



Important Reminders

March 1, 2012

Dear 4-H Members, Leaders and Parents,

The countdown to fair has begun. In just 5 short months, the 2012 Richland County Fair will be here. I hope you all are busy working on your 4-H projects and filling in your record books as you go. There still are a couple families that have not picked up their 4-H literature from the office. Please stop in as soon as you get a chance so you have those project books to help you.

Right now the fruit sale and the beef and cheese stick sale is in full swing. Remember every 4-H family needs to participate in this fundraiser. If you need more order forms, please call the office and we will e-mail those to you. Please turn all your orders in to you 4-H club organizational leader by March 9th. All orders need to be in to the Extension Office by noon on March 12th. Delivery will be March 29th at the county shop.

Congratulations to the Three Buttes 4-H club for winning the \$300 community service grant sponsored by the 4-H Council. Congratulations also to the Lambert Hi-Liters and the Bronson Farmhands for each winning a \$100 community service grant from the 4-H Council.

Just as a reminder, there are 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. When you enter your livestock, you need to tell Juli which two animals you will be selling. The minimum weight for market labs is 110 pounds and the minimum weight for market hogs is 220 pounds. Also, if you exhibit a market hog that weighs more than 300 pounds, you may only sell 300 pounds. 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.

One last thing, the final date to add or drop a 4-H project this year is March 30th. Please let the office know before that date of any changes in your projects.

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.

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Fruit Sale Ends

March 9th
More details, Page 2

Sewing Workshop

March 10th, 10:00 a.m.
Library Basement; Page 3

Rec Lab

March 16-18th
More Details, Page 3

Speech/Demo Contest

April 15, 2012
More Details, Page 6

Fruit Delivery

March 29, 2012

Exec/Livestock Council

April 2, 2012, 7:00/8:00
More Details, Page 7

Shooting Sports

March 17th & April 7, 2012
More Details, Page 3

Fruit Money Due

April 6, 2012

Hog & Sheep Weigh-in

April 26, 2012
More Details, Page 7

Leader's Meeting

May 7, 2012
More Details, Page 2

Jr Leader's Fundraiser

Date TBA
More Details, Page 2



Don't Forget the last day to Drop or Add Projects is March 30th!

Exec. Council / Livestock Meetings

The next Executive Council meeting is scheduled for April 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. The Livestock Committee will meet following the Executive Meeting at 8:00 p.m. We will be discussing this year's fair, so don't miss this one!

Leader's Meeting May 7th

Our next scheduled Leaders Meeting will be on Monday, May 7th beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. Plans for summer activities and Fair will be the main focus. Please make plans to have your club represented!



Fair Book Meeting

There will be a fair book meeting April 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. All departments need to have any changes to the office prior to this meeting or be in attendance.



Food Booth Schedule

Food Booth Sign up will be held after the May Leaders meeting on May 7th. We will be signing up as clubs after the regular meeting. **Each club will have one representative that will stay after the meeting to sign up.**

There will be eleven shifts to be filled by eleven clubs. The order of clubs picking their shift is based on last year's order, with last choosing first. A club may trade with other clubs at that time. The schedule will then be published in the May Clover Chatter to give everyone time to adjust their schedules. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, Aug 2: 4:30 - 10:00

Thursday, Aug 3: 6:30-11:30 | 11:30-4:30 | 4:30-10:00

Friday, Aug 4: 6:30-11:30 | 11:30-4:30 | 4:30-10:00

Saturday, Aug 5: 6:30-11:30 | 11:30-4:30 | 4:30-10:00

Feeling a little stressed?

Have your blood pressure checked for free at the Extension Office.

The Extension office can now offer a free blood pressure reading with an approved automated blood pressure cuff. You can take your blood pressure yourself or have one of us do it for you. Knowing your blood pressure numbers is important. High blood pressure left untreated can cause life threatening or debilitating health issues. The good news is high blood pressure can be prevented or treated.

Why are we doing this? Extension agents across Montana are participating in a blood pressure program funded by a grant from the Center for Disease Control. We are providing another location and opportunity for people to check their blood pressure, similar to drug stores or superstores. If you have questions, contact Judy at 433-1206.

Club Meeting Requirements

Just a reminder that in order to exhibit at the Fair, 4-H members must attend at least 50% of their club meetings during the year. We are at the half-way point, so you may want to check and see what your attendance record is to avoid potential problems later.

As in the past, the Council is very adamant about enforcing this requirement.

4-H Records

Keeping records is a great way to develop your skills in communicating, organizing your time, documenting events and actions, evaluating your own efforts, setting goals, solving problems and keeping track of expenses. When something important happens, WRITE IT DOWN! You're doing your records for you. It is your record of progress. Make them fun. Make them creative. Make them memorable. Add pages as you need them. Put them on your computer to make it easier to continuously add new information. Take photographs throughout the year. Select a few pertinent ones to include in your final records. Put the rest in a 4-H scrapbook.



Feed Yard Talk

MQA Trainings

An MQA training will be held for members who need their 2-year certification in conjunction with the showmanship clinic held in June, more details will follow. All 4-H members exhibiting their first market animal must attend the MQA training to be eligible for fair. If you are unsure whether you need to attend, please call the Extension Office.

Steer of Merit Standards

Hot carcass weight: 650-950 lb

Dressing percentage: 55-68%

Ribeye area: less than or equal to 17.5 sq. inches

Back fat: 0.25 - 0.60 inches

Yield grade: less than or equal to 2.99

Quality grade: Choice minus or higher

Cutability: greater than or equal to 51%

Dark Cutter: None allowed

Carcasses will be ranked using two sorts: first by price per hundred-weight, secondly by cutability.

Starter Flock Program

Are you interested in starting your own flock of sheep? The Montana Columbia Association is awarding a starter flock consisting of 4 ewes of various ages. If you are interested, please call Luanne Wallewein at 937-2775 or email her at wallywld@northerntel.net. This program is for youth ages 10-17.

Selecting a Market Hog

You may select a barrow or gilt, which may be purebred or crossbred. Gilts that are entered in breeding classes are not eligible to compete in market classes. You may show a gilt in the market class but the same gilt cannot be shown in the breeding classes. A feeder pig suitable for a project animal could weigh anywhere from 70-85 lbs. at weigh-in in April. When selecting your project, look for a healthy pig that:

- is well muscled
- has a minimal amount of back fat
- has deep, full hams
- is long, trim, and smooth
- walks free of any stiffness or lameness
- is thrifty and free of disease

Market Hog & Lamb Weigh-In

Hogs and sheep are to be weighed and tagged on ONLY Thursday, April 26th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the fairgrounds. Members may weigh 3 hogs and up to 5 lambs. Members weighing in market lambs that were purchased from a producer need to have a scrapies tag from that producer, with their premise ID number. Out of state hogs need health papers!

Lander's Hog Sale

Julie Lander will be holding a hog sale April 15th at the fairgrounds starting at 1:00 p.m. in the swine & sheep barn. There will be 100 hogs available. Call Julie with any questions at 480-3621.

Top of Dakota

The Top of Dakota show pig and lamb sale is April 17th at noon central time at the North Dakota State Fair Grounds in Minot. This is a great opportunity for members to pick up high quality show animals.

4-H Lambs for Sale

Tienna Canen, 4-H'er from Glendive, is raising lambs. According to her mother, they have dominated their county fair. Tienna can be reached at 406-377-9837 or teainacup@yahoo.com. They also have a web address - www.mahlstedtranch.com.

4-H Demonstrations Registration Form

Demonstration Helpful Hints

- Be neat and well groomed with appropriate clothing
- No T-Shirts, torn, or dirty clothing
- Ask questions following your demonstration and refer to Bulletin 5238 "Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks"
- **No set time limit for Junior Division**

- Senior Division has a 7 minute minimum and 20 minute maximum**
- Be prepared to give your demonstration twice in case you are selected as a finalist
- The top boy and girl in each Junior group will advance to the final run-off if numbers warrant

Name _____

Age _____

Club _____

Years in 4-H _____

Title of Demonstration _____

Brief Description and Time Required: _____



The event will begin at 4:00 p.m. April 15th at the Sidney High School. Participants should be present at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the event. Remember, in the Junior division blue ribbon demonstrations will receive \$5 cash reward, red \$3 and white \$1. Also, the club with the highest number of members participating will receive \$25. Blue Ribbon Senior Demonstrations will be competing for a trip to State 4-H Congress in July!

Registration Due April 11th

No late registrations will be accepted.

There will be refreshments for everyone

Plan to take part and make this our biggest Speech/Demonstration Day ever!

For members interested in participating in both Speech and Demonstration, scheduling considerations will be taken into account. Please be at the school by 4:00 p.m. so you can be ready for contest presentations.



4-H Speech Registration Form

Speech Helpful Hints

Members may choose any topic they wish. ***Jr. speeches must be 3-5 minutes in length for 8-10 year olds and 5-7 minutes for 11-13 year olds. Sr. speeches are to be 5-7 minutes long. In addition, Sr. members will be also required to present a 3 minute impromptu speech. NO VISUAL***

AIDS may be used, but note cards are acceptable.

Name _____

Age _____

Club _____

Years in 4-H _____

Title of Speech _____

Brief Description and Time Required: _____

Fruit Sale

Our 34th Annual Fruit Sale is now underway! Organizational leaders have the sheets for members. Keep in mind that **ALL ORDERS** must be turned in by your leaders by March 9th! Each club will need to turn in one sheet **by noon on March 12th** with all individual or family totals.

Remember that there are cash awards for the top 10 sellers: 5 for individuals, 5 for families and the top 3 selling clubs. As an extra incentive again this year five "mystery" people have been selected; one from Savage, Lambert, Fairview and two from Sidney. If you sell to one of these people, you will receive a \$20 bonus! So, the more contacts you make the better chance you have of earning one of these special awards. The mystery names will be announced following the sale.

Fruit will be delivered to County Road Department on March 29th at **2:00 p.m.** and **every club needs to be present to help with unloading** and to make sure all the fruit is out of the building by **5:00 p.m.** that evening.

All money needs to be turned into the Extension Office by **April 6th**. Only **ONE** check from your club will be accepted! *Any club whose check is not submitted by the due date will forfeit the club's share of the sales.* Hopefully everyone will work hard to make this year's sale a huge success!

All extra fruit will be purchased at time of pick-up and will not go toward club or member totals. Although the member will receive the premium for that box.

Rec Lab 2012

Rec Lab will be held in Lewistown, Montana, on March 16th – 18th. All 4-H members who are registered to attend need to come to a Rec Lab meeting on *March 12th at 5:30 p.m.* at the Extension Office. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Scholarship Applications Due April 1

All applications for scholarships, both county and state, are due April 1st. Scholarships available at the county level are the Ann Bauman Scholarship, the Swigart Memorial Scholarship, the Pat Whiteman Scholarship, and the Livestock Scholarship. The applications can be found on the 4-H website. <http://msuextension.org/richland/>

There are also several scholarships available through the Montana 4-H Foundation. On the state 4-H website, the applications can be found under programs. <http://montana4h.org>

Sewing Workshop

It's time to have a pajama party – and that means making a new pair for yourself. The plan is to make a pair of lounge/pajama pants. Saturday March 10, beginning at 10:00 am. at the library basement.

For more information, contact Leslie at 406-569-2020 or email at mcmillen82@wildrtc.com.

Please register by Friday by calling the Extension office at 433-1206. This is important if I have to cancel the class.

Shooting Sports, April 9th

Our last shooting sports event is scheduled for April 7th starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Event Center. Remember you must pre-register to receive your \$2!

Trap Shooting

The trap shooting year will kick off late April and continue through June. Shoots will be scheduled at the first shoot which will be in the May Clover. Typically the shoots are held Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. weather permitting. If you would like more information, please contact Tammy Dynneson.

Jr Leader Fundraiser

The Jr Leaders will once again be holding their annual dinner dance. Plans for this evening are still being made; more info will follow at a later date. All past and current 4-H members and leaders are encouraged to attend this great event. This year, it will also be open to any community member who would like to come support 4-H.

Sewing Patterns

The Simplicity spring/summer pattern packet is at the office. If you would like to order patterns for \$1.00 a piece, please stop to take a look at what is available. An order will be sent in on April 1.

Attention 4-H Members**Design The Official 2012 State 4-H Horse Show Cover**

Entries must be received in the Prairie County Extension Office postmarked no later than May 11th. Entries should include artwork and theme (not artwork alone). Please include a 4-H clover and the year 2012 in your design. Please complete the form (available at the Extension Office) and send it along with your submission to:

Prairie County Extension Office
PO Box 7
Terry, MT 59349

Contestants must be 4-H members in the State of Montana, and all entries must have a parent's signature. The winner will be notified by phone or email after May 31st. The winning design will also be used on official State 4-H Show t-shirts and sweatshirts. There is no limit on entries per person.

State 4-H Awards

4-H State Awards are given to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of 4-H members. Members who were 14 or older by October 1st, 2011, are eligible to apply. To apply for state awards in any project or area, use the Montana State 4-H Awards application which can be found at www.montana4h.org/#program:9

Winners are eligible to attend National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, GA. Contact the Extension Office for an application. May 1st, 2012 is the deadline for State Award applications.

E990 Postcards

It's time to file. The 990e-postcards need to be filed for all 4-H groups that had a gross income of less than \$50,000 last year. Please file your postcards for the 2010-2011 4-H now.

The email saying that the filing was successful should be sent to Juli and she will keep it with the groups Year-end Financial Summary and also send a copy to the State 4-H Office.

There are still a few clubs and groups that are having problems when they try to file and get an email saying they attempt to file was unsuccessful, print out the email and put send it to Juli. If you have any questions, please contact the Extension Office.

4-H CONGRESS

Were you 14 years old by October 1, 2011 and are interested in attending 4-H Congress in Bozeman this July? The following briefly describes the activities and events that are available at State 4-H Congress. Please read them carefully. Congress will take place July 10th ~ 13th, 2012.

Livestock Judging – You must be a member of the county team. A team of four may compete.

Demonstration - You must have received a blue ribbon at the County Speech and Demo Day. We may take any number of competitors.

Public Speaking - You must have received a blue ribbon at the County Speech and Demo Day. We may take any number of competitors.

Fashion Revue - You must have received a blue ribbon at the County Fashion Revue. We may take more than one participant.

Horse Judging - We may take a team of four.

Stir-Ups Contest - This is a fun, challenging food program where members plan a meal, prepare a low-fat main dish, display the meal and create a notebook. One person may attend per county. If you are interested in this program, contact Juli at the Extension Office.

Gavel Games - This is a Parliamentary Procedure Contest. Teams of four compete. If you are interested in this program, contact Juli at the Extension Office.

Quilting - Quilts judged at the Fashion Revue and Quilt Contest are eligible to attend Congress.

Horse Skill-a-Thon - A team of four can compete in this contest about horse knowledge. Contact Juli if you are interested.

Questions? Call the Extension Office at 433-1206

Montana 4-H 2012 State Leaders' Forum

"Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, Envisioning the Possibilities" is the theme for the 2012 Montana 4-H Leaders' Forum. 100 years of Montana 4-H will be celebrated at the forum on September 28th and 29th at the Holiday Inn Grand in Billings, Montana. Watch for registration materials coming out in April.

Global Youth Service Day

Global Youth Service Day™ is an annual campaign that 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 the United States in 1988, and globally in 2000, Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) is the largest service event in the world, and the only day of service dedicated to children and youth. GYSD is celebrated each year in more than 100 countries.

How to Get Involved:

Mark the dates for GYSD - April 20-22, 2012 - on your calendar and begin planning. You'll be able to register your project on the GYSD website after MLK Day in January. Youth in the U.S. can apply for a \$500 Sodexo Youth Grant to help solve the problem of childhood hunger in their community. (1 in 5 children in the U.S. are at daily risk of hunger - help make sure no kid goes hungry in America!) Learn more at www.YSA.org/grants/sodexoyouth

Request a free GYSD poster, Semester of Service calendar poster, or Semester of Service Strategy Guide. www.YSA.org/resources/request Download other planning resources at www.YSA.org/resources

Connect with one of our partners. In the U.S., find a GYSD Lead Agency or Sodexo Lead Organizer in your city or state. Around the world, find the Regional Partner organizing GYSD in your part of the world.

Teachers and students: find out how you can connect what you are already teaching and learning with a service project for GYSD. YSA's Education team is ready to help you enrich your class with a Semester of Service. Please contact us at education@ysa.org

Tell all the young people you know - and friends, colleagues, teachers, neighbors and encourage them to get involved.

IFYE Hosting

International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) delegates arrive in Montana in mid-June. Families generally host these older youth for three weeks. They come to the United States and stay for six weeks up to three months to get an in-depth look at the culture and to better understand farming and ranching practices. Families do not need to live on a farm or ranch to host. IFYEs are 19-30 years old and many come from rural backgrounds in their home countries. Some are in school and others are at the beginning of their careers.

This is a volunteer program so families are not reimbursed for hosting. Expenses should be limited to the extra cost for food and utilities related to having another person in your home. Many IFYEs understand that there will be a work component to their home stays so do not hesitate to ask them to help with farming or ranching chores.

Planning special activities is not required. While the delegates would certainly enjoy visiting one of our National Parks over the course of their stays, planning these activities is not required.

Contact Stephanie Davison at 406-994-3502, sdavison@montana.edu for more information and application materials.

