



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

*Clover
Chatter*

Reminders

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Record Book Help Time

As many of you know, Record Books can be a pain to deal with if we leave them until the last minute to complete. This year we will be implementing Record Book Help Time. Once a month from 3-5 at the Extension Office, Josie will be available to help any and all 4-H Members work on their record books. This is the time to come work on your book and ask any questions that you may have. This is not mandatory, but is a great opportunity to stay up to date with your record book.

Record Book Help Time Dates

March 20

April 17

May 15

June 19

Spring Sewing Patterns

We have the new spring catalog for patterns and will be placing an order on February 6th. Please contact the Extension Office if you're interested in purchasing any. These are Simplicity patterns and at only \$1.00, quite a bargain. These can be viewed at the Simplicity website under classroom & free projects, then to the teacher's kit, and then browse patterns.

Jr. Leaders

The Junior Leaders are currently conducting two Community Service projects that can involve all of you! The first project is going to be a door to door food drive on February 15th, if you or your club would like to donate any non perishable food items please deliver them to a Jr. Leader or the Extension Office before February 15th. The Jr. Leaders will be delivering the food items to the local food bank that day.

The next project that they are working on is going to be a year long project. Through out the 4-H year, the Jr. Leaders will be collecting pop tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House in Billings, MT. If you are a club member would like to start collecting them and deliver them to a Jr. Leader or the Extension Office it would be much appreciated. This project will end at the Fair.

If anyone is interested in being a part of the Jr. Leaders, they meet the 3rd 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 2124 boxes of beef sticks, 792 boxes of smokey snack sticks and 1397 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:

Tess Ler
Sierra Osborne
Beth McMillen
Ashton Handy
Ben Carlsen

Top 5 selling families:

Wright
Ally & Alex Young
Buxbaum
Kolton & CJ Nevins
Kunda

Richland County 4-H Stats

Total 4-H members 214

- 27 Clover Buds
- 120 Junior members
- 67 Senior members

Total leaders 132

Top 5 projects

Market Beef
Arts & Crafts
Photography
Market Hog
Cooking

Demo/Speech Day

The date for Demonstration and Speech day has been set. The date chosen is March 22nd, 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. Look for more information from your club leader and the March Clover Chatter.

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 14th, March 14th, April 11th and May 9th. In February we will be covering archery, in March pistols, in April shotguns and May will be a make up day and a fun shoot.

Executive Council/Livestock Committee Meeting Change

Due to scheduling conflicts the February meeting date was changed. The new meeting date is **WEDNESDAY** February 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. The livestock committee will follow at 8:00 p.m.

Greytak Calendars

We still have about eleven 2015 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.

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 30th, 2015**. Selections will be made at the February 4th 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, 2015. 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 4-H Rec Lab 2015

Save the Date! Rec Lab for 2015 will be March 27-29, 2015 in Livingston, MT. Rec Lab is open to 4-H members who are 13-19 old as of October 1, 2014. The theme this year is 4-H Bonanza: Striking it Rich in 4-H. The Ponderosa was a 600,000 acre ranch where the Cartwright family became wealthy through the ups and downs of living in the old west. 4-Hers will strike it rich by mining for leadership skills or logging for new ideas to take back to their clubs. Some of them may even round up new project ideas. Make sure not to miss out on this adventure. Registration will open February 2nd and close March 9th. For more details and registration paper work contact the office.

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, 2015. To apply go to the State 4-H website at www.montana4h.org.

Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt for 4-H Youth

Montana State University Extension is offering two Montana Saves Scavenger Hunts as a part of the America Saves program during 2014-2015. The hunts are specifically designed for two age groups: 11-14 and 15-19. Youth will learn about the benefits saving and investing, how credit can be a friend for foe, and how to be in control of their money. Students who complete the Montana Saves Scavenger Hunt are eligible for a drawing for one of 33 cash awards of \$100 in each age group during America Saves week February 23-27, 2015. The 66 cash awards for Montana students are courtesy of: First Interstate BancSystem Foundation, Montana Credit Unions for Community Development, Montana Consumer Protection Division, Office of Attorney General, Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA) Legacy Foundation, Montana Bankers Association Education Endowment Fund of the Montana Community Foundation and the Montana 4-H Foundation.

Students have until February 20, 2015, to finish the 9 hunts and print their certificate.

The Montana Saves Website has a link to the enrollment directions: <http://www.montanasaves.org/> or youth can go directly to the site for his/her age group. The website for the hunt for ages 11-14 (as of September 1, 2014) is: www.msuxtension.org/montanasavesscavengerhunt1 The website for the hunt for ages 15-19 (as of September 1, 2014) is: www.msuxtension.org/montanasavesscavengerhunt2.

Western Regional 4-H Leaders e-Forum 2015

Oregon 4-H is hosting the first ever Western Regional 4-H Leaders e-Forum (WRLF) as a virtual learning experience. They are providing three virtual educational experiences for groups of volunteers and staff to gather and learn together. All events begin at 7:30 MST.

Tuesday, January 27th – Youth Connect: At Great Meetings
Thursday, February 12th – Widening the Circle: Special Connections
Monday, March 2nd – Youth Connecting in Your Community

The e-Forum is designed for a group to join together to view the webinar and take part in interactive discussion and activities.

Additional information and promotional materials can be found at; <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/wrlf2015>.

If you have questions about the application process or the event, contact Allison Kosto at allison.kosto@montana.edu.

Upcoming Montana 4-H Volunteer Excellence Webinars

For the second year, the Montana 4-H Center for Youth Development is pleased to offer the Montana 4-H Volunteer Excellence Webinar Series. This year we have many guest speakers on a variety of topics. The objective of the webinars is to provide a virtual educational experience for 4-H volunteers, youth or staff to gain new skills and explore concepts to help build a positive youth development environment embracing belonging, mastery, independence and generosity.

There is no cost to participate. Registration is required to access webinar. If you have any questions, please contact Allison Kosto. Additional information and registration can be found at www.montana4h.org/#program:56.

Title	Date	Description	Presenter
Life Skills at the 4-H Livestock Sale	2/10/15 7:30 pm	It's easy to get swept away in the competition for grand champion and selling an animal at the Fair. However, through 4-H livestock projects youth are learning a magnitude of life skills such as responsibility, record keeping, sportsmanship, goal setting and problem solving. This webinar will focus on developing skills in youth livestock projects and strategies to make these projects more than just showing and selling an animal.	Todd Kesner Interim 4-H Director
Managing Risk: What I Need to Know as a 4-H Volunteer	3/18/15 7:30pm	Risk management is a critical element of all 4-H youth development programs. It provides assurances that planning for participant safety has been addressed. Risk management aims to minimize negative outcomes of unexpected events. This webinar will present tools to manage and assess risk and address situations related to 4-H event planning.	Allison Kosto 4-H Assoc. Specialist Brett Schomer 4-H Prog. Coordinator

Feed Yard Talk

Upcoming Livestock Judging

Black Hills Stock Show _____	January 31
DSU _____	February 7
Miles City Bull Show _____	February 6
Bowman, ND _____	February 21
Beulah, ND _____	February 28

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.

Horse Committee Meeting

The Horse Program members are hosting a workshop, the 3rd Sunday of every month. This is an open invitation to ALL 4-H Members of Richland County to attend our workshops!!! The workshops will be held at 4:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. Hope to see you there!!!

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.

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

