



Our Volunteers are the Heart of 4-H

Recently some of our outstanding volunteers were honored at the state level. Above, in a photo taken by E. Brush Photography, Marla Holmquist attends the awards banquet in Bozeman to receive her Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer for Montana 4-H Award. Our heartfelt congratulations go out to Marla and all the volunteers from Teton County who received awards! See page 4 for more details.

Carcass Judging Winners

More congratulations are in order as the results of the Teton County Carcass judging have been announced. Check out page 4.

Montana 4-H Congress

Shelby details this year's exciting event. Read all about it and see photos starting on page 5.

Record Books Due to Club Leaders August 15

Details starting on page 2.

Camp Photos

Medieval Madness filled with learning and fun. Our photo coverage begins on page 8.

The Next 31 Days

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| July 30-August 2 | National Western Heritage Conference and Invitational Shoot, Price, Utah |
| August 15 | Record books due to club leaders |
| September 9 | Montana 4-H Working Ranch Horse Show, Saturday, starting 9am, Vaughn |
| September 20-24 | Montana State Horse Show, Cottonwood Equine Center, Joliet |

Record Books Due Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Teton County 4-H Record Book Policies

All 4-H members in Teton County must submit their 4-H record books to be reviewed for completeness. 4-H members and their leaders can nominate their 4-H record books to be judged for quality.

Review for Completeness

- Record books will be reviewed for completion by leaders at club level. A book will be reviewed for completion by a non-related certified volunteer. If there is not a non-relative within the club, then the books would be submitted to another club leader or the Extension Office for completion review.
- All record books will be reviewed for completeness according to state guidelines.
- Club leaders may opt to give ribbon placing/stickers at the club level to designate quality or may simply designate the book as reviewed and complete.
- A listing of members completing records will be due to the Extension Office by September 1 of the current year. All organizational leaders and 4-H members are encouraged to meet this deadline.
- Record books may be requested of members at any time by the Extension Office to verify completion.
- All 4-H members must complete their record books according to the completion checklist in order for the member to exhibit or sell any item the following year at the Teton County 4-H Fair.
- Record books are used to determine years completed in 4-H. The number of years a 4-H member has completed may affect scholarship eligibility and selection.

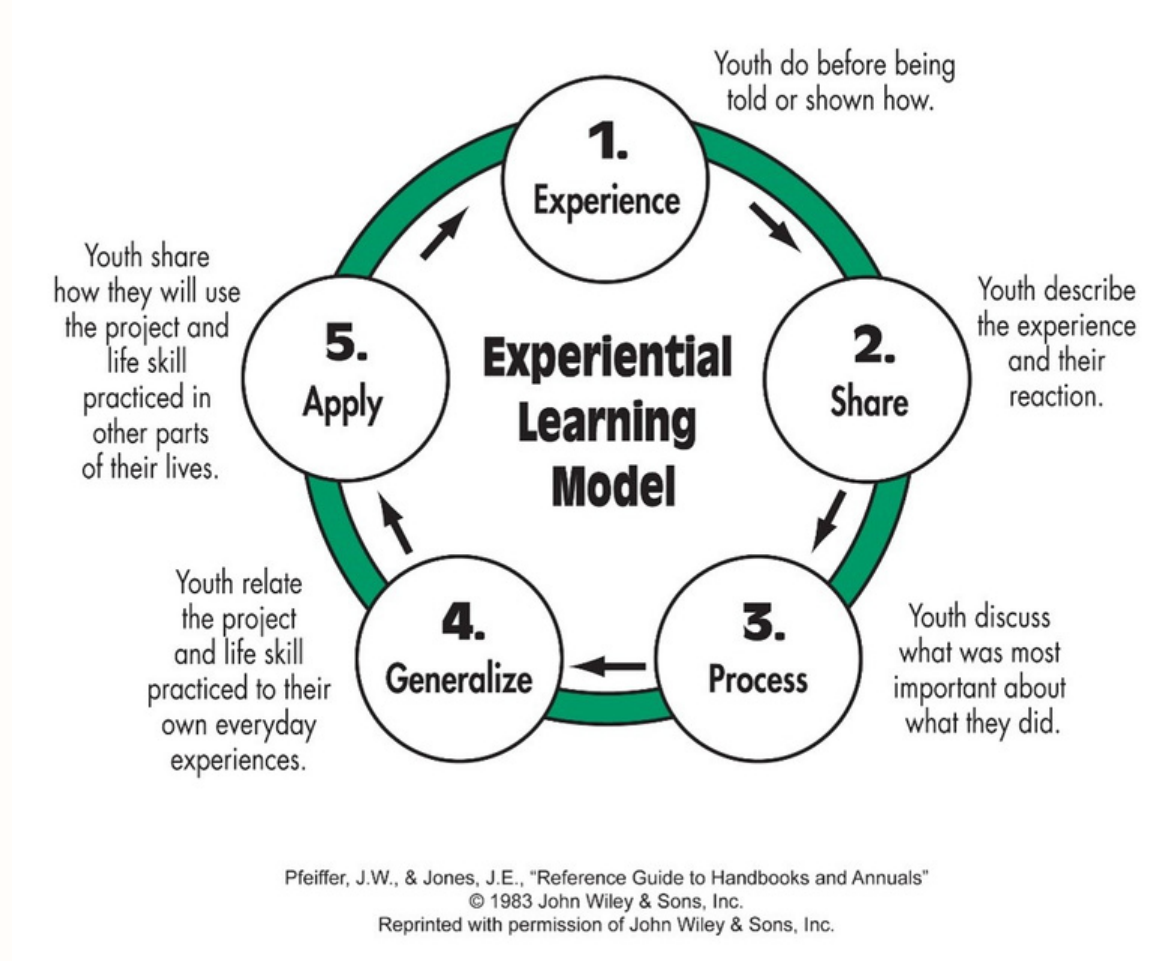
Quality Judging

- Leaders reviewing record books for completion may select top quality records to be submitted to the county level for quality judging.
- The three books with the highest quality for each age division (Pre-junior 8-10, Junior 11-13, Senior 14-18) in each club will be reviewed at the county level for further awards.
- The top three books in each age division per club will be due to the Extension Office by the third Tuesday in August for review by the record book committee.
- The Record Book Quality Criteria (available on website) will be used as the scoring matrix for quality judging. This criterion may also help 4-H members understand what constitutes a high level record book.
- County awards will be determined from the pool of submitted record books and will be judged by age division. Awards will be designated per age division.



Why Have 4-H Record Books? Record Books...

- Encourage members to set goals and develop plans to meet those goals as well as document how they have adapted to challenges and obstacles. Members can reflect on their achievements and growth during through 4-H involvement.
- Give members an opportunity to reflect on their yearly work. The books document the member's skill development and their learning experiences from one year to the next.
- Teach important life skills: goal setting, organizing, planning, solving problems, keeping track of money and written communication.
- Help youth process what they have learned, solidifying the experience.



Members who keep good records...

- Learn how to set goals and evaluate their success
- May receive county, state and/or national recognition
- Have an invaluable personal record/memory book (this has proven to be very helpful as older youth apply for awards including college scholarships and complete resumes' and job application)
- Have learned a skill that will be needed throughout life

A Successful Market Animal Year, by Jenn Swanson

After a wonderful 4-H Livestock sale, every 4-H market animal arrived in good shape at Vandevanter Meats in Columbia Falls, and made a high quality, home-raised product. Ben Hauptman, from Granite County, met Katie Morris and me at the processor's cooler to evaluate the carcasses on June 29th. Subsequently, we sent the carcass data for each species to the state livestock specialists for review and ranking. When we received the final rankings, I announced the Teton County award winners (and those whose carcass data will go on to the state level competition) in a video with plenty of explanation about carcass evaluation. Here's the link to that video that went out via email on July 24th: <https://youtu.be/Gk6cl6pctpw>. Additionally, the complete carcass data spreadsheets (by species) were emailed to all 4-H members on July 31st.

The contests for each species were very close! Our first and second place Teton County goat contestants were separated by just 2% cutability, with Kaylie Bender taking first, and Nick Miller taking second. Among the lamb contestants, the top 5 places all earned the Montana Certificate of high quality and will go on to the statewide competition. Our 4 highest ranked lamb carcasses all 4 had a BRC of 48% - our county winners were determined by fractions of a percent. The first and second place lamb contestants for Teton County were Theo and Boaz Lytle, respectively, with Bromley Heagy claiming third. Trent Greyn and Addy Scott will also go on to the state level competition.

The quality metrics for swine include dressing percentage, loineye area, and backfat, but marbling, color, and texture also figure into the final quality assessment. Among Teton County's swine, 35% earned the Symbol of Excellence (SOE) designation, and their carcass data will be entered in a statewide carcass competition. The Teton County 4-H members whose swine earned the SOE distinction are as follows: Katy Morris (first place in the Teton County competition), Tristan McFarlin (second place), Bryden Bradley (third place), Maili Miller, Hayden Hodgskiss, Nolan DeBruycker, Louis Lightner, Charlie Long, and Natalie DeBruycker.

Similarly, 33% of Teton County's beef earned the opportunity to compete at the state level "Steer of Merit" (SOM) carcass competition. MSU Extension's beef specialist, Dr. Megan Van Emon, told me that it is typical for a county to have 10 to 12% of its 4-H beef earn this accolade, but 33% is a rare accomplishment. Our SOM winners who each produced a beef rated as Choice with a percent cutability of 51% to 52% are as follows: Ledger Martin (first place in the Teton County competition), Casen Yeager (second place), Ariana Banner (third place), Kingston Egbert, and Trent Taylor.

A big congratulations to our young Teton County producers! Our buyers will be nourished by the healthy food and the love with which it was raised. A heartfelt thanks to the 2023 carcass award sponsors: Teton County 4-H Council, Flying U in honor of Donna Perry and Tony Machado, and North Montana Feeders.

Congratulations!

Carcass Judging Winners

Congratulations to the following Teton County 4-H members with top placing in the carcass judging this year. They will advance to have their market animal carcasses judged at the state level along with the other top ranked carcasses from Teton County.

Lamb

1. Theo Lytle
2. Boaz Lytle
3. Bromley Heagy

Goat

1. Kaylie Bender
2. Nick Miller

Swine

1. Katy Morris
2. Tristen McFarlin
3. Bryden Bradley

Beef

1. Ledger Martin
2. Casen Yeager
3. Ariana Banner



Teton County Volunteer Award Winners

District 3 4-H Awards

Salina deVos, Volunteer of the Year

Brian Bedord, Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer

Marla Holmquist, Outstanding Lifetime Volunteer

Montana State 4-H Award

Susan Snyder, Montana 4-H Foundation Outstanding 4-H Alumni

Volunteer Training

THANK YOU to the volunteers who have completed the Clover Academy Online Leader Training! There are still people who need to complete their training. The training consists of four 15-minute online modules. You can watch them all at once or separately. All returning volunteers have until September 30, 2023, to complete the training and cannot enroll for the 2023-2024 4-H year until the online modules are completed. All new volunteers must complete the orientation before becoming active in ZSuite. Tips: Be sure to press the 'Mark Complete' button after every module. It may take the system a moment to refresh and let you proceed. Often just hitting the refresh button is enough, but sometimes it will require you to log out and log back in before it will refresh.

Montana 4-H Congress Notes from Shelby



Three Teton County 4Hers attended the 78th annual Montana 4-H Congress on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman from July 11 through 14. The event attracted more than 300 4-H youth, volunteers, and MSU extension faculty from across the state. The purpose of Congress is to provide a safe and fun environment for competitive and social events, educational workshops, and service-learning. Attendees from Teton County were Grace Toeckes from Power, Ayden DeBruycker from Fairfield, and Andrew Major from Choteau. Grace provided a helping hand to the event organizers during the competitions. Andrew competed in the Stir-ups Cooking Challenge for the first time and placed third out of eight competitors. He is looking forward to applying what he learned this first year when he competes again in the event in 2024. Ayden competed in the Demonstration event and brought home a first-place win! Coached by Jane Wolery, she told the story of her great-grandmother's experience as an Army Cook during World War II. While telling this story, and sharing information about food history from this time, she made delicious molasses cookies. As a first-place winner, Ayden will attend the National 4-H Congress event in Atlanta, Georgia, as a member of the Montana Delegation this November. The Montana Delegation is composed of top winners from all the competitive events at Congress. The competitive events are on topics ranging from livestock and quilting to public speaking and career communication. According to the director of Montana 4-H, Todd Kesner, "The 4-H Congress event positively impacts youth by inviting them to form relationships with peers from around Montana, with new ideas and the faculty who present those ideas, and with higher education and college life. At its core, the event is designed to bring people together." Interested Teton County 4-H youth, age 13 – 18 should mark their calendars for next year's Congress at MSU on July 9-12 in 2024.



2023 Montana State 4-H Congress

Pictures taken by E. Brush Photography



Medieval Madness Camp Photos



Medieval Madness Camp Photos



Medieval Madness Camp Photos



Contact/Resources

Teton County MSU Extension

Mailing Address:

- PO Box 130, Choteau, MT 59422

Phone (voice call):

- 466-2491/2492

Text only:

- 406-530-5373

Email (send club minutes, most questions/issues):

- teton@montana.edu

Other:

- <https://teton.msuextension.org/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/TetonCoExt>
- <http://montana4h.org/>



Fair Dates

2024 June 24-30

2025 June 24-29

2026 June 22-28

4-H Congress, Bozeman

2024 July 9-12

Camp Dates

2024 July 22-26

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