



EXTENSION

Clover Chatter

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IFYE Presentation

At the Executive Council Meeting on February 3, 2014, Klaire Kramer, an IFYE from Dillon Montana, will be traveling to Richland County to share her amazing story with us. Because of this presentation this meeting will be open to all who are interested youth and adults alike. IFYE, International 4-H Youth Exchange, gave Klaire the chance to travel abroad in Austria and France over the past year. Please plan on attending this meeting to learn more about the travel opportunities for 4-H youth and to support an amazing Montana 4-Her.

Klaire Kramer

Klaire graduated from Beaverhead County High School in 2011 and attended Montana State University, where she majored in graphic design. Klaire was a member of the Sagebrush and Snowdrifts 4-H clubs in Beaverhead County for nine years where she held positions of secretary, treasurer, vice president, and president. She was involved in a myriad of 4-H projects including horsemanship, market lamb, swine, archery, arts and crafts and sewing. She also competed on the county's horse judging team, qualifying for the Denver National Stock show in 2009. Klaire was also involved in her high school's band program and was an active member of the Beaverhead FFA Chapter for four years, holding offices of secretary and sentinel. She was selected to play in the National FFA Band in Indianapolis, IN in 2009 and 2010. Klaire plans to return to college in the fall to pursue an art degree. She enjoys reading, riding horses, taking long walks, and sketching.

-- Jr. Leaders Food Drive --

Calling all 4-H members!! The junior leaders have organized another food drive for the Sidney Food Bank. Food will be collected at the Extension office & must be dropped off by Friday, February 28th. Remember the food bank can only accept non-perishable food items, canned goods, and toiletry items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper etc.

Jr. Leaders

If anyone is interested in being a part of the Jr. Leaders, they meet the 2nd Sunday of every month. They meet at 6 p.m. at the Extension Office. Please contact the office if you have any more questions.



Beef Stick Report

This year's beef stick sale was up from last year. There were 1960 boxes of beef sticks, 612 boxes of smokey snack sticks and 1320 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:

Ashton Handy
Brady Buxbaum
Tess Ler
Bonny Krogedal
Beth McMillen

Top 5 selling families:

Alex & Allyson Young
Kunda
Colgan
Heather Nevins
Wright

Richland County 4-H Stats

Total 4-H members 170

- 13 Clover Buds
- 92 Junior members
- 65 Senior members

Total leaders 119

Top 5 projects

Market Beef
Arts & Crafts
Market Hog
Photography
Quilting

Executive Council/Livestock Committee Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for February 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. The livestock committee will follow at 8:00 p.m.

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 February. The sale will be the end of February through the 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.

Shooting Sports

Shooting Sports for the year will be held at the Richland County Fairgrounds Event Center. Pre-registration will be due the Wednesday prior to the shoot. The remaining shooting dates are as follows: February 8th, March 8th, April 12th and May 10th.

Greytak Calendars

We still have about twenty 2014 Greytak Calendars available at the Extension Office. Don Greytak, a pencil artist from Havre Montana, every year creates a year full of wonderful rural Americana scenes that are then compiled into a one of a kind calendar. The calendars are \$10.00 and can be picked up at the office.

Demo/Speech Day

A tentative date for Demonstration and Speech day has been set. The date chosen is April 13th, at 2:00 p.m. This event is still in the planning stages and the committee will be getting together to plan and discuss details. There will be more information in the March Clover Chatter.

Shooting Sports Training

There is a Shooting Sports training planned for January 24-25th in the Forsyth/Colstrip Area. Please contact the office if you are interested in attending.



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 **January 31, 2014**. Selections will be made at the February 3rd 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.

4-H Scholarships

It is never too early to start planning for the future, all senior 4-H members who will be graduating this year are encouraged to apply for the scholarships that are available at the state level and locally. The deadline for both the State 4-H and Richland County 4-H Scholarships will be April 1, 2014. To view the list of scholarships available through the Montana 4-H Foundation go to the state website at www.montana4h.org. If you would like a copy of the Richland County Scholarship please contact the office.

Montana to Host 1st Annual 4-H Western Heritage Project Conference and Invitational Shoot

Although this is the same time as the Richland County Fair and Rodeo, I just wanted to take the time to pass along this information, to show the strides that this Montana 4-H project is making.

The 4-H Western Heritage Project has grown nationally and a multi-state conference has been planned in Virginia City, MT this summer. Anyone interested in the project can attend the event on July 30-August 2.



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.

The application deadline for these grants is February 1, 2014. To apply go to the State 4-H website at www.montana4h.org.

Montana 4-H Rec Lab 2013

District 5 will host the 2014 Montana 4-H Rec Lab in Butte, April 4-6, 2014. The theme is "Catching Fire in the 4-H Spirit." 4-H fires will burn with leadership, your enthusiasm will rise, and your love for 4-H will live on. The event is open to participants age 14-19.

Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt for 4-H Youth

Montana State University is initiating a Montana Saves program during 2013 and 2014. One educational opportunity, the Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt, has been especially designed for youth ages 14 to 19. Youth who complete the hunt will be eligible for a drawing for one of 31 cash awards of \$100 during America Saves week February 24-March 1, 2014. The cash awards are courtesy of The First Interstate BancSystem Foundation and Montana Credit Unions for Community Development. Youth have until February 15, 2014, to complete the scavenger hunt. The ten activities do not have to be completed all at one time.

To start the hunt go to the website www.msuextension.org/montanasavesscavengerhunt. Click the continue button at the bottom of the screen. Under "Is this your first time here?" click new account. Complete each field; make a note of your username and password, then click "Create my new account." Once you receive the email, click the link in the email message and begin your Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt. If you have any further questions please contact the office.

WRLF

Registration is open NOW!

Join Montana 4-H as we welcome the Western Region Leaders' Forum to Billings in March 2014. Agents, staff and volunteers are hard at work planning a conference that will help you to "Discover the Past. Present. Possibilities of 4-H".

Participants will enjoy a first class conference facility and hotel accommodations, national speakers, local entertainment and over 60 informational workshops. WRLF is an exciting time to network with peers from across the region sharing ideas and building relationships to carry 4-H into the future. The dates of this event are March 27-30th, 2014.

Regular Registration \$305
January 1- February 15, 2014
Late Registration \$355
February 16- February 28, 2014

Scholarships Available for First-Time WRLF Attendees!

The Montana 4-H Council is providing 40 scholarships for \$100 each to first time attendees from Montana to WRLF! To be eligible, your county must have paid dues to the Council for 2013-2014. A random drawing will take place with all applicants following the close of registration. To qualify, you must be a current adult 4-H volunteer who has completed WRLF registration, turned in a scholarship application (available at: <http://montana4h.org/#program:45>), and paid the registration fee. Awardees will be reimbursed following the forum. This is a great opportunity to come learn, laugh, and mingle with other 4-H adult and youth leaders from all across the western states!

"Teen Track" Available at 2014 Leaders' Forum

The teen track is an optional educational opportunity for youth ages 14-19 participating in Western Regional 4-H Leaders Forum. Participants must pre-register. Please choose TEEN TRACK when registering. There is no additional cost to participate. If there are no specific teen activities, then youth are expected to select workshops and participate in other activities with all the other forum participants.

For more information on WRLF visit the WRLF website www.wrlf2014.com

STEM in 4-H

The 4-H Science Team is encouraging Montana 4-H Agents and Leaders to apply for a mini-grant to implement Science Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in the 4-H program. There is \$700 available for these mini-grants. Awards will be based on the number of applications received. Average grant amounts may be \$200. If you are interested in applying for one of these, please contact the office for additional information and application. The **postmarked** deadline of February 28.



National Conference

At National 4-H Congress delegates will have an opportunity to increase knowledge, resources and skills that will empower them to make an impact on their community in a meaningful and genuine way. The Conference is the premier civic engagement opportunity for 4-H members from 15-19 years in age. The Conference is held in Washington, DC, April 5-10, 2014. There are four scholarships available through the 4-H Center for youth who wish to attend this event. The cost is roughly \$1,500-1,700. **The application deadline for this event is February 1, 2014.** To apply go to the Montana 4-H website at www.montana4h.org. If you have any further questions please contact the office.

Feed Yard Talk

Upcoming Livestock Judging

Black Hills Stock Show _____ February 1
 DSU _____ February 1
 Miles City Bull Show _____ February 7
 Bowman, ND _____ February 23
 Beulah, ND _____ March 1

If anyone is interested in attending any of these events, please contact judging coach, Laura Schieber, at 482-6317 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

There will be two MQA trainings scheduled this year. We are working on putting one together for late February - early March. Another one will be held in the spring, possibly in conjunction with hog & sheep weigh-in.

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.

MSU Extension and MSGA announce 2013 Steer of Merit certifications



L to R, Lane Brush (Madison County), Randy Kramer (Carbon County), Kayla Sylvia (Lewis and Clark County), Shelbie Oblander (Yellowstone County), Ty Handy (Richland County), and Rachel Endecott (MSU Extension)]

Montana State University Extension and the Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) distinguished 135 “Steers of Merit” out of over 900 entries for 2013. Out of 775 steers entered in the Carcass Division, 111 were deemed Steers of Merit. In the Ultrasound Division, 24 out of 141 entries received the distinction.

The top five steer entries in the Ultrasound Division were: 1) Mackenzie Lepley, Yellowstone County (breeder unknown); 2) Ty Handy, Richland County (Larry & Lauri Handy, breeder); 3) Brielle Gorder, Richland County (Allen Gasho, breeder); 4) Shelbie Oblander, Yellowstone County (Pam & Dale Bilyeu, breeder); and 5) Jalyssa Gorder, Richland County (Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch, breeder).

The Montana Steer of Merit program was initiated in 1967 as a joint effort between the Montana Stockgrowers Association and Montana State University Extension. The program was designed to measure, record, and improve carcass characteristics in beef cattle. Data from these carcasses has been summarized and analyzed statistically. Over time, significant increases have been made in quality grade and in yield grade, or cutability, indicating that cattle can be selected for leaner carcasses with higher cutability and still maintain high quality grade as reflected by marbling.

To be designated a Steer of Merit, carcasses are evaluated by a qualified individual using information that relates to yield of lean meat and eating quality. Beef carcasses must meet criteria set by the Steer of Merit Committee in the areas of hot carcass weight, dressing percent, fat thickness over 12th rib (back fat), total rib eye area, yield grade, percent cutability, and quality grade. Computer software programs help compile data and rank carcasses for state and county awards. Data is also analyzed periodically to track genetic and feed management progress. The minimum standards for Steer of Merit are reviewed each year and the program is updated to meet the changing industry standards.

MT 4-H Volunteer Excellence Webinars

Join other volunteers across the state in virtual seminars to learn new skills and concepts to use in your club, project, committee or county. You can participate in the seminars from the comfort of your home or office. The following virtual seminars have currently been scheduled:

Vibrant Youth Groups - Feb 17th - 5:30-6:00 p.m. Is your club stuck in a rut and need some ideas to re-energize and create a more vibrant atmosphere? We will discuss the qualities of a positive vibrant club environment.

#Safety -Using Social Media in 4-H Youth Development - April 21st - 5:30-6:00 p.m. Are you unsure if you should friend a 4-H member on Facebook? Learn how social media can be an effective tool to reach you while protecting their privacy.

Applying the 4-H Essential Elements - May TBD

To register and for more details about each event to to www.montana4h.org/#program:56



2013-14 RICHLAND COUNTY 4-H CALENDAR



October 2013

7 Ex. Council/Liv. Committee - 7 p.m.
6-12 National 4-H Week
17-19 Ambassador Fall Training
12 Livestock Judging

November

1-15 Christmas Beef Stick Sale
4 Leaders Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
9 Shooting Sports 9 a.m.
9 4-H Crafts Day, 1 p.m.
10 Achievement Day

December

1 Greytak Calendar Sale
2 Ex. Council/Liv. Committee - 7 p.m.
14 Shooting Sports 9 a.m.
28 Weigh Market Beef Projects

January 2014

1 Citizenship Washington Apps. Due
6 Leaders Supper
9-10 Ag Days
11 Shooting Sports 9 a.m.
21-22 Legislative Breakfast
30 People Partner Grants Due

February

3 Ex. Council/Liv Committee - 7 p.m.
8 Shooting Sports - 9 a.m.

March

2-4 Citizenship Seminar
3 Leaders Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
8 Shooting Sports - 9 a.m.
31 Project Add/Drop Deadline
TBA Fruit Sale

April

1 All Scholarship Apps Due
7 Ex. Council/Liv Committee - 7 p.m.
12 Shooting Sports - 9 a.m.
13 Speech/Demonstration Day - 2 p.m.
TBA Hog and Sheep Weigh Day

May

5 Leaders Meeting - 7 p.m.
TBA Fashion Revue
10 Shooting Sports 9 a.m. (if needed)

June

2 Ex. Council/Liv Committee - 7 p.m.
TBA 4-H Camp
30 Leader's Meeting - 7 p.m.

July

5-7 Pre-Congress - Bozeman
8-11 State 4-H Congress - Bozeman
18 Fair Entries Due
29 Entry Day
30 - August 2 Richland County Fair

August

6 Lamb & Hog Carcass Show
TBA Jr. Trip

September

8 Leaders Meeting - Elections- 7 p.m.
TBA Keith Steinbeisser Memorial Judging

October

6 Ex. Council/Liv Committee - 7 p.m.
5-11 National 4-H Week

Check our site for updates:

<http://msuextension.org/richland/4-H.html>

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

