

4-H NEWSLETTER-FEBRUARY 2024

Yellowstone County Extension Office
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[Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html>

4-H FOLKS IN FOCUS

Thanks to all the volunteers that helped at Beef Tagging!! It went well.

Please let me know about things you and others are doing. I want to know about the great things going on in the county.

Roni Baker, Yellowstone County 4-H/Youth Agent ronibaker@montana.edu

4-H COUNCIL MEETING

4-H Council will meet Thursday, February 1, at 6:30 pm in the 4-H Building at MetraPark. All are invited to attend.

DESIGN YOUR OWN & INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECT PLANS DUE MARCH 1

Just a reminder that all members enrolled in any Design Your Own or Independent Study projects should complete a project plan and provide the Extension Office with a copy by March 1. Forms can be found on the [Yellowstone County 4-H webpage](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/recordsheets.html) Record Books/Record Sheets at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/recordsheets.html>

4-H BUILDING USE, CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS AND CLEANING SCHEDULE

The increased use of the 4-H Building results in more upkeep, use of supplies, etc. If you use the building, you are responsible for keeping it clean. If you find the building in unacceptable condition, call the Extension Office immediately.

Here are the requirements for using the building, even if only **for an hour**.

- Clean the floor (sweep & mop as needed); tables (wiped down); bathrooms (bowls & sinks clean); drinking fountain; garbage cans. Always empty garbage cans that contain food! Empty garbage cans if they are more than ½ full. Put garbage in large dumpster located outside the building.
- If kitchen dish cloths and/or towels are used, take them home to wash them and return to the 4-H Building or the Extension Office in a timely manner.
- After use, always shake out dust mops outside, clean broom brushes and rinse out mop.
- All chairs, materials and equipment must be returned to their original locations.
- Cleaning supplies are in the closet and the back room. If you notice that cleaning supplies are running low, please notify the Extension Office.

Once each year every 4-H club is responsible for doing a thorough cleaning of the entire 4-H building. One club is scheduled to clean every two weeks throughout the year except during the month of August. The 4-H Building Cleaning Instructions & Schedule are found on the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html) under “Leader Resources” at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/index.html>. It is the club’s responsibility to call the Extension Office to schedule a day and time during the two-week period. 4-H Building availability can be determined by looking at the 4-H Building calendar on the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-HBuildingCalendar.html) under “Calendars” at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-HBuildingCalendar.html>. We list the clubs that are scheduled to clean at the top of the month 4-H calendar lists the clubs including the date span you have to clean. We encourage you to schedule in advance by calling the Extension office.

BE CERTAIN TO READ! IT IS TIME FOR ENROLLMENT DROPS & ADDS

The deadline to add or drop projects to your 4-H enrollment is April 30, 2024. There will be no project changes allowed

after that time. No exceptions! Verifying the accuracy of projects and levels is important and can affect your FAIR entry eligibility. It is the responsibility of the members to make any desired changes. This is done by accessing your ZSuite account. Organizational leaders should notify the Extension Office at this time if a member has dropped out of your club.

If you have questions, please ask your organizational leader or call the office for assistance 406-256-2828.

YOUR ZSUITE HOUSEHOLD ADDRESS

When the Extension Office needs to send emails to members and/or leaders, we send them to your ZSuite household email address. We do not email every individual member and/or leader email address. The family household email address is the email of the "Primary" ZSuite account holder. If you find you need to change your family household email address, you may do so by accessing your household account in ZSuite.

LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

Often, we get last minute information about events, meetings and so forth that does not make it into the monthly newsletter. We try to share this information by sending out emails and posting to our Facebook page. We also share a lot of information from other pages such as financial workshops, community events, jackpot shows, etc. This is a great way to keep up on what is going on in other 4-H clubs, organizations, and with our donors and supporters so LIKE, LIKE, LIKE, our page. [facebook.com/yellowstonecounty4h](https://www.facebook.com/yellowstonecounty4h)

4-H COOKBOOK EXCHANGE FUNDRAISER NEEDS YOU!

The Yellowstone County 4-H Exchange group is creating a 4-H Cookbook as a fundraiser for their 2025 trip to New York and wants you favorite recipes! They would like to have recipes from all 4-H families. It is simple to contribute: visit the [typensave website](https://www.typensave.com/?fbclid=IwAR0Bbm47uEaGRiEHsv7zmbnK6FNhc-5uMpA8-O9mKbX1T2pd8lZLwgPJntE) at <https://www.typensave.com/?fbclid=IwAR0Bbm47uEaGRiEHsv7zmbnK6FNhc-5uMpA8-O9mKbX1T2pd8lZLwgPJntE>.

Enter username: Petersen, and password: apricot311. You will be prompted to enter a name (which will be printed in the cookbook) and your email (which will NOT be printed in the cookbook). Then click "add recipes". Deadline to submit you recipes is Thursday, February 29, 2024. Do not delay. (VLH/9/7/09)

MAKE IT AND TAKE IT REGISTRATION OPENS SOON

ZSuite registration for Make It and Take It will open soon. The event will be held the morning of Saturday, February 24. Make It and Take It offers creative hands-on workshops where members learn a new skill by making an item and taking it home. Spots will be limited and filled on a first registered and paid basis. Watch your email for information!

TEEN LEADER PROGRAM BEGINS FEBRUARY 18

Attention members aged 12-18! We encourage you to participate in the new Yellowstone County teen Leader program. The goal of this program will be to plan social and educational events for the members in our county while gaining and perfecting the leadership skills of this group.

The Ambassador Team will rely heavily on the Teen Leaders to help with various events, but Teen Leaders will also be encouraged to plan their own events in which the Ambassador Team will support as well. Teen Leaders will be more flexible in the commitment. You can be as involved as much or as little as you want. There will be opportunities, based on your level of commitment and involvement to earn name tags and shirts.

Teen Leaders will meet the 3rd Sunday of every month. The first meeting will be **February 18, 2024, from 6:00 to 7:00pm** at ***Faithful Disaster Restoration*** located at ***1450 South 32nd Street West***. We will be meeting in the training room. After shooting sports concludes we will be holding meetings at the 4-H Building but don't be surprised if we meet at various locations for tours and activities as well. Food will be provided. We ask that parents do NOT attend the meetings.

There are so many Teen Leaders with such great ideas, and we are eager to work with you to implement those ideas. We are super excited to embark in this new program with you. We are certain you will make many fun and positive improvements to the Yellowstone County 4-H program.

FOUR YELLOWSTONE COUNTY AG 4-H'ERS RECOGNIZED

The Billings Chamber and Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative recognized four Youth in Ag Spotlight recipients: Lukas Arkell (6-year member with the Project Rockin Wranglers Club), Carlee Bomar (2-year member with the Shepherd Tumbleweeds Club), Rex Koivu (8-year member with the Project Rockin Wranglers Club), and Claire Murnin (11-year member with the Whips and Sticks Club). The spotlights are designed to celebrate and honor the outstanding contributions of local youth in the dynamic field of agriculture.

Applicant eligibility required that the youth showcase a robust connection to the agriculture industry, actively contribute to its advancements, and create a positive impact within their community. Additionally, they exhibit leadership qualities and character traits that mirror the essential attributes necessary for achieving success in the field of agriculture.

These four youths have shown dedication to their family legacies, community, and the agriculture industry. You can reach each recipients Spotlight bio on the [Billings Chamber of Commerce website Blog](http://tinyurl.com/c328dx46) at <http://tinyurl.com/c328dx46>.

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Each year the Yellowstone County 4-H Foundation awards several scholarships to 4-H Alumni that plan on attending an institution of higher learning. You may only be awarded the Foundation Scholarship once. You may apply for the scholarship at any time after high school, even if you've been out of school for a year or more, you can apply. We will mail/email the scholarship application to those that will be graduating from High School in May. Application deadline is April 1, 2024. The application can be found on the [Yellowstone County 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/yellowstone/4h/4-hopportunitiesandevents.html>.

NILE SCHOLARSHIP

The NILE has available three tiers of Collegiate Scholarships that will be awarded in April 2024. Scholarships are for graduating high school seniors; individuals currently enrolled in college or technical school; and a rolling scholarship for graduating high school seniors which can be renewed for up to four years.

Scholarship deadline is March 1, 2024. Guidelines can be found on the [NILE website](https://www.thenile.org/p/events/youth-events/scholarships) at <https://www.thenile.org/p/events/youth-events/scholarships>. Questions? Call the NILE office at 406-256-2495.

NILE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

While NILE is a mere 9 months away, it's not too soon to start thinking about applying for a NILE Internship! During the program duration of the 2024 Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) Internship Program, interns will have the opportunity to assist in all aspects of event planning and execution for The NILE Stock Show and Rodeo. The Internship program provides the opportunity to gain training and work experience in the livestock and equine industries as well as events-based business through The NILE Stock Show and Rodeo, a non-profit organization. All applications must be in the NILE Office by September 1, 2024, (not postmarked by) and interns will be announced shortly thereafter. The application is available on the [NILE website](https://www.thenile.org/p/events/youth-events/internships) at <https://www.thenile.org/p/events/youth-events/internships> or by calling the NILE office at 406-256-2495.

JUNIOR AG LOANS AVAILABLE THROUGH MT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

"With the average age of farmers and ranchers being nearly 60 years old, supporting the next generation is vital to Montana's livelihood," said MDA Director Mike Foster. "The Junior Ag Loan Program plays a key role in connecting young people who are passionate about pursuing projects in agriculture with the financing they need to get started."

Montana youth ages 21 and under may be eligible for up to \$8,500 in loan financing through the Montana Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Junior Agriculture Loan Program.

The Montana Junior Agriculture Loan Program was developed to assist rural youth in developing or expanding agribusiness projects. The benefits often far exceed the actual loan value for program participants. Many young men and women have utilized the program as a means for establishing financing experience and advancing their project's monetary value.

Projects can involve crop and livestock production, custom farming, marketing and distribution, processing, and other financially feasible activities. Up to 90 percent of projects can be financed through the program with repayment terms of up to five years. Additional information and applications are available on the [Montana Department of Agricultural website](https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/E-G/Grants-Pages/Junior-Agriculture-Loans) at <https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/E-G/Grants-Pages/Junior-Agriculture-Loans>

4-H STATE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY: MONTHLY ONLINE SERIES

Members 12+, 4-H Age: Join the Montana 4-H Leadership Academy workshop on Sunday afternoons in 2023/2024. 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.

These workshops provide local county leadership groups an opportunity to join (virtually) with groups from around the state as well as the Montana 4-H Ambassador Officer team, to work on skill building, planning and mentorship. Each month the officer team will present a different workshop topic that they have found to be important as they have grown their own leadership abilities.

Groups can plan to meet face to face whenever possible and engage in the virtual statewide workshop together. This time can be viewed as a leadership club meeting. You can join and do the session at home on your own too. The following agenda is currently being planned. All workshops are Sunday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:00. Register now at the [state 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/youth_leadership/academy.html) at https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/youth_leadership/academy.html. Once the form is complete an email containing the zoom meeting link for all workshops will be sent automatically.

February 11, 2024: Tools for Facilitation. Zoom link will be emailed if registered.

March 10, 2024: Authenticity and Self-Awareness. Zoom link will be emailed if registered.

BINGO PRIZES ACCEPTED

4-H Family Fun Night Bingo welcomes prizes throughout the year. If you have duplicate holiday or birthday gifts, something you cannot use (housewares, gardening items, etc.) and it isn't perishable, please consider donating it as a Bingo prize for the 2024 Family Fun Night. We will take your donations of any value at the Extension Office.

COMMUNICATION CONTEST DAY

Communication Contest Day will be held April 6 at Valley Baptist Church in Huntley. Participants may enter a maximum of three of the eight events. Watch for information and ZSuite registration in upcoming newsletters and emails.

FRUIT SALE PICK UP MARCH 9

The Fruit Sale pick day is Saturday, March 9 at the Expo Building at Metra. Each member needs to sell at least two boxes of fruit or pay \$55 to buyout of the fundraiser. This is one of Yellowstone County 4-H Council's major fund raisers, so let's all try hard to beat last year's sales. And don't forget to set a selling goal so you can win one of the cool prizes!

Remember that you are responsible for collecting and turning in fruit money to your club for the fruit you sell. NO EXCEPTIONS. Your club must pay the 4-H Council, so if you don't pay, the money comes from your club treasury. You are responsible for the fruit once you check it out from the club chairman. Check each box to verify the condition of the fruit when you pick it up on March 9. Be sure you handle the fruit correctly and get it delivered quickly.

4-H RECORD KEEPING TOOLS AND VIDEOS

Welcome to an exciting new year in 4-H! We want members to start their year off right by reminding them that keeping accurate, up to date record books is an important and valuable part of 4-H! Some helpful resources are available to get you going as well as the ability to keep digital record books in your ZSuite account. You can view detailed information about [how and why to create quality record sheets/books](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/support/record_books/index.html) at https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/support/record_books/index.html and [Frequently Asked Questions About Record Books](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/support/record_books/RB_FAQ.html) at https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/support/record_books/RB_FAQ.html

Keeping records is a terrific way to develop your communication skills, organize your time, document events and actions, evaluate your efforts, set goals, solve problems, and keep track of expenses. **When something important happens, WRITE IT DOWN!** You're doing your records for you. It is a record of your progress. Make them fun. Make them creative. Make them memorable. Add pages as you need them. Take photographs throughout the year. Select a few pertinent ones to include in your final records. Records may be kept on your computer or mobile device to make it easier to add information on the spot. Fillable Record Book forms can be found on the Yellowstone county 4-H website under "Record Books/Record Sheets".

We encourage leaders, members, and parents to view these short videos on the [state 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/support/record_books/index.html) at https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/support/record_books/index.html

Video Part 1: Why We do Record Books

Video Part 2: How to Make Record Books Valuable

Video Part 3: Ways to Complete a 4-H Record Book

STATE AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

May 1, 2024, is the due date for State Awards application. Members 14 and older as of October 1, 2023, are eligible. The Montana 4-H State Awards program is in place to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of 4-H members who have reached a standard of excellence in a variety of project and activity award areas. State Award winners have gone above and beyond regular project work with a focus on leadership, communication, and community service. 4-H members may self-nominate.

There can be more than one winner in a project, or activity area. A member can apply in any project or area; an application must be completed for each project or area in which they want to be considered. State award selection committees look for excellence in 4-H work, leadership, citizenship, and community service. All state and scholarship winners are announced at State 4-H Congress in July. If a member is selected as a state winner, they are eligible to attend National 4-H Congress in November.

The State Award application can be found on the [Montana State 4-H Awards webpage](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/awards/state-awards.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/awards/state-awards.html>

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAYS

You don't need to wait until you grow up to change the world. Children and teens are creating change every day through service to others. On Global Youth Service Day, we come together to celebrate.

Global Youth Service Days are April 26-28, 2024. This annual campaign celebrates and mobilizes the millions of children and youth who improve their communities each day of the year through service and service-learning. Established in 1988, Global Youth Service Day is the largest service event in the world, and the only day of service dedicated to helping children and youth. GYSD is celebrated each year in over 100 countries.

Visit the [Global Youth Service Day website](https://ysa.org/campaigns/gysd/) at <https://ysa.org/campaigns/gysd/> for more information about how to participate. Small grants are available to support youth-led service activities. Plan an event in your county!

JOANN FABRIC & CRAFTS: SAVE MONEY & HELP 4-H

The partnership between JoAnn's Fabrics & Crafts and 4-H continues. By visiting [JoAnn Fabric & Craft's website](https://www.joann.com/4-h/) at <https://www.joann.com/4-h/> and signing up for their app you can save 15% off all of your purchases. JoAnn's will give a minimum of 2.5% of every eligible purchase to support 4-H programming.

SAVE THE DATE * APRIL 19-21 * FOR REC LAB 2024 IN 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 because it gives kids the opportunity to enhance their leadership, communication, and team building skills in an action-packed and interactive setting. Rec Lab's programming goal is to provide participants with tips and tricks for being a better club, camp, and community leader.

The event has a camp feel because everything will take place in one school or location. Participants will bring air mattresses and sleeping bags to sleep on the gym floor and attend workshops all together in the school and join lots of social and fun activities.

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.

Extension Staff and volunteers: The idea of sleeping on an air mattress in a school gym may not be your idea of a fun weekend, but this is a great event for you too! The program is conducive to meeting people from around the state and exchanging ideas. You are sure to gain some great info and bring home motivated youth leaders.

Registration will be through ZSuite beginning in February. The cost will be around \$100 to \$125 per person. Yellowstone County 4-H council will contribute to the registration fee. Participants will have the opportunity to pick from a list of workshops during registration. Please SAVE the DATE and GO FOR GREEN in 2024! Talk to your 4-H friends about attending this great event! Visit the [state 4-H website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/events/rec_lab/index.html) at https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/events/rec_lab/index.html

MONTANA NATURAL RESOURCE YOUTH CAMP

The Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp is now taking applications for July 14-19, 2024.

For those of you who are not familiar with our camp, for 38 years, the Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp has provided youth an opportunity to study in an outdoor classroom. Today's scientific principles, economic realities, historical heritage, and social perspectives help these future leaders in their quest to gain natural resources perspective that is informed and progressive. Campers learn about forests, streams, soils, geology, rangeland, wildlife, and recreation and spend half-day rafting the Clark Fork River's Alberton Gorge. In between the field sessions, professionals who volunteer from various natural resources-based agencies and industries, specialty evening programs, guest speakers, and hands-on learning through discovery and campfires provide for a lasting summer camp experience.

Please help us to get the word out about our camp by posting our flyer on your bulletin board or passing along the information in an email or monthly newsletter. More information can be found on the [Montana Natural resource Youth Camp website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/forestry/mnryc/index.html) at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/forestry/mnryc/index.html>

We have many [scholarship opportunities](https://www.montana.edu/extension/forestry/mnryc/stipends_sponsorship.html) at https://www.montana.edu/extension/forestry/mnryc/stipends_sponsorship.html available to cover camp fees and/or transportation costs, and some of these opportunities will extend to out-of-state participants as well.

If a camper refers a friend to camp (both need to apply and be accepted), the referee will receive a newly designed sweatshirt or hat.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Christina Oppegard, Camp Director, at MSU Extension Forestry (406) 243-2773 christina.oppegard@mso.umt.edu.

4-H SUPPORTERS

Many businesses and organizations in our community support 4-H. Each month we list several of those supporters in the newsletter. We encourage you 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
Helena Agri Enterprises	PO Box 31234, Billings MT 59107
Albertsons	511 Central Ave, Billings MT 59102
Billings Farmhand Sales	815 Mallowney Ln, Billings, MT 59101
Northern Livestock Video	2443 N Frontage Rd, Billings MT 59101
Rimrock Pediatric Dentistry	1601 Zimmerman Trl, Billings, MT 59102
Yellowstone Valley Parts & Equip.	4959 US Hwy 312, Laurel, MT 59044
Valley Farmers Supply	1545 Northern Ave, Worden, MT 59088

DEPARTMENT N MEETING FOR FEBRUARY

There will be a Department N meeting Thursday, February 1, at 6:00 pm in the 4-H Building.

COMMUNICATION DAY MEETING

Club Communication Day representatives will meet on Thursday, February 1, at 5:30 pm in the 4-H Building. We will start planning for Communication Day which takes place Saturday, April 6, 2024. All club representatives must attend.

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW FOR STATE 4-H SHOOT IN BOZEMAN

The Annual Montana State 4-H Shooting & Archery Sports Competition will be held in Bozeman on March 1-3, 2024. This event is open to all enrolled 4-H members ages 9-19 in the Shooting Sports Projects. The registration is open and closes on February 23, 2024. Please see the [4-H State website](https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/events/shooting_sports/shooting-sports-SS.html) at https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs/events/shooting_sports/shooting-sports-SS.html for all information regarding the State Shoot. The events held at the State Shoot are Air Rifle, Air Pistol, Smallbore Rifle, Smallbore Pistol, Target Archery, and 3D Archery.

The State Shoot will serve as the qualifier for the Air Rifle, Air Pistol, Smallbore Rifle, and Smallbore Pistol events. The top 4 individuals in each event will be invited to represent the State of Montana at the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships to be held in Grand Island, Nebraska, June 23-28, 2024. Those individuals trying out for the Sporter Air Rifle Team must compete in Sporter 3P and Sporter Standing. The top 4 finishers will be determined from the combined scores from these two events.

To attend the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships, participants must have passed their 14th birthday by January 1, 2024, and may not have passed their 19th birthday before January 1 of the current year in which the championships are held.

SHOOTING SPORTS LEADER MEETING

There will be a shooting sports leader meeting for ALL 4-H Shooting Sport leaders on Thursday, February 15 at 6:00 pm in the 4-H Building.

HORSE & COLT MEETING

The next Horse and Colt Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, at 6:00 pm in the 4-H Building. Everyone is welcome to attend.

FEBRUARY SHEEP & GOAT WORKSHOP

We will be doing sheep and goat Quiz Bowl at 10:00 am in the 4-H Building on Saturday, February 3. We will quiz teams on basic knowledge, body parts, and workbook areas. Individuals will also have a chance to learn and show off knowledge. Prizes will be awarded! Don't forget to bring you record books and project books.

At the 10:00 am March 2nd workshop, will have Dr. Markee Anderson as a guest speaker to go over animal health and basic treatments. If you have any questions please email, text or call Heather. lukasa.arkell@gmail.com or (406)208-4463.

2023-2024 ANIMAL QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY & WORKSHOP SCHEDULE * NEW GUIDELINES

All 4-H and FFA members exhibiting any animal in Department A (Junior Livestock) at MontanaFair are required to attend an MSU Extension **ANIMAL QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING (AQA)** (per state guidelines) provided by the 4-H Committee or an FFA Advisor/Agriculture Educator prior to the first MontanaFair entry deadline or exhibitors do not show. Yellowstone County has two 4-H age brackets for AQA training. Exhibitors must attend AQA as Beginners/Juniors (4-H age 8-13), and as a senior member (4-H age 14-19). This age is based on the exhibitors "4-H Age" – the age as of October 1 of the current 4-H year. Exhibitors must take Animal Quality Assurance the first year they reach each age bracket or the first year they are exhibiting in an animal project. All classes will include the same teaching materials and use the same forms and paperwork. Class content is determined by a committee and updated every two years. A parent or legal guardian must also attend the AQA Training.

There will be hands on, group activities. Please plan on arriving on time with a parent with both staying for the complete 1½ hours. If you and your parent are not in attendance for the complete training, you may be asked to attend another session. Plan on attending a session early in the year so conflicts do not occur in your family schedule. **More workshops will NOT be added after the June 19 class. It is the final opportunity for 2024.**

The sessions in January and May are face-to-face at this time at PAYS. For the virtual sessions, people will log into the Webex meeting (Webex link information will be sent out via email prior to each session) to learn the information then go to the online program, pay their own \$12 fee, and take the online class. A copy of the completion certificate must be provided to the Extension Office.

Thursday, February 29: 6:30 pm Virtual training

Tuesday, March 19: 6:30 pm Virtual training

Saturday, May 4: 9:00-10:30 am at PAYS (Public Auction Yards)

Wednesday, June 19: 6:30-8:00 pm at the 4-H Building

MSU EXTENSION 4-H HORSE HELMET POLICY & WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Participants in the 4-H Horse Project are required to attend a Horse Helmet Workshop once as a beginner/junior 4-H member (8-13) and again as a senior 4-H member (14 and up). This age is based on the exhibitors "4-H Age" – the age as of October 1 of the current 4-H year. Exhibitors must attend a Horse Helmet Workshop the first year they reach every age bracket or the first year they are exhibiting in an animal project. A parent or legal guardian must also attend the Horse Helmet Workshop.

After attending a 4-H Helmet Workshop, riders may choose whether they will wear a certified helmet. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the 4-H member to see that the headgear worn complies with such standards and is in good condition. The Montana 4-H Center for Youth Development encourages the use of ASTM certified/SEI approved safety helmets in all equine events. Protective headgear may be used in all classes and shall not be discriminated against. Helmet use is encouraged in all 4-H horse activities any time a 4-H member is around a horse. A certified equestrian helmet with safety harness fastened in place is required in over fence classes and gymkhana events, activities, and practice sessions. Gymkhana refers to horseback speed events (timed or un-timed) that do not use livestock. Events that usually fall in this category include, but are not limited to: barrel racing, pole bending, keyhole

races, stake races, rescue races, pony express race, etc. Events that are not intended to be included in this policy are events such as calf roping, team roping, goat tying, and team penning that may be timed but use livestock. **More workshops will NOT be added after the May 4 class. It is the final opportunity for 2024.**

Wednesday, April 17: 7:00-8:00 pm at the 4-H Building

Saturday, May 4: 11:00 am-12:00 pm at PAYS (Public Auction Yards)

CLUB CORNER

The following clubs have turned in club minutes this month. Here are some highlights from those minutes.

City Kids: Members were asked to bring club activity photos for the club scrapbook. Member awards were distributed.

Laurel Roadrunners: Members discussed ideas on improving their family fun night booth. Members fill 8 care packages with cookies for a nursing home.

Lockwood Humble Bs: Members held their annual potluck, gift exchange, and awards were given out.

Project Rockin Wranglers: Members set show dates for three club organized jackpots.

Shepherd Pioneers: Fruit Sale information was distributed. Members planned two upcoming club recreation events.

Yellowstone Silver Spurs: the Club held a holiday party, and everyone contributed to the nacho bar. Members held an ornament exchange.

FEBRUARY 2024 4-H CALENDAR



4-H Building Cleaning Schedule

Pine Ridge Red Ryder: January 27-February 9

Whips n Sticks: February 10-23

Laurel Roadrunners: February 24-March 8

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 5:30 Communication Day Meeting 6:00 Dept N Meeting followed by Council. <i>4-H Building</i> People Partner Grants Due in Bozeman	2	3 10 Sheep & Goat Workshop <i>4-H Building</i>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 3:00 pm Leadership Academy Workshop <i>Online link sent after registering.</i>	12	13	14	15 6:00 Shooting Sports Leader Meeting 6:00 Horse Workshop <i>4-H Building</i>	16 4-H Newsletter Information Due	17 11 Pocket Pet workshop 12:30 Cat workshop <i>4-H Building</i>
18 County Shoot <i>Exhibit Hall at MetraPark</i> 6:00 Teen Leader Meeting <i>Faithful Disaster Restoration</i>	19 President's Day Office Closed	20	21 6:00 Horse & Colt Meeting <i>4-H Building</i>	22 6:00 Poultry Workshop <i>4-H Building</i>	23 End of Fruit Sale	24 Make It and Take It
26	26 6:30 Exchange Meeting <i>4-H Building</i>	27	28	29 6:30 Animal Quality Assurance via WebEx Workshop <i>Link will be sent via email</i>		