

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER- SEPTEMBER 2025

406-256-2828 301 N 27th Street – Old Chamber Building – 3rd Floor

Mailing Address: PO Box 35021, Billings MT 59107-5021

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

Facebook: Yellowstone County 4-H

4-H FOLKS IN FOCUS

Thanks to all 4-H members, parents and other volunteers who made MontanaFair 2025 a success. Many individuals and businesses help support 4-H and the fair. Let them know they are appreciated.

Special thanks to the department heads, division chairpersons and clerks. It would not happen without you! Mark your calendars for **Family Fun Night** which will be held Saturday, November 22, 2025.

Roni Baker, Yellowstone County 4-H/Youth Extension Agent

4-H LOGO USE AND REQUIREMENTS – READ ME!

When referencing “4-H” in any document, club minutes, Facebook posting, poster, communication, t-shirt, etc. you MUST include the dash between the 4 and the H. The 4-H clover stem must point to the right. The clover cannot be tilted, flipped, distorted, or covered by text or another image. It must be 100% PMS 347 green – no shading or gradient of green.

Before you use the 4-H emblem, you should review the 4-H Name and Emblem Application Guide on the [State 4-H website](https://www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/fy-2019-4-h-name-emblem-use-guide-20191108.pdf) at <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/fy-2019-4-h-name-emblem-use-guide-20191108.pdf>

4-H WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Remember to check the [Yellowstone County website](https://yellowstone.msuextension.org/4h/index.html) at <https://yellowstone.msuextension.org/4h/index.html> 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. If you have not visited this page and clicked “Like”, please do so soon! site consultations.

MONTANAFAIR THANK YOU NOTES TO BE SENT

After the MontanaFair is over, it would be very appropriate for each 4-H family to send thank you notes to the following individuals for their support of 4-H and the MontanaFair.

Yellowstone County Commissioners PO Box 35000 Billings MT 59107	MetraPark Board PO Box 2514 Billings MT 59103
Western Ag Reporter (Buyer’s dinner partial sponsor) PO Box 30758 Billings MT 59107	Project Mercantile (Ice cream floats) 2416 Main Street Worden MT 59088
Yellowstone Valley Electric (Fair exhibitor sponsor) Atten: Jennifer Saylor PO Box 249 Huntley MT 59037	Yellowstone County Farm Bureau (Sale dinner and Ultrasound partial sponsor) c/o Bonnie Kinsfather 1712 S 64 th Street Billings MT 59106

MONTANAFAIR GATE TICKET SUPPORT FROM YELLOWSTONE VALLEY ELECTRIC & YELLOWSTONE COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

Yellowstone Valley Electric sponsored a portion of the 4-H/FFA exhibitors 9-day wristbands for MontanaFair.

Yellowstone County 4-H Council paid for 4-H Volunteer Leader day tickets. Active Volunteer Leaders who meet all

requirements and turned in their form received a limited number of day tickets. Normally to get into the MontanaFair each day, it would cost \$12 for 13-64-year-olds, and \$8 for 6-12-year-olds and seniors. Kids 5 and under are free.

PLEASE let them know how much you appreciate their support. **Every** family should send a thank you note! Send a thank you note to: Yellowstone Valley Electric, PO Box 249, Huntley, Montana 59037.

MONTANAFAIR RECORDED LIVESTOCK SHOWS

Remember you can watch recorded MontanaFair 4-H/FFA shows by visiting the [Yellowstone County 4-H Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/yellowstonecounty4h) at <https://www.facebook.com/yellowstonecounty4h>.

MONTANAFAIR DEPARTMENT A and N PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Remember that Madi B. Creatives took pictures of every show and throughout the barns all week at fair. Photos can be viewed and purchased by visiting [Madi B. Creatives](https://www.madibcreatives.com) at [Madibcreatives.shootproof.com](https://www.madibcreatives.com).

MONTANAFAIR DEPARTMENT N PREMIUM CHECKS AND ERRORS

Please note that checks will be mailed approximately 30 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 because the MontanaFair accounts are closed out for the year.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR BINGO PRIZES FOR FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Family Fun Night is scheduled for Saturday, November 22. The Bingo booth gives out nearly 100 Bingo prizes throughout the night. They are asking for donations of small prizes for the adult winners that range in price from \$5 to \$10 dollars. 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 getting items or cash donations to the Extension Office by November 1. Questions? Call Kat Pfau at 406-670-1944.

LOTS OF GLASSWARE NEEDED FOR WASHER TOSS BOOTH FOR FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Shepherd Tumbleweed 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 contact Kathy Peck 406-670-8756 (call or text) to coordinate delivery of glassware. Thank you for donating!

SHADOW DAY: MSU NORM ASBJORNSON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING OCT. 16

The NACOE Shadow Day is an annual event bringing high school students from around the state to the MSU Bozeman's campus to learn about engineering, computer science, and ROTC Programs. All high school students are invited to attend. Registration is open and is capped at 90 students. Learn more about the event and sign up ASAP on the [Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering webpage](https://coe.montana.edu/shadow/index.html) at <https://coe.montana.edu/shadow/index.html>.

BLACK HILLS RECREATION LEADERS CONFERENCE

September 20-26, are the dates for the 2025 annual conference held at the Outlaw Ranch near Custer, SD. This camp is for adults and teens 16 or older. This educational organization is dedicated to teaching leadership and personal growth through recreation and the creative use of leisure time. In addition to workshops, leadership is a key focus. Information and registration forms are accessible at the [Black Hills Recreation Leaders Laboratory website](https://www.bhrl.org/) at <https://www.bhrl.org/>.

MONTHLY CLUB MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS

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

Lockwood Humble B's: The club meeting was held at Lake Elmo for water play and a picnic dinner.

Pine Ridge Red Ryder: Members were given scrapbook materials and photos so each could work on a page for the club scrapbook at home.

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
Thompson Cattle Company	PO Box 1781, Billings MT 59103
Anderson 5 LLC	8450 Clark Road, Shepherd MT 59079
Jacobs Livestock Sales	7445 Hwy 312 E, Billings MT
Majestic Meadows at Volney Creek	520 Volney Creek Rd, Red Lodge MT 59068
Albertsons	511 Central Ave, Billings MT 59102
Montana State Fund	PO Box 4759, Helena MT 59604
Open A Feeders LLC	PO Box 30758, Billings MT 59107
Pacific Recycling	3385 Coulson Rd, Billings MT 59101
North 40 Ag	2150 S 14 th Rd, Ballantine MT 59006
Raw Machinery	4110 Bennett Ave, Billings MT 59105

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

All meetings will be held at the 4-H Building. Watch for location changes in the 4-H newsletter.

September 4, 2025: Post MontanaFair Department N Meeting at 5:30 pm

Followed by Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

October 10, 2025: MontanaFair rule change proposal forms due in the Extension Office by 5:00 pm (not postmarked by)

November 6, 2025 Department N Meeting at 6:00 pm

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 from the committees will be voted on at this meeting (KLM/3/19/13)

All members, leaders and parents are encouraged to attend the meetings and provide input.

DEPARTMENT N CONTESTS WINNERS

Large Educational 4-H Booth Winners

Placing	Winning Club
1	Shepherd Tumbleweeds
2	Interstate Exchange
3	Lockwood Humble B's

Small Educational 4-H Booth Winner

Winning Club
Kountry Kritters

People's Choice 4-H Club Booth Winner

Winning Club
Worden Riverdale
Ruff Riders

Foods Festival Winner

Winning Exhibitor	Exhibitor's 4-H Club
Madison Turner	Project Rockin Wranglers

Quiz Bowl Winning Team

Member	Member's 4-H Club
Benjamin Muessig	Cool Clovers
Mackenzie Turner	Project Rockin Wranglers
Wesley Browning	Project Rockin Wranglers

DEPARTMENT N SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

Clothing and Textile Arts Traveling Trophy winners: Ariel Petersen

Eloise Woodson Memorial \$25 Cash Award - Overall Photography Exhibit: Eliana Johnston

Overall Outstanding Exhibit Traveling Trophy - Most Unique Exhibit: Aiden Lentz

Trish Neilson Memorial Traveling Trophy - Overall Cake Decorating Exhibit: Bradlie Joseph

Woodworking Traveling Trophy - Overall Woodworking Exhibit: Molly Arnold

Kristi Horsman Trupka Memorial Traveling Trophy: Isabelle Brito

SHOOTING SPORTS LEADER MEETINGS

Are you interested in leading a shooting sports discipline or just curious what is happening around the county regarding shooting sports? Join us on the third Thursday of the month (September-April) at 6:00 pm in the 4-H Building.

SHOOTING SPORTS MEMBERS & LEADERS GET SIGNED UP EARLY

4-H members should get signed up soon after ZSuite enrollment opens on October 1, in order to participate in the 2025-2026 4-H year shooting sports weekly workshops which start in November. 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 a 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, youth must be 9 years old on October 1 of the 2025-2026 year. The only exception is the BB Safety course which is open to those turning 8 years old by October 1 of the 2025-2026 year, and the Western Heritage Project requirements.

SHOOTING SPORTS LEADER TRAININGS FOR 2025-2026 – REGISTER IN ZSUITE

To be a 4-H Shooting Sports Certified Leader in the State of Montana, the following must be satisfied:

1. Adult volunteers must be at least 21 years of age. Junior Leaders must be 14 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 by the volunteer in the first 2 years of certification, the course must be retaken.

Dillon – September 12-14, 2025. All disciplines will be offered AND this weekend is scheduled to allow volunteer to be certified in **TWO** disciplines in three days.

For class information and to register, visit the Events section in ZSuite.

2026 EVENTS DAY INITIAL PLANNING MEETING

The first meeting for the spring 2026 Events Day will be held during the December Department N meeting on December 4, at 6:00 pm. **Each club should have a representative attend 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. With each club helping, the event is a big success!

DEPARTMENT A (ALL LIVESTOCK) MEETINGS FOR PROPOSED 2025 MONTANAFAIR HANDBOOK CHANGES

September 3, 2025: Post MontanaFair Department A Meeting at 6:00 pm

September 17, 2025: Horse and Colt Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm

September 24, 2025:

Small Animal Committee at 6:00 pm

Sale Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm

Large Livestock Meeting immediately following the sale committee meeting

October 10, 2025: MontanaFair rule change proposal forms due in the Extension Office by 5:00 pm (not postmarked by)

October 22, 2025: Horse and Colt Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm

November 5, 2025: LIVESTOCK HANDBOOK CHANGES WILL BE VOTED ON AT THESE MEETINGS:

Small Animal Committee at 6:00 pm

Sale Committee at 6:30 pm

Livestock Committee Meeting immediately following the sale committee meeting

December 4, 2025: Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

All (Department A and N) handbook changes proposed from the committees voted on at this meeting

The Livestock Leaders Committee will preside over the 4-H Livestock program as deemed necessary and will be comprised of the following people who will be eligible to vote at meetings (Exception: In order to vote on yearly rule and policy changes, you must have attended the discussion of the proposal at the post fair meeting and/or the September meeting.)

- A. **4-H members** enrolled in the Livestock Program
- B. **Junior Leaders** – a member enrolled in the 4-H Livestock Program who is 14 years of age or older and is a member in the Livestock Program.
- C. **Livestock Leaders** – Adult volunteers enrolled as leaders in a livestock project who work with members to gain knowledge. Leaders are encouraged to attend the monthly Livestock Leaders Committee meetings and should encourage their members to do the same. They should inform themselves and members of upcoming activities, decisions, and deadlines.

A quorum will consist of members eligible to vote and who were present at the discussion meetings. Discussion meetings are held 2-3 weeks after MontanaFair. Handbook changes are voted on at the November 1st Livestock Meetings. Council will vote on changes at the December meeting.

2025 PATRICK K. GOGGINS JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SALE & BUYER THANK YOU

Be sure to let the individual or business who bought your animal know how much you appreciate their support. **Sale 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**

County Exhibitors: Remember to let your club livestock leader or the Extension Office know you have delivered/mailed your thank you to your buyer.

Out of County Exhibitors: Call the Yellowstone County Extension office 406-256-2828, to let us know when you have delivered/mailed your thank you to your buyer.

THANK YOU TO DEPARTMENT A STAFF

Thank you to Department A co-superintendents Stephanie Johnson and Kat Pfau, the Department A Clerks and Division Chairpersons for their hard work and organization during MontanaFair. Thanks for your time and your willingness to answer the millions of questions put to you each day with little recognition. You are appreciated for your volunteer work! Roni Baker

2025 LIVESTOCK APPRECIATION PLAQUE RECIPIENTS

A special thank you to the following individuals and businesses who go above and beyond in continually supporting our 4-H youth and its programs. Each was recognized at our MontanaFair Department A Awards ceremony.

US Bank Andy Parker Brenda Hermansen Jay Nansel Western Ag Reporter Yellowstone Valley Parts & Equipment

4-H HORSE SHOW POST MONTANAFAIR MEETING

A Post MontanaFair Horse and Colt meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17, at 6:00 pm in the 4-H Building. The Horse and Colt Committee would like your input on the 2026 MontanaFair 4-H Horse Show. Come and let us know what you liked, what worked well and how we could improve for next year's MontanaFair.

NILE EVALUATION CONTEST INFORMATION.

The NILE Evaluation Contests will consist of up to 16 classes and at least three sets of reasons. There will be separate divisions for Junior 4-H, Senior 4-H, and FFA.

Livestock Evaluation contest will be held on Monday, October 13, at 7:30 am.

Horse Evaluation Contest is on Tuesday, October 14, at 9:00 am.

Meat Evaluation contest will be Tuesday, October 14, at 9:00 am. There will be separate divisions for Junior 4-H, Senior 4-H, and FFA.

Anyone interested in competing please contact Roni at the Extension Office by Wednesday, September 26.

NILE JUNIOR FED MARKET SHOWS

Jr. Fed Market Lamb and beef shows are on Saturday, October 11. Jr. Fed Market Swine and goat shows are on Sunday, October 12. The Junior Fed Sale will take place Monday, October 13, at 4:00 pm. To enter online visit [the Nile website](https://thenile.org/) at <https://thenile.org/>.

POST MONTANAFAIR MEETINGS FOR PROPOSED 2026 HANDBOOK CHANGES

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Department N

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SEPTEMBER 2025 4-H CALENDAR



4-H Building Cleaning Schedule

Yellowstone Silver Spurs: August 29-September 12
Whips & Sticks: September 27-October 10

Kountry Kritters: September 13-26

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 6:00 Dept. A Post Fair Meeting- <i>4-H Building</i>	4 5:30 Dept. N Post Fair Meeting 6:00 Dept. N with Council to follow- <i>4-H Building</i>	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Working Ranch Horse Show <i>Vaughn, MT</i>	13 Working Ranch Horse Show <i>Vaughn, MT</i>
14 Working Ranch Horse Show <i>Vaughn, MT</i>	15	16 6:00 pm Horse Judging Practice <i>4-H Building</i>	17 6:00 Horse & Colt meeting- <i>4-H Building</i>	18 6:00 Shooting Sports Leader Meeting <i>4-H Building</i>	19 October Newsletter Articles Due	20 Horse Judging Clinic <i>SuperBarn</i>
21	22 6:00 Exchange <i>4-H Building</i>	23	24 6:00 Small Animal 6:30 Sale Committee followed by Large Animal- <i>4-H Building</i>	25 State Horse Show <i>Vaughn, MT</i>	26 State Horse Show <i>Vaughn, MT</i>	27 State Horse Show <i>Vaughn, MT</i>
28 State Horse Show <i>Vaughn, MT</i>	29	30 6:00 pm Horse Judging Practice <i>4-H Building</i>				