

October 2025

SANDERS COUNTY 4-H DISPATCH

4-H News



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montana.edu/extension/sanders/4h.html
montana.edu/extension
montana.edu/extension/4h

October:

2	Beneniah Turner
3	Emalyn Roofener
4	Anaelle Avilla
5	Claire Wrobleski
12	Sage Doble
12	Michaela Everett
13	Jeremiah Frank
21	Landen Vincent
24	Maichelle Champneys
25	Katherine Wrobleski
30	Lainey Erwin

November:

2	Kyla Warnes
7	Cody Hafner
7	Gavin Hafner
12	Edyn Davis
13	Tristyn Campbell
14	Ezra Hartman
18	Quincy McClimans
20	Soren Feiro
21	Declan Finlay
27	Shaylyn Stein
28	John McNamara
29	Brooke Jackson
29	Warren Finlay

WELCOME TO THE NEW 4-H YEAR: 2025-2026

Happy New 4-H Year!

We are excited to begin the new 4-H Year and look forward to working with and seeing you in the coming months. As the New Year begins so does the re-enrollment process. Your Organizational Leader has all of the materials that you will need to re-enroll for the 2025-2026 4-H year if you haven't already received them. An email has also been sent out to all 4-H families that included enrollment information. Although it may seem like a lot of information and it may seem daunting to go through it all, by taking the time to review all of the materials provided by your leader and the email you will be better prepared for the 4-H year. Remember that if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact your Organizational Leader or the Extension Office. We are all here to help you have a rewarding, successful 4-H year!

Remindedr:

November 15 is the absolute latest to re-enroll.

No re-enrollments will be accepted after this date





Re-enroll Online through ZSuite!

Re-enrollment for the 2025-2026 4-H year is now open. Please make sure to re-enroll through ZSuite using the same log-in information as last year.

4h.zsuite.org

Click on the link below for re-enrollment instructions
montana.edu/extension/4h/resources/club_resources/4henrollment/index.html
Ask your Organizational Leader for the green Enrollment Guidelines sheet for more complete detailed enrollment information if you haven't already received it.

Enrollment fees may be paid online during your enrollment through ZSuite or through your Organizational Leader and are due by **November 15.**



IMPORTANT Project Manual Info

REMINDER!

Families will be ordering their project manuals online from the MSU Extension Distribution Center using the following link:

store.msuextension.org/Departments/4-H-Materials.aspx

Once you have the project books figured out (either by looking in ZSuite during enrollment or by looking in the project selection guide) you can use the search bar to enter the code. This should make it easier to find your materials. ie: **Bite Into Beef - BU8143** / Just enter the letters & numbers after the project manual title. Please call the Extension Office if you have any questions!

All members are expected to journal all they do in their 4-H projects and 4-H club work in their record books. Those journals must be included in their record book. Journals may be printed from the 4-H website at:
montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/support/record_books/index.html
or the Extension Office will provide members with the necessary journals (4-H Year and Project journal forms). Contact your Organizational Leader or the Extension Office if you are unable to print your own journals. Don't hesitate to contact your club leader or the Extension Office with any questions you may have.

Reiminder to 4-H Members

IF YOU WON AN AWARD AT THE FAIR OR IF YOU RECEIVE ONE AT ACHIEVEMENT DAY, PLEASE REMEMBER TO SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION TO THE DONOR WITH A THANK YOU NOTE! IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHO TO THANK PLEASE CONTACT KAREN DWYER AT TFL4067@BLACKFOOT.NET OR CALL HER AT 827-4067

DONT MISS ACHIEVEMENT DAY!

All Families are encouraged to attend.

Sunday, November 16, 2:00 pm

At the Pavilion in Plains.

(located at the Sanders County Fairgrounds)

Join the Sanders County 4-H Community to recognize and honor the 2024-2025 4-H Award recipients.

This year we will be having a dessert pot luck. Please bring dish or item to share.

Year end awards will be presented!

NOTE: Along with livestock awards and various other awards, awards for exhibits that were entered in the Home Ec Building at the fair will be presented at this event. If you entered an exhibit(s) in the Home Ec Building we strongly encourage you to attend Achievement Day.

Awards announced at fair can be picked up at Achievement Day.

You may be presented an award!

Thank you to Hot Springs Wranglers for Hosting Achievement Day this year!

People Partner Grants

Does your club have ideas for improvements in your community? Would you like to make improvements at the fairgrounds? Here is an opportunity for you to apply for the funds to make it happen. The Montana 4-H Foundation awards People Partner Grants to groups and individuals for programs that enhance the quality of living for people in their communities. Now is the time to get started on paperwork. Information is available online at:

mt4hfoundation.org/grants.html

Applications are due by February 14th
Each application is eligible for up to \$500

Welding/Sewing/Quilting and Foods & Nutrition Project Members

Sanders County 4-H offers a sewing machine and microwave to an outstanding junior or senior member who applies during the Sanders County Fair. If you are interested in either of these awards you can begin now preparing yourself to qualify. Members must be enrolled in the respective project and meet the following qualifications to be eligible to win.

Qualifications include:

Sewing Machine

- Enrolled in Sewing/Quilting project
- Enter a minimum of 4 exhibits in a Sewing project or 2 exhibits in a Quilting project at the fair
- Complete an interview for exhibits submitted at the fair
- Provide updated record book project forms from the current and previous 4-H years for judges to review for growth in the project at the fair

Microwave

- Enrolled in a Food/Nutrition project at the fair
- Enter a minimum of 6 exhibits in a Food/Nutrition project at the fair
- Complete an interview for exhibits submitted at the fair
- Provide updated record book project forms from the current and previous 4-H years for judges to review for growth in the project at the fair

\$100 to go towards welding gear of your choice

- Enrolled in a Welding project at the fair
- Enter a minimum of 2 exhibits in a Welding project
- Complete an interview for exhibits submitted at the fair
- Provide updated record book project forms from the current and previous 4-H years for judges to review for growth in the project at fair

Member will let the Extension staff know if they wish to be considered for this award when member checks in exhibits in the Home Ec building at the fair. Contact the Extension office with any questions!

2026 Summer Outbound Programs for 4-H Youth

This year there are 6 International Outbound summer programs available for the new 2026 program year for MT teenagers!

The countries that are available in 2026 for current 4-H members, ages 14-19 (and not in college) are:

- **Costa Rica:** June 25 -July 24, 2026 **(15-18 yrs old)**
- **Japan (4 Week):** July 8 - August 7, 2026 **(12-18 yrs old)**
- **Japan (8 Week):** June 10 - August 7, 2026 **(15 - 18 yrs old)**
- **South Korea:** July 15 - August 14, 2026 **(12-17 yrs old)**
- **Taiwan:** July 8 - August 7, 2026 **(12 - 18 yrs old)**
- **Argentina:** July 11 - August 3, 2026 **(15 - 18 yrs old)**

For program eligibility & fees contact Dave Brink at:
david.brink@montana.edu / 406-822-3545

For more information visit:

states4hexchange.org/summer-outbound/

2026 Online Application Link:

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/104148-States-4-H-International-Exchange>

DATES

To Remember
2025-2026

October

- 7 Record books to be considered for awards due in Extension Office
- 7 Legard Citizenship Award Nominations due in Extension Office
- 7 Council meeting, 6:00 p.m., Minnie's Cafe, Thompson Falls
- 27 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. – Plains, 4-H Pavilion

November

- 7-9 Fall Ambassador Training
- 15 *Deadline for 2024-2025 enrollments of re-enrolling members***
- 16 Achievement Day, 4-H Pavilion
- 17 Deadline for organizational leaders to submit any enrollment fees to Extension Office
- 17 Club Treasurer's correspondences due to Extension Office for year-end audit along with
Year-end Financial Summary report & 1% fee
- 24 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. – Plains, 4-H Pavilion

December

- 2 Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Linda Cook's Home, Plains
- 2 Club year program plan & club officer list due in Extension Office

January

- 3-4 Market Beef Tagging

February

- 3 Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Minnie's Cafe, Thompson Falls
- 14 State Scholarship applications due in State 4-H Office TBA State 4-H Rec Lab registration due
- 14 People Partner Grant applications due in State 4-H Office
- TBA State 4-H Rec Lab registration due

March

- 7 Meat Raffle sales start
- 7-8 Communication days
- TBA Stir-ups
- 13 Sanders County Scholarship Applications Due
- 15 Communication Finals day TBA
- TBA State 4-H Rec Lab

April

- 7 Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Linda Cook's Home, Plains

May

- 1 State Award applications due in State 4-H Office

June

- TBA Fashion Revue & Patchwork Parade
- 2 Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. - Minnie's Cafe, Thompson Falls
- 7 Sheep/Goat/Swine Tagging, Sanders County Fairgrounds
- 15 Montana State 4-H Congress registration deadline
- 16-19 Multi-County 4-H Camp

July

- 1 Project Add/Drop deadline
- 5-7 Pre-Congress – Bozeman
- 7-10 Montana State 4-H Congress – Bozeman

August

- 4 Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Linda Cook's Home, Plains

***Sanders County 4-H Council Meeting
October 7, 2025, 6:00 p.m.***

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm at Minnie's Café in Thompson Falls.
Minutes of the June meeting were accepted as presented.
2025-26 Budget was approved as presented.

Reports

- 4-H Clover Café lost money again this year. Jen Avilla will be the chair of a new committee to present a local food marketing plan to consider in December.
- Meat Raffle brought in \$16,108 this year. Clubs will receive 5% of their sales and the Livestock Committee will receive 25% after expenses are deducted.
- Sponsorships are on track to cover award expenses for the year.

Old Business

- Achievement Day will be November 16th at 2:00pm. This year will only be a dessert pot luck. Hot Springs Wranglers will host.

New Business

- New attendance requirement for shooting sports was approved. Members must attend 1/3 of their meetings in order to enter a shooting sports exhibit for fair.
- Reviewed 4-H Year Calendar
- Tabled By-Laws review until new Agent comes on board.
- Approved moving the 4-H Council account to First Security Bank from Stockman Bank and updating officer signatures when new Agent comes on board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Thurston

Present: President Joanne Burk, Vice President Jen Avilla, Brooke Eldridge – TF Mountaineers, Terry Stephens – Hot Springs Wranglers, Extension Agent Wendy Carr, Volunteer Juli Thurston, Taylor Etienne – Heron Explorers, Sara Dana – Trout Creek Mavericks, Austin Turner - Rifle Project Leader.

Sanders County 4-H Livestock Committee Minutes for September 23, 2025

Alan Hafner – Chair; Richard Jackson – Beef Superintendent; Carmen Jackson – Council Treasurer; Raelyn Cox – Goat Superintendent; Presley Cox – Goat Assistant Superintendent; Juli Thurston – Sheep Superintendent; Wendy Carr – Horse Superintendent; Terry Stephens – HSW Club Leader/Beef Project Leader; Brian Crain – Fair Board; Carrie Guenzler; Colby Guenzler

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Minutes from August Meeting: Approved with change to \$3.60/ft for Trex on bleachers under Old Business

Treasurer's Report: Balance \$7,189.23

Old Business:

Fair Improvements:

- Doug/Whitney hope to do some updates in the Rabbit/Poultry Barn. (Plywood walls, roof, new poultry pen supplies)
- Purchasing aluminum bleachers is put on hold – bleachers from Fairground won't be any time soon. Bleachers were painted by Tara and John when swine barn was painted. Hold off on Trex for now dependent on our other expenses.
- Outlet by announcer/clerk area in livestock arena. Juli will schedule with an electrician before next fair.
- Beef barn doors fixed.
- Upgrade electrical in camping area. Juli will submit a grant to AgWest now that fair is over, to see if funding through them would be awarded.
- Window in storage room needs fixed
- Microphone/speaker system in 4-H Arena: Wendy will contact Skeeter to see if he can look at it.
- Fair Awards Update
- Raelyn & Juli will look at the gates/lattice that need repaired in the sheep barn. Presley fixed this. May need to get a couple sheets of lattice – completed and can be taken off the list.
- Fill in stalls needed in steer barn. Alan will coordinate project that will be happening on Fair Readiness. Completed and can be taken off list
- Paint swine/sheep barn. Completed and can be taken off list. Wendy asked Fair Board if would be willing to help with paint expenses. They said to bring in receipts.
- Put in lower tie rail in beef tie out area is completed. Kids who need to make up for Fair Readiness absence can paint. Justin, Garth, and Alan completed this task. Can be taken off list.
- Storage room and shelving in beef barn. Completed and can be taken off list. Thanks Jen!

New Business:

Sale Report/Review: 70 head sold, number of buyers was up by one from last year at 55, total sales was down by about \$10,000 but we had less steers, total sales was \$264,412

2025 Averages compared to 2024 Averages – (price per pound)

- Beef - \$8.59 up from \$6.90
- Sheep - \$10.25 up from \$10.24
- Goat - \$10.25 down from \$14.80
- Swine - \$11.06 up from \$8.24
- Rabbit - \$2457/2hd up from \$1507/2hd
- Poultry - \$2843/4hd down from \$3948/3hd

Meat Raffle Report: Total ticket sales for 2025 was \$16,108, Livestock Committee will be receiving 25% of the proceeds after expenses are taken out.

Pay Council for superintendent meals?

- Motion to pay \$880 towards Superintendent Meals: Carmen
- Second: Terri
- Motion carried

Any livestock policy suggested changes?

- Should we keep stall fees? About \$400 came in from stall fees – will decide at Oct. meeting
- Maximum weight on steers and pigs discussion – put on agenda for Oct. meeting
- Breeding Project Clarification

Fair review/suggested changes

- Round Robin – if no Junior or Senior with animal species do still show that species or not? – Final decision will be made at October meeting
- Round Robin – time for each rotation (we did 3 minutes this year) – Discussion about making a Round Robin Packet with rules and what has been done in past – Large animal (3 min), Small Animal (2 min)
- Lightning Policy – no state policy was found. Decision was made to follow MHSA weather policy.
- Open Class – Discussion about 4-H and open class if have the same class should be held at the same time? 4-H volunteers need print out of classes and entries from Show Works Program ahead of time. Suggested that more help needs to come from Fair Board.
- Generator Policy – Should there be a generator policy? Noise and Co2 Sensors in camping areas were going off
- Service Dog Policy – State 4-H will get back to us with a state-wide policy. Wendy will let the Fair Board know when the policy is available.
- How to keep people from climbing on animals or petting biting animals? Barn duty in each barn for more presence in the barns. Talk about how to guide the public so this doesn't happen as much with members at Fair Readiness Day.
- Add meat poultry showmanship to class list – Discuss when Whitney attends
- Cat – stuffed animal
 - Motion to not allow stuffed animals to be shown, but allow members to borrow a cat that they work with at all meetings and show at fair: Carmen motioned
 - Second: Raelyn
 - Motion Carried
- Vaccinations – Wendy will contact State Veterinarian and local vets.
- Calming paste – There is no withdrawal. Product is safe. Members must tell Superintendent before administering.
- Bucks at Fair – Decision was made to eliminate class for over one year old
- Lunch tickets to interview Judges on Thursday – no lunch at cafeteria so need to buy them lunch and have money available for this.
- Add Banners to explain Donors on Bleachers
- Move Sheep and Goat show back to Thursday?
- Put up no running or yelling signs
- Awards before Auction: Heard complaints from buyers. They don't want to sit through the awards and want to be able to talk with kids or be able to sit down before auction. Have all awards at Achievement Day?

2025 Judges – fair, round robin, carcass, Open Class –

- 4-H and Open Class Livestock Judge retainment will be voted on in October
- Round Robin Judges – keep where Superintendents ask a judge for each species
- Carcass – Retain Dave Brink
- Dairy Judge – Wait and see how many sign up to see if we need separate judge or not

Archie McDonald Award – Voted and will announce at Achievement Day

AG Day – Wendy is thankful for all the 4-H members who are volunteering to help make this day possible for all the Third Graders in Sanders County!

Species Reports

Beef: Richard will be stepping down as Superintendent. Thank you, Richard, for all your time and years as our Beef Superintendent! New Beef Superintendent will be voted on at October meeting. Super Steer will continue even though Richard is stepping down. Question was asked about dual enrollment if Lake County kid wants to show steer here.

Horse: Show went well. It was a bit quicker this year with changes we made but still trying to figure out what is best for fitting both regular horse show and Ranch horse all in one day. Everyone loved Blake for our Ranch Horse Judge. Blake said he'd love to come in the Spring and put on a Ranch Horse Clinic and would put money towards a Heelomatic for roping practice.

Poultry: None

Rabbit: None

Sheep: Fair went well!

Goat: Lots of kids in goat this year. Fair went well!

Swine: None

Announcements:

Achievement Day date changed to Nov. 16th

Next Meeting: October 27th, at 6:30pm, 4-H Pavilion.

September 2025

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY - ONLINE SERIES

MEMBERS 12+, 4-H AGE

Join the Montana 4-H Leadership Academy workshops on Sunday afternoons in 2025/2026. 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.

All workshop times are on Sunday afternoons starting at 3:00 pm. Once you register for the workshop series a zoom link will be sent to you.

Sundays at 3:00 pm

****Workshop dates and topics will be emailed to families as soon as they are available***

Use the following link to register (website should be updated soon):

https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs_and_events/youth_leadership/academy.html



Top

MEAT RAFFLE WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP MEAT RAFFLE TICKET SELLERS:

The top Meat Raffle
ticket sellers will each
receive a gift card

LilaMae Stephens
Samuel Clarke
Oakly Bangen
Mason Holman
Brianna Horner
Lainey Erwin

*Thanks to everyone
for making the meat
raffle a successful
fundraiser!*

