

MAY 2026

TOOLE COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER



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Hello 4-H Families!

Welcome to May! The Marias Fair will be here before you know it!

Just a reminder that all members have to have five of seven activities from their project books and two of three experiences completed before fair. They need to have it checked by their leader or the Extension Office.

FairEntry Registration will open on May 15th and Fair Packets will also be ready to be picked up that day as well. Please be sure to read everything carefully and let us know if you have any questions!

We are still needing a couple of Toole County Day Chairs for the Marias Fair this year. If you are interested at all, this is a paid position. If you need more information, please contact the Extension office. We cannot run the food booth without our day chairs!

Happy Fair Season!

Sincerely,
Kim & Jackie

TAKE A PEEK AT WHAT'S INSIDE:
UPCOMING EVENTS
CALENDAR



UPCOMING EVENTS

FSA Youth Ag Loans

If you are looking for a way to finance your 4-H projects for this year (or wanting to take on a larger livestock project), consider visiting with the Farm Service Agency. They recently increased the loan limit to \$10,000 and funds can be used for the purchase of animals, feed, supplies, etc. Youth between the ages of 10 and 20 are eligible. Loans are repaid annually and can be termed out for up to seven years for the purchase of breeding stock. Interest rate is 4.875%.

MRLA Free Membership

Marias River Livestock Association is now offering FREE membership to those who are members of our local 4-H & FFA!

Follow this link to join: <http://mariasriverlivestock.com/plans-pricing>

Livestock Committee Update

Members who show multiple market animals at the fair will be able to pay \$50/each to have those additional animals shipped with the fair animals and participate in the carcass contest, have processed meat returned on the truck, etc. Example- 4-Her shows a steer and lamb, and sells the steer. They can have the lamb go on the truck, participate in the carcass contest, etc. for the \$50 fee. Livestock members who are in this situation will have the opportunity to select this option on FairEntry when they sign up for a market animal show.

Please note, your private treaty buyer or you would be responsible for all processing fees. The \$50 fee and the buyer information must be turned in to Jesse Fulbright on Saturday night of the sale in order to be included in animal transport.

Fashion Revue

Please mark on your calendars that Fashion Revue will take place Monday, July 6th. This is open to any members taking a sewing project or Ready to Wear.

There is also a Cloverbuds section!

We will also offer a section of Cloverbud Fair interviews in case that date works better for your family OR if you feel your child would be more comfortable on a less busy day than Wednesday of Fair.

Please reach out if you have any questions about Fashion Revue or Cloverbud interviews.

4-H Camp

4-H Camp will be June 24 - 26 in the Highwood Mountains for 4-Hers in 7th grade and under this year (no Cloverbuds). Counselors will go down 6/23 to prepare. There will be a bus to transport 4-Hers from Shelby to camp and back, courtesy of the 4-H Councils. Camp registration is open on Zsuite and workshops are available on a first come, first serve basis, so register early! Registration closes June 1, do not delay! Camp is \$75/member, checks payable to Phillips-Blaine County 4-H Camp OR you can pay through Zsuite with a card.

Cloverbud Camp

Save the date for Cloverbud Camp on Wednesday, June 10th from 10am-2pm at the Exhibit Building.

Horse Project Meeting, May 11th @6pm.

Remington Winkowitsch will be doing a horse shoeing/trimming workshop with the members. The meeting is at 2327 US HWY 213 N (LeAnne Winkowitsch's daycare). If you have any questions please contact LeAnne at 406-391-0154.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Livestock Committee Updates

Rules updated at the March meeting include increasing max market goat weight to 135, requiring scrapies tags for all goats and sheep, requiring market sheep and goats to have been born after September 1 of the prior year, the breeding animal identification forms (above), and requiring a picture submission of a dead market animal to the Extension Office/Livestock Committee before purchasing another member's officially weighed-in spare animal (if member doesn't have a spare)

Market Livestock Members - Begin Marketing Now!

For 2026, we're projecting 161 total market livestock, whereas there were 126 market animals sold in 2025. (Granted, some members will only sell one animal at fair so overall numbers will be less than 161, but the takeaway message is we are certainly UP on market livestock in 2026). Steer numbers are the same but we're looking at an additional 5 market lambs, 15 market swine, and 4 market goats compared to 2025.

With these additional numbers, it is important that 4-Hers begin marketing early! Start making a list of potential businesses and individuals to invite to the sale. Buyers need to have the date on their calendar early (Saturday, July 18, 3 p.m.) and be budgeting for the sale. Who are three NEW buyers you can invite - an orthodontist, accountant, relative, etc.? What is your plan for marketing? Can you send a 'Save the Date' now and a follow-up letter (mailed or hand delivered) this summer? The marketing piece is each member's responsibility and a great way to hone the life skills of hand shakes, introducing yourself, sharing about your projects, etc.

New Volunteers - Clover Academy Volunteer Orientation

New volunteers will need to complete a volunteer orientation in Zsuite. Log into your personal account, look on the left panel, then scroll to "Clover Academy," and click to begin your four training modules. This training takes around an hour to complete. Each module usually takes about 15 minutes. We cannot finalize your leader status until this orientation is completed.

Belt Buckle Awards

Congratulations to Bridger Ergenbright for receiving the You are Awesome Belt Buckle.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Planning for fair

Check out the 2026 Fair Book at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/mariasfair/mariasfairbook/> to see what potential exhibits you can take to fair! The 2026 Fair Book will be available soon. You can only enter items from projects that you are signed up for.

Fair Packets

First fair packets will be ready to pick up on Friday May, 15th. Fair packets contain important information for non-camping and camping participants so please pick up early. All Counties need to provide volunteers for certain jobs during the fair.

Fair Registration also begins on May 15. Register by signing in to your FairEntry account at <http://mariasfair.fairentry.com/>. If you forgot your password please select the "forgot password" option. Do not create a new account. If this is your first year participating in the Marias Fair, you will need to create a new account. There are instructions in your packet. The deadline to register for fair and turn in all fees is Tuesday, June 16th. New campers - camper spot requests are time and date stamped so the earlier you turn in your request the better chance you have of getting that spot. As always you can call the office if you have any questions.

Food Booth Safety

We are excited to share some changes to our Food Safety Training process for all Marias Fair Food Booth workers this year! In an effort to make sure every volunteer, both youth and adults, feels confident and fully prepared before their shift, we have updated our training video and added a short quiz to go along with it.

All food booth workers will be required to watch the new training video and complete a brief quiz, which will be accessible via a Google Forms link that will be shared by May 15th. We want everyone to walk in feeling ready and set up for success!

This new format was created with our volunteers in mind. We know that fair season gets busy and details can sometimes get lost in the shuffle, so we hope that this interactive approach helps the important food safety guidelines, including dress code and attire requirements, really stick. Our goal is to make sure no one is caught off guard or put in an uncomfortable situation on the day of their shift. A little preparation goes a long way in making the experience smooth and enjoyable for everyone!

Because this is a new version of the training, all returning and new workers will be required to complete it this year, even if you have completed training in previous years. Following this transition year, training will return to its annual renewal schedule of every other year.

Thank you for all that you do to make the Marias Fair Food Booth such a wonderful success. We truly appreciate each and every one of our volunteers and can't wait to see you there!

CLOVERBUD CAMPING CRAZE

CLOVERBUD DAY CAMP

For Cloverbuds ages 5-8 as of Oct. 1st



June 10th

2026

10:00am - 2:30pm

\$7.00 entry fee

- At the Marias Fair Exhibit building
- Register on Z-Suite (registration open until June 5th)

-LUNCH PROVIDED-

4-H DOG TRAINING WORKSHOP



May 15th

4:30 - 6:30 PM

Marias Fairgrounds

Contact Tara Hart

406-289-0404



This workshop is intended for 4-H Dog members but anyone interested in pursuing the dog project is invited!

Trainings from Kelli Rohloff and Lee Goertz.
Lynn Knoble will be offering grooming lessons

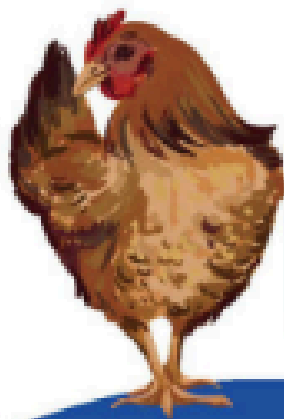
4-H POULTRY & RABBIT SHOW

(MULTI-COUNTY, WITH CO-JUDGES
MANDIE REED, WHEATLAND COUNTY,
AND JACK WARD, TETON COUNTY)

SNACKS
AND
FUN
PRIZES!



"This will be a practice show for kids who want to practice before the Fair, to feel more comfortable!!"



When: Sunday May 17th, 2026 AT 2PM
Where: The Chateau Volunteer Fire Hall
at 920 8th Ave NW, Chateau, MT 59422

Hosted by Hannah,
Youth Member of Teton County 4-H

Please RSVP by May 12th to
📞 Hannah at 406-590-2283



SAVE THE DATE!

MONTANA 4-H CONGRESS

DRIVEN TO LEAD
MONTANA 4-H CONGRESS

JULY 7-10, 2026

MSU BOZEMAN

Fun, Competition & Leadership Opportunities!



MONTANA
HEREFORD ASSOCIATION

2026 Heifer Grant

One (1) minimum of **\$1,000** grant to purchase a Hereford heifer.
The heifer must be purchased from a current MHA member.
Showing your heifer is not a requirement.

Eligibility to Apply

- Between the age of 9-17 as of January 1, 2026
- Current 4H or FFA member
- Must live in the State of Montana

Essay Topic

State why you deserve the heifer grant, how receiving the grant will help you with your 4-H/FFA project(s), how receiving the grant fits into your future goals in agriculture, why you are applying to receive the grant, and any previous experience taking care of livestock.

Application Deadline

September 1, 2026

If you have any questions, please reach out to infomontanahereford@gmail.com

Application Packet can be found on MHA's website, www.montanahereford.org/heifer-grant

Application Requirements

- Must Complete Application
- Complete an Essay
- Provide Three (3) Letters of Reference
- Submit a 3-5 Minute Video



MAY

- 1st-** Add/ Drop Deadline
- 2nd-** West Butte Community Service Project and Meeting 10am (Weather Permitting)
- 3rd-** Lamb and Goat Weigh-in Deadline
- 5th-** Horse Committee Meeting 6pm @ MRE
- 6th-** Cloverbuds after school- 5pm @ Elementary School Cafeteria
- 9th-** West Butte Cloverbuds Meeting @ 4H Camground in the Sweetgrass Hills
- 10th-** Kountry Kids Meeting 2pm @ Exhibit Building
- 11th-** Horse Project Meeting 6pm
- 15th-** Fair Packets available, Fair registration opens on FairEntry
- 20th-** Cloverbuds after school- 5pm @ Elementary School Cafeteria
- 25th- Memorial Day- Office Closed**

JUNE

- 3rd-** Cloverbuds 3-5pm @ Exhibit Building
- 10th-** Cloverbud Day Camp 10am- 2pm @ Exhibit Building
- 16th-** FairEntry Registration Deadline
- 15th-** 4-H Congress Registration Closes
- 17th-** Livestock Committee Meeting 7pm @ Seewald Barn
- 17th-** Cloverbuds 3-5pm @ Exhibit Building
- 23rd-** Food Booth Pre-Fair Clean up 10am @ Food Booth
- 24th-** Cloverbuds 3-5pm @ Exhibit Building
- 24th-26th-** 4-H Camp in Highwood Mountains

Toole County 4-H Club Contacts

Kountry Kids/ Blazing Saddles Leaders

Sanna Clark 450-2122
Emilie Vetch 460-1082
Anna Hemmer 470-1239

West Butte

Crystal McAlpine 450-0108
Tasha Hartwell 450-5619

Cloverbuds

Barb Larsen 460-2765