

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER- OCTOBER 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

Thank you to Laurel Roadrunners who sponsored the Best of Show doe and buck rabbit, male and female poultry and cavy.

The input from everyone at the Department A & N Post MontanaFair meetings was appreciated. MontanaFair handbook changes will be voted on at the 4-H Council Meeting on December 3, at 6:30 pm.

Save the Date: 4-H Family Fun Night is Saturday, November 21, 2026, in the Montana Pavilion at MetraPark.

Remember to email both Brandy (brandy.butler@montana.edu) & Leslie (leslie.idstrom@montana.edu) when sending emails to the 4-H Office. Either can assist you with any question.

4-H WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGES FOR YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Remember to check the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](http://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/) at www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/ when looking for forms and information. You will find photos of recent events and reminders of upcoming activities on the [Yellowstone County 4-H Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/yellowstonecounty4h) at www.facebook.com/yellowstonecounty4h. Visit the [Yellowstone County Ambassadors](https://www.facebook.com/yellowstonecountyambassadors/) page at www.facebook.com/yellowstonecountyambassadors/ to learn about events and activities our Ambassadors will be hosting for members. If you have not visited these pages and clicked "Like", please do so soon!

RETURN UNUSED 4-H PROJECT BOOKS TO EXTENSION

If you have any 4-H project books that are not being used and have not been written in, PLEASE return them to the Extension office. We re-use them to keep costs down.

ZSUITE 4-H ENROLLMENT OPENS OCTOBER 1

All members and leaders must enroll themselves through the ZSuite program. Instructions for enrollment can be found on the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](http://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/resources/4henrollment/index.html) at www.montana.edu/extension/4h/resources/4henrollment/index.html. Should you have questions, please use the ZSuite Live Chat Support found in the lower righthand portion of the screen. Some clubs allow electronic payment through ZSuite while others want members to pay fees to the club. Please ask your club Organizational Leader should you have questions regarding paying for dues.

ARE YOU CHANGING CLUBS THIS YEAR? PAPERWORK IS REQUIRED.

Families changing clubs are **REQUIRED TO COMPLETE** the Changing 4-H Clubs Form that can be found and printed off the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](http://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/Enrollment.html) under "How to Enroll" at www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/Enrollment.html. **It is the family's responsibility** to have the form completed, signed off by the Organizational Leader of the club you are departing **and** the Organizational Leader of the club you are joining. It is the FAMILY's RESPONSIBILITY to provide a copy of the completed form to the Extension office. Your family will not be in active status until the Extension office has received the Changing 4-H Clubs Form.

ATTENTION ALL 4-H CLUBS: ADVICE FOR STARTING THE NEW 4-H YEAR OFF RIGHT

Plan your year; give guidance but let the kids make choices-don't forget to have fun! Recruit help! Elect new officers!

- Community Service (Choose at least 1 project per club.) Ask the 4-H office for ideas.
- Fundraisers (decide how to raise money for 4-H Camp, MontanaFair, club events, etc.) The 4-H office has materials about fundraising.
- Field Trips (learn & have fun)
- Guest Speakers (informative & fun)
- Club Demonstrations (relaxed atmosphere-have each member do one; prepare for Communication Day.)

4-H CLUB OFFICER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The officer and committee systems are a good way of dividing jobs and responsibilities among club members in an orderly way. The number of officers needed is determined by the size and type of club. Club officers are usually elected annually, near the beginning of the 4-H year. A leader or parent should be responsible for helping officers carry out their responsibilities. Encourage the officers to attend officer training when it is offered at the county or state level. The Extension office has handbooks for each office. Ask your leader for one or stop by the office.

President: Prepares the agenda with other officers and leaders and presides at club meetings.

Vice-President: Assumes duties of President in their absence. Responsible for committees that are working on assigned tasks.

Secretary: Keeps complete and accurate records/minutes of each club meeting. Writes all club correspondence. Keeps club attendance and all other club records up to date.

Treasurer: Handles all club money. Keeps accurate and up to date financial records. All checks should be co-signed by club treasurer and an additional account signer.

Historian: Maintains and updates the club's history book to preserve information for future club members.

Reporter: Writes news stories about meetings and special events for the local newspaper.

CLUB FUNDRAISING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

With the new year beginning, we want to address club fundraising policies and procedures. Please remember to follow the state 4-H Fundraising Policy that can be found on the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html>, under the 4-H Policies section. The Fundraiser Planning Worksheet should be completed and provided to Roni Baker for approval BEFORE a fundraiser begins. Roni will advise the club if they may proceed and if adjustments must be incorporated into the original plan.

Currently, clubs may only accept cash or checks for payment. No online, third-party payment can be utilized, including but not limited to Venmo, PayPal, Stripe, Square, Apple Pay, Et al. Do not deposit cash into a personal account and write a personal check to the club. All cash and checks must be deposited directly into the club checking account.

Keep accurate records of starting cash, receipts, expenses, income, ending cash, names of winners and amounts they received. Record anything that would be of assistance in addressing any disputes regarding prizes, raffles, cash, and checks, etc. A completed Fundraiser Report Form must be given to Roni Baker within 60 days after the conclusion of the event. Thank you for adhering to these policies. Please contact the Extension office with questions.

DESIGN YOUR OWN PROJECT

Design Your Own project offers an opportunity to design and carry out a project of special interest to you. This means selecting a topic, deciding goals, obtaining resources and designing records. The member is responsible for developing the project with advice or direction of an adult. This can cover any subject or be related to a current 4-H project. Examples include beekeeping and outdoor cooking. Those who select a worthwhile topic and become intrigued often do some of the best and most rewarding work. Your success depends on your initiative. An individualized learning plan should be approved by a parent, 4-H adult volunteer leader, or 4-H agent. For assistance with developing a personal learning contract, use the Design Your Own project materials or other goal-setting resources. The outline can be found on the Project Record Sheets page of 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>.

SUCCESSFUL RECORD BOOKS

Start your record book at the beginning of the 4-H year by writing at least three goals for each part of the book.

To help organize your records, either make a "sloppy copy" of your forms or use a calendar as you go through the year. Keep up with this and then the job of completing your record book at the end of the year is easy.

Make sure your record book is complete. This is a "record" of your 4-H story. It is fun to look back at what you did while in 4-H. Make it complete enough that a person who is not familiar with your project could pick up your record book,

look through it, and it will make sense to that person.

Additional things you may wish to include (not required) in your record book:

- Additional pictures of any of your 4-H experiences, projects, etc.
- Ribbons or pictures of ribbons. Certificates or awards received.
- Other items you wish to add to your book.

My 4-H Year: The front page must be completed including three goals and leader's signature. Every section must be complete, including promotion and communication. If nothing was done in an area or section of a record sheet, write "none". You should have a project journal for every project listed on the sheet. Your picture should be attached.

Non-Animal Project/Financial Journal: Project/financial journals are needed for every project. Project sheets need to contain the name and year of the project and records. Every section needs to have something written in it. Including three goals and financial records. Transfer financial totals to back page.

Animal Record & Journal: Animal journals need to be included for every animal project, including cat, dog, and pocket pet. These are for all animal projects, not just market projects. Include animal project (i.e., beef, dog, etc.), your name and the year of the record, plus a leader or parent's signature. One Animal Record & Journal can be used if the same animal is used in more than one project. Each section should be complete or if nothing applies, write "none".

LEADERS, 4-H NEEDS YOUR INPUT!

As we begin a new 4-H year, we want to remind you that decisions are made by those who regularly attend county meetings. We encourage you to participate in this process. If you are new to 4-H, Council and Committee meetings are an important resource filled with knowledgeable people and information about various 4-H projects and programs. So, what are you waiting for? Jump in and get your feet wet! Our meetings are posted in the newsletter calendar; we'd love to have you join us! It's also a great way to meet others involved in similar projects to share information.

OUTSTANDING MEMBER/CLOVERBUD NOMINATIONS DUE OCTOBER 16

It is time to Nominate 2025-2026 Outstanding 4-H Members/Cloverbuds! Outstanding Member Nominations can be completed online on the [Yellowstone county 4-H website](http://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html) at www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html. Just type in the information and hit the submit button!

An outstanding 4-H Member/Cloverbud must have 4-H related achievements that measure above and beyond other members and 4-H expectations. To be nominated for outstanding 4-H member, the member must have a gold seal on their record book. Anyone can nominate a member (another member, leader, parent, or self-nomination). A nominee provides four reason specific examples regarding why the member is outstanding in a specific award area. Nomination deadline is 5:00 pm Friday, October 16.

A hard copy of the Nomination Form can be printed from the [Yellowstone county 4-H website](http://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html) at www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html and emailed, or mailed to the Extension office by the deadline. Questions? Call the Extension office at 406-256-2828.

4-H AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE OCTOBER 30

Clubs that are nominating individuals or businesses for the 4-H Friendship Award, Friend of 4-H Award, Outstanding 4-H Teen Leader Award, Outstanding 4-H Leader, and Outstanding 4-H Alumni Award, please do so by October 31. These special awards need input from everyone. Forms were included in club year-end packets organizational leaders picked up from the office. We know you can think of someone. Talk to your club organizational leader.

CLUB YEAR-END FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORTS DUE OCTOBER 31

Club Organizational Leaders have received a copy of the annual Year-End Financial Summary Report. The report provides an open, public record of each club's finances and fulfills state and federal audit requirements. Completed reports are due to Extension by October 31. Clubs WILL NOT receive project books until this report is submitted. ***Remember to**

balance the Year-end Financial Summary to the bank account statements, NOT the checkbook register!

With the IRS ruling governing 4-H funds, it is imperative we have this report so your club can retain a checking account. Failure to meet the deadline may result in the loss of your club's charter and/or the closing of your club financial account(s).

FAMILY FUN NIGHT SILENT AUCTION BASKET SALES

Once again, the Yellowstone County 4-H Interstate Exchange Group will have baskets for sale at Family Fun Night November 21. The money raised helps to pay for the 4-H Interstate Exchange trip. Every year there are some awesome baskets. Be sure to check them out and bid in the Silent Auction. Please be prepared to pay at Family Fun Night (cash or check only).

Clubs DO NOT have the opportunity to sell baskets as club fundraisers.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR FAMILY FUN NIGHT BINGO PRIZES

The Bingo booth gives out nearly 100 bingo prizes throughout the night. We are asking for donations of small prizes for adult winners that range in price from \$5 to \$10. Some ideas include gift cards, new movies, music, coffee mugs and coffee cards, men's items, candles, etc. You can also provide cash donations that will be used to purchase items. Please coordinate having all donations to the Extension office by November 1. Questions? Call Kat Pfau at 406-670-1944.

LOTS OF GLASSWARE NEEDED FOR FAMILY FUN NIGHT WASHER TOSS BOOTH

Shepherd Tumbleweeds will be doing the Washer Toss booth at Family Fun Night. Due to the booth's popularity each year, **LOTS** of glassware is needed-they are extremely low! Please take all glass donations to Family Fun Night set up, Friday, November 20, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Thank you for donating!

RECOGNIZING GOOD DEEDS AT MONTANAFair

The following names were placed in the "Good Deed Box" in the Expo Center during MontanaFair. These young people were kind, helpful, courteous, and friendly. We know MANY others should be recognized also! Next year take a moment to drop a name in the box!

Maria Murdick	Grace Hansen	Dillon Pitman	Lynnlee Richardson	Stetson Longmire
Aidan Lentz	Ember Solberg	Hunter Decker	Sarina Parks	Olivia Arneson
Tylee Wickens	Rig Elton	Hadleigh Lynch	Hazel Long	Rhen Long
Tanner Bomar	Carlee Bomar	Brooklyn Berg	Erin Robertson	Violet Nemitz
Chloe Shakespear	Delilah Hale	Emma Delashmit	Rafe McCaffree	Ryker Mickelson

ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT BECOMING A YELLOWSTONE COUNTY AMBASSADOR?

The 2027 Yellowstone County Ambassador Team will be selected soon. I'm sure you have seen our hard-working Ambassadors at fair, on social media, one of our many county events or maybe you even heard them on the radio. Ever wonder what they really do and what it means to be part of such an elite team? Maybe you wonder how you can become one of them?

The current team can answer these and any other questions you may have at the meet-and-greet session on November 22 at 5:30. We will have pizza, time for questions and you can sit in at their regular meeting to see what being part of the team is all about.

You do not need to attend the meet-and-greet to apply. All members 14 and older (4-H age) will receive an email with the application as well as the guidelines to apply.

If you are a leader that enjoys working with hard working young adults, we are also looking to add an adult advisor. Please call the office for more information.

CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR EVENT AND BILL WRITING WORKSHOP

Ever wonder how our government works and how laws are made? You can learn all this and more at Citizenship Seminar! This event is designed to inspire 4-H youth as they learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Youth delegates gain hands-on experience with the legislative process by participating in a mock legislature, creating and debate bills, work with other youth from across the state, meet with elected officials, tour the capitol, and participate in a service-learning project.

We will be holding a bill writing workshop on December 3rd to help you get started and answer any questions about this interactive state 4-H event. Participants will need to fill out an application and turn in a rough draft of a bill they write by December 11th, 2026. Applicants will need to do an interview (like interview judging day) on December 17th, 2026, where we can discuss any final improvements that could be made to their bill before attending Citizenship Seminar in Helena, January 16th-18th, 2027. This is an opportunity for youths 13 years or older as of October 1 of the current 4-H year. Those that are eligible will receive an email with links to the information or you can visit our website.

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK OCTOBER 4-10, 2026

National 4-H Week is October 4-10, 2026. This week gives us a chance to highlight remarkable 4-H youth and showcase their experiences. The 2026 National 4-H Week theme "Beyond Ready" focuses on preparing youth to be Beyond Ready for life and career. From "Go Green" Monday to Thankful Thursday, 4-H youth, volunteers and educators all over the country will be sharing their stories, giving back and showing what it means to be part of this amazing organization. You can wear your 4-H t-shirt, plan an event, put up window displays, handout flyers, post about 4-H on social media, decorate 4-H member's school lockers, recognize 4-H members at a school sports game, etc.

REGISTER FOR FALL TEEN LEADERSHIP TRAINING NOVEMBER 6-8, 2026

You are invited to attend the Fall Teen Leadership Training, November 6-8, 2026, at the Copper King Hotel in Butte. Youth participants must be 14 on October 1, 2026, to participate.

Fall Training is the annual leadership development retreat for Montana 4-H Ambassadors and Teen Leaders. The event is planned, implemented, and evaluated by the State Ambassador Officer Team. Youth will leave the weekend prepared and excited to take the knowledge and skills they have gained and apply them in their counties. It is also a great place to have youth leaders exchange ideas and create a statewide network of resources. They have planned a very exciting event this year with a great leadership speaker and some great hands-on workshops for ambassadors and teen leaders to build their skills.

Registration cost is \$195, including lodging (2 - 4 people to a room) meals Saturday and Sunday breakfast and program costs. Yellowstone County 4-H Council will pay \$160. 4-H attendees do need to pay \$35 and for your own T-shirt if you want one. **Do not pay in ZSuite when you register. The office will send information on when and how much to pay.**

Register in ZSuite by October 16. ***You can register in [ZSUITE](https://4h.zsuite.org/) at 4h.zsuite.org/ any time and your registration will roll over to the new 4-H year that begins October 1. Please be sure to enroll for the new 4-H year by updating any personal information and completing all waivers prior to the start of this event. You can complete/update your club/project enrollment after the event if needed.***

4-H LICENSE PLATES

Montana 4-H License Plates are available! All applications or renewal of license plates are handled by the county treasurer. Cost of the plate is \$35 which supports the 4-H program at the county and state level.

MONTANA 4-H FOUNDATION INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING GRANTS AVAILABLE

Available Funds: \$2,000 in grant money.

Application Deadline: November 1 (main deadline) and April 1 (if any funds remain).

Source of Funds: Montana 4-H Foundation at MSU-Bozeman

Grant Criteria: Innovative youth or adult volunteer leader educational programs. Program efforts currently conducted

are not eligible. Programs currently being conducted in other states qualify. Project must have potential to be replicated in other Montana counties. Project can reach existing or new audiences.

Application team and teaching team (can be different) must include an Extension staff person, an adult volunteer, and a teen volunteer.

Project and evaluation must be completed within one year of submission deadline. Full grant criteria and the online application can be found on the [Montana 4-H Foundation website](#) or www.mt4hfoundation.org/. Contact Roni Baker at the Extension office to discuss ideas!

YOUTH LOAN PROGRAMS- MONTANA & U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The **Junior Agriculture Loan** is available to youth ages 9-11 with a maximum of \$3,500 for up to five years. Youth ages 12-21 may borrow a maximum of \$8,500 for up to five years. Application forms are available on the [Montana Department of Agriculture website](#) at agr.mt.gov/Topics/E-G/Grants-Pages/Junior-Agriculture-Loans or by calling Walt Anseth @ 406-444-5420 or WAnseth@mt.gov

The **Rural Assistance Loan Program** is available to individuals 18 years of age and above for a maximum of \$75,000; terms vary by loan type. Information about this and other rural assistance programs can be found on the [Montana Department of Agriculture website](#) at agr.mt.gov/Topics/Q-Z/Rural-Assistance or by calling 406-444-3144.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to individual young people to start and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs. The project being financed with an FSA Youth Loan needs to provide an opportunity for the young person to acquire experience and education in agriculture-related skills. Youth between 10-20 years old may apply for loans up to \$5,000. For more information visit the [USDA Farm Service Agency website](#) at www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/youth-loans/index

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY MEMBER & LEADER NUMBERS FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS

The following is an update on our end-of-year enrollment data. Be sure to encourage your members and leaders to join again. Recruit new families to your club.

Year	Members	Leaders	Clubs
2021-22	477	211	25
2022-23	482	201	25
2023-24	457	175	23
2024-25	471	159	23
2025-26	474	156	23

4-H SUPPORTERS IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Many businesses and organizations in our community support 4-H. Each month several of those supporters are listed in the newsletter. You are encouraged to write/tell them thank you and support the businesses in return. If you would like to submit names for this article, please send them to Roni.

4-H Supporter	Mailing Address
Ranch House Meats	2032 Old Hardin Rd, Billings MT 59101
Blue Body & Paint	356 Scott St, Billings MT 59101
Western Ranch Supply	Box 1497, Billings MT 59103
Bravera Bank	123 N Broadway, Billings MT 59101
JC Excavation	PO Box 399, Huntley MT 59037
Auto Auction of Montana	4432 S Frontage Rd, Billings MT 59102
Rocky Mountain Propane	2619 N 10 th Rd, Worden MT 59038
Heenan & Cook	2224 Montana Ave, Billings MT 59101
Les Schwab Tires	1146 Shiloh Crossing, Billings MT 59102

MONTHLY CLUB MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS

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

Compass All Stars: Members discussed 4-H Award Nominations. Record books will be checked soon.

Lockwood Humbe Bs: Members elected new officers for the 2026-2027 4-H year.

Project Rockin Wranglers: Members discussed fair rules, mishaps and disappointments and how to make next year better.

DEPARTMENT N (NON-ANIMAL) MEETINGS FOR PROPOSED 2027 MONTANAFAIR HANDBOOK CHANGES

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

October 9, 2026: MontanaFair rule change proposal forms due in the Extension office by 5:00 pm (not postmarked by)

November 5, 2026: Department N Meeting at 6:00 pm followed by 4-H Council meeting.

December 3, 2026: Department N at 6:00 pm: ALL PROPOSED DEPARTMENT N HANDBOOK CHANGES WILL BE DISCUSSED, PASSED FORWARD FOR A FINAL VOTE OR KILLED.

Council Meeting at 6:30 pm or immediately following the Department N meeting. THE FINAL VOTING OF ALL (Department A & Department N) HANDBOOK CHANGES FOR MONTANAFAIR 2027 WILL BE HELD AT THIS MEETING.

A quorum will consist of enrolled Yellowstone County 4-H members and adult volunteers/leaders. Only those who attended the Post MontanaFair Department N Meeting or November meeting will be allowed to vote on Final Handbook Changes for the 2027 MontanaFair.

MONTANAFAIR DEPARTMENT N PREMIUM CHECKS AND ERRORS

Please note that checks will be mailed approximately 30-45 days **after** the end of fair AND checks will be **voided 120 days after issue date. MetraPark will be enforcing the 120-day cancellation notice.** Any checks not deposited or cashed will be null and void 120 days after issue date. If there is a problem with your premium dollars for the MontanaFair, call the Extension office by **October 31**. Errors must be resolved before this date as MontanaFair accounts are closed out for the year.

CERAMICS WORKSHOP DATES FOR OCTOBER

Get ready for a new 4-H year. Dates are Saturday October 10 and 17. Available times are 10:00 am to 1:00 pm or 1:00 to 4:00 pm. 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.

2027 EVENTS DAY INITIAL PLANNING MEETING

The first meeting for the spring 2027 Events Day will be held during the Department N meeting on December 3, at 6:00 pm. **Each club should have a representative attending the Department N meetings to plan for this big event.**

This would be a good time to encourage a teen leader to attend along with an adult leader.

SHOOTING SPORTS MEMBERS & LEADERS GET SIGNED UP EARLY

4-H members should get signed up soon after ZSuite enrollment opens on October 1, to participate in the 2026-2027 4-H year shooting sports weekly workshops which start in December. Weekly archery, air pistol, air rifle, and BB gun workshops teach progressive learning, so it is vital to start on time. If you are not enrolled and approved in the project in ZSuite, you cannot attend the workshops. No exceptions.

All 4-H Shooting sports curriculum is only to be used by a 4-H member enrolled in county shooting sport programs lead by a 4-H certified shooting sports leader. No shooting sports projects that involve firearms, air guns, or archery equipment may be taken independently without a certified leader.

To enroll in 4-H shooting sports air/small bore pistol and rifle, archery, shotgun, or hunting/wildlife projects, youth must be 9 years old by October 1, 2026. To enroll in the BB gun safety project youth must be 8 years old by October 1, 2026. To enroll in the Western Heritage Project youth must be 12 years old by October 1, 2026. The shooting sports policy can be

viewed on the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html) under the 4-H Policies heading at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html>.

OCTOBER SHOOTING SPORTS LEADER MEETING

Are you interested in leading a shooting sports discipline or just curious what is happening around the county regarding shooting sports? Join us on Thursday, October 22, 6:00 pm in the 4-H Building.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE .22 RIFLE, HUNTING, OR MUZZLELOADER PROJECTS?

There will be a project meeting on Sunday, October 25 at 12:30 at the Old Jaycee Hall (1425 Hwy 212 S (one mile south of town)) in Laurel. This meeting is going to be for shooting sport .22 Rifle, Hunting, Muzzleloader, and Western Heritage. It will be open for anyone thinking of joining the projects. Questions? Contact Jamie Krug at 406-855-3569.

SHOOTING SPORTS OPEN HOUSE

Thinking about joining a shooting sports project? Come to our Shooting Sports Open House on October 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the 4-H Building. Meet county shooting sports leaders, explore the different disciplines available, learn when and where practices are held, and find the project that's right for you. Bring your questions and discover all that shooting sports has to offer!

DEPARTMENT A (ALL LIVESTOCK) MEETINGS FOR PROPOSED 2027 MONTANAFAIR HANDBOOK CHANGES

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

September 23, 2026: MontanaFair Judges Nominations due

Small Animal Committee at 6:00pm

Sale Committee Meeting 6:30 pm

Large Livestock Meeting immediately following the Sale Committee meeting

October 9, 2026: MontanaFair rule change proposal forms due in the Extension office by 5:00 pm (not postmarked by)

October 21, 2026: Horse and Colt Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm

November 4, 2026: ALL PROPOSED DEPARTMENT A HANDBOOK CHANGES WILL BE DISCUSSED, PASSED FORWARD FOR A FINAL VOTE OR KILLED.

Small Animal Committee at 6:00 pm

Sale Committee at 6:30 pm

Livestock Committee Meeting immediately following the Sale Committee meeting

December 3, 2026: Council Meeting at 6:30 pm. THE FINAL VOTING ON ALL (Department A & Department N) HANDBOOK CHANGES FOR MONTANAFAIR 2027 WILL BE HELD AT THIS MEETING.

In order to vote on yearly rule and policy changes, you *must be enrolled in a Yellowstone County 4-H or FFA chapter* as a member, leader or FFA alumni member. Adult livestock leaders and junior exhibitors must have attended the discussion of the proposals at the Post MontanaFair Department A and/or the September Livestock Meeting. Exhibitors (ages 8-19 years) must be enrolled in the livestock program.

*Horse members, horse leaders and Organizational Leaders enrolled in the prior and current 4-H year can vote at the Horse & Colt Committee meetings. Any rule or policy change must be submitted to the Extension office on the rule/policy proposal form. Horse related changes will be voted on at the October Horse & Colt Committee meeting.

*During post fair meetings Leaders and Junior Exhibitors in the Horse Project should vote on their related changes. Leaders and Junior Exhibitors in the Small Animal Livestock Committee should vote on their related changes. Leaders and Junior Exhibitors in the Large Animal Livestock Committee should vote on their related changes.

2026 PATRICK K. GOGGINS JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SALE-BUYER THANK YOUS

Be sure to let the individual or business who bought your animal know how much you appreciate their support. **Checks will be mailed 45-60 days after the sale AND after it is confirmed that your buyer thank you(s) has/have been sent** (remember to let your club leader or the Extension office know when you have delivered/mailed your buyer thank you).

HORSE & COLT 2027 MONTANAFAIR HANDBOOK CHANGES

Changes must be submitted on the MontanaFair Proposed Rules and Policy Change Form by October 9, 2026, to the Extension office by 5:00 pm (not postmarked by). Proposed Horse MontanaFair handbook changes will be voted on at the October 21, 2026, Horse and Colt meeting in the 4-H Building at 6:00 pm.

MONTANAFAIR DEPARTMENT A HERDSMANSHIP CLUB WINNERS

Thank you to everyone that served on the 2026 Herdsmanship Committee and those who voted.

Animal Species	Winning 4-H Club (Plaque)	Animal Species	Winning 4-H Club (Plaque)
Horse	Shepherd Tumbleweeds	Llama/Alpaca	Huntley Eagles
Sheep	Huntley Eagles	Poultry	Shepherd Tumbleweeds
Goat	Huntley Eagles	Rabbit	Compass All Stars
Beef	Hesper Hustlers	Small Animal Overall	Shepherd Tumbleweeds
Swine	Worden Riverdale	Large Animal Overall	Worden Riverdale

Animal Species	Winning Exhibitor (Buckle)	Animal Species	Winning Exhibitor (Buckle)
Horse	Keegan Kennedy	Swine	Waylon Hofer
Sheep	Nia Kibblewhite	Llama/Alpaca	Kellen Perkerewicz
Goat	Oscar Wehrman	Poultry	Delilah Hale
Beef	Wyatt Duey	Rabbit	Hadleigh Lynch

RETURN YOUR SADDLE UP RIDING HOURS BY OCTOBER 6

Saddle Up forms are due to the Extension office by Friday, October 6, 2026 (must be postmarked by). The last day to log riding hours is September 30. Awards will be given at Family Fun Night. Questions? Call Caroline Brito at 406-850-2211.

MONTANA 4-H HORSE HELMET POLICY 2026-2027

A certified equestrian helmet with safety harness fastened is required in over fence classes and speed events at shows and any practice sessions (clinics, open riding).

Participants in the 4-H horse project are required to attend a helmet/safety education workshop and/or view the video "Every Time, Every Ride" once as a junior 4-H member (4-H age 9-13) and once as a senior 4-H member (4-H age 14 & over). The Montana 4-H Center for youth encourages the use of ASTM certified/SEI approved safety helmets for all equine events. Helmet use is encouraged in all 4-H horse activities any time a 4-H member is around a horse. Scheduled horse helmet workshops will be listed in the January 2027 4-H newsletter.

OCTOBER 2026 4-H CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 NO Dept N Mtg. 6:30 4-H Council <i>4-H Building</i>	2	3
4 National 4-H Week October 4-10	5	6 Saddle Up AND Community Service logs due in Extension office by 5pm	7	8	9 Fair rule change proposals due in Extension	10 10 am-1 pm OR 1-4 pm Ceramics at <i>Anttila's</i>
11	12 Office closed Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day NILE Livestock Judging Contest	13 NILE Horse Judging Contest & NILE Meat Judging Contest	14	15	16 Newsletter Articles Due Outstanding Member Nominations Deadline by 5 pm	17 10 am-1 pm OR 1-4 pm Ceramics at <i>Anttila's</i>
18	19	20	21 6:00 Horse & Colt Committee <i>4-H Building</i>	22 6:00 Shooting Sports Leader Meeting <i>4-H Building</i>	23	24
25 12:30 .22 Rifle, Hunting & Muzzel loader shooting sports meeting <i>Old Jaycee</i> <i>Hall in Laurel</i>	26	27 6:00 Shooting Sports Open House <i>4-H Building</i>	28	29	30 Outstanding Member Acceptance deadline Club Year-end Financial Summary Report due in Extension	31