

# 4-H NEWSLETTER-JANUARY 2024

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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 2024 will be **SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 from 12:00 to 3:00 pm at PAYS**. 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!
- City Kids 4-H Club rang the bell to get donations for the Salvation Army at Scheels. Great job helping out in the community.
- Pine Ridge Red Ryders 4-H Club decorated in front of the Worden Fire Hall for the holidays. It looks awesome!
- Lauren Petersen, Hesper Hustlers 4-H member, made a quilt in her project that she donated to the Montana 4-H Foundation Online Auction. It was absolutely beautiful, and the funds are appreciated as a way to support 4-H.
- The Hockhalter Family donated a photograph taken by 4-H Leader Tammy Hockhalter to the Montana 4-H Foundation online auction. The sunset silo print showed her great talent that she shares with the 4-H members. Thanks for supporting the program that teaches so much to youth.
- Congratulations to Reagan Nydegger for having her lamb at MontanaFair win the Reserve Champion Statewide Market Lamb in the Ultrasound Program
- Sam Duey's MontanaFair steer was fourth place in the Montana Steer of Merit Ultrasound Program. Great Job!
- Cale Hockhalter, State 4-H Ambassador from Yellowstone County, taught the Leadership Academy across Montana 4-H. Awesome job teaching and representing Yellowstone County.
- Thanks to Angie and Kristina Murdick for chaperoning the Ambassadors and Teens at the Annual Fall Training here in Billings this fall.
- At the National ESP Conference held here in Billings in September for Extension There were several 4-Hers who were involved. Carlee and Tanner Bomar (Shepherd Tumbleweeds) presented the flags, Claire Murnin (Whips and Sticks) sang the National Anthem and Conner Cook (Worden Riverdale) was the auctioneer. The Extension Agents across the country were impressed with the great youth in our county. THANKS!
- The Interstate Exchange Group has been super busy all fall working hard to raise money. They worked at the NILE selling rodeo programs and serving meals to the workers. They also sold concessions for the State Horse Show and the Rubik's Cube Competition. They hauled items at the Rescued and Reclaimed Show in November and December. Super hard workers.
- Thanks to Heather Arkell for bringing animals to the NILE Cattle Drive for the 4-H Booth. We talked to lots of people about 4-H. Hopefully they are joining this year.
- Montana 4-H Member Spotlights from Yellowstone County: Kadence Osborne and Cadence Sims were nominated and selected for this honor. They spoke live on KGHL about 4-H and their involvement in the program. Great representatives!!
- Kamdyn McFarland was the U15 gold medalist at the Winter Airgun Championship and Olympic Trials part 2 in Colorado Springs, CO.
- Thank you to every 4-H Clubs for cleaning the 4-H Building during the year. We are thankful to have the place for 4-H activities.
- Roni Baker 4-H/Youth Agent

## THE 2023-2024 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 **Facebook** page.

## 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 Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 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.)" (blm/08/08/12)

## YELLOWSTONE COUNTY 4-H COOKBOOK NEEDS YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES!

The Yellowstone County Exchange group is creating a 4-H Cookbook as a fundraiser for their 2025 trip to New York and wants your favorite recipes!

They would love to have recipes from all 4-H families. It is simple to contribute: go to <https://www.typensave.com/>. Enter username Petersen and password apricot311. You will be prompted to enter a name (which will be printed in the cookbook) and your email (which will NOT be printed in the cookbook). Then click "add recipes". Deadline to submit is February 29, 2024. Do not delay!

## CITIZENSHIP TRIPS BILL WRITING WORKSHOP

Go to Washington, D.C. for a week in June to experience our nation's capital, meet your legislators, and other 4-Hers from around the country. During this week-long trip, delegates have the opportunity to tour the Smithsonian and the National monuments as well as visiting Montana Senators and Representatives. Montana delegates travel as a group with two adult chaperones. The week is comprised of workshops related to the congressional process, meetings with your legislators, a cultural evening, and visits to monuments and museums on the mall. 4-H'ers must be 14 or older on October 1, 2023.

Citizenship Helena will take place in January 2025. Offers a close-up view of the State's political process. Participants will meet with senators and representatives to discuss issues, visit historical sites, and attend workshops focused on teaching life skills, policies, and possible solutions to domestic problems. You will interact with 4-H members from across the State that may have different customs, interests, and values. You will study many aspects of citizenship and how you as a responsible citizen can have an effect on your community, your State, and your nation. Those interested must be 13 or older on October 1, 2024.

Applicants (for either Citizenship event) in Yellowstone County must write a bill and do an interview to attend. A Bill writing workshop will be held January 4, at 6:00 pm in the 4-H Building so interested members can attend and ask questions. The program is financially supported by the Yellowstone County 4-H Council. Specific information can be found on the [Yellowstone County 4-H website under the 4-H Opportunities & Events page](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html>

## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY: MONTHLY ONLINE SERIES

Members 12+, 4-H Age: Join the Montana 4-H Leadership Academy workshop on Sunday afternoons in 2023/2024. The leadership academy is a network of Montana 4-H members interested in exploring and developing their own leadership skills while serving their county 4-H program in new ways.

These workshops provide local county leadership groups an opportunity to join (virtually) with groups from around the state as well as the Montana 4-H Ambassador Officer team, to work on skill building, planning and mentorship.

Each month the officer team will present a different workshop topic that they have found to be important as they have grown their own leadership abilities.

Groups can plan to meet face to face whenever possible and engage in the virtual statewide workshop together. This time can be viewed as a leadership club meeting. You can join and do the session at home on your own too. The following agenda is currently being planned. All workshops are Sunday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:00. Register now at the [state 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/youth_leadership/academy.html) at [https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/youth\\_leadership/academy.html](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/youth_leadership/academy.html). Once the form is complete an email containing the zoom meeting link for all workshops will be sent automatically.

January 14, 2024: Zoom link will be emailed if registered.

February 11, 2024: Zoom link will be emailed if registered.

March 10, 2024: Zoom link will be emailed if registered.

## ROCKING THE RECORD BOOKS WORKSHOP JANUARY 13

Want to take your record books to the Gold Seal level? Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 13, 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 13, 2024, from 10 am-12 pm, at the 4-H Building. Please let us know by January 11 if you would like to help or just show up. Please contact Roni Baker if you would like to help or have questions.

## SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 19-21 - FOR REC LAB 2024 IN BOULDER, MT

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!

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 through ZSuite beginning in February. The cost will be around \$100 to \$125 per person. Yellowstone County 4-H council will contribute to the registration fee. Participants will have the opportunity to pick from a list of workshops during registration. Please SAVE the DATE and GO FOR GREEN in 2024! Talk to your 4-H friends about attending this great event! Visit the [state 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/events/rec_lab/index.html) at [https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/events/rec\\_lab/index.html](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/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](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 Striper.
- 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 2023-2024 4-H year - September 1 to October 31. Sign up in ZSuite under Events. Download the Service Learning Log 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>

Please turn in your complete application to the Extension Office by January 15, 2024.

### 2022-2023 Service Learning Hours Award

| Member     | Club                 | # of hours |
|------------|----------------------|------------|
| TJ Martin  | Big Sky Thunderbolts | 18         |
| Elena Zahn | Big Sky Thunderbolts | 6.5        |

## NO 4-H COUNCIL MEETING IN JANUARY

There will NOT be a meeting in January. We will meet again February 1, 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.

## START APPLYING FOR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

It's time for high school seniors to start applying for scholarships. MSU-Bozeman announces the Montana Premier Scholarship Program for fall 2024.

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, 2024.

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 2024 application and instructions will be available on the [Conservation District website](https://macdnet.org/programs/scholarships/) or <https://macdnet.org/programs/scholarships/>. Deadline is April 12, 2024.

## PEOPLE PARTNER GRANT DUE FEBRUARY 1

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 1. 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 2023-2024

| Place | Project       | Place | Project                      |
|-------|---------------|-------|------------------------------|
| 1     | Swine         | 6     | Photography                  |
| 2     | Poultry       | 7     | BB Gun                       |
| 3     | Horse Western | 8     | Meat Goat/Baking/Cooking/Dog |
| 4     | Archery       | 9     | Leathercraft                 |
| 5     | Woodworking   | 10    | Ranch Horse                  |

## 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/](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/4h_communication/).

## 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 tell them thank you 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                                   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| KGHL Radio                      | PO Box 1742, Billings MT 59103                    |
| Staley's Tire                   | 9300 S Frontage Rd, Billings MT 59101             |
| Albertsons                      | 607 Main Street, Billings MT 59105                |
| Industrial Sales                | PO Box 31234, Billings MT 59107                   |
| Dick Anderson Construction      | PO Box 31511, Billings MT 59107                   |
| Billings Animal Family Hospital | 1321 N 27 <sup>th</sup> Street, Billings MT 59101 |
| Western Ranch Supply            | PO Box 1497, Billings MT 59103                    |
| 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.

## 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 13, 2024. 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 18 at 6:00 pm in the 4-H Building.

## SHOOTING SPORTS INVITATIONAL **\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\***

Yellowstone County Shooting Sports Invitational on February 18, 2024. Watch your email for instructions on how to register that will be emailed to all shooting sports members and leaders.

## CUSTER COUNTY INVITATIONAL JANUARY 12 & 13 IN MILES CITY.

The Custer County Shooting Sports Invitational is scheduled for January 12 & 13, 2024, in Miles City. Registration deadline is January 10. For more information, please contact Jessica Blankenship at 406-874-3370 or email [jessica.blankenship2@montana.edu](mailto:jessica.blankenship2@montana.edu). For future events please check the [Montana 4-H Shooting Sports Events page](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/events/shooting_sports/shooting-sports-event.html) at [https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/events/shooting\\_sports/shooting-sports-event.html](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/events/shooting_sports/shooting-sports-event.html)

## DEPARTMENT A (ANIMAL PROJECTS) MONTHLY MEETINGS

Small Animal Committee Meeting: January 24, 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.

## SHEEP AND GOAT WORKSHOP

The sheep and goat workshop for January will cover digestion tracks and rumens. We will be looking at developed digestion tracks and internal organs to identify parts and differences in feed. We will be at the 4-H building on Saturday, January 6th at 10:00 a.m. We welcome all 4-H areas to join us in this Workshop. It will be a hands-on experience. We will have four to five different stations set up with different developments. For directions or questions contact Heather at (406)208-4463.

## 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 18, 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.

## KMON JUDGING CONTEST

KMON Livestock, Meats ID and Crops Judging Contests will be held at the MT ExpoPark in Great Falls on Wednesday, January 17, 2024. 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 10 for more information and to reserve a spot on a team or sign up as an individual.

## 2024 MONTANA WINTER FAIR

The Montana Winter Fair will be held January 26-28, 2024, 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](mailto:montanawinterfair@gmail.com)

## 2024 MONTANA STATE FAIR JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW

Anyone wanting to show at the 2024 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 7

The Beef tagging date for 2024 will be **SUNDAY, JANUARY 7** 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.

## EXCHANGE SELLING FOOD & DRINKS AT BEEF TAGGING

A group of exchange kids are going to sell sub sandwiches, snacks, and beverages at beef tagging. Bring your cash or checkbook! This is a fundraiser for the Exchange trip this summer.

## ANIMAL QUALITY ASSURANCE PRESENTERS NEEDED

This 4-H year we need to identify new topics to teach members at Animal Quality Assurance classes. All 4-H/FFA exhibitors entering MontanaFair must take AQA. We need volunteers to help decide what to present and help present classes in the 2023-2024 4-H year. We are open to ideas. If you are interested, call Roni or Stephanie at 406-256-2828.

## 2023-2024 ANIMAL QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY & WORKSHOP SCHEDULE \* *NEW 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. **More workshops will NOT be added after the June 19 class. It is the final opportunity for 2024.**

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 7: 1:00-2:30 pm at PAYS (Public Auction Yards)**

**Thursday, February 29: 6:30 pm Virtual training**

**Tuesday, March 19: 6:30 pm Virtual training**

**Saturday, May 4: 9:00-10:30 am at PAYS (Public Auction Yards)**

**Wednesday, June 19: 6:30-8:00 pm at the 4-H Building**

## 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 races, 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. **More workshops will NOT be added after the May 4 class. It is the final opportunity for 2024.**

**Sunday, January 7: 3:00-4:00 pm at PAYS (Public Auction Yards)**

**Wednesday, April 17: 7:00-8:00 pm at the 4-H Building**

**Saturday, May 4: 11:00 am-12:00 pm at PAYS (Public Auction Yards)**

## CLUB MINUTES TURNED IN

The following clubs turned in club minutes this month.

**City Kids:** Members planned the Christmas shopping for families in need. Members heard about the upcoming fruit sale.

**Blue Creek Jumping Bucks:** member received project books. A date was picked to clean the 4-H Building.

**Hesper Hustlers:** Club reminded members about club sweatshirts, a community service project, and a record book workshop in January.

**Ruff Riders:** Member attendees talked about Fall Leadership training. At our holiday party we will hold a sock exchange.

**Shepherd Pioneers:** Horse awards were presented to members. Members signed up to do their club public speaking requirements.

**Yellowstone Silver Spurs:** Club will create a QR code for the club and the mini horse project. Members will hold an ornament exchange.

### 2022-2023 Secretary Awards

| Member           | Club                 | # of minutes turned in |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Cale Hockhalter  | City Kids            | 8                      |
| Bradlie Joseph   | Pine Ridge Red Ryder | 8                      |
| Farley Clute     | Huntley Trailblazers | 10                     |
| Anna Dumas       | Shepherd Pioneers    | 11                     |
| Tyson Muilenburg | Lockwood Humble Bs   | 12                     |

# JANUARY 2024 4-H CALENDAR



**4-H Building Cleaning Schedule:** Project Longhorns: December 30-January 12    Yellowstone Mavericks: January 13-26  
 Pine Ridge Red Ryder: January 27-February 9    Whips n Sticks: February 10-23

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | 1<br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br>New Year's              | 2<br>5:30 pm Fruit Sale Info. Meeting<br><i>4-H Building</i> | 3  | 4<br>6 Bill Writing Workshop<br><i>4-H Building</i>  | 5  | 6<br>10 am Sheep & Goat Workshop<br><i>4-H Building</i>                          |
| 7<br>12-3 pm Beef Tagging<br>1-2:30 pm Animal Quality Assurance<br>3-4 pm Horse Helmet<br><i>all at PAYS</i> | 8  | 9  | 10   | 11   | 12   | 13<br>10 am Record Books Workshop<br><i>4-H Building</i>                         |
| 14<br>3:00 pm Leadership Academy<br><i>WebEx</i>   | 15<br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br>Martin Luther King Day | 16   | 17<br>KMON Livestock, Meat ID & Agronomy Judging in<br><i>Great Falls</i>                                      | 18<br>6 pm Shooting Sports Leader Meeting<br><br>6 pm Horse Workshop<br><br>Both in the<br><i>4-H Building</i>               | 19<br><b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>                             | 20<br>11 am Cat Workshop<br>12:30 pm Pocket Pets Workshop<br><i>4-H Building</i> |
| 21   | 22<br>6:30 Exchange                                  | 23   | 24<br>6 pm Small Animal Comm.<br>6:30 pm Sale Committee followed by Livestock Committee<br><i>4-H Building</i> | 25<br>6 pm Small Animal Meet & Greet<br><i>4-H Building</i>  | 26<br><br>Montana Winter Fair in Lewistown<br>January 26-28<br>← | 27   |
| 28<br><br>→  | 29   | 30   | 31<br>Citizenship bills & applications Due   | February 1<br>People Partner Grants Due in Bozeman<br>5:30 Communication Day Mtg. followed by Council<br><i>4-H Building</i> |  |  |