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NATIONAL AG DAY

Ag Day is a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. Every year, countless organizations across America unite to recognize the contributions of agriculture. Ag Day is celebrated on March 21, 2017 and falls during National Ag Week, March 19-25, 2017. That's why the Big Horn County 4-H Council is proud to join in the celebration of National Ag Day. In Big Horn County we recognize the dedication of those involved in agriculture. Please consider how to promote agriculture in your community.

4-H ENROLLMENT

4-H is the nation's largest positive youth development and youth mentoring organization, empowering six million young people in the U.S. If you're receiving this newsletter...you already know that! We can enroll new members all the time in our Big Horn County 4-H Program. However, at this point, new 4-H'ers will need to exhibit any fair projects in the "Open Class" division in August at the BHC Youth & Open Fair. Current membership is 124 youth members & 52 leaders. Thanks for getting the new 4-H year off to a great start.

Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 12, 2017

PROJECT MANUALS & MATERIALS

Project journals & 4-H manuals are a required part of 4-H learning. We hope that our members can see the value of these tools and are hard at work completing them. If you still need to order materials; we are here to help you. 4-H is an educational program and required manuals are all research based to offer 4-H'ers lots of information. If you're unsure of what you may need; please call our office at 665-9770. When ordering project materials, through our office; make checks out to BHC Extension Office.

"Only you can control your future."

~ Dr. Seuss

Happy Birthday, Theodor Geisel

March 2. 2017

The MSU Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.

4-H SUPPORTERS

We thank community members who faithfully support our program. This month we continue to recognize our buyers from our 2016 Market Sale.

Watson Farms
Animal Care Center
Tara Rigler
Bryant & Kelby Dorn
Billings Farmhand, Inc.

In total, 4-H supporters paid $174,067.65 in premium sales to support youth at fair. Please thank them with your appreciation & business. Support.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1..... Kianna VanOrder
March 4.....Katelyn Upchurch
March 6.....Ryan Green
March 7.....Aubrey Allen
March 8.....Landon Neely
March 10.....Brooklyn Herman
March 14..... Jill Rigler & Jill Dale
March 17.....Lizzie Morse & Caden Green
March 19.....Alexis Uffelman
March 23.....Colton Herman
March 24.....Katana Reisig
March 27.....Trey Grinsteiner

Girls-n-Science

Girls-n-Science will be April 1 from 12:30–4:00 pm at the MSU-Billings campus. It's an opportunity for girls, grades 4th-8th to learn about science while visiting booths offering hands-on activities. There is also *STEM Stars* for 7th - 8th grade girls only in the MSU-B LA Building - 9 am to Noon. Several learning opportunities will take place just for middle school girls! Explore STEM fields through fun, minds-on programs. This is free but girls must register ahead of time by calling 896-5890.

FACEBOOK AUCTION

Over time the Extension Office has accumulated a collection of "Lost & Found" 4-H items that are now being auctioned off on Facebook. In some cases this has helped us find the correct owner.....but other items are still up for grabs. Our thanks to Kelly Zier for organizing this event and bids will be closed on March 8.

LEADER INFORMATION

WESTERN REGIONAL LEADER'S FORUM

It's not too late to join other leaders at the WRLF in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on March 16-18 & experience our neighbors to the North!

4-H LEADERS COUNCIL & SUP'T MEETING

Superintendents meeting & Leaders Council will be on March 9 at 6:00 pm & 7:00 pm respectively in the community room of the MSU Extension Office. Come! Help us make decisions to strengthen the 4-H program & 'Make the Best Better'. Some agenda items include:

- Finding "Fair Stuff"
  - Photographer, buyer's dinner bids, Indoor judges, setting fair 'theme', ultrasound tech, member profile
- Scholarship interview committee
- Rec Lab– Mar 31-Apr 2, 2017 in Miles City
- Council By-laws – voting on revisions

2017 STATE LEADER'S FORUM

District 4 is excited to host the 2017 State 4-H Leaders Forum in Glendive on September 29-October 1. Keep watching here for details as the Heart of Central Montana prepares to welcome you!

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

If you ever thought about hosting an international exchange student...we might just have a perfect opportunity. The Montana 4-H Center is looking for summer host families for students from Japan, Costa Rica & Finland. They're also starting to place students for the 2017-2018 academic year. Call us at 665-9770 or the state 4-H Office in Bozeman at 994-3502 for more information.

YOUTH & LEADERS LIVESTOCK FORUM

The Montana 4-H Youth & Leaders Forum will be March 24-26, 2017 in Kalispell, MT at the Red Lion Inn. There' ll many interesting workshops and presentations that will allow you to obtain new ideas & inspiration to bring back to our county.

I PLEDGE.....
My HEAD to Clearer thinking;
My HEART to Greater Loyalty;
My HANDS TO Larger Service;
and My HEALTH TO Better Living
for My club, My community My Country & My world.

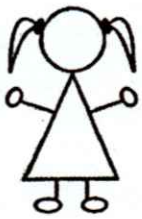
COMMUNITY SERVICE

We thank you for all the ways you find to help others around you. We hope your random acts of kindness bring YOU as much happiness as the person who receives them.

- Back Pack Project- Rec Lab 2017:

  We'll happily accept donations to help foster children in Montana. Participants in the 2017 Rec Lab will be assembling backpacks with items for youth age 0-18. If you'd like to donate & need info call 665-9770.

We know that you gain by helping others. We remind to write down your acts of community service & kindness in your 4-H record books.



CLOVERBUDS

We'll meet on Friday, March 10 at the BHC Extension Office Community Room at 2:00-3:00. We'll celebrate SPRING!

DEMO DAY RESULTS

The February 12, 2017 Demonstration Day was an afternoon of learning and presentation for 5 contestants who took part in a busy afternoon of Demos, Illustrated Talks & Public Speaking. We thank all who participated and the parents/families who supported them. Special thanks to Demo Day Chair, Daina Green for organizing this event. Our thanks also to our judges: Eileen Kern, Melissa Fisher and Brenda Hermanson for sharing their time & talents in helping our 4-H program. Please read on for the results.

Senior Division - *Trophy* Nicole Green
Junior Division *Trophy*: Brady Nordquist *Blue Ribbon*–Addison Allen, Caden Green, Aubrey Allen

PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD

For the past several years, 4-H supporters- Kelly & Leonard Zier, have sponsored an award for the individual who participates in the most county wide public speaking events. The prizes are fun incentives for our members to stretch themselves and go beyond the 'minimum requirements' of two public speaking events. Keep reaching for the stars 4-H!

TEEN TALK

Junior Leaders

Junior Leaders will meet next on March 3 at 5:00 pm at the Community Bowl for fun and business. We will have a fun time bowling & look forward to meeting with YOU!! Call Molly at 665-9770 with any questions.

2017 State Rec Lab: It's A Jungle Out There

Leaders & Youth from District 8 are looking forward to hosting the 2017 Montana Rec Lab in Miles City on March 31-April 2 and encourage you to find your wild side in the Jungle. This event is for any member ages 13 and up. The fee is $100 (by March 1) or $115 by March 13 which includes all expenses plus a t-shirt. Workshop info is available.

Loon Lake Winter Teen Camp

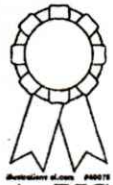
Molly Hammond, Laura Stieber, Hannah Yochum and Katie Upchurch had a ball at the Big Fork "Loon Lake" Leadership camp last month! Thank you all for going and representing Big Horn County so well.

MONTANA 4-H CONGRESS

Save the Date for Pre-Congress (July 10-12) & Montana 4-H Congress (July 12-15) in Bozeman, MT. Congress is a great time of workshops, competition, teen building and fun! This is for our older members who are of Junior Leader Age.

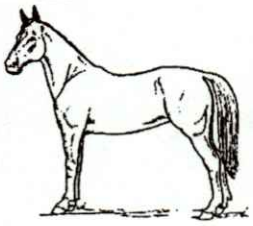
STATE AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

If you have mastered a 4-H project area or are providing leadership to younger members or provide community service or are improving your communications skills by sharing your 4-H experience…you are eligible for a Montana 4-H State Award! The state award is Montana's highest award recognizing 4-H'ers for their work in a project area that they have worked to go above & beyond their club work. Our 4-H'ers are doing amazing things with the knowledge they have learned through many years of project work. State award applications are due May 1, 2017 & winners are recognized at Montana 4-H Congress in July & are awarded a once in a life time leadership opportunity to represent Montana at National 4-H Congress in November. **A BIG reminder to our Seniors! May 5 is also the deadline for Big Horn County 4-H Scholarships.**



LOTSA HORSIN' AROUND

Horse Level Assessments



As a reminder 4H horse members will be required to do an assessment within the horse program by June 15. New members will be in level 1 until assessments are completed.

Horse Meeting

Horse leaders, youth & parents. On Monday, March 6 at 6:00 there'll be a meeting in at the BHC Extension Office to discuss changes to the horse portion of the 2018 Fair Book. A copy of these proposed changes can be sent to you by email or a hard copy can be picked up at the office. We hope you can make it! If you have questions call Molly Hammond at 665-9770.

Horse Workshop

Horse leader, La Dona Yerian is conducting a workshop for horse members on Thursday March 23rd at 6:30 pm at Hardin Middle School in Room 3. Look for sign on the window outside main door entrance. Knock and we can let you in! We will be discussing more on balance, more on equipment (saddles) and helping with your manuals.

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CONTEST DAYS!

It was passed at the September 11, 2008 4-H Leaders Council to require our 4-H members to participate in two (2) county wide PUBLIC SPEAKING events. There are four events left to complete this requirement.

The dates & events are as follows :

***Cook-Off– Friday, Apr 14, 2017**

Livestock Judging- May 27, 2107

Horse Judging June 1, 2017

BH County Fair–July 31-Aug. 5, 2017

Mark your calendars for the still upcoming events. Public speaking is a good experience for everyone & can be a spring board for older 4-H'ers to go to Montana 4-H Congress in Bozeman in July.

*Registration for cook-off was found in your February Newsletter. You can also call in your registration at 665-9770 or to get more information.

SHOOTING SPORTS STUFF

ARCHERY & AIR RIFLE SHOOTS

Indoor archery shoots are continuing at the fairgrounds on Tuesdays & Fridays. Our thanks to Duane & Laurie Wood for helping our archery members attend the Sweet Grass Archery Invitational. Our team of Cora Wood, Mesa Svedberg, Bonner Wood and Dante Pallone performed great & scored a collective 1042 out of a possible 1200 points. Way to go...all! If you're interested in the archery workshops or have questions please call Duane at 623-0098. Leaders are currently in the process of setting up additional shooting sports workshops. If you are enrolled in shooting sports you will be contacted soon.

HUNTER'S SAFETY

Hunter's safety workshops will be April 4-8, 2017 at the Hardin High School welding room. You must register online at www.fwp.mt.gov soon. **As of February 27, this class is nearly full!** You can get more info by calling Rick Kruger at 665-3040.

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SWINE PPROJECT INFO

HOG SALES!

Announcing some livestock sales that we have received notice of from various breeders. Also call Fair Sup't., Joe Purcell at 665-7662 if you're interested in 'ordering' your Fair Hog from him for your 4-H Swine Project or swine project questions.

1) Deaton Show Hogs – Helena, MT
   March 19, 2017 406-461-9317
2) Stenberg Pig Sale – March 25, 2017
   Big Timber 406-930-0405

PIGGY PHOTO OP

The Big Horn County will continue the practice of tagging your fair market hogs at home and identifying them to the Extension office with a photo showing the tagged animal by June 3, 2017.

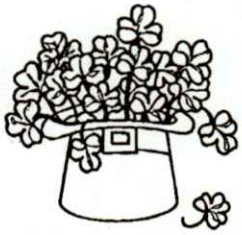
MONTANA FAIR SWINE SALE

Yellowstone County is also adopting this swine photo practice for the 2017 Montana Fair. Hogs for their fair and sale need to be entered and registered with them by May 15, 2017 with an out of county fee of $35 per animal. Questions can be answered by calling Roni Baker at 256-2828.

CLOWNING AROUND

This is for our members interested in clowning or anyone else who wants to have a fun day. Check out the Shrine Circus in Billings on March 29-April 2. There are several performances on all dates and seats are general admission. If you need ticket info or have questions call the Billings Shrine at 259-4384.

TIS BETTER BY FAR AT THE RAINBOW END TO FIND NOT GOLD BUT THE HEART OF A FRIEND!



Big Horn County Youth & 4-H Fair

Before you know it....fair will be upon us again!! Mark your calendar with these important dates

June 23.....Fair Entry deadline

July 31..... Fair Set-up

August 1.....Indoor Fair /judging & booth set-up

August 4.....Round Robin & Movie on the lawn

August 5.....Market Sale, Buyers Dinner & dance

August 6..... Clean up & check out

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAYS

Global Youth Service Day is April 21-23, 2017. Established in 1988, GYSD celebrates and mobilizes millions of young people, like our BHC 4-H members, who improve their communities through service. GYSD is the largest service event in the world and the only one dedicated to the work that youth make 365 days of the year. GYSD is celebrated each year in over 135 countries, with young people working together, individually or though organizations– to address the world's most critical issues & change their communities.

ANIMAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

Quality Assurance is a term used in animal agriculture which refers to the production of wholesome safe, high quality food. QA training is required, for members with ANY animal project. We currently have 30 members who, by the "junior/senior" age requirements, need QA training, A parent or guardian must also attend.

Upcoming Quality Assurance Trainings in Hardin & Billings are:

Mar. 14 at 6:00 at the BHC Extension Office

April 27 at 6:30 at Yellowstone Co. Location TBA

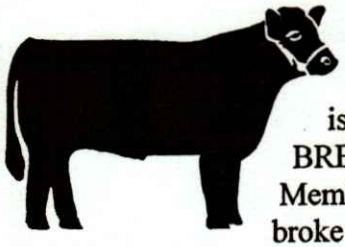
May 13 at 9:00 at PAYS – Billings

June 5 at 6:00 at the BHC Extension Office

DOG GONE IT!

Hey Dog members!! It's time to get busy with our dogs! Dog workshops will begin soon this spring at the BHC Fairgrounds. We'll start with showmanship & obedience. If you have questions please call Esther at 665-3979. Hope to see you all soon!

SHOW ME THE BEEF!



Beef Superintendent, Jennifer Hecker has set March 11 at 1:00 pm as the date and time for the 2017 Beef Weigh-in. This is for all MARKET and BREEDING Beef projects. Members must have animal halter broke to cross scale. Questions? Call Jennifer Hecker at 690-0823.

4-H ROBOTICS TRAINING

Learn about 4-H Robotics and how to build and program Lego Mindstorms EV3 robots like a pro so you can teach your club or program. This event will be in Baker, MT on March 18 from 9:00–4:00 pm. The cost is $5 and open to members age 8 and up. Call the Fallon/Carter Extension Office at 778-7110 for more information.

Letter to Fair Judge

The article has a great message for the upcoming fair.

I want to start this letter by saying thank-you. Thank-you for not picking me. You did a lot more for me than just assign me a ribbon in that simple gesture. I know you may or may not have gotten the stink eye as I was leaving the ring or heard grumbles from some of my family or friends at the end of the show, but I promise I am sincere in this thank-you.

You taught me that perfection does not exist. Showing livestock is playing one big preferential game, and that day I was not what you preferred. My stock would not fit in your operation or would not make you profitable. You taught me that every producer is different, every operation is different, and every "ideal" animal is different for those various producers and operations. You made me a more knowledgeable stockman. Thank-you for educating me on the wide scope of the livestock industry and for teaching me there is more than just one type of "ideal".

You taught me to be humble. I will not always win even if I seem to do everything perfectly. I can spend big money at a sale, walk my stock every day, feed high dollar feed, fit and wash for hours, and there will still be someone out there putting even more effort into their stock than I am. I am not the best. I will never be the best. Even the "best" is not the best at everything. That doesn't mean I should quit. That doesn't mean I'm doing everything wrong. What it does mean is that I need to continue to take constructive criticism and work harder than I was before. Thank-you for knocking me off my high horse.

You taught me how to lose. Some days we get beat and that's applicable to the real world too. Even if we eat, sleep & breath show stock, that does not guarantee a champion banner. Our performance in the ring doesn't reflect our integrity, our performance outside the ring does. No matter how bitter I am, I need to shake your hand. I need to shake the winner's hand. I may be disappointed, but I should not let that disappointment cause a bad mark on my character. Thank-you for reminding me that there's always next year.

I respect you and your decision. I may not agree with it, but I do respect it and understand it. I know I learned more from the hundreds of times I didn't win than the few times I did. I owe part of that to you and the other part to the dozens of other judges who also did not pick me. It may just have seemed like one man's opinion one day, but it left a lasting impression on my character and knowledge of the livestock industry. Thank-you again for **not** picking me.

CLUB REPORTS

Big Horn Eighty-Niners

Big Horn 89ers met on February 5th for our monthly meeting. We discussed that we have monies in our bank account. We talked about a March 9th mom meeting from 6 to 7 - food to be included. We also talked about the horse workshop at 6 at the middle school. We discussed our February birthdays & sang happy birthday. We brought up that demo day is on February 12th. We also talked about what theme would be best for our club to try to figure out a poster. Horse on Mondays & Tuesdays. Brady Nordquist

COMMUNITY HUSTLERS

The Community Hustlers met at the Marks house, January 20, 2017. Joel Van Order did a demonstration on how to make a mini catapult. Aden Van Order did one on the parts of an air rifle, and Kiana Van Order did a demo on how to make Valentine's cards. After the demos, we made Valentine's cards for veterans, and enjoyed some cookies! The next meeting will be held on February 24 at the Congregational church! Respectfully Submitted, Kiana Van Order

The Community Hustlers met on February 24. Pledges were said and secretary's minutes were passed. There were 17 people present. Treasurer's report & others were given. We decided to do a self-defense class in March. We discussed doing a bake sale and sang Happy birthday to Dallas & Toby. Announcements on the 4-H Council, Beef Weigh-in, different public speaking events & QA were heard. Katie gave a demo on her Arduino computer. Caleb showed us how to make a paper airplane. Myah gave a talk on horse bits. Refreshments were served by the Van Order & Mark families. We played a chair game. Our next meeting will be held on March 10. Hannah Mark, Secretary

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Molly Hammond

Molly Hammond
MSU/ BHC Extension Agent

~ March 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 BHC Fair board 7:00 pm	2	3 Jr . leaders BOWLING 5:00 pm **archery**	4
5	6 **Horse meeting**	7 **archery**	8	9 **Sup't 6 pm Council 7 pm**	10 Cloverbuds **archery**	11Beef Weigh-in Hardin 1:00
12 Daylight Savings Begins	13	14 QA 6:00 **BHC Ext Office archery**	15	16 WRLF Alberta, CANADA March 16-18	17 St. Patty's Day **archery**	18 Robotics Workshop Baker, MT
19	20 First day of Spring	21 **archery**	22	23 **Horse workshop**	24 4-H Horse & Livestock Forum Kalispell	25
264-H Horse & Livestock Forum Kalispell 3/24-26	27	28 **archery**	29 **Nat'l 4-H Conference Washington DC 3/25-30**	30	31 **Rec Lab Miles City Mar 31-Apr 2 archery**	

~ April 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 April Fool's Day Girls –n- Science
2	3	4 **archery** Dog Fairgrounds 6:00 pm	5 BHC Fair board 7pm	6	7 **archery**	8
9	10	11 archery Dog Fairgrounds 6:00 pm	12	13	14 Cook-Off **Cloverbuds 2:00**	15
16	17	18 **archery**	19	20 **Blood Drive**	21 **archery**	22 Global Youth Service Days April 21-23
23	24 National Volunteer Week April 23–29	25 archery Dog Fairgrounds 6:00 pm	26	27	28 **Archery**	29
30						