

FYI for 2025



Basic Information, Terms and Important Deadlines:

- Participating in fair is *optional*, NOT a 4-H requirement. Enter as few or as many projects as you like.
 - If you have an animal, you do **not** have to show or sell it at fair (unless your market animal receives grand or reserve).
 - You do NOT have to participate in workshops to enter contests at fair.
- Dept. N is anything non-animal.



- Dept. A is anything with an animal.



- Entry forms are due by **5:00 pm on June 27th**.
All entries received between 5 pm, June 27th and 5 pm, July 4th will be charged an additional \$50 late fee per exhibitor. **No entry forms will be accepted after July 4th at 5 pm. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!**
- Entries are done online at montanafair.com under exhibitors.
- Interview Judging Day (Monday, August 4th, 9:00am -1:00pm & 4:30pm-7:30pm) in the Montana Pavilion at MetraPark. Take the exhibits you entered that are considered Dept. N (non-animal) to a judge to be interviewed about what you brought and what you have learned in your project. There will be different judges for each project. ***Cloverbuds will take all their entries to visit with one judge at the same time. Cloverbuds may bring any project or craft they have done – some bring items made at Cloverbud Camp!***
 - Each club is assigned to come during morning or afternoon session – watch newsletter for your time! If you have more than 25 items to be judged, please go in the morning.
 - Keep in mind that if you have an animal in Dept. A, you can also submit projects into Dept. N for those animals, just NOT the live animal. See Dept. N Pg. 18, Div. 33 for Sm. Animal & Div. 32 for Lg. Animal (Examples would be a match game you create to help you learn breeds of your animal, a model of a shelter you built for your animal, a poster explaining different feed tags and what to look for.)
- Exhibitor packets will be given to each member who enters *any* exhibit (Dept. N or Dept. A) at fair. These packets **can be picked up on Interview Judging Day**. **** Please make sure to read ***everything*** in the packet so you don't miss out on something fun and/or important!****Please let your leader know if you are unable to pick up your packet – they are usually given to them, but sometimes not until *after* fair starts and it can sometimes be difficult to meet up after shows have started.
- “Crafts/Hobbies/Foods” is a division regular member can enter something but does **not** need to be enrolled in a project to enter an exhibit. Exhibits may be something that a project is offered, but member did not sign up for. *For Example, a member may have taken a photo they really liked at Make It and Take It, they discovered a new interest and want to exhibit that photo.* Please be aware that you cannot earn a “Best of Class” nomination in Dept. N and these items will not be eligible to sell at the fair (Dept N or Dept A), but premiums will still be earned. *There are no “open” divisions or classes in 4-H. You must enter in Crafts/Hobbies/Foods for 4-H or in an “Open” show that is open to everyone in a Dept other than Dept N and pay an additional fee in most cases.*
- Club Opportunities/Responsibilities that you need to sign up through your club (these things would be entered on 1 form and everyone who works on it can go and interview):



- Ice Cream Booth (does NOT need to be entered)– County fundraiser and each club is required to work a shift- it is open the entire time of fair when Dept N is open to the public. Watch the newsletter for your clubs required shift and rules for working the booth. ****Wear your club apparel while you are working!****
- Club Booth set up in Dept N - Mon. 8/4 from 8:30am-7:30pm, Wed, 8/6 from 4:00-8:00pm. Each club is in charge of their own booth. Some clubs have a committee that set up the display while others require everyone to help. It should be done by the members and is a representation of your club at fair! ****If you are nominated for Best of Class and want to sell you must be there between 5:00-7:30 on Wed. 8/6. ****
- Educational booths (Club event) Can have up to 2 (1 lg – full table and 1 small – ½ table). This can provide education on anything and does not have to be 4-H related but must be 4-H appropriate. (Cloverbuds can do this for your club)
- Club scrapbooks & banners (Club event) – Dept. N
- Some contests, especially in Dept. A, have placement ribbons. For example, showmanship will rank the top 5 contestants, all others will receive a blue, red, or white ribbon based on their performance. In Dept. N, (for projects only – not classes that have “No Project Requirement”, everyone gets a blue, red, or white ribbon based on their interview & exhibit. If the judge thinks you may have the best interview/exhibit for that project, they will give you a “Best of Class Nomination” which will allow you the opportunity to sell that item (foods will have to be remade if sold). Some of the larger projects (photography, cake decorating, woodworking, sewing, quilts and welding are eligible) offer a NOVICE & Sr. NOVICE award, which is recognizing interviews/exhibits by Jr. & Sr. members that have a Best of Class in their first or second year in the project. Premiums will be higher for placement ribbons (Dept. A) and Best of Class nominations as well as Novice awards (Dept. N).
- A “premium” is the money that will be earned based on the color of ribbon that is received for exhibits taken to fair. (Fair checks are not usually sent out until after the new 4-H year begins.) ****Cloverbuds do not receive premium money but do get a special ribbon reserved only for them! ****



Below is a list of some of the other things that all members are eligible to participate in and do not have to be signed up for a specific project.

- Performing Arts (Dept. N-Div 38) Pg. 21 *****Cloverbuds can do this. Must put on entry form! ***
- Foods Festival – Edible Art Contest (Dept. N-Div 23) Pg. 15
- Table Setting – Pick a theme and design a table and menu (Dept. N-Div 52) Pg. 29 ***Cloverbuds can participate. Must put on entry form! ***
- Citizenship, Community Svc., Conservation, Health, Safety, Leadership (Dept. N-Div 8) Pg. 7
- Crafts/Hobbies/Foods (Dept. N-Div 16) Pg. 10
- 4-H Promotion (Dept. N-Div 2) Pg. 5
- Jr. Coordinator- helping to organize Dept N and put on events (including Interview Judging Day) (Dept. N-Div 97) Pg. 33
- Quiz Bowl (Dept. N) (Sun., August 10th) Team game to test your knowledge of 4-H and the projects offered. Anyone can participate! See Pg. 9, Div. 14, Class 19. Members must sign up on their individual entry forms. Parents & Leaders may also play and can sign up at Dept N Interview Judging check in table on Monday, August 4th.
- Communications/Demonstrations (Dept. N) List if you have done it @ county level (note your placing or prize/ribbon color). You may do it again @ fair using same demo, etc. and will receive premiums for both the county & fair contests. See Pg. 9, Div.14 *****Cloverbuds can do this. Must put on entry form! ***
- Workshops (Dept. N) Pg. 9, Div. 14, Class 18 - Teaching how to do or make something that results in a finished product for the participant to take home. Must have supplies for at least 20 people and spend at least 30 minutes teaching your workshop.
- Class Judging (Dept. N) (Fri., August 15th) Like livestock judging with Dept N projects. Practice being the judge – rank items and give reasons for ranking. Pg. 8, Div. 9, Class 1



We were all new once – please ASK QUESTIONS!

Read the fair book and make sure you understand deadlines and the areas that pertain to you. (This includes general rules and knowing where to enter which exhibit, what is an “exhibit” or “other unlike item”, if it is entered as a project exhibit or an “open” exhibit, etc.)******Do not wait until the last minute to get your entry forms in!!!****** It is highly recommended to print the handbooks and highlight all the items that pertain to your members and they are eligible for. You can get a printed copy from the Extension Office. Then you can hand write a list of the exhibits (*use the Dept A or Dept N worksheets on the website*) you want to take and the contest you want to participate in. This will help you with the on-line entry. Have this list and/or confirmation/receipt of online entry with you to Interview Judging Day in case there are any questions and/or discrepancies.

Please make sure you have a copy of entries; they will come in very handy at interview judging day and throughout the fair.

- Keep in mind while looking through the fair book that it is OK to use something you have already done in your project books or even school projects, as long as they fit the requirements, and it was done in this 4-H year. If **you** already have them done and **you** have done all the learning to complete the project, there is no reason why you shouldn't be proud of it and show it off. If you have questions about any of the fair stuff, please ask – your leader, an ambassador or call the office.
- Very important – PLEASE read your fair books and be familiar with the rules, deadlines, and schedules!!!!
- Remember not to sign up for more than you can realistically do. You are only allowed 4 scratches before premiums may be lost!!!
- 4-H families have the opportunity to pre-buy discount fair tickets and/or wristbands. **NEW THIS YEAR – discount tickets will need to be purchased through the Metra, and you will receive an email with directions on how to purchase when the Metra has it set up. You will need to use the email that you use when registering for fair. We are told you will be able to purchase them until August 1, 2025.**
- Know where the offices are in case a question comes up. Dept A in Expo by front doors & Dept N is in the Montana Pavilion. You can always look for one of our ambassadors as well. If they don't know the answer to your questions they will know where to get it!
- You may notice something that needs changed or could be better. Please come to the post fair meetings where these types of things are addressed. (Dept A is September 3rd. Dept N is September 4th.) Everyone, members and parents alike are invited and encouraged to come! Requests for rule changes can also be submitted by anyone but you **must** attend a post fair meeting to be eligible to vote on rule changes.

It takes a lot of people to make fair run smoothly. In addition to exercising patience and understanding PLEASE do not forget to recognize our countless volunteers, sponsors, buyers as well as your parents and leaders. Fair could not be done without them. Take the time to write a personal Thank You note before, during or after fair to let them know they are appreciated. If not, they may not be back to support you next year! There will be a list posted after fair of all the sale buyers and chairmen, but you can always get a jump on thank you notes by contacting chairmen for a list of sponsors or visit the county website for a list of leaders as well as last year's buyer list.

Dept. N

- Showcase (Dept. N) (Tues., Aug 12th @ 6:30pm) *Like Communication Contest Day – list if you have done it @ county level. You may enter and do it again @ fair and you will **receive premiums for both!** * See Pg.27, Div. 49. (*You are no longer required to do it at the county event to do it at fair!*)
- All Around (Dept. N) Pg. 32, Div. 96 This contest should be worked on throughout the 4-H year. Must complete and turn in a form to compete. Forms can be found on the county website. **Please read requirements carefully.**
- **Department N clean-up is Sunday, August 17th from 11:00AM – 1:00PM!** You **must** check out with a clerk. If you can't make it for some reason, it is YOUR responsibility to plan to have your stuff picked up!!!! (Includes club booth decorations!)
- If you sell something at the “Buy a piece of 4-H”, you will be required to write a thank you note to your buyer before you can receive the money. ****If you are eligible and choose to sell a food item, you will be required to contact the buyer and make arrangements to make a new item and get it to them!* ***

Dept. A

- Beginner, Junior & Seniors – (Dept. A) To see where you will compete, see Pg. 3 rule #1 “Age Requirements”.
- Skillathon (Dept. A) Pre-fair on May 10th. “Livestock Learning Laboratory” for Small & Large Animal. Check in at 8:30 the day of the event. See Pg. 10, Div. 3. **Enter through the ZSuite enrollment program**
- Animal Judging (Dept. A)
 - Sm. Animal is pre-fair on May 10th, registration 8:30-8:45. See Pg. 10, Div. 2 **Enter through the ZSuite enrollment program**
 - Lg. Animal contests various county/state events may qualify. See Pg 10, Div. 1
- Herdsmanship (Club & Individual event) – Everyone can judge and vote in this contest. We are looking for youth who are sharing their knowledge of their projects, keeping their area clean and visiting with the public. No requirements but posters/displays and decorations are encouraged. All members and clubs that show an animal(s) are automatically entered into this contest.
- Costume Animal Parade (Dept. A) Pg. 34, Div. 156 Anybody can do this as long as they are using an animal that was shown at the fair (*including Cloverbuds- they can **NOT** handle animals at any time but can show a stuffed animal or be part of a group where another 4-H member is handling the animal*). **You must write your script and turn it in to the 4-H office before the parade starts (the earlier the better) on Wed., August 13th. ***”Celebrate 110 years of FUN!” is the 2025 theme.***
- Outstanding Exhibitor for Lg. Animals. Pg. 36, Div 160***Please read carefully about the requirements and deadlines!***
- Round Robin (Dept. A) You must qualify for this and therefore do not list it on entry form. However, everyone is invited to attend the clinics to learn how Round Robin works (Sm. Animal – Tues., August 12th @ 4:00 & Lg. Animal – Thurs., August 14th @ 7:30). See Pg. 35-36 for rules.
- Cat (Dept. A) This show is not done at the fair, but make sure to list it on your fair entry if you attended. Pg.26-27, Cat is Div. 84-85
- Dog (Dept. A) This show is not done at the fair, but make sure to list it on your fair entry if you attend. Pg 26-27, Div 86, 87 & 88.
- *Keep in mind that if you have an animal in Dept. A, you can also submit projects into Dept. N for those animals. See Dept N Pg. 15, Div. 33 for Sm. Animal & Div. 32 for Lg. Animal*
- If you have an animal that you are planning on selling, remember that you must enter the Market contest on your fair form for that animal. **You will also need to let the 4-H office know that you plan to participate in the sale – see Pg. 37, Rule 10 for deadlines to notify the 4-H office.**
- Showmanship for any species is done by age (*see Pg. 3, rule 1*). Seniors go first so the Beginners and Juniors can watch and learn. Must sign up for the correct age under the species for showmanship. Only the member that enters the animal on their fair form can use the animal for the showmanship class. There is a showmanship class for every animal that you can bring to MontanaFair.
- All members (including out of county) that sell an animal will be required to sign up and help with a “sale job”. See the Dept. A office to sign up.
- All members may need to fill out a form to disclose the use of any medications and/or therapeutic practices if they are doing anything. See handbook pages 3-9. Sign off form will be available on website as well as at check in time for each species or in the Dept. A Office