



# December 4-H Newsletter

2023

## 4-H Enrollment Deadline

Please remind current members, cloverbuds and leaders that they need to complete re-enrollment in ZSuites, pay dues and return the completed Yearly 4-H Enrollment Agreement to the Extension Office by January 1st. Reminder, the 4-H agreement form is NOT one of the agreements signed on ZSuites, it is its own sheet that needs to be printed and signed and turned into the Extension office.

Leaders please also make sure new families are aware of the deadline and know they can contact the Extension Office for help and information if needed.

## 4-H Enrollment Tips

- 1) Pick up a Clover- Project Selection Guide from your Club Leader or the Extension Office
  - a. Carefully read all of the enclosures and the sections about the projects you are taking.
  
- 2) Go online to ZSuites (instructions are on and insert in the Clover)
  - a. New Families- Create a family account and then add cloverbuds, members and leaders.
  
  - b. Re-enrolling- go to your Family Account and re-enroll - you may also add new cloverbuds, members and leaders.
  
  - c. Projects- Cloverbuds are 5 to 7-year-old and will only take the Cloverbud Project. 1st year members should start with one or two projects.
  
- 3) Pay dues- you may pay online for a \$1 fee, or hit pay in person and come into the Extension Office
  
- 4) Yearly agreement- ask your club leader for this form and review it with your leader and parents. Sign and return to your leader, or the Extension Office.







## 4-H Literature Packets

After your enrollment is complete you will receive your 4-H Literature packet at your club meeting. There will be two copies of your enrollment sheet on the top of the packet- please proofread:

- ° The spelling and capitalization of your name. Please, no all caps.
- ° Your mailing address, phone, and email address
- ° Your date of birth, grade, and gender  
(Your 4-H age will be your age on Oct. 1, 2023)
- ° Year in 4-H
  - Year in 4-H should be 1 for first year cloverbuds
  - Your year in 4-H should be 1 for first year members (cloverbud years do not count)
  - Year in 4-H should be 1 for first year leaders.
  - Members years go up one year for each year you complete your record book.
- ° Check your projects, make sure they are all listed and correct
  - Project years would go up one, if you completed the records and required workbook activities.
- ° You will move up a level when your workbook is complete.

## Youth Winter Fair Opportunities

If any youth are interested in participating in this year's Winter Fair, please check out the Winter Fair website at <https://montanawinterfair.com/>. They are working on updating it regularly with registration forms, due dates and show dates. There are rabbit, poultry, cat and beef shows along with livestock judging. Participating in any of these shows is great practice for our 4-H Fair.

Please contact Cody if you are interested in participating in the Beef Show or Livestock Judging here at the Extension Office for more details.

## Camp Counselor Applications


Due February 1st

Members 14 and older on October 1, 2023, may apply to be camp counselors for 4-H Junior Camp.

Members that were 13 on October 1, 2023, may apply to be counselor assistants.

Please carefully read the counselors job description and complete the application form and return to the Extension Office by February 1.

There will be a mandatory training and first meeting at 12:00pm, February 11th. Zoom Option will be available for anyone who cannot attend in person.







## Christmas Shopping List

Greytak Calendars are in and available. These make great Christmas gifts! They are \$15 per calendar.

4-H 2024 Calendars are ready to go! Please contact the office or stop in if you would like to pick one up. They are \$15 each.

4-H Cookbooks are still available! With the personal pictures to go with so many of the recipes, this would make a great gift or stocking stuffer.

## Ambassador Toiletry Drive

Reminder-

Help make it a Merry Christmas for the Seniors at the Lewistown Senior Center and donate toiletry items that will be delivered by our 4-H Ambassadors.

Items could include toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, lotions, depends, deodorant, etc.

The club that brings the most items to the Extension Office by Friday, Dec. 15th, will be rewarded by the Ambassadors.

Please bring the items in a box clearly marked with your club's name.

Nov 1-Dec15  
Deadline  
December 15th, 2023

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## Ambassador Corner

The ambassadors are looking forward to working on a big project this year!

We have been hard at work planning how to create a 4-H Yearbook!

It will be just like how a traditional school yearbook looks, each club will have their own page where each member in their club will have a picture of themselves participating in one of their projects. There will be pictures of other 4-H activities throughout the book such as rec lab and fair.

We are very excited to get this start so please keep a look out for more information coming in your leaders email!





# Leadership Academy Monthly Workshops

Members 12+, 4-H Age

Join the Montana 4-H Leadership Academy workshop on Sunday afternoons in 2023-2024 4-H year.

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.

Local county leadership groups will have an opportunity to join with groups from around the state as well as the Montana 4-H Ambassador Officer team, virtually and in person when possible, to work on skill building, planning, and mentorship.

Each month the officer team members will present a different workshop topic that they have found to be important as they have grown their own leadership abilities. This workshop should be paired with a local county leadership meeting to work on county projects that serve the local 4-H program and community.

County Leadership groups should plan to meet face to face whenever possible and engage in the virtual state wide workshop together.

This time can be viewed as a leadership club meeting. County ambassadors can aid in planning and facilitating these local workshop meetings. The following agenda is currently being planned.

All workshops are Sunday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:00. Zoom links for each workshop session will be emailed to county extension offices and can be shared locally.

## Leadership Academy Monthly Workshops

December 10th

Link- <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/87240913270?pwd=SlpReVphbFFoT095WVMzYjg4V29OQT09>

January 14th

February 11th

March 10th

*Always at 3pm if you are joining by Zoom and  
2:30pm if you are joining us at the Extension Office*

## Important Web Pages

Enrollment with ZSuite - Montana 4H - Montana State University Extension | Montana State University

<http://montana4h.org/resources/4henrollment/ondex.html>

Montana State University Printable Documents & Fliers

<http://fergus.msueextension.org/printable-4-h-ag-documents-fliers.html>

Montana State University Fergus County 4-H Clubs

<http://fergus.msueextension.org/4H.html>





## Radio Spots

Radio Spots Open December 1st, January 5th, February 2nd, March 3rd 10:10am

This is for any 4-h member, leader, or club that would like to come in and discuss what they have going on related to 4-h. please contact the office if you are interested in this time slot or a future time slot.

## Small & Large Animal Project Book Workshop

January 13th starting at 9am for both small and large animal members to come and participate. There will be a Small Animal Committee meeting to follow.

Bring your workbooks and complete your activities. This is a great opportunity to get ahead of workbooks and ask questions of leaders and other members.

## Small Animal Committee Policy Changes

Policy Change 1: Small Animal Barn tear down will now be Saturday at 1pm vs the previous time of 3pm.

Policy Change 2: If you are not in fair show attire, you will not be able to enter the showing until you are in show attire,

Policy Change 3: New Market Class: A class of 2 currently laying or soon to be laying hens between the ages of 4months - 1 year will now be able to sell in the Central Montana Junior Livestock Sale.

## Static Committee Updates

The static committee had another great year. One of the main focuses of the committee this year was fundraising. The first fundraiser was the 4-H Cookbook. This cookbook contains recipes from members and 4-H families as well as some camp favorites. The committee also has been holding a photo contest each month of the year to make and sell a 4-H Calendar this November and December. This year was the third year the committee has hosted an indoor project auction at the fair. We sold more items and had more kids take part in the indoor auction than we have in the past two years. The next meeting will be on January 22nd at 5:15pm in the Extension Office.

## Static Committee Updates

Public Speaking day is scheduled for March 24th starting at 1pm at the Boys & Girls Club. Please be on the lookout for an email from Chris with more details coming soon.







## Horse Committee

Horse Committee Meeting date: January 8th

Change Top Hand Award name to "True Grit" Award

Policy Change: Horse cards will be required for all members who plan to attend the Central Montana Fair

Next Practice  
December 6th, & 20th  
January 3rd and 17th

## Livestock Committee

### Beef Tags

It's hard to believe, but it's already that time of year again! Members can pick up their steer and replacement heifer tags at the office Monday December 4th. Each member may tag up-to three animals in each class (max 3 steers and 3 heifers).. Each member may tag up-to three animals in each class (max 3 steers and 3 heifers).

Fergus and Petroleum County members must have their weigh-and-tag paperwork turned in to the Extension office by January 15th if they plan to show/sell in the 2024 fair. Animals will not be considered entered and eligible for fair if BOTH weigh sheets and a CLEAR picture of the ear tag are not both submitted by January 15th.

You can email, drop off, or mail in weigh sheets and pictures or a mix and match of any of these. Please email pictures to [fergus@montana.edu](mailto:fergus@montana.edu) or [allison.smith11@montana.edu](mailto:allison.smith11@montana.edu).

### Livestock Judging Practice

2nd and 4th Wednesday at 4pm (schedule permitting)

Livestock judging practice is still going on for any kids that might want to join.

Practices are being held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 4pm in the Extension Office. December's practices will be the 13th only. These practices are designed to help kids grow in their ability to evaluate livestock for either personal development or in preparation for livestock judging contests throughout the year. The next contest will be at the Montana Winter Fair January 27th first thing in the morning. January dates are January 10th and 24th at 4pm at the Extension Office.

### Winter Fair Youth Beef Show

Registration Due: TBD

It's that time of year again where youth from across Montana will be signing up to show off the beef animals that they will be raising for the next fair season. This includes both steers and heifers! Charsi Shearer is in charge of the beef show this year, please contact her with any Questions. Cody Ream is in charge of the Junior Livestock Judging, please contact him at the office with any questions.

Keep an eye out for the registration to open for this event on the Montana Winter Fair website and keep in mind that registration will close TBD.

Like with any event, the Youth Beef Show is only possible with the help of our awesome volunteers. If you would like to be a volunteer and help make the Youth Beef Show great, please contact Charsi Shearer at [workman.charsi@gmail.com](mailto:workman.charsi@gmail.com)! Volunteers will be needed as ring stewards, announcers, check-in, and other behind the scenes tasks to make sure youth are in the right spot at the right time.

Next Meeting Dec 4th  
6pm Sheriff's Complex







# Winter Fair Livestock Judging Information and Buckle

The livestock judging contest at Montana Winter Fair 2024 is scheduled to be held Saturday morning at 8am in the pavilion at the Central Montana Fairgrounds.

Please let the office know if you are interested in competing in the Livestock Judging Contest so we can help you put a team together.

Also, we will be looking for classes of animals if you have 4 animals of a class that you would like us to use. We will be looking for lambs, ewes, rams, does, bucks, steers, heifers, bulls, and any swine classes if they are available.

Please reach out to the Extension Office if you have any questions.

Livestock Clinics- bring ideas to the meeting Dec 4th and encourage members to step up and lead a clinic.

Selection	Carcass Quality	Showing
Pen Setup	Nutrition	Fitting

Please contact the office if you are interested in putting on a clinic. A clinic led by members and approved by the Extension Office can be considered your public speaking project. We would love to see older members teaching the younger members the skills they have learned through the years.

## Livestock Policy Changes

1. Back Tags will now match animal ear tag numbers and will be required as exhibitors enter the ring.
2. Weight Changes:
  - Beef: 1150-1500 lbs
  - Goat: 60-120 lbs
3. Two of each class, including breeding. This allows exhibitors bringing breeding animals to show 2 animals in each class.
4. Cross Entries heifers will now be able to be cross entered into multiple classes.
5. Out-of-County Entries: Out-of-county exhibitors will be held to the same standards and deadlines as in county exhibitors and paperwork will be due to the Fergus-Petroleum County Extension Office.
6. Feeder Classes were voted out and there will not be a "market" class for them. Exhibitors will still have the opportunity to show in showmanship classes.







# Rec Lab 2024

April 19-21, 2024 / Jefferson County School / 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: It provides an opportunity for youth and adults to enhance their leadership, communication, and team building skills in an action-packed and interactive setting.

Rec Lab programming provides participants with tips and tricks for being a better club, camp, and community leader.

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.

Youth participants must be 13+ as of October 1.

Adult chaperones must be at least 21 years of age.

## Registration

Registration Fee: TBD (around \$100)

Registration includes lodging, snacks, meals, t-shirts, workshops, and exciting speakers.

Registration will be completed using 4-H ZSuites. Please contact your MSU Extension County office for registration information and deadlines.

Individual participant registration fees should be paid to the county office. Counties should send one check including all participant fees to the designated host county.

## Cancellation and Refund Policy

- Full refund before February 25
- Full refund minus cost for your t-shirt Feb. 25 - March 3
- 1/2 refund March 4 to March 10
- NO REFUNDS AFTER MARCH 10 (1 week before event)
- Full refund for cancellations due to sickness minus cost for your t-shirt







# Citizenship Seminar & Summer 2024

## National Citizenship Washington Focus

Montana Citizenship Seminar is designed to inspire 4-H youth as they learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Youth delegates gain hands-on experience with the legislative process by participating in a mock legislature, create and debate bills, work with other youth from across the state, meet with elected officials, tour the capitol, and participate in a service-learning project.

Delegates will also attend the Legislative Breakfast (2024 date to be determined).

Citizenship Seminar is traditionally held in Helena in the years when the legislature is in session. It is held in conjunction with Legislative Breakfast, which is hosted in January (2024 date to be determined).

Event Details

Dates & Times

2024: To be Determined

4-H members must be 13 years of age by October 1, 2023.

Chaperones

### Program Fee

There is an \$85 registration fee per youth and adult to offset the seminar program costs.

Check with your county office to confirm amount before paying.

The Montana 4-H Foundation contributes \$3,000.

The program fee includes all meals for both Montana Citizenship Seminar and the Legislative Breakfast.

### Registration

Both youth and adults: Log into your ZSuite Profile and register under Events.

More details coming for 2024.

### Legislative Bill

Each delegate is expected to sponsor one "bill" suitable for the 4-H Legislature.

Submit bills electronically to Christine Sommers-Austin

[c.sommersaustin@montana.edu](mailto:c.sommersaustin@montana.edu) - Due Date TBD.

The bills will be reviewed and grouped by topic area into committees prior to the seminar.

Please see the template in the ZSuite registration for information on how to write a bill.

### History Bowl

Each delegate will have the opportunity to compete in the Montana History Bowl.

The first round of the History Bowl will be a written form given (2024 date to be determined) during the seminar's check-in to determine the participants who will compete in the second and final rounds throughout the event.

### Checklist

----- Reserve your hotel room

----- Registration through ZSuite

----- Check with your county office to confirm amount before paying

----- Email your mock legislative bill to [c.sommersaustin@montana.edu](mailto:c.sommersaustin@montana.edu)

<https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/events/Cit-Seminar.html>







# 4-H Shoutouts

Okay families, along with our spotlights, we are wanting to start a shoutout section each month for our members, leaders and clubs. We want to hear about anything you have going on that relates to 4-H and the successes you are having, opportunities you are taking, ways you were able to reach out to the community, etc...

If it is something you are excited or proud of for yourself or someone you know, email into our office and let us know. We will share it in our monthly newsletter.

I will be doing a copy and paste for anything sent in, so please make sure you have it written out in a way that is understandable for our families to read.

## December Shoutouts

Ridge Stonehocker from Sunnyside Shiners in Denton has earned one of the Top 5 honors for the 2023 Steer of Merit competition in the Ultra-sound Division. He will be attending the MSGA convention on December 7th to be recognized. Congratulations Ridge!!



On November 5th, Jasper Tholt of the Shamrocks Club, went to Billings to compete in the 2T Livestock Small Animal Showmanship Jackpot. Jasper and his new dog, Pikachu, won their dog showmanship class. This qualified them to compete in Round Robin. Jasper showed his dog, a rabbit, a chicken and a cat (who bit him). He was awarded Reserve Grand Champion Showman in his age group!! Congratulations Jasper!!



Also on November 5th, our Pond Family from the Creative Critters Club competed in the 2T Livestock Small Animal Showmanship Jackpot. Brihana placed 1st in Senior Poultry Showmanship, Madison Placed 1st in the Junior Rabbit Showmanship and David placed 3rd in Novice Poultry Showmanship and 2nd in the Round Robin. Congratulations Brihana, Madison, and David!!



Lastly, two of our members who participated in the Billings Nite 2023 Livestock showing. Lexie Wichman and Jack Gillet have been chosen as the 2024 Merit Heifer Recipients. Congratulations Jack and Lexie!!







# 4-H Calendar December 2023

## December

- 1st
  - Radio Spot 10:10am
- 4th
  - Livestock Committee Meeting 6pm Sheriff's Complex
- 6th
  - Horse Judging Practice 4pm Ext Office
- 10th
  - Leadership Academy 3pm Ext Office
- 13th
  - Livestock Judging Practice 4pm Ext Office
- 15th
  - Toiletry Drive Supplies Due
- 20th
  - Horse Judging Practice 4pm Ext Office
- 24th
  - Christmas Eve
- 25th
  - Christmas Day Office Closed
- 31st
  - New Years Eve

## January

- 1st
  - Office Closed New Years Eve
  - Ambassador Applications Due
- 3rd
  - Horse Judging Practice 4pm Ext Office
- 5th
  - Radio Spot 10:10am
- 10th
  - Livestock Judging Practice 4pm Ext Office
- 13th
  - Small & Large Animal Workshop 9am First Christian Church. Small Animal Meeting to follow.
- 14th
  - Leadership Academy 3pm Ext Office
- 15th
  - Beef Tags Due
  - Ambassador Toiletry Drive donations due
- 17th
  - Horse Judging Practice 4pm Ext Office
- 24th
  - Livestock Judging Practice 4pm Ext Office

Enrollment  
Deadline  
January 1st  
Grace Period  
January  
2nd-15th

## February

- 1st
  - Camp Counselor Applications due
- 2nd
  - Radio Spot 10:10am
- 11th
  - Mandatory Councilor Training 12pm Ext Office 12pm
  - Leadership Academy 3pm Ext Office & Zoom
- 13th
  - Valentine Cakes due to the Ext Office
- 14th
  - Delivering Valentine Cakes

## March

- 3rd
  - Radio Spot 10:10am
- 10th
  - Leadership Academy 3pm Ext Office
- 11th
  - Public Speaking Day/Gavel Games Registration Due
- 24th
  - Public Speaking/Gavel Games Day 1pm Boys and Girls Club

## April

- 15th
  - Enrollment Grace Period Ends
  - Project Drop/Add Deadline

## May

- 1st
  - Fair Entry Begins

## June

- 1st
  - Fair Entry Deadline
- 18th-20th
  - 4-H Junior Camp



4-H Assistant  
Chris England  
christina.england1@montana.edu

Ag Agent  
Cody Ream  
cody.ream@montana.edu

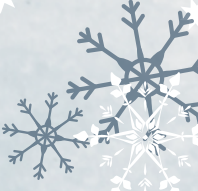
Administrative Assistant  
Allison Smith  
allison.smith11@montana.edu

FCS Agent  
TBD





# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Beef Tags Ready Radio Spot 1010.am	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Livestock Committee Meeting 6pm Sheriff's Complex		Horse Judging Practice 4pm Ext Office			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Leadership Academy 3pm Ext Office			Livestock Judging Practice 4pm Ext Office		Toiletry Drive Supplies Due	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			Horse Judging Practice 4pm Ext Office			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Office Closed 					
31	1	1st	2nd			
	HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024 Office Closed	Last Day of Enrollment before Grace Period	Enrollment Grace Period Starts. You will now have to pay for project books.			





Name: Judah Curry

Age: 8

## 4-H spotlight



Club: Creative Critters Cloverbud

Grade: 3rd

Favorite Project: I want to do woodworking!

Favorite thing about 4-H: Working in the food booth during fair

Hobbies: Hockey, Soccer, and Archery

Pets: 3 Cats, 2 Dogs, and multiple Muscovy Ducks

Interesting Fact: I Play the bass



Name: Klara Dunphy

Age: 13

## 4-H spotlight



Club: Creative Critters

Grade: 6th

Favorite Project: Gardening

Favorite thing about 4-H: Medallions

Hobbies: School

Pets: Precious

Interesting Fact: I crochet

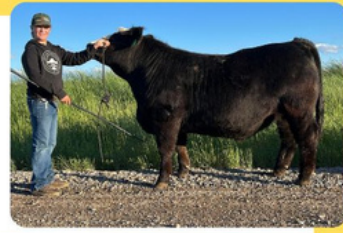




Name: Ridge Stonehocker

Age: 12

### 4-H spotlight



Club: Sunnyside Shiners

Grade: 6th

Favorite Project: Beef Steer

Favorite thing about 4-H: Fair Time

Hobbies: ROPing, ridding, showing my steer

Pets: Horse, cows, cats, dogs

Interesting Fact: I have 3 belt buckles



Name: Kyla Nelson

Age: 7

### 4-H spotlight



Club: Big Sky

Grade: 2nd Grade

Favorite Project: Pigs

Favorite thing about 4-H: fair

Hobbies: volleyball, basketball

Pets: cows

Interesting Fact: Pigs are bacon





Name: Hannah Hershberger

Age: 14

## 4-H spotlight



Club: Sunnyside Shiners

Grade: 9th

Favorite Project: Visual Arts

Favorite thing about 4-H: Fair Week

Hobbies: Reading

Pets: Bandit (dog)



Name: Paisleigh VanHaur

Age: 6

## 4-H spotlight



Club: Hilger High Cooler

Grade: Kindergarten

Favorite Project: dancing

Favorite thing about 4-H: the kids

Hobbies: dancing

Pets: Foosy

Interesting Fact: Very curly hair







Name: Casen Briggs

Age: 9

### 4-H spotlight



Club: Big Sky

Grade: 3rd Grade

Favorite Project: Rabbit

Favorite thing about 4-H: training with my rabbit

Hobbies: Playing with my rabbit

Pets: dog horse rabbit

Interesting Fact: I like snakes



Name: Christopher Lammi

Age: 11

### 4-H spotlight



Club: Hilger High Coolers

Grade: 5th

Favorite Project: Cake in a mug

Favorite thing about 4-H: getting to see other members

Hobbies: drawing

Pets: Teto, Sweet Pea, Mittens, Spotty, and Derf

Interesting Fact: I like video games