



EXTENSION

Clover Chatter

January 1, 2012

Dear 4-H Members, Leaders and Parents,
Happy New Year from the Richland County Extension Office!

It has been a very busy couple of months in Richland County 4-H! We have had many fun activities including a Winter Fun Day hosted by the Junior Leaders. I would like to thank all of the junior leaders and the adult leaders who helped make the evening a success. I hope all the 4-H members who participated enjoyed the workshops.

Reminders

Exec. Council Mtg

February 6th
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Shooting Sports

February 11th

Demo/Speech Mtg

February 6th
More Details, Page 2

Feed Yard Talk

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People Parnter

Grant

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Rec Lab

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Literature

Literature is ready,
please stop by the office
to pick your club's up.

On December 29th, 121 4-H beef were weighed in to represent 78 4-H market beef projects. That is an amazing number of 4-H beef. I would like to commend everyone for doing a good job completing their paperwork. Now the real work begins, I challenge each and every market beef project member to get to work halter breaking and feeding their steers. With the warm weather we are having, I hope each and every one of you is taking advantage and working with your steers as much as possible. With the number of animals that will be coming to the fair, the livestock committee will have zero tolerance for wild and unruly animals at the fair. Please keep that in mind as you work with your animals. If you have any questions, please let me know.

I would also like to thank everyone who participating in the Market Quality Assurance Training. If you missed this training, there will be another in the spring. I would also like to congratulate Nettie Johnson and Jordan Baxter for winning their divisions at the Livestock Judging Contest. Thank you so much to all the leaders and parents who assisted with the weigh in, MQA training and judging contest!!

At the last Livestock Committee meeting we discussed many fair related topics. There are some changes that the youth exhibiting livestock need to be aware of. First of all, you will only be allowed to sell two market animals at the fair. You will be required to participate in showmanship for every species of livestock you enter. All beef and dairy projects will be required to be shown in a leather show halter. We will be watching more closely this year for proper showmanship dress. Finally, just as a reminder, it is the responsibility of the 4-H exhibitor to care for, feed, wash, and be the main handler of their livestock at the fair. We realize some of the exhibitors are very young, but since 4-H is a "learning by doing" program, we would like to see the youth doing the work. If you have any questions on any of these topics, please contact the Extension Office.

If you have any information that you would like to see displayed in the newsletter or if you have any suggestions for the county website, please e-mail the info to julianne.snedigar@montana.edu.

There are many ways for you to keep updated on Richland County 4-H happenings. I update information to the Richland County Extension website every week. Please update your bookmarks to include <http://msuextension.org/richland>. Also, please check out Richland County 4-H on our blog <http://richlandcounty4h.blogspot.com> or look for us on facebook at Richland County 4-H.

All our best in 2012!

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Beef Stick Report

This year's beef stick sale was up slightly from last year. There were 2160 boxes of beef and 1548 boxes of cheese sticks sold. A big thank you goes out to everyone that helped out with unloading and organizing and to all the families who made it a success through sales.

Top 5 individual sellers:

Shaun Walla – 304
Abby Ries – 135
Tess Ler – 125
Rita Wick – 123
Brady Buxbaum - 99

Top 5 selling families:

Handy – 203
Staffanson – 140
Nevins – 93
Kunda – 93
Lein – 87

Richland County 4-H Stats

Total 4-H members 171

- 17 Clover Buds
 - 97 Junior members
 - 57 Senior members
- Total leaders 114

Top 5 projects

Market Beef
Arts & Crafts
Market Hog
Photography
Cooking

Executive Council/Livestock Committee Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 6th at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. The livestock committee will follow at 8:00 p.m. We will be discussing the rules associated with only selling two market animals at the fair.

2012 4-H Camp

4-H Camp is planned for June 25th – 27th. We are still working on getting the details at this time. Please be watching for more information in upcoming Clover Chatter newsletters. Camp Counselor applications will be mailed out to all senior 4-H members. If you plan to apply to be a counselor, please reserve March 10th and April 22nd as camp counselor training workshops. If you have any questions, please contact the Extension Office.

Project Books

The literature has arrived in the Extension Office. Organizational leaders are asked to come in and pick up their club's literature. We would like it to be handed out at the club meeting and if any literature is missing, we need to know immediately. We encourage all 4-H members to complete activities in their project books. The project books are very informative and are a great tool for completing 4-H projects

Fruit Sales & Beef and Cheese Stick Sales

We will be sending out information to all the Richland County 4-H Clubs about the upcoming Fruit Sale and Beef & Cheese Stick Sale in mid-January. The sale will be the end of February and first part of March with delivery in the end of March. The first beef and cheese stick sale this year was outstanding and we hope that this next sale will be just as good. Thank you all for your participation.



Demo/Speech Committee

Speech Day will be here before we know it. The committee for demo/speech day will be meeting on February 6th at 6:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. 4-H Leaders signed up to be on the committee are Gail Staffanson, Denise Ler, Carla Rasmussen, and Mary Johnson.

Feed Yard Talk

Upcoming Livestock Judging

Ag Days _____ TBA
 KMON _____ January 21
 Miles City _____ February 3
 DSU _____ February 3
 Beulah, ND _____ February 18
 Bowman, ND _____ February 25

If anyone is interested in attending any of these events, please contact the Extension Office or judging coach Laura Schieber asap!



Livestock Resource Materials

The office has resource material for most animal projects, including dog and rabbit. Any 4-Her is welcome to come in and make copies of any of the material we have or just want to look before purchasing your own copy, feel free. These are the \$15-\$18 manuals that are listed in the Clover.

Market Quality Assurance Training

MQA Classes will be scheduled for March or April. Information for the classes will be in the March Clover Chatter. This will be a hands-on class that will teach the essentials of livestock production. This class is required every 2 years for members to sell at the fair.

What should I be feeding my steer????

A steer should be receiving roughly 1.5 % of their body weight as rolled corn or barley. A 60% mixture of corn with barley will provide the safest source of concentrate. Although a barley ration is acceptable, it has a tendency of causing bloat if over consumed. Along with the grain, a steer should receive a good protein source containing a mineral package to meet the animals needs. Along with grain and a protein supplement, a steer needs to receive free choice hay of good quality. If an animal is not consuming all their grain, one may want to look at the amount of hay that is being consumed and limit it.

100 days prior to the fair the ration needs to be 2% of the body weight. One can add a source of fat such as corn oil to add a gloss to the hair coat. Below is a chart to see how much your animal should be receiving at 1.5% BW and 2.0%.

	Weight	500	550	600	650	700	750	800	850	900	950	1000
LB of Grain @ 1.5%	7.5	8.25	9	9.75	10.5	11.25	12	12.75	13.5	14.25	15	
LB of Grain @ 2.0%	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	

Remember, your calf will need to be finished prior to fair. Between the stress of halter breaking the animal and the heat, it is safe to say a steer needs to be “finished” by early July. And always remember, small increments of adding grain to the ration. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Selecting a Market Lamb

When selecting your market lamb you want to look for a lamb that shows signs of strong muscling through its loin area (the space from the last rib to the lamb’s flank). In addition to having a strong loin the ideal market lamb will also have well developed hind quarters. The most valuable cuts of meat come from the hind quarters and loin. Market lambs have to be structurally proper. At three-months-old the lamb should have a well-balanced skeletal system. Avoid lambs that have obvious conformation fault. An ideal weight for a market lamb is 125 pounds, so you can count back about .55 to .75lb per day (depending on your feeding program) from the fair to figure out what weight of lamb you should be at weigh in. The common range of weight is mid 60# to mid 70#, depending on frame.

Selecting a Market Hog - Check next month’s Clover Chatter.

Community Service Grants

Several years ago our 4-H Council established Community Service Grants for use by clubs in Richland County. Two \$100 grants and one \$300 grant is available via application process. Forms can be picked up at the Extension Office and are due back at the office by February 1st. Selections will be made at the February 6th Executive Council Meeting.

This is a great way for clubs to get appropriate funding to do something or some type of project to give back to the community. There have been some great projects in the past years and we look forward to seeing what great things the clubs are planning for the upcoming year.

Richland County 4-H Scholarships

All high school seniors please be aware, all the Richland County and Montana 4-H Foundation Scholarships are due April 1st.

For more information on the Montana 4-H Foundation Scholarships please visit <http://www.montana4h.org/#program:30> and for more information on the Richland County 4-H Scholarships please visit <http://msuextension.org/richland/4H/scholarship.html>.

People Partner Grants

The People Partner Grants are available from the 4-H Foundation for clubs pursuing community service projects. The grants are awarded via an application process and the amount of money available is determined by the number and types of projects approved. Forms and examples of past projects are available at the Extension Office.

There is a very short time frame for getting them completed, as they need to be postmarked no later than February 1st. Please submit them off at the Extension Office by January 30th.

Montana 4-H Rec Lab 2012

Montana 4-H Rec Lab will be in Lewistown on March 16-18th. The 2012 theme is "100 Years of Green". Rec Lab provides an opportunity for youth and adults to enhance their leadership, communication, and team building skills in an action packed and interactive setting. Rec Lab programming is designed to provide participants with tips and tricks for being a better club, camp and community leader. Registration materials can be found at the Extension Office and must be turned in to the office by February 1st. Anyone interested in chaperoning please fill out the registration form as well.

Winter Fun Day



Montana 4-H Congress Stir-Ups Contest

After Congress last year we had some 4-H members express interest in competing in the Stir-Ups Contest. If anyone is interested in competing in this event, please contact the office before February 15th. Here is the contest explanation.

PURPOSE:

The STIR-UPS event emphasizes individuality in selection of food choices.

RULES:

This should be fun and exciting. The member can be original and innovative as he/she develops his/her 4-H STIR-UPS.

WHAT IS REQUIRED:

- Member will select a recipe of his or her choice of a main dish, consistent with the guidelines prepared each year.
- With this, they will provide a notebook with explanation of his/her dinner along with the nutrition of their selected dinner and how it affects them. The notebook is to be prepared at home and turned in when the event starts. Refer to score sheet (NOTEBOOK) for contents of notebook.
- Members will prepare the dish at the cooking site. Members will also need to bring their own supplies (including bowls for mixing, ingredients, utensils and baking pans, etc.).
- Each member will put together, using a single serving, a meal that is nutritionally sound. (This will be put together on a plate and presented as it would be served to a family member or guest.)
- The member will bring whatever he/she wishes to serve on the plate with the main dish. (It can be hot or cold - feel free to use your imagination.)
- The member will prepare a one-place setting or table setting where he/she will place the finished dinner.
- The member will have 90 minutes to prepare meal, set table, present meal, and clean up his/her work area. One point per minute exceeding 90 minutes will be deducted from the members' total score. This will help to maintain a schedule and allow members an equal opportunity to utilize kitchen stations.
- Member will bring three (3) copies of recipe to the contest. They must include one copy with the notebook, place one at station while preparing meal, and the place the final copy at the place setting.

JUDGING:

The STIR-UPS event will be judged by station judging (3 sets of judges).

1. Preparation of a main course, safety and cooking area.
2. Place setting and presentation of meal - would you want to sit down and eat this meal? Selection of full meal color appeal, texture, and taste.
3. Notebook - the nutritional content of the meal you selected, how it affects you, and nutrition and cost.





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4-H: The Youth Development Program of MSU Extension

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