

September 2026

4-H Newsletter

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more you are a leader.” -Dolly

September 27th is Achievement Night – Make sure to RSVP

From the Office

We are excited to celebrate your achievements!! Awards have been ordered and are arriving daily. Livestock checks should be ready by Achievement night. If you sold a silent auction item your funds are available in the office or at Achievement night.

Birthdays

Angelina Cumin	Emma Lofing
Bryson Bowler	Riley Burrows
Kinley Indreland	Lane Witt
Emmy Lou Dempsey	Hank Davey
Bridger Sullivan	Darren Snapp
Patimiosi Olive	



Teen Leaders Trip to Cody

Thank you Mike Baker and Haley Barker for taking Teen Leaders on a trip to Cody Wyoming.



**Once a 4-Her
Always a
4-Her**

SAVE THE DATE

Parents and teens you are
invited
to our 4-H Year Kickoff
October 12th



Announcements



Achievement Night
September 27th at
3:00PM at the Civic
Center. Bring a treat to
share.



National 4-H Week
October 4th - 10th Make
sure to tell others
about 4-H



4-H Enrollment for
2026-2027 open
October 1st in Zsutes

Community Garden



Do you love gardening? Did you know that there is a Columbus Community Garden?

Well the garden needs someone just like you! Someone with a passion and great ideas!



The Columbus Community garden was started by a small group of inspired people that created a non-profit to build the garden. It happened and the garden was built. It was successful for a few years but as sometimes happens people moved on and the garden was turned over to 4-H.



How we can help? We need a few people to help bring it back. We have some ideas we just need a group to help make it grow! Please let us know if you or your group can be the sunshine to water the plans.

4-H Leaders Kick Off

The evening of October 12th we invite parents and teens to come enjoy some food, drinks and conversation.

We have just one question "What if?"

Maybe you ask that yourself,
what if in 4-H

So bring your ideas or questions, we want to know what YOU want 4-H to look like. Help us map out the 4-H year.

4-H LEADERS Kickoff!

Sip, Create & Plan

head heart hands health

This isn't a meeting about what 4-H has *always* been. It's a chance to decide what we want 4-H to *become*.

YOU don't have to have all the answers. We just want you at the table.

Come HANG OUT.

Get INSPIRED.

Help SHAPE THE YEAR.

Leave KNOWING WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHERE YOU FIT IN.

SAVE THE DATE!

October 12th

Your ideas. Your voice. Our future. Let's grow it together.

TOGETHER, WE CAN GROW TOMORROW'S LEADERS.

We can't wait to see you there!

4-H Connections

ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT SEPTEMBER 27TH 3PM CIVIC CENTER

All 4-Hers and families are invited to attend. Awards from fair will be handed out and clubs will get the chance to highlight their 4-H year. Bring a snack to share and please let us know your coming by RSVP with this link

<https://forms.gle/UJVmvoj98ijcrKUJ9>

PHOTO CIRCLE STILLWATER COUNTY 4-H



Click link :

<https://join.photocircleapp.com/RX9ZDSXY69>



Please share your 4-H pictures from this year to be added to a slide show at Achievement Night. Maybe you have a picture from you clubs community service, practicing for fair, building your project, or dancing at Rec Lab. Photo circle lets us all share photos and see our friends photos. PhotoCircle® is a secure media-sharing platform for families, social groups, schools, nonprofits, and businesses to easily connect, share, and organize photos, videos, and documents—all in one simple, easy-to-use app.

STILLWATER COUNTY EXTENSION AND 4-H WEBSITE

You can now find updated information on the Stillwater Extension website. We are actively working to keep our website up to date with upcoming events and activities for both community and 4-H members. Please check out our "calendar of events" tab to see when events are happening. In addition you can follow Stillwater 4-H on Facebook and Instagram.



www.montana.edu/extension/stillwater/



Stillwater County 4-H
Stillwater County Extension



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stillwaterextension



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www.https://www.montana.edu/extension/stillwater/

Calendar of

Events

September

7th- Labor Day - Office Closed

10th State 4-H Horse Show

22nd- Exchange meeting

27th - Achievement Night

30th- NILE Registration due

October

1st- Start of New 4-H Year, Enroll in Zsuite

4-10th National 4H Week

9-17th NILE

12th- 4-H Leaders Kickoff

17th- Pasture to Plate

November

6-8th Fall Leadership Training

21st- Cake, Canvas and Crafts

Save the dates more details to be announced



Teen Leaders

The next meeting for the Teen Leaders is September 20th at 6PM at Haley's house.

Teen Leaders will be discussing and preparing for Achievement Night.

We encourage any teen interested to attend the October meeting. Why join Teen Leaders?

- Teen Leaders plan, prepare, and deliver Easter Meal to the community.
- Raise money for a trip each year to the place of their choice.
- Decide where, why, who, and how they can be of service.
- Brainstorm on how to make 4-H, events, and the program better.
- Plan and present awards at Achievement night



ZSuite enrollment opens October 1st

Action Plans

If there are changes to fair or fairbook there must be an action plan submitted. Action plans can be found online.



Taking applications for new

4-H Exchange members



Next meeting anyone interested in joining Exchange is invited to attend September 22nd at 6:00 pm at Extension office

Why join the Exchange program?

- Build critical thinking, adaptability, problem-solving and communication skills.
- Learn how other 4-Hers live and how their program works where they are.
- Forge new friendships
- Try new activities, new foods, and see new things.

Looking for teens to help with a fundraiser.

Our office received an email asking if there are any teens willing to help with the Trace's Ranch Rodeo on September 18th in Red Lodge. If you or your club are available let us know so we can get details.



Our sweet Trace had a whirlwind start to life that no family can ever truly prepare for. During his birth, Hannah experienced a placental abruption that resulted in an emergency C-section. Because of the complications surrounding his delivery, Trace experienced HIE (hypoxicischemic encephalopathy) at birth and spent 13 days in the NICU receiving the care he needed. Since then, our little fighter has already made incredible progress and has continued to prove everyone wrong at every step of the way. We are so proud of how far he has come and incredibly grateful to have him home with us, but his journey is far from over. Trace will continue to have several follow-up appointments with his primary care provider and neurologist, along with physical and occupational therapy to support his development and help him continue reaching milestones. This benefit is being held to help our family with the medical expenses, travel, appointments, and other unexpected costs that have come with Trace's journey. We are beyond grateful for every prayer, kind word, and person who has supported our family and loved our sweet boy through it all.

--Hannah, Chase, Tripp, and Trace



Pasture to Plate Save the date Oct 17th

Join us for a hands-on 4-H experience exploring the journey from pasture to plate! Youth will learn meat identification, quality and yield grading, food safety and handling, and hands-on cooking skills. Come learn, taste, and build valuable skills along the way!



**BEARTOOTH RANGE
PRODUCTION FUTURITY**
Show

SEPTEMBER 20TH

STARTING AT 10 AM

**CARBON COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS
RED LODGE, MT**

Come support our youth!

Stillwater County 4-H Leaders' Council Minutes
August 19th, 2026 @ 6:06pm
West Annex

Attendance: Brian Young (Stillwater Ranch Hands), Wendy Reed (United Clovers & Sheep Superintendent), Jeanna Fry (Park City Wranglers), Melissa Robertus (Park City Wranglers & Small Animal Superintendent), Amy & Steve Williams (Beartooth Ramblers), Melissa Kramer (Johnny's Buckaroos & Beef Superintendent), Sarah-Jane French (Extension Agent), Haley Barker (Extension Agent), Kathy Hollar (Extension Office & Beartooth Ramblers), Tammi Kirch (Beartooth Ramblers & Indoor Superintendent), Randy Smith (Johnny's Buckaroos & Facility Facilitator), Shannon Moore (Johnny's Buckaroos)

Reports

Ambassadors/Teen Leaders – Haley shared they took their trip down to Cody, WY and then over to Yellowtail Dam for a fun little weekend trip. There were a couple of “bumps” in their trip but the teens were resilient and found fun to have anyways!

Travel Program – Tammi shared that Kansas was an amazing trip with the Teen Leaders! The kids got along well with the 4-Hers and families they were paired with in Kansas. It was one of the best interaction of kids, educational and fun activities each day, an “Amazing Race” challenge to create next year, and one of the most thoroughly enjoyable events she has experienced.

Homemakers – nothing to share at this time

Office Report- Sarah-Jane rejoiced they/we made it through Fair! Fair #s were good, Live Auction total was up by \$50,000 from 2025, there were almost \$8,600 in ad-ons during the sale this year. Sept 27th @ 3pm, at the Civic Center will be the Awards/Achievement night.

Old Business

Melissa Kramer expressed gratitude for the Council approving the increased Marketing budget for this year's Fair. The additional efforts to bring exposure and insight into the community was successful.

New Business

Swine Superintendent – Sarah-Jane shared that Michelle Snapp had stepped in as an Intern Swine Superintendent for this year. A Superintendent application was created; it is available online and open to anyone interested. You do need to sign up as a Volunteer Leader (not necessarily a Club Leader) to apply. It was discussed and suggested to open up all the Superintendents position and co-chair for a year or two with the current Superintendent for a more fluid transition when the current one's step down. Applications are due September 30th.

Awards Committee - Kathy shared that in the Awards catalog prices and availability of some items have changed. If she could get a couple of people to help review the awards catalog and go over options, she would appreciate the help. Wendy & Tammi agreed to help. Also, the Herdsman Plaque is no longer available. Kathy/Sarah-Jane found a comparable picture frame that was engravable to take the place of the plaque.

Fair 2027 Band – Haley shared that bands are difficult to book if you wait much longer than the first of the year and most are already booking for 2027 as we speak. Any input on which band(s) we would like Haley to reach out to for availability, and do we have a price range to work within? Exit 53, Plowed Under Bands were mentioned as forerunners, as well as pre-sales on tickets for next year. After discussion from the group, Tammi moved to have Haley to contact bands to reserve for the next 3 years, with a price range of up to \$5,500. Jeanna 2nd the motion, Motion passed.

Brainstorming Activity – Everyone in the room had opportunity to share suggestions, logistical changes, ideas, and trials from this year's Fair to help improve upon next year's Fair. It was a super productive discussion with great feedback!

Announcements

☘ Council Lamb Dates

- 2027 – Beartooth Ramblers
- 2028 – Broadview Homesteaders
- 2029 – Johnny's Buckaroos

☘ Next Council meeting: October - meeting poll will be sent out

Melissa K moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeanna 2nd the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm