

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER- MAY 2026

406-256-2828 2320 3rd Avenue N, Billings MT 59101

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

Facebook: Yellowstone County 4-H

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RONI BAKER

Now is a great time to start working on your 4-H record books! Go to 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> to find links to fillable record sheets. Each 4-H member completes a My 4-H Record, and one Animal/Non-animal record sheet for each project they are enrolled in. You may also visit the [State 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/support/record_books/zsuite.html) at https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/support/record_books/zsuite.html. They have record book video tutorials and other resources that can assist you. You can also keep your records online through your ZSuite account.

ATTENTION! ENROLLMENT DROPS & ADDS MUST BE MADE BY APRIL 30

ALL members and volunteers enrolled in 4-H have access to their records through ZSuite and will be solely responsible for adding, dropping, and verifying the accuracy of their projects including the level of the project. Members may make changes to their PROJECTS up until April 30, 2026, after which time the online program will be locked and NO changes can be made to projects. **No exceptions!**

4-H FRUIT SALE TOP SELLERS & GIFT CARD DRAWING WINNERS

Thank you and congratulations to these 4-H members. We appreciate their efforts during this fundraiser whose proceeds benefit the Yellowstone County 4-H Council and 4-H members.

4-H Member	4-H Club	# of boxes sold
Olivia Arneson	Cool Clovers	130
Isabelle Brito	Shepherd Pioneers	124
Haylee Krohne	Ruff Riders	42
Elizabeth Saunders	Lockwood Humble Bs	38
Joash Vincent	Blue Creek Jumping Bucks	36

Members who sold 4-11 boxes of fruit were entered into a drawing for a \$50 Visa Gift card. Congratulations to Wesley Beeton with the Blue Creek Jumping Bucks 4-H Club.

Members who sold 12 boxes or more of fruit were entered into a drawing for a \$100 Visa Gift card. Congratulations to Jacob Schiermeister with the Yellowstone Silver Spurs 4-H Club.

4-H COUNCIL MEETING

On Thursday, May 7, in the 4-H Building, there will be a Department N (non-animal projects) meeting at 6:00 pm with the 4-H Council meeting to follow. All are welcome to attend.

4-H CAMP APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 8

This year camp will be held on June 9-12, at the Beartooth Christian Camp near Absarokee. You can look forward to great dances, campfires, swimming and many more crafts and activities. Camp will cost \$225.00 for campers. Partial scholarships are available for those that write a scholarship request letter.

We will have a limit of 120 campers (Yellowstone, Stillwater, & Carbon counties). Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. **Applications MUST BE COMPLETED IN ZSUITE through the Household Primary profile under the Events section in the dashboard.** Application deadline is May 8, at 5:00 pm.

OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND 4-H CONGRESS IN JULY

Were you 13 years old by October 1, 2025, and are interested in attending State 4-H Congress in Bozeman this July? This statewide gathering focuses on leadership development and personal growth. The event includes competitions for state projects and contest awards. **4-H members can qualify to attend State 4-H Congress by participating in our county Communication Contest and/or Showcase.**

The following briefly describes the activities and events that are available to participate in at State 4-H Congress. Some have county participation requirements. Please read them carefully. 4-H State Congress will be July 7-10, 2026. Contact Roni if you are interested in attending as an individual or part of a county team.

Demonstration - You must have received a blue ribbon at the county Communication Contest. We may take any number of competitors.

Career Communication - You practice the skills of applying for a job including an application, cover letter and resume.

Public Speaking - You must have received a blue ribbon at the county Communication Day contest. We may take any number of competitors.

Fashion Revue – You must have participated in county Showcase event. We may take more than one participant. Selection is made at the county Showcase event.

Horse Judging - We may take a team of four.

Livestock Judging - We may take a team of 4 or individual members to compete in judging classes and giving reasons.

Stir-Ups Contest - This is a fun, challenging food program where members plan a meal, prepare a low-fat main dish, display the meal, and create a notebook. We can take individuals or teams.

Gavel Games - This is a Parliamentary Procedure contest. Teams of four compete.

Quilting - Quilts judged at the county Showcase event are eligible to attend Congress.

Horse Skillathon - A team of four can compete in this contest about horse knowledge.

Video - Learn communication skills through creating, editing, and presenting a video.

4-H members interested can attend as a delegate (a member of age wanting to attend) or by competing in Career Communications, Demonstration or Illustrated Talk, Fashion Review, Gavel Games (Parliamentary Procedure), Horse Judging, Horse Hippology (Skillathon), Livestock Judging, Public Speaking, Quilt Contest, Stir-ups, or Video. Descriptions of each contest can be found on the [state 4-H website Congress page](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs_and_events/events/mt_4h_congress/index.html) at

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Contact Roni Baker by May 15 if interested. Those participating in an eligible county contest will be mailed information.

LET'S HAVE A 4-H/FFA FAIR STICKER CONTEST

The 2026 MontanaFair theme is "Celebrate MontanaFair". Think of a creative sticker design and submit it to the Extension office as a .pdf file by May 15. We will then put it out to everyone to vote.

MONTANAFAIR EXHIBITOR HANDBOOKS ONLINE

The 2026 MontanaFair Exhibitor handbooks for Department A and N will be available on the [MontanaFair website](http://www.montanafair.com/) at www.montanafair.com/. On the Yellowstone County website, there will be a link to the handbooks under the MontanaFair heading. You can begin writing down your entries on the MontanaFair entry worksheet that can be printed off the Yellowstone County 4-H website under the MontanaFair section. This will help you be prepared when entry opens on the MontanaFair website.

GRADUATION WELL WISHES

Our congratulations to all 4-H members graduating from high school this year. We wish you the best!

Graduate

Carson Adkins
Lukas Arkell
Heather Cole
Ella Dumas

4-H Club

Shepherd Tumbleweeds
Blue Creek Jumping Bucks
Blue Creek Jumping Bucks
Shepherd Pioneers

Graduate

Danica Albrecht
Kaiya Cardwell
Brayden Connelly
Isabella Elliott

4-H Club

Pine Ridge Red Ryder
Ruff Riders
Kountry Kritters
Ruff Riders

Wyatt Johannes	Worden Riverdale	Bradlie Joseph	Pine Ridge Red Ryder
Ethan Leeson	Northern Lights	Aidan Lentz	Lockwood Humbel Bs
Alex Luhman	Huntley Eagles	TJ Martin	Big Sky Thunderbolts
Saphron Myers	Northern Lights	Heaven Reed	Big Sky Thunderbolts
Erin Robertson	Yellowstone Mavericks	Hazel Russell	City Kids
Dawson Serock	City Kids	Patrick Tidwell	Ruff Riders
Aidan Turitto	Shepherd Tumbleweeds		

COMMUNICATION DAY SUCCESS!

The following members participated in up to three categories of Demonstration, Speech, Video presentation, Short Take, Interview and Commercial.

Tate Ackerman	Madilyn Aldrich	Olivia Arneson	Ruby Hertel
Isabella Johnson	Isiah Johnson	Nia Kibblewhite	Brooklyn Kuhr
Aidan Lentz	Claira Longmire	Stetson Longmire	Hadleigh Lynch
Taytum Lynch	Caleb Mortensen	Joy Mortensen	Julie Mortensen
Elise Nemitz	Amanda Parks	Matthew Parks	Sarina Parks
Izabella Rau	Heaven Reed	David Reynolds	Elizabeth Saunders
Emma Teter	Mackenzie Turner	Madison Turner	Mason Turner

COMMUNITY SERVICE/SERVICE LEARNING

It is springtime and it makes everyone want to go outside and enjoy the weather. Now is the perfect time to get active and perform community service. I would encourage your club or you individually to visit a park, softball field, church, or your neighbor(hood) and pick up some garbage, tree branches - whatever needs cleaning up.

FINDING YOUR INITIALS IN THE NEWSLETTER

Look for your initials (first and last) and birthdate in the newsletter. A sample looks like this: (ac/05/12/98). If you find your initials, call the Extension office at 406-256-2828 and 4-H Council will mail you a \$10 check.

CLOVERBUD CAMP MEETING

Cloverbud Camp 2026 will be held on Thursday, July 16, at the 4-H Building. The camp theme will be "America's 250th Birthday". If you are interested in helping, please email Roni (ronibaker@montana.edu) or Stephanie (sjohnson@yellowstonecountymt.gov).

SUPPORT 4-H BY CHOOSING THE 4-H LICENSE PLATE

The 4-H license plate is still available. Be sure to ask for the application at the Motor Vehicle Department when you renew/purchase your next license.

ACTIVE PROJECT LEADER/VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

Each year Leaders and volunteers are asked to complete a form that outlined and recorded the minimum requirements for being an "Active" leader. The purpose is to evaluate an adult's involvement in the program and their eligibility for event scholarships, awards, etc. **(This information will be used in considering MontanaFair ticket requests.)** In ZSuite under the Events section, please complete the "Active Project Leader/Volunteer Requirement Report & Request for MontanaFair Tickets" by July 10, 2026.

The first question on the form is "Have you completed the mandatory Clover Academy Montana 4-H Volunteer Orientation?" If you cannot answer "yes" you will be unable to move forward until it has been completed. To be considered an active leader you MUST complete the orientation.

The following information must also be included:

- **Attend and list the dates of three club meetings.**

- **Attend at least one County, Regional or State meeting or training.** Some examples are Horse and Colt, Sale, Livestock, Dept. N, Fruit Sale, Animal Quality Assurance, Committee Officer, etc.
- **Give a project or activity report at a club meeting. Provide the date and topic.**
- **List additional activities that are planned between July 10 and August 7, 2026.**
- **Project leaders must hold at least three project meetings/workshops related to your project areas. List the dates, project area and a brief description of what you did.**

OR

Volunteers must sign up and fulfill one club adult responsibility and provide a brief description of what you did. Some examples are Community Service, Showcase, Communication Day, Camps, Awards, Family Fun Night, Ice Cream Booth, Club T-Shirt order, organizing Club Jackpot Show, organizing club or county workshop, recreation committee, fair decorations, club activities, organizing a fundraiser, etc.

HOST AN INTERNATIONAL DELEGATE THIS SUMMER OR ACADEMIC YEAR!

4-H is seeking host families with a youth within 3-4 years of age and same gender of youth delegates. For 2026, there are several opportunities for Montana families to host international delegates, both short-term, 3-4 weeks; and long-term, 10 months. Here are the available host family opportunities for 2026 inbound delegates that state 4-H has committed to and the approximate dates of their exchanges.

More information about the various inbound programs and hosting a delegate, please visit the [States' 4-H International Exchange Programs website](https://www.states4hexchange.org/) to begin an application at <https://www.states4hexchange.org/>
 Contact the 4-H Center for Youth Development International Program Coordinator, Dave Brink at david.brink@montana.edu or 406-822-3547 for more information.

MONTHLY CLUB MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS

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

City Kids: The club communication day was held. The club may hold a garage sale fundraiser/

Compass All Stars: Our club voted on new club T-shirts and a new club banner.

Lockwood Humble Bs: Member demonstrations included how to make a boutonniere and what items are in a first aid kit.

Pine Ridge Red Ryder: Discussion on educational topics presented by Farm Bureau were chosen with animal topics at the top of the list.

Shepherd Pioneers: Members listened to a guest speaker talk about physical therapy and rock climbing.

Worden Riverdale: Members had a guest speaker talk about proper handline and disposal of the American flag.

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
Albertsons	2334 Central Ave, Billings MT 59102
Billings Farmhand Sales	815 Mallowney Ln, Billings MT 59101
Billings Kubota	5548 Holiday Ave, Billings MT 59101
Rocky Mountain Rain Gutters	PO Box 186, Worden, MT 59088
J & L Livestock	4935 Powmer Rd, Billings, MT 59105
Albertsons	1212 Grand Ave, Billings, MT 59102
Ross Company Trucking	4990 Metzger Rd, Laurel, MT 59044
North 40 Ag	2150 South 14 th Rd, Ballantine MT 59006
Emigrant General Store	3 Murphy Ln, Emigrant, MT 59027

DEPARTMENT N – POST COMMUNICATION CONTEST/SHOWCASE MEETING MAY 7

On Thursday, May 7, in the 4-H Building, there will be the Post Events Day meeting at 5:30 pm; the Post Showcase meeting; Department N (non-animal projects) meeting at 6:00 pm with the 4-H Council meeting to follow. All are

welcome to attend.

STATE BB GUN RESULTS

Congratulations to all participants in this year's State BB Gun Match, held April 11–12, 2026, in Dillon, Montana. Yellowstone County was proudly represented by 17 competitors ranging in age from 8 to 15. Shooters competed individually and as teams in four positions—prone, standing, sitting, and kneeling—along with a written test.

A total of 22 teams from across the state took part in the competition. Our teams finished 3rd and 11th overall, with the third-place team earning seven members the opportunity to attend the Daisy National Match in Rogers, Arkansas, this July. The 2026 Yellowstone County 4-H National BB Gun Team consists of: Ellalayah Dykes, Tristen Beddes, Karlin Clayton, Marie O'Donnell, Gunner Hanson, Eva Rouse, and Bo Martin.

CERAMICS WORKSHOPS FOR MAY & JUNE

The ceramics workshop will be held on Saturday, May 9 and 16. Times are 10:00 am - 1:00 pm or 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Call Sheri Anttila at 406-633-5531 to let her know if you have any questions, need directions to her home, and which class/time you will be attending. The only date for June will be Saturday, June 27.

2026 SHOWCASE WINNERS

Junior Shopping in Style Overall: Amanda Parks

Buying Shopping in Style: Amanda Parks

Shopping in Style Appearance Overall: Sarina Parks

Cloverbud Shopping in Style: Aurora Preble

Junior Sewing Overall Winner: Madison Turner

Cloverbud Sewing: Mason Turner

Beginner Sewing

Construction: 1st Nia Kibblewhite; 2nd Mackenzie Turner

Presentation: Olivia Arneson

Junior Display Overall: Scarlett Preble

Cloverbud Display: Mason Turner

Beginner Display

Construction: 1st Madison Turner; 2nd Bella Johnson

Presentation: Mackenzie Turner

Junior Display

Presentation: Scarlett Preble

Crochet Overall: Bella Colwell

Costume Made Overall: Inara Leonard

Costume Construction Made: Scarlett Preble

Costume Purchased Overall: Sarina Parks

Costume Presentation Purchased: Inara Leonard

Junior Refashion/Repurpose/Redesign Overall: Sarina Parks

Construction: 1st Gwen Nemitz; 2nd Amanda Parks

Presentation: Olivia Arneson

2026 QUILT SHOW WINNERS

Overall Member Judges Choice: Hazel Russell

Overall Member People's Choice: Garrett Ready

Junior Quilt Overall: Morgan Ready

Senior Quilt Overall: Hazel Russell

Wall Hanging 3 years and under in project: 1st Mackenzie Turner; 2nd Mackenzie Turner

Medium Quilt 3 years and under in project: 1st Mae Russell; 2nd Olivia Arneson; 3rd Garrett Ready; 4th Paul Kuhr; 5th Madison Turner

Medium Quilt over 3 years in project: Alexa Kuhr

Large Quilt over 3 years in project: Brooklyn Kuhr

Adult Quilt Overall: 1st Amy Ready; 2nd Jessica Russell; 3rd Jennifer Williams

SMALL ANIMAL, LIVESTOCK & SALE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 27, the Small Animal Committee will meet at 6:00 pm, Sale Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. and the Livestock Committee will meet immediately following Sale Committee. We meet in the 4-H Building. Everyone is welcome.

SWINE, SHEEP & MARKET GOATS EAR TAGGING FOR 2026 MONTANAFAIR

Any 4-H or FFA member wishing to enter a market swine, sheep, or goat in the 2025 MontanaFair must be enrolled in the project by **April 30**, and ear tag their animals on **Saturday, May 2**. **The tagging site will be Public Auction Yards (PAYS) 1802 Minnesota Avenue, from 8:00 - 11:00 am.** (OMP/7/27/15)

SCALES AVAILABLE FOR WEIGHING

County scales are available to weigh your animals leading up to fair. Please reach out to the following leaders: Lisa Mosher at 406-698-6730. Lisa has a pig scale with a crate.

HORSE & COLT MEETING

The Horse & Colt meeting will be on May 20, at 6:00 pm. At this meeting we will be discussing job descriptions for MontanaFair duties. Duties will be assigned at the June Horse & Colt meeting. We encourage anyone involved in Horse & Colt projects to attend our monthly meetings.

HORSE ID CARD REQUIREMENTS & POLICY FOR MEMBERS & LEADERS

All MontanaFair 4-H horse exhibitors must turn in a completed Horse ID card with proof of current 4 in 1 vaccination (influenza, tetanus, and eastern and western sleeping sickness) attached to the card. Cards must be turned into exhibitor's horse leader who will verify that the ID card is complete and deliver it to the Extension Office with Assessment Result Sheets by June 15. Horse ID cards must be signed by the member, parent, leader and include a picture of the horse and rider. Cards received after the June 15 deadline will not be accepted and horses without complete cards on file will not be allowed to show at MontanaFair. Only one ID card per Horse Project will be accepted. (English and Western Horsemanship are different projects, and two different horses may be used.)

Questions? Please reference the [2025-26 Horse & Colt Policy](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hpolicies.html) on the county website at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hpolicies.html>.

HORSE FINAL ASSESSMENTS FOR MONTANAFAIR

4-H members will be assessed at the club level by a horse leader. The assessment sheets are not to be turned into the county office but are to be kept in the members' record book. The assessment Results Sheet signed by the horse or organizational leader showing the new levels and projects for all members will be turned into the Extension Office. These sheets with all level changes are to be completed by June 15 each year. Members will show in the level above what has been completed. Leaders can decline to assess a member; however, members must be assessed to attend MontanaFair. The member may ask the Horse & Colt committee for another registered Horse Leader to assess them.

SADDLE UP FOR 4-H HOURS ON HORSEBACK PROGRAM

It's time to join the "Hours on Horseback" program. Keep track of the hours you ride your project horse from May 1 to September 30, 2026. This is the easiest way to track just how much time you put into your project and shows your riding consistency. It can also be added to your record book next to your "What I did & What I learned" sections. You can also track your time for your 1- and 2-year-old colt to maturity projects. Awards are given at Family Fun Night in November. Register in ZSuite through your household profile under "Events". Logs for recording hours can be printed off the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/departmenta.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/departmenta.html>

LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Several Yellowstone County 4-H members competed and placed at Northwest College

Junior Division

- High Junior Team
Team consisted of Jolie Murnin, Owen Schlosser and Pike Pankratz
- Jolie Murnin - 2nd in Cattle

Intermediate Division

- 3rd High Intermediate Team
Team consisted of Carlee Bomar, Harrison Cook, Corbin Murnin and Peyson Rolph
- Harrison Cook- 5th High Individual, 2nd in Sheep, 4th in Reasons

If you are interested in Yellowstone County Youth Livestock Judging, please contact Samantha Murnin at 970-318-6551.

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. A parent or legal guardian must also attend the AQA training with the member. Yellowstone County has two 4-H age brackets for AQA training. Exhibitors must attend AQA as a beginner/Junior member (8-13), and as a senior member (14-19). This age is based on the exhibitors "4-H Age" – their age on 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 exhibit any animal project. Class content is determined by a committee.

There will be hands-on, group activities. Plan to arrive on time with a parent/legal guardian staying for the complete 1½ hours. If you and your parent are not in attendance for the entire session, you may be asked to attend another. Plan to attend an early session to avoid conflicts that may arise later. **NO workshops will be held after the June 3 class. It is the final opportunity for 2026.**

The May session is in person at PAYS. For virtual sessions, attendees must log into a Webex meeting (link will be sent via email prior to each session) to get instructions about how and where to go to complete the online program. The online program requires members to pay a \$12 fee to take the online class. A copy of the completion certificate must be provided to the Extension office.

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

Wednesday, June 3 - 6:30 pm Virtual training

MSU EXTENSION 4-H HORSE HELMET POLICY & WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Participants in 4-H Horse Projects 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" – their age on October 1 of the current 4-H year. Exhibitors must attend the workshop the first year they reach every age bracket or the first year they are exhibiting in a horse project. A parent or legal guardian must attend with the member.

After attending a 4-H Helmet Workshop, riders may choose whether they will wear a certified helmet. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian of the 4-H member to see that the headgear worn complies with 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 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 may 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 are events such as calf roping, team roping, goat tying, and team penning that may be timed but use livestock. **NO workshops will be held after the May 2 class. It is the final opportunity for 2026.**

Saturday, May 2: 11:00 am-12:00 pm at PAYS (Public Auction Yards)

