource concerns as a soil conservationist. Outside of work, she enjoys all aspects of the natural world. Camping, hiking, and water sports with her son and husband are some of her favorite pastimes.

Jamie and Wendy will be splitting 4-H roles. Jamie will oversee all Non-livestock projects as well as Non-Livestock 4-H events throughout the year. Wendy will oversee all Livestock projects.

RABBIT, POULTRY & CAT MONTHLY MEETINGS

Rabbit Meetings: 1:00 pm
Poultry Meetings: 1:30 pm
Cat Meetings: 2:00 pm

Sunday, March 22nd
Sunday, April 26th
Sunday, May 3rd
Sunday, June 7th
Sunday, July 12th
Sunday, August 16th

Meetings will be held at the Fairgrounds in the Poultry barn.

Questions? Contact Raelyn Cox
Phone: (406) 499-6281
 (call or text)
Email: presleycox18@gmail.com



Rabbit, Poultry & Cat Project Information

Please contact your Superintendent or Leader if you have Poultry, Rabbit or Cat Questions. You can also call the Extension Office and Ashley or Wendy can try to answer your questions or pass you on to the correct resource.

Poultry, Rabbit and Cat Project Meeting Coordinator

Raelyn Cox 406-499-6281 / presleycox18@gmail.com

Poultry Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent

Whitney Spurr (Sup.) 406-552-0616 / whitneytanner16@gmail.com

Steve Spurr (Asst. Sup) 406-826-3510 / stevenspurr@gmail.com

Poultry Leader

Brianne Champneys 630-707-6875 / champneys@gmail.com

Rabbit Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent

Doug Horner (Sup.) 406-847-2790 / doughorner@gmail.com

Jeremy & Sarah Stover (Asst. Sup's) 406-493-9465 / mayasuzanna@yahoo.com

Cat Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent

Raelyn Cox (Sup.) 406-499-6281 / presleycox18@gmail.com

Presely Cox (Asst. Sup.) presleycox18@gmail.com

If you are interested in joining the Facebook group for these projects here are the links:

Poultry Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1343169771160406>

Rabbit Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/899920365746537>

Cat Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1685879229049441>

Sanders County 4-H Council Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 3, 2026 6:00 PM - EXTENSION CONFERENCE ROOM, THOMPSON FALLS

Pledges were recited after the meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

Minutes of December's Meeting were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report – Many thanks to Joanne for spending hours creating a workable spreadsheet as council transitions from banking with Stockman bank and begin banking at First Security bank with one council account and one projects account. *Jen made a motion to request \$4500 from our Managed Agency Account with the MT 4-H Foundation. Linda seconded, motion carried.*

Wendy will propose to livestock committee that meat raffle total profit minus expenses and kitchen loss provide the total used to figure the 25% for livestock committee.

Correspondence was received from Jayden Cook. Leaders and staff report that members are doing a good job of sending thank you cards.

Reports

Livestock Committee did not meet in January.

Ambassadors – Melodie Cook will present a report from National 4-H Congress at April Council meeting. Brielle reported that a President and Vice-President have been chosen, and Ambassadors are planning a workshop on public speaking, as well as a dance at the west end of the county in the end of April or May. The group also hopes to host a Clover Bud Camp.

Scholarship/Foundation Reports – Seven members are eligible to interview for county scholarships this year. Foundation scholarship endowment for Sanders County has \$3270.89 in available interest. Managed Agency account has \$19,734.02, and the Jake Legard account has \$782.

Livestock Awards Committee plans to meet soon.

Dining Hall Committee (Suzanna, Linda and Carissa) met and, because of a loss of about \$5,918 at 2025 fair, looked carefully at reasons for loss, the health and safety advantages of using local foods, and hard costs per plate for meals served. Nearby county 4-H fair booths were also consulted for comparisons in profit. Committee suggested concentrating on one breakfast item and one lunch/dinner item, repeated for all four days, sold by a punch card that can be shared with anyone, and served continually from 6:30am to 7:30pm (or ...) Marketing would include members sharing the info, and use of social meeting. *Terry made a motion for the committee to move forward with plans, bring Stacy (dining hall cook) into the loop, and talk to the sanitarian. Jen seconded. Motion carried.* Thank you to the Dining Hall Committee for their hard work!

Old Business

Communication Days registrations are slowly coming in, including a few for make-up demonstrations that will be scheduled some time in February. StirUps will be on March 8th. Budget for judge's gifts is \$250. Wide mouth quart jars will be donated (thank you, Courtney!)

New Business

Meat Raffle begins in March or early April. Firm donations at this time are two swine halves and ¼ beef. Staff is checking on another ¼ beef and possibly lamb or bison.

Credit card fees – As a non-profit we are now able to charge the credit card convenience fee. Next year verbiage will be added to member and leader registration that a flat 3% fee will be added onto card payments.

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Continued

By-Laws discussion is tabled until April due to the length of this meeting.

Fair Parking/Camping Coordinator is needed and could be done by more than one person.

Rec Lab Fees include \$500 budgeted for chaperone expenses (including providing transportation for members). Members pay their own expenses (registration).

Memorandum of Understanding updated proposal between 4-H and the Fairgrounds was presented. Wendy suggested adding Thursdays for horse activities. Other suggestions may be sent to Wendy by Monday (February 9) for presentation at Fair Commission meeting Wednesday (February 11.)

Council moved into closed session at approximately 8:20pm until 8:40pm regarding policies.

Council supports Jamie's plan to begin work on a pamphlet/page with sections of expectations for members, leaders, parents and agents.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Dwyer, Secretary

Those present included President Joanne Burke; Terry Stephens, Treasurer from Hot Springs Wranglers; Jen Avilla (Vice President), Brielle Clarke, Juli Thurston, Linda Cook, Susanna and Alida Feiro, South Side Sparks; Sara Dana and Courtney Frank, Trout Creek Mavericks; Jamie Schmidt and Wendy Carr, County Extension Agents; and Karen Dwyer, Secretary.



**TO INVEST IN 4-H IS TO
INVEST IN THE FUTURE.
4-H'ERS EXCEL.**

about **4X**
to contribute to
their community.

2X
more likely to
make healthy choices.



nearly **5X**
more likely to
graduate college.

Dates to Remember:
2025

Feb	3	Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Extension Conference Room
	14	People Partner Grant applications due in State 4-H Office
	14	State Scholarship applications due in State 4-H Office
	15	Multi-County Camp Counselor Applications Due
	TBA	State 4-H Rec Lab Registration Due
	23	Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm - Plains, 4-H Pavilion
March	7	Meat Raffle sales start
	7-8	Communication days and Stir-ups
	13	Sanders County Scholarship Applications Due
	15	Communication Finals day, Plains
	27-29	State 4-H Rec Lab, Columbus, MT
	23	Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30pm – Plains, 4-H Pavilion
April	7	Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Linda Cook’s Home, Plains
	27	Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm - Plains, 4-H Pavilion
May	7	State Award applications due in State 4-H Office
	25	Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30pm – Plains, 4-H Pavilion
June	2	Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Minnie’s Cafe, Thompson Falls
	7	Sheep/Goat/Swine Tagging, Sanders County Fairgrounds, Plains
	15	Montana State 4-H Congress registration deadline
	16-19	Multi-County 4-H Camp
	22	Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30pm – Plains, 4-H Pavilion
July	1	Project Add/Drop deadline
	1	Online FairEntry Registration Begins
	5-7	Pre-Congress – Bozeman
	7-10	Montana State 4-H Congress – Bozeman
	27	Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30pm – Plains, 4-H Pavilion
Aug	4	Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Linda Cook’s Home, Plains
	5	FairEntry Registration Deadline
	5	Leader of the Year and Honorary Member Nominations Due
	5	Junior Achievement and Little Chief Award Applications Due
	5	Deadline to sign up for Barn Patrol
	24	Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30pm – 4-H Pavilion, Plains
	29	Fair Readiness Day
Sept	2-6	Sanders County Fair
	13	Carcass Evaluation, Superior Meats
	11	Member record books due to Club Organizational Leader
	11	Outstanding Member county award nominations due to Club Organizational Leader
	21	Record book results due to Extension Office from Organizational Leader
	21	List of Outstanding Member County awards due to the Extension Office from Org. Leaders
	28	Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30pm – 4-H Pavilion, Plains