

4-H NEWSLETTER-JANUARY 2025

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

4-H FOLKS IN FOCUS

For many of you this may be your first 4-H newsletter. The newsletter is filled with information you will need to know each month. Be sure to ask questions and learn about the activities and information listed. During the year if you change your address or establish a new email, please update your ZSuite record.

Read your newsletter thoroughly and if you find your initials and birthdate (ab/01/02/03) somewhere in the newsletter, call the Extension Office. The 4-H Council will send you a check for \$10!

The Beef tagging date for 2025 will be **SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, from 12:00 to 3:00 pm at PAYS**. All market beef for the 2025 MontanaFair are required to be tagged on this date. Animal Quality Assurance and Horse Helmet workshops will also be held. A full article can be found in this newsletter.

Thanks to Scheels for the generous donation to the Yellowstone County 4-H Foundation to support shooting sports and the scholarship!

Thank you to every 4-H Club for cleaning the 4-H Building during the year. We are thankful to have the place for 4-H activities.

Introducing the Yellowstone County 4-H App!



Scan Here For IOS



Scan Here For Android

Directions:

- Download “4-H Now” App by scanning one of the above QR Codes
- Search Yellowstone County
- Tap on Yellowstone County 4-H - Billings, MT
- Hit Load

Roni Baker 4-H/Youth Agent

THE 2024-2025 4-H YEAR IS IN FULL SWING

Please take the opportunity to try something new when you read about it in the newsletter. We encourage you to **pay attention to registration deadlines** and to understand that sometimes classes have a limit on the number of participants. Sign up early! Some articles will have only a small part of the information.

Feel free at any time to contact the Extension Office for further information. We enjoy having you stop in at the office but also encourage you to contact us by phone (406-256-2828) or email, Roni Baker, ronibaker@montana.edu, or visit our [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html> where you can find the newsletter and more information at the click of a mouse.

REMEMBER, if you email us and don't receive a reply saying, "Thank you", we have not received your email! Our firewall is rather stringent. You can also find reminders and photos on our Yellowstone County 4-H and the Yellowstone County Ambassador Facebook pages.

4-H FRUIT SALE INFORMATION

All 4-H Clubs are required to participate in the fruit sale. Each club needs to have at least one representative present at this meeting. You will receive your club order forms and instructions and a sample of the delicious fruit that we will be selling. We will meet Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 5:30 pm in the 4-H Building

FRUIT SALE POLICY

Members are expected to sell a minimum of 2 boxes of fruit or take part in the buyout program (talk to your club fruit sale representative).

4-H Council Policy:

"All 4-H members must participate in the Yellowstone County 4-H Council Fruit Sale and Family Fun Night fund raising events if the member wishes to participate in county sponsored events. (County sponsored events include: Achievement Day, 4-H Camp, Citizenship Interviews and Trips, Congress, Showcase, Sewing Festival, Foods Festival, Livestock Judging events, leader training and any other event or activity funded by or through a committee or Council line item budget.)"

REGISTER NOW: SOUTH CENTRAL 4-H LEADERS' SUMMIT IN BILLINGS JANUARY 11

Attention adult leaders, volunteers, and all adults interested in becoming involved with the 4-H program! Be sure to get enrolled now in ZSuite so you can register to attend the 2025 South Central 4-H Leaders' Summit – Saturday, January 11, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The 4-H Volunteer Summit is a training event designed for enrolled leaders and volunteers from Yellowstone, Carbon, Stillwater, Big Horn, and Musselshell/Golden Valley counties. This summit aims to empower both new and experienced volunteers with the tools necessary to make a significant impact on youth through their 4-H programs.

Participants will engage in hands-on workshops that emphasize effective leadership, promote inclusive club environments, and enhance volunteer skills. The event features sessions led by agents and volunteers covering essential topics such as meeting facilitation, record-keeping, technology use, community engagement, and conflict management.

To register and view a schedule of workshops, go to Events in your ZSuite household dashboard. We hope to see you there!

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY: MONTHLY SERIES

For 4-H Members 4-H Age (age as of October 1, 2024) 12 and older: Save the dates of January 12, February 9, and March 16.

Join the Montana 4-H Leadership Academy workshop series on Sunday afternoons in the 2025 4-H year. Each month the Ambassador Officer Team will present a different workshop topic that they have found to be important as they have developed their own leadership abilities.

The leadership academy is for Montana 4-H members interested in exploring and developing their own leadership skills while serving their county 4-H program in new ways. The workshop content is considered beginner level for emerging leaders. Members with more leadership experience may find this to be a review and should consider mentoring younger members just starting out in leadership activities before or after these workshops.

Visit the [State 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs_and_events/youth_leadership/academy.html) at https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs_and_events/youth_leadership/academy.html to register for the workshop series and receive the Zoom link.

For the February workshop we will meet at 2:30 pm in the Carbon County Extension Office (202 State Street, Joliet, MT). After the online workshop we will be making Valentine cards for local senior centers.

ROCKING THE RECORD BOOKS WORKSHOP JANUARY 25

Want to learn how to set up your record book, what needs to be included, and how to take your record books to the Gold Seal level? Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 25, 10:00 am to 12 noon in the 4-H Building. Bring your record books, project books, and any questions you may have. Members, parents, and leaders are strongly encouraged to attend. There will be drawings for some cool 4-H prizes!

RECORD BOOK WORKSHOP HELPERS NEEDED

We are looking for parents and experienced members to come and help us run stations for this workshop on January 25, 2025, from 10 am-12 pm, at the 4-H Building. Please let us know by January 23, if you would like to help or just show up. Please contact Roni Baker if you would like to help or have questions.

2025 REC LAB WILL BE HELD IN MARCH

What is Rec Lab? It sounds like a funny name for a 4-H event. Rec Lab stands for Recreation Lab and means that everything is hands-on and fun! The 2025 Rec Lab will be held in White Sulphur Spring, March 28-30.

This event is a 4-H member favorite because it gives kids the opportunity to enhance their leadership, communication, and team building skills in an action-packed and interactive setting. Rec Lab's programming goal is to provide participants with tips and tricks for being a better club, camp, and community leader.

The event has a camp feel because everything will take place in one school or location. Participants will bring air mattresses and sleeping bags to sleep on the gym floor and attend workshops all together in the school and join lots of social and fun activities.

This event is ideal for younger senior members to attend as a first-time state event. It allows them to form relationships with 4-H peers from across the state, broaden their skills, and widen their network.

Extension Staff and volunteers: The idea of sleeping on an air mattress in a school gym may not be your idea of a fun weekend, but this is a great event for you too! The program is conducive to meeting people from around the state and exchanging ideas. You are sure to gain some great info and bring home motivated youth leaders.

Registration will be open in ZSuite February 10-March 12. The cost will be around \$100 to \$125 per person. Yellowstone County 4-H council will contribute to the registration fee. We will set up rides and chaperones. Participants will have the opportunity to pick from a list of workshops during registration. Please watch you email and the 4-H Newsletter for updates! Talk to your 4-H friends about attending this great event! Visit the [state 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs_and_events/events/rec_lab/index.html) at https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs_and_events/events/rec_lab/index.html

4-H BUILDING AVAILABILITY CAN BE VIEWED ONLINE

You can view the 4-H Building calendar on the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/newsletter_calendar_meetingnotes.html) at https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/newsletter_calendar_meetingnotes.html

If you would like to use the 4-H Building for a 4-H club meeting, project meeting, workshop or some other 4-H related event this calendar will help you determine a date the building MAY be available. Dates are not guaranteed until you contact the Extension office with your request, and we confirm that it is available, and you have been added to the calendar. Building may not be used for non-4-H events.

SIGN UP FOR SERVICE LEARNING VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION NOW

4-H Service Learning is...a volunteer service that you provide with no monetary compensation. It is hands-on involvement with community projects.

Examples of community service:

- Volunteering at your church as an usher, teaching Sunday School, directing the Children's church.
- Volunteering at a nursing home helping the residents.
- Volunteering at the local hospital as a Candy Stripper.
- Volunteering at the Rescue Mission serving food, stocking the food pantry, cleaning tables, etc.
- Volunteering in your school, picking up garbage around the campus, helping with school functions like PTA events.
- Volunteering in the community cleaning up and beautifying parks, picking up garbage in ditches, cleaning graffiti off buildings.
- Organizing and implementing work crews for various projects around your community, painting a house, mowing a yard, or shoveling a sidewalk for a neighbor needing help.
- Relay for Life volunteering.
- Ringing the Salvation Army bells during the holidays.
- Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4-H community service activities but if you are a member of the specific group/organization, hours spent fundraising do not count. (car wash fundraiser, selling cookies, popcorn, fruit, etc.)

Participating members will be recognized at Family Fun Night and prizes will be given out based on the number of hours you volunteered during the 2024-2025 4-H year - September 1 to October 31. You must sign up in ZSuite under Events. Download the Service Learning Log in ZSuite or from the Department N section 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>

NO 4-H COUNCIL MEETING IN JANUARY

There will NOT be a meeting in January. We will meet again February 6, at 6:30 pm in the 4-H Building. Everyone is invited to attend to learn about how council operates and how you can make a difference in the program.

YOUTH ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE & ATTEND MEETINGS

Youth are invited to participate in all the county meetings and on all the committees. We want you to be involved in Sale Committee, Livestock Committee, Department N Committee, 4-H Council and all the event committees such as Fruit Sale and Family Fun Night. Come share your opinions and be part of the decision-making process in the county!

4-H LICENSE PLATE

Remember when renewing or purchasing a license plate to consider the 4-H license plate available at the county Motor Vehicle Department. Proceeds go back to 4-H.

START APPLYING FOR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

It's time for high school seniors to start applying for various secondary education scholarships.

MSU-Bozeman announces the Montana Premier Scholarship Program for fall 2025. Hundreds of academic scholarship will be available to new freshmen from Montana who demonstrate academic promise based on ACT and/or SAT scores and grade point average. Leadership experience, activities, honors, and financial need may also be considered. Students must apply for admission on the [Montana State University website](https://www.montana.edu/admissions/) at <https://www.montana.edu/admissions/> and complete the applications. Priority deadline is February 1, 2025.

Applications for the **State 4-H Foundation scholarships** can be found on the [state 4-H website](https://www.mt4hfoundation.org/scholarships.html) at <https://www.mt4hfoundation.org/scholarships.html>. The site has detailed requirements and deadlines.

The **Yellowstone County Foundation** offers scholarships of varying amounts to graduating seniors/4-H Alumni. The scholarship application will be mailed directly to members and can be printed off the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html>. These are due April 1.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Montana Association of Conservation Districts announces that two scholarship are available for high school seniors or students already in college. Eligibility requirements include: US Citizen, MT residency, minimum GPA of 3.0, enrollment plans or current enrollment in studies that explore natural resource issues, attending a college in Montana. Students may receive a scholarship both as a high school senior and once during a post-secondary career. The 2025 application and instructions will be available on the [Conservation District website](https://macdnet.org/programs/scholarships/) or <https://macdnet.org/programs/scholarships/>.

PEOPLE PARTNER GRANT DUE FEBRUARY 14

The People Partner grant program offers an opportunity for clubs and individuals to make a difference in the community with projects involving 4-H members in determining a need, completing a grant application, and implementing the project. Applications are available at the Extension Office or can be printed off the [state 4-H Foundation website](https://www.mt4hfoundation.org/grants.html) at <https://www.mt4hfoundation.org/grants.html>. Applications must be postmarked by February 14. Up to \$500 may be awarded to individual clubs by the Montana 4-H Foundation.

The state 4-H website has identified some additional resources for grants and scholarships.

4-H RECORD SHEETS SHOULD BE STARTED

By now you should have completed your “Goals” for each of your project journals and on your “My 4-H Year” record. Below are some overall goals you should review now so your leader will be able to check “YES” on each when you turn your records in at the end of the year.

- Enroll in and complete at least one project.
- Set at least 3 goals to accomplish during the 4-H year.
- Complete the “My 4-H Year” journal form.
- Keep your journals up to date with the activities you do throughout the year.
- Participate in at least 3 activities such as judging, demonstrations, public speaking, tours, reports at club meetings, etc. and record them in “My 4-H Year”.
- List any awards and honors you receive.
- Complete the Projects and Financial Journal for each project.
- If you own an animal, keep records for it and complete the appropriate parts of the Animal Record. This will vary according to the animal you have.

TOP 10 PROJECTS IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY FOR 2024-2025

Place	Project	Place	Project
1	Swine	6	Horsemanship: Western
2	Archery	7	Photography
3	BB Gun	8	Beef
4	Woodworking	9	Rabbit
5	Poultry	10	Dog

4-H CLUB OFFICERS & ROLES

Congratulations to all the new club officers!

The officer and committee system 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. One of the Leaders or parents should be responsible for helping officers carry out their responsibilities.

President - Prepares the agenda with other officers and Leader and presides at club meetings. Knows and follows parliamentary procedure. Appoints necessary committees. Works with Leaders to see that meetings run smoothly. Checks on meeting arrangements.

Vice-President - Assumes duties of President in her/his absence. Has responsibility to see that committees are working on assigned tasks.

Secretary - Keeps complete and accurate records of each business meeting. Writes all club correspondence. Keeps club role and all other club records up to date.

Treasurer - Handles all club money. Keeps accurate and up to date financial records.

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

4-H DEMONSTRATION TIPS

When designing and presenting your demonstrations this year, use the following tips to make your best better!

- Select a topic that you know well and find interesting.
- Develop one main idea or topic to share.
- Use an outline to help you organize the idea or topic into three to seven points or steps that can be explained and/or shown.
- Secure the material and the equipment needed and organize it to avoid clutter.
- Dress appropriately for the activity being demonstrated.
- Check your materials and equipment before you give the demonstration. Make words on posters large enough for all to read.
- Use a catchy introduction that will get the attention of the audience.
- Take your time and speak clearly, looking at your audience.
- Show how each step is done so everyone can see.
- Keep your materials orderly, and when you are finished with something, place it out of the way.
- Practice the demonstration with family or friends who will give suggestions for improvement.
- Smile and enjoy yourself, but avoid chewing gum, placing your hands in your pockets, or "fiddling" with equipment.
- Review your points or steps at the end, ask if there are questions, and thank the audience.
- Check with your County 4-H Extension Agent for county specific guidelines and dates.

To learn more about how to create each type of demonstration visit the [Montana 4-H's Communications webpage](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/4h_communication/) or https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/4h_communication/.

4-H SUPPORTERS

Many businesses and organizations in our community support 4-H. Each month we several of those supporters in the newsletter. I would encourage you to tell them thank you and support them in return. If you would like to submit names for this article, please send them to Roni Baker.

4-H Supporter	Mailing Address
KGHL Radio	PO Box 1742, Billings MT 59103
Bobcat of Big Sky	2125 Old Hardin Road, Billings MT 59101
Albertsons	511 Central Avenue, Billings MT 59101
Industrial Sales	PO Box 31234, Billings MT 59107
Dick Anderson Construction	PO Box 31511, Billings MT 59107
87 Rentals	281 21 Mile Road, Shepherd MT 59079
Blue Body & Paint	356 Scott Street, Billings MT 59101
Stinkblossom	1031 US Hwy 87 E, Billings MT 59101

NO DEPARTMENT N (NON-ANIMAL PROJECTS) MEETING IN JANUARY

There will NOT be a Department N meeting in January. We will meet February 1 at 6:00 pm in the 4-H Building. All members and leaders enrolled in Department N (non-animal) projects are invited to attend.

JANUARY 11 CERAMICS WORKSHOP

The ceramics workshop will be held Saturday, January 11. 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 which class/time you will be attending. Mark your calendars for additional workshops on February 8, March 8, and April 12.

SHOPPING IN STYLE PROJECT

The Shopping in Style project is designed for youth who do not want to sew yet want to learn about clothing, style, what looks best on you and staying within a budget when purchasing items. This is the project to enroll in if youth want to participate in Showcase and at MontanaFair.

Showcase is a countywide event where 4-H members in Clothing & Textiles projects show items they have made or purchased in their project. Participants take part in a public fashion show where they are judged. There are also categories for quilt, display, duct tape, costume, and refashion/repurpose/redesign.

SHOWCASE & CONGRESS QUILT SHOW-PLAN NOW

It's time to begin planning your quilt for the Showcase Quilt Show that will be held April 19, 2025. Any 4-H member or relative of a 4-H member may enter the quilt show. You may enter a bed or lap quilt, wall hanging, or quilt block. If you need help getting started, or have a question about construction, patterns, choice of fabrics, binding, etcetera, contact your sewing or quilting leader or for more information call the Extension Office at 406-256-2828.

Senior 4-H members: There is a quilt show at Congress, held in Bozeman in July. You may enter your quilt in the Congress Quilt Show and attend the Congress Quilting Contest. Any size quilt will be accepted, as well as wall hangings and quilted garments. All work must be done by the 4-H member (i.e., no professional quilting) and awards will be presented. Score sheets are available for you to view from Roni. Our county may submit more than one entry, so encourage your friends to quilt too.

SHOOTING SPORTS LEADER MEETING

Shooting sports leader meeting for ALL 4-H Shooting Sport leaders on Thursday, January 16, at 6:00 pm in the 4-H Building.

SHOOTING SPORTS INVITATIONAL ****SAVE THE DATE****

Yellowstone County Shooting Sports Invitational on February 15, 2025. Watch your email for instructions on how to register that will be emailed to all shooting sports members and leaders.

SHOOTING SPORTS LEADER TRAININGS FOR 2025

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

1. Be at least 21 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 in the first 2 years, the course must be retaken.

Malta – January 10-11, 2025. They will offer Archery, Rifle, and Pistol

Havre and Circle. TBD. They hope to offer Archery, Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun.

DEPARTMENT A (ANIMAL PROJECTS) MONTHLY MEETINGS

Small Animal Committee Meeting: January 22, at 6:00 pm at the 4-H Building

Sale Committee Meeting: 6:30 pm followed by Livestock Committee Meeting. We'll meet in the 4-H Building at

MetraPark. Everyone (members, leaders, parents) enrolled in a Department A (animal) project is welcome to attend.

HORSE JUDGING AND HIPPOLOGY WORKSHOPS

Do you love horses? Do you want to learn more about horses? Horse Judging and Hippology contests provide an excellent opportunity for 4-H members to study the horse, learn skills within the equine industry, and to demonstrate their abilities and knowledge in an exciting, friendly, and competitive setting. Meetings and judging practice will be held monthly starting January 16, at 6:00 pm in the 4-H Building. The full schedule was emailed to all horse members and leaders and can be found in ZSuite under Shared Files.

SHEEP AND GOAT WORKSHOP JANUARY 18

The sheep and goat workshop will start on January 18, at 10am in the 4-H Building. We will be going over clipper and blade maintenance and care. We have a special guest come from the Montana sheep shears Union to show us how they sharpen shearing blades. We will also be taking apart a set of clippers to show basic maintenance care. All animal species members are welcome to come. Please remember to bring record books and project books to be signed off. For questions contact Heather at (406)208-4463.

CAT COUNTY PROJECT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Saturday January 18, from 12:00 to 12:45 pm at the 4-H Building. This meeting will cover Feed and Nutrition. Kasey Felder will demonstrate the recipe she feeds her cats, and members will get to make a version of "Cat Chow" for themselves (not their cats). We have a Facebook page for anyone that would like to join. "Yellowstone County Cat Project". Please send a request to join, if you are a parent- please note the child's name in request. Meeting updates, agenda's, and other cat related tidbits will be posted there.

POCKET PET COUNTY PROJECT MEETING

The county Pocket Pet Meeting will be on Saturday January 18, from 1:00 to 1:45 pm at the 4-H Building. This meeting will cover the feeding and nutrition requirements of pocket pets. Hands on activity will also be planned.

POULTRY, CAVY, AND RABBIT COUNTY PROJECT MEETING

On January 23rd at 6:00 pm there will be a meet and greet with the Poultry & Cavy/Rabbit chairman. It will be held in the 4-H Building. Please **DO NOT** bring your animals. After the quick meet and greet, we will play an anatomy game. We hope to see all enrolled poultry, cavy, and rabbit 4-H members.

KMON JUDGING CONTEST

KMON Livestock, Meats ID and Crops Judging Contests will be held at the MT ExpoPark in Great Falls on Thursday, January 16, 2025. If you are interested in attending the KMON judging contest as part of a Yellowstone County team, please call Roni Baker at 406-256-2828 by January 2 for more information and to reserve a spot on a team or sign up as an individual.

2025 MONTANA WINTER FAIR

The Montana Winter Fair will be held January 17-19, 2025, in Lewistown, MT. Information can be found online at the [Montana Winter Fair website](http://montanawinterfair.com/) at <http://montanawinterfair.com/>, by calling 406-538-2200 or emailing montanawinterfair@gmail.com. (tjb/08/27/15)

2025 MONTANA STATE FAIR JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW

Anyone wanting to show at the 2025 Montana State Fair in Great Falls, MT should visit the [Montana ExpoPark](https://tickets.goexpopark.com/) at <https://tickets.goexpopark.com/> or call 406-727-8900 for entry information.

MARKET BEEF TAGGING FOR MONTANAFAIR: SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

The Beef tagging date for 2025 will be **SUNDAY, JANUARY 5** from **12:00 to 3:00 pm** at PAYS. All market beef you are planning to enter into the MontanaFair must be tagged on this date. There are no exceptions.

Each exhibitor can tag three animals in each species. Exhibitors can enter all 3 in their MontanaFair entry, but at the fair they must decide which 2 animals they will be weighing and exhibiting. Each exhibitor at the MontanaFair can only sell one animal.

All exhibitors at the MontanaFair in Department A (livestock) are required to attend a MSU Extension Animal Quality Assurance Training prior to the MontanaFair entry deadline to be eligible to exhibit at the MontanaFair. Animal Quality Assurance Class will be from 1:00-2:30 pm and the Horse Helmet Class is from 3:00 am to 4:00 pm.

2024-2025 ANIMAL QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY & WORKSHOP SCHEDULE & GUIDELINES

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. Yellowstone County has two 4-H age brackets for AQA training. Exhibitors must attend AQA as Beginners/Juniors (4-H age 8-13), and as a senior member (4-H age 14-19). This age is based on the exhibitors "4-H Age" – the age as 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 are exhibiting in an animal project. All classes will include the same teaching materials and use the same forms and paperwork. Class content is determined by a committee and updated every two years. A parent or legal guardian must also attend the AQA Training.

There will be hands on, group activities. Please plan on arriving on time with a parent with both staying for the complete 1½ hours. If you and your parent are not in attendance for the complete training, you may be asked to attend another session. Plan on attending a session early in the year so conflicts do not occur in your family schedule. **NO workshops will be held after the June 3 class. It is the final opportunity for 2025.**

The sessions in January and May are face-to-face at this time at PAYS. For the virtual sessions, people will log into the Webex meeting (Webex link information will be sent out via email prior to each session) to learn the information then go to the online program, pay their own \$12 fee, and take the online class. A copy of the completion certificate must be provided to the Extension Office.

Sunday, January 5: 1:00-2:30 pm at PAYS (Public Auction Yards) – Meat & Carcass quality focus

Thursday, February 20: 6:00 pm Cedar Hall at MetraPark – Poultry, Rabbits, & Cavy focus

Wednesday, March 5: 6:30 pm Virtual training

Saturday, April 19: 10:30 am at the 4-H Building – Sheep & Goat focus

Saturday, May 3: 9:00-10:30 am at PAYS (Public Auction Yards) – Large animals focus

Tuesday, June 3: 6:30 pm Virtual training

MSU EXTENSION 4-H HORSE HELMET POLICY & WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Participants in the 4-H Horse Project 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" – the age as of October 1 of the current 4-H year. Exhibitors must attend a Horse Helmet Workshop the first year they reach every age bracket or the first year they are exhibiting in an animal project. A parent or legal guardian must also attend the Horse Helmet Workshop.

After attending a 4-H Helmet Workshop, riders may choose whether they will wear a certified helmet. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the 4-H member to see that the headgear worn complies with such 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 4-H horse 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 usually fall in this category include, but are not limited to: barrel racing, pole bending, keyhole

aces, stake races, rescue races, pony express race, etc. Events that are not intended to be included in this policy 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 3 class. It is the final opportunity for 2025.**

Sunday, January 5: 3:00-4:00 pm at PAYS (Public Auction Yards)

Wednesday, April 16: 7:00-8:00 pm at the 4-H Building

Saturday, May 3: 11:00 am-12:00 pm at PAYS (Public Auction Yards)

CLUB MINUTES TURNED IN

The following clubs turned in club minutes this month.

Blue Creek Jumping Bucks: Club members will hold a craft sale as a fundraiser.

Compass All Stars: Members are considering changing the club's Family Fun Night game for 2025.

Lockwood Humble Bs: Members held their holiday party.

Pine Ridge Red Ryder: Club had the Worden Fire Chief as a guest speaker who talked about many fire safety issues.

Project Rockin' Wranglers: The club will hold small animal demonstrations at the January club meeting.

Shepherd Pioneers: Members project notebooks were checked, and members were recognized for achievements.

HISTORICAL WINNERS OF COUNTY AWARDS

Year	Outstanding Leader Winner	Friend of 4-H Winner	Outstanding Alumni Winner
1995	Laurie Stricker Abe & Gretta Waldner Judy Kirkland Connie Hayes Rolann Armstrong	Pepsi Cola Les Reichert Chris Schaff	Mary Cardwell Roni Parker Allen Lenhardt
1996	Chris Osness Bonnie Kindsfather Kathy Teter Carolyn Becker Monti Carlson Phylliss Bromgard Sharon Hauber Nellie Shoup	Watts Feeds Billings Kubota Connelly's Northwest Fabrics Center of Nation Wool	Sara Reinhardt Julie Cooper Linderhand Don Olson
1997	Carol Pfau June Kalloch Lynne Remington Tammy Bellinger Steve & Karen Lance	Albertson's Tractor Supply Company Lockwood IGA Stockman Bank Yellowstone Valley Electric Billy Brown & Sally Wagstaff	Sabrina Hayes Trish Hays Lanette Frye Shane Vandivort
1998	Nancy & Lauris Byxbe Mitch Heiken Wes & Dixie Osborne Robbee Schatz Cheryl Newlin Rhonda Koivu Sherrie Legerski Angie Murdick Betty Erickson Robin Martin	Jerrel & Dean Richards Strictly Feline Mike McClurg Project Mercantile Rocke' Gear MSU Billings	Rachel Armstrong

Year	Outstanding Leader Winner	Friend of 4-H Winner	Outstanding Alumni Winner
Year	Outstanding Leader Winner	Friend of 4-H Winner	Outstanding Alumni Winner
1999	Karen Jones	Tryan's Arena Western Sugar Big Sky Feeds	Katherine Pfau Greg Gabel
2000	Bill & Robin Martin	WalMart Caring Hands Vet Hospital	Errol Rice Becky Hample Robin Armstrong
2001	Keith & Neala Rausch	Kathy Glenn MetraPark Joan Albrecht	Tony Orednick
2002	Deb Barta Greg Grice	Scott Fredricks - KGHL	Katie Erickson
2003	Mark Cardwell	Loose Cayuse North American Wild Turkey Federation Joe Goggins	Kristi Horsman Ryan Roen
2004	Roland McElvain Steve & Karin Lance	Dan Kautz	Dan Vanek LeAnn Asay
2005	Dan Belk	Jody Anderson Shane Meskimen - Lockwood IGA	Bonnie Kinsfather
2006	Bob & Rolann Armstrong Norma Seder		Taylor Brown Mindy Morrison
2007	Lynne Remington	Ashley Furniture Yellowstone County Commissioners	Brenda Bromenshenk Jeff Weldon
2008	Adora Henderson Melody Harris	NRA Montana Maid Ceramics	Jennifer Laszloffy Travis Grice
2009	Jennifer Laszloffy Kathy Dubs Dixie Osborne	Air Controls St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Mintana Mills	Denise Kennedy Bonnie DeVerniero
2010	Mary Cardwell Lacey Lanaghan Trish Hays	Worden VFW Billings Motorcycle Club	Natalie Spratling Billie Schaff
2011	Steve Helms Nancy & Lauris Byxbe Betty Erickson	Rick & Marcie Limpp Superior Archer Longhorn General Contracting	Shelby Dalke Katrina Britton
2012	Julie Dandrea Karen Krug Meagan Malchow	The Truck Shop	Levi Osborne Kim Bender
2013	Karen Postema Ann & Tom Tyler	Western Ranch Supply Judy Kirkland Rainbow Property Management	Joe Goggins

Year	Outstanding Leader Winner	Friend of 4-H Winner	Outstanding Alumni Winner
2014	Diana Grassel Nancy VanMaren & George Fink	Shipton's Big R - West Baker Family Project Meats	Jasmine Drange William & Madison Kayne
2015	Jennifer Laszloffy Stephanie Johnson Trevor Apps	Agri Best Foods Yellowstone Valley Electric Co-op	Sara Laszloffy
2016	Chris Martin Jodie Drange Dan Wohlgenant	Yellowstone Stables Northwest Pipe Meadowgold	Nicole beck Jami Forseth
2017	Nicole Beck Les & Barb Huntington	Sokoloski Cattle Yellowstone Valley Parts and Equipment	Cheri Johannes
2018	Kendra Rollins Marilyn Klein SKelly Adkins	Mikol Hjelvik Valley Baptist Church	Spencer Drange Hailey Rae
2019	Brenda Bromenshenk Carol Corder Carson Kuehn	Richard Popp Shipton's Big R - Heights	Bryan Roe Christina Harms
2020	George Fink	DiA Events Bill Dutcher	Shelby Shaw Tara Welborn
2021	Kristi Trupka Tony Neil Rhonda Koivu	Bernina Albertsons - 6 stores	Valory Seely
2022	Angie Murdick Wendy Thatcher Adam Serock Brenda Hermanson	Rocky Mountain Compost Valley Farmer's Supply in Worden	Carson Huntington
2023	Heather Arkell Rita Baeten	Raw Machinery Adam & Stacy Serock Meadowgold	Becca Sedlacek
2024	Judy Robertson Diana Spint Victoria Wagenaar	McDonalds - all county stores Drang Apiary Meagan Malchow	Jon Welch Brandon Muessig

JANUARY 2025 4-H CALENDAR



4-H Building Cleaning Schedule: Huntley Eagles: December 14-27
Compass All Stars: January 11-24

Northern Lights: December 28-January 10
Blue Creek Jumping Bucks: Jan. 25-Feb. 7

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 OFFICE CLOSED New Year's	2 5:30 pm Fruit Sale Info. Meeting <i>4-H Building</i>	3	4
5 12-3 pm Beef Tagging 1-2:30 pm Animal Quality Assurance 3-4 pm Horse Helmet <i>all at PAYS</i>	6	7	8	9	10	11 9:00 4-H Leaders Summit <i>4-H Building</i>
12 3:00 pm Leadership Academy <i>WebEx</i>	13	14	15	16 KMON Contests & Judging <i>Great Falls</i> 6 pm Shooting Sports Leader Meeting <i>4-H Building</i> 6 pm Horse Workshop <i>4-H Building</i>	17 Newsletter Articles Due Montana Winter Fair in Lewistown January 17-19 ←	18 10:00 Sheep & Goat Workshop 12:00 pm Cat Workshop 1:00 Pocket Pets Workshop 2:30 Dog Rally
19	20 OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King Day Citizenship Seminar in Helena Jan. 19-21 ←	21	22 6 pm Small Animal Comm. 6:30 pm Sale Committee followed by Livestock Committee <i>4-H Building</i>	23 5:30 Poultry/Rabbit/Cavy Meet & Greet <i>Cedar Hall at MetraPark</i>	24	25 10 am Record Book Workshop TBA Bingo Night <i>Both in the 4-H Building</i>
26	27 6:30 Exchange	28 6:00 Make It & Take It <i>Cedar Hall</i>	29	30 5	31	