

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER- SEPTEMBER 2026

406-256-2828 2320 3rd Avenue N, Billings MT 59101

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

Facebook: Yellowstone County 4-H

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RONI BAKER

Thanks to all 4-H members, parents and other volunteers who made MontanaFair 2026 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 calendar for **Family Fun Night** which will be held Saturday, November 21, 2026.

4-H LOGO USE AND REQUIREMENTS – READ ME!

When referencing “4-H” 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 [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hpolicies.html) under the Policies heading at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hpolicies.html>

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!

MONTANAFAIR DEPARTMENT A and N PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

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

MONTANAFAIR DEPARTMENT N PREMIUM CHECKS AND ERRORS

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

OUTSTANDING MEMBER/CLOVERBUD NOMINATIONS DUE OCTOBER 16

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

An outstanding 4-H Member/Cloverbud must have 4-H related achievements that measure above and beyond other members and 4-H expectations. To compete for county awards a member must have a gold seal on their record book (not required for Cloverbuds). Anyone can nominate a member (another member, a leader, a parent). The nominee provides four reason-specific examples regarding why the member is outstanding in a specific award area. Nomination deadline is 5:00 pm Friday, October 16.

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

4-H AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE OCTOBER 31

Clubs that are nominating individuals or businesses for the 4-H Friendship Award, Friend of 4-H Award, Outstanding 4-H

Teen Leader Award, Outstanding 4-H Leader, and Outstanding 4-H Alumni Award, please do so by October 31. These special awards need input from everyone. Forms are included in Year-end club enrollment packets organizational leaders picked up from the office. We know you can think of someone. Talk to your club organizational leader.

FREE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT OCTOBER 7, LOCKWOOD HIGH AUDITORIUM

The Montana State University Symphony Orchestra and the Billings Symphony Youth Orchestra will present a joint concert on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. in the Lockwood High School Auditorium. Admission is free and open to the public.

The MSU Symphony Orchestra is comprised of students from across the Bozeman campus representing a wide variety of academic majors. The Billings Symphony Youth Orchestra brings together outstanding student musicians from Billings-area high schools and surrounding communities. The concert will feature performances by each ensemble individually before the two orchestras join for a beautiful arrangement of the traditional folk song Turtle Dove and the vibrant Danzón No. 2 by Arturo Márquez.

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR BINGO PRIZES FOR FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Family Fun Night is scheduled for Saturday, November 21. 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 Tumbleweeds 4-H Club will be hosting 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 Julianne Hofer 406-855-7318 (call or text) to coordinate delivery of glassware. Thank you for donating!

MONTHLY CLUB MINUTES HIGHLIGHTS

Worden Riverdale: Leaders gave project reports, and everyone was reminded to be practicing for fair.

4-H SUPPORTERS

Many businesses and organizations in our community support 4-H. Each month we list several supporters in the newsletter. You are encouraged 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
Green Peak Spraying & Maintenance	238 S 88 th St West, Billings MT 59106
Les Schwab Tire	1146 Shiloh Crossing, Billings MT 59102
Two Times Two, Inc. Construction & Remodel	5436 Haynes Rd, Shepherd MT 59079
Red Rooster Bar	3050 Yeoman Rd, Shepherd MT 59079
North 40 Ag	2150 S 14 th Rd, Ballantine MT59006
Veterans Meat Locker	PO Box 50457, Billings MT 59105
Klimate Heating and Cooling	7445 Whitetail Run, Shepherd MT 59079
Knife River Construction & Contracting	4014 Hesper Rd, Billings MT 59106
Snow Crest Chemicals	924 Pine Ridge Ln, Billings MT 59105
MT Roll Offs	PO Box 15, Shepherd MT 59079

DEPARTMENT N SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

Clothing and Textile Arts Traveling Trophy winner: Macy Tatman

Eloise Woodson Memorial \$25 Cash Award - Overall Photography Exhibit: Ember Solberg

Overall Outstanding Exhibit Traveling Trophy - Most Unique Exhibit: Adelia Curry

Trish Neilson Memorial Traveling Trophy - Overall Cake Decorating Exhibit: Madison Turner
 Woodworking Traveling Trophy - Overall Woodworking Exhibit: Patrick Saunders
 Kristi Horsman Trupka Memorial Traveling Trophy: Olivia Arneson

DEPARTMENT N CONTESTS WINNERS

Large Educational 4-H Booth Winners

Placing	Winning Club
1	Lockwood Humble Bs
2	Shepherd Tumbleweeds
3	Big Sky Thunderbolts

Small Educational 4-H Booth Winner

Placing	Winning Club
1	Blue Creek Jumping Bucks
2	Shepherd Pioneers
3	Kountry Kritters

People's Choice 4-H Club Booth Winner

Wednesday Winner: Blue Creek Jumping Bucks
Saturday Winner: Yellowstone Silver Spurs

Foods Festival Winner

Placing	Exhibitor	4-H Club
1	Mackenzie Turner	Worden Riverdale
2	Madison Turner	Worden Riverdale
3	Amanda Parks	Compass All Stars

Quiz Bowl Winning Team

Exhibitor	4-H Club
Brooklyn Kuhr	Hesper Hustlers
Paul Kuhr	Hesper Hustlers
Alexa Kuhr	Hesper Hustlers

Quiz Bowl Honorable Mentions: Ruby Hertel with Northern Lights and Everly Nelson with Blue Creek Jumping Bucks
 Parent Participants: Edith Bush, Lindsay Decker, Bridget Miller

CERAMICS WORKSHOPS FOR SEPTEMBER

4-H ceramics project leader Sheri Anttila will be hosting a Ceramic Pour Day on Saturday, September 12, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for members that have never poured before. Please bring your lunch.
 The regular monthly ceramics class will be on Saturday, September 19, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm OR 1:00 to 4:00 pm.
 Please call Sheri to reserve a spot at 406-633-5531.

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

All 4-H Shooting sports curriculum is only to be used by a 4-H member enrolled in 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 air/small bore pistol and rifle, archery, shotguns, or hunting/Wildlife, youth must be 9 years old by October 1, 2026. To enroll in the BB Gun Safety youth must be 8 years old by October 1, 2026. To enroll in the Western Heritage Project youth must be 12 years old by October 1, 2026. The shooting sports policy can be viewed on the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html) under the 4-H Policies heading at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html>.

2027 EVENTS DAY INITIAL PLANNING MEETING

The first meeting for the spring 2027 Events Day will be held during the December Department N meeting on December 3,

at 6:00 pm. **Each club should have a representative attending the Department N meetings to plan for this big event.** This would be a good time to encourage a teen leader to attend along with an adult leader.

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

Be sure to let the individual or business who bought your animal know how much you appreciate their support. **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(s) and any Add On pledges.

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(s) and any Add On pledges.

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. We appreciate your volunteer work! ~ Roni

2026 LIVESTOCK APPRECIATION PLAQUE RECIPIENT

A special thank you to the Yellowstone County Farm Bureau who continues to support our 4-H youth and programs. They were recognized at our MontanaFair Department A Awards ceremony.

4-H HORSE SHOW POST MONTANAFAIR MEETING

A Post MontanaFair Horse and Colt meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16, at 6:00 pm in the 4-H Building. The Horse and Colt Committee would like your input on the 2027 MontanaFair 4-H Horse Show. Come and let us know what you liked, what worked well and how we could improve next year's MontanaFair.

NILE EVALUATION CONTEST INFORMATION & JR. FED MARKET SHOWS

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 12, at 7:30 am. Horse and Meats Evaluation Contest will be held Tuesday, October 13, at 9:00 am.

Anyone interested in competing in Livestock Evaluation contact Devin Murnin at 970-318-6551. Practices will be held followed by team selection. If interested in Horse or Meats Evaluation please contact Roni at the Extension office by Wednesday, September 23.

Junior Federation Market Lamb and Beef shows are on Saturday, October 10. Junior Federation Market Swine and Goat shows are on Sunday, October 11. The Junior Federation Sale of Champions will take place on Monday, October 12, at 4:00 pm. To enter online visit [the Nile website](#) at <https://thenile.org/>.

MONTANAFAIR THANK YOU ADDRESSES

Thank you addresses of supporters, sponsors of awards, and staff that make the 4-H/FFA fair happen can be found in the September 4-H newsletter in ZSuite and in the Shared Files section in you ZSuite dashboard. It takes a small village to make fair happen! Take a moment and consider sending out a personal thank you to a few of those folks and businesses.

POST MONTANAFAIR MEETINGS FOR PROPOSED 2027 HANDBOOK CHANGES

All meetings will be held at the 4-H Building. Yellowstone County members, leaders and parents are encouraged to attend.

Department A (all animal projects)

September 2, 2026: Post MontanaFair Department A Meeting at 6:00 pm

September 16, 2026: Post MontanaFair Horse and Colt Committee Meeting at 6:00 pm

September 23, 2026: MontanaFair Judges Nominations due

Small Animal Committee at 6:00 pm

Sale Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm

Large Livestock Meeting immediately following the Sale Committee meeting

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

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

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

Small Animal Committee at 6:00 pm

Sale Committee at 6:30 pm

Livestock Committee Meeting immediately following the Sale Committee meeting

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

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

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

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

Department N (non-animal projects)

September 3, 2026: Post MontanaFair Department N Meeting at 5:30 pm followed by 4-H Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

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

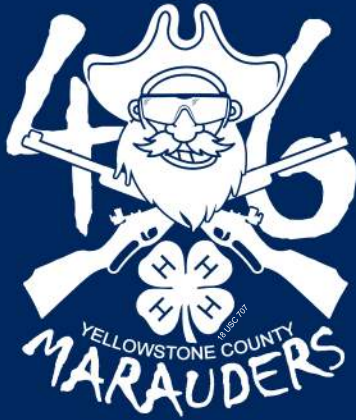
November 5, 2026: Department N Meeting at 6:00 pm followed by 4-H Council meeting.

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

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

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

2026 Yellowstone County 4-H National BB Gun Team



Thank You to Our Sponsors



SEPTEMBER 2026 4-H CALENDAR

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