

Clover Chatter



Dear 4-H Families,

We in the office hope that the Holiday Season has been good for you. It is a great time to be with family and plan for the upcoming year. This past holiday season I have been reflecting on what 4-H means and how it fits into a person's everyday life. 4-H is a family. Many members make friends that will last a lifetime. Meetings are a time that families get together and talk about the past month of activities. I see this same friendship at county activities and would encourage everyone to become as active as possible. You will get two fold back for what you put into this program. In 4-H, we work as volunteers for the program through countless hours and weekends of work on different activities. At times we can be critical of others work, so we need to keep in mind that this is a volunteer program and all help is welcomed and appreciated.

This coming year is shaping up to be a very exciting one. We have a very active ambassador team, judging team, along with the great activities we work on every year. I am always looking for new ideas that will move the program forward. We have many new leaders in the program and would encourage you to get involved on different committees. I look forward to working with everyone in the coming year and hope that we can keep improving on the best program going.

Sincerely,

Wade Whiteman

MSU Extension Agent-Richland County

Exec/Livestock Meeting set for February 5th

The next Executive Council meeting is scheduled for February 5th at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. The Community Service Grants will be decided on at this meeting.

The Livestock Committee will meet following the Executive Meeting at 7:30 p.m. It is very important that we have a good representation of families who have members with livestock projects! The judge for the upcoming fair will be selected at that time.

IFYE Presentation in Sidney

The Montana 4-H International Foreign Youth Exchange member (IFYE) will be in Sidney on January 25th from 6-7 p.m. at the Library Basement. A food showcase of our food members projects will be the meals for the evening and Katie Hartman will be doing a presentation on her IFYE trip to Switzerland. We will need members to make their favorite dish for the evening. Everyone is invited!!!!

Katie Hartman did her exchange to Switzerland. Katie grew up in Havre where she was involved in 4-H for nine years. After high school she attended the University of Montana- Western, where she is studying for a degree in elementary education with a minor in special education. Katie went to Switzerland from June 2006 through December 2006. While there she lived with eight different families and enjoyed her time with all of them.

Important Reminders

Exec. Council Mtg.

February 5
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Community Service Grants

Due February 1
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Leathercraft Class

February 13,15
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Shooting Sports

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Jr. Leaders

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Youth Cabinet

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Steer Feeding Req.

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Feed Yard Talk

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Community Service

Project Idea's

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Community Service Grants

Several years ago our 4-H Council established Community Service Grants for use by clubs in Richland County. Two \$100 and one \$300 grants are available via application process. Forms can be picked up at the Extension Office and are due back to the office by February 1. Selections will be made at the February 5th Executive Council Meeting. This is a great way for clubs to appropriate funding to do some type of project to give back to the community. There have been some great projects in the past years and look forward to seeing what great things the clubs are planning for the upcoming year. Examples of projects are available at the office and web.

All clubs are encouraged to apply!

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 in the club boxes 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.

Cake Decorating Class

There will be no cake decorating classes until March. Watch for detail in the next clover chatter! If you have any questions please contact Denice Ler.

Shooting Sports, January 20th

Our next shooting sports events are set for Saturday, January 20th and February 10th at the West Side School Gym from 9-12. Please remember to pre-register by the Wednesday before the shoot. It is very important that you pre-register as it takes a good deal of preparation for each shoot to prepare targets. We have had some great turnouts in the Jr. and Int. division the last few shoots.

Thank you to Ben, Cole, Nathan, Wacey and Tyler for your work on the education portion of shooting sports this year. All Sr. Members are encouraged to help out.

www.richland.org/extension

Knitting Class

There will be a knitting class on February 10th from 1-3 p.m. in the library basement. Everyone is invited; you do not have to be enrolled in the knitting project to participate. Please join us, all you need is you knitting needles and yarn! For more information please contact the Extension Office or Denice Ler.

Leathercraft Workshop

There will be a leather craft workshop for members on February 13th and 15th in the Library Basement starting at 6 p.m. Members do not need to be enrolled in leather craft to attend. If you are interested in either workshops, please call the office by February 12th to pre-register. Members will need to have projects started by at that time. Leather projects can be purchased from Tandy Leather Craft through the Extension Office. We will not be working on a project together, rather help will be available to work on individual projects

Sew Much Fun-Monogram Pillow

Sara McMillen will be conducting a sewing workshop Saturday January 20 from 1 – 3 pm at the library basement. This workshop will be creating a monogrammed pillow. Supplies needed:

- 1 yd base fabric – a sturdy cotton fabric
- a small piece of contrast cotton fabric- at least 10" x 12"
- a "Letter" to appliqué – see note *
- General sewing supplies- scissors, pins, thread
- Sewing machine
- Hem gauge

For your letter that you will appliqué, find a simple font on the computer and enlarge it to about 6" - 8" – so that it will print out on one piece of paper. This needs to be done prior to coming to the class.

Please register at the extension office by the Wednesday before. An adult needs to accompany each participant. Any questions, call Sara at 406-569-2020.



Leaders Supper Thank You

A big thank you goes out to Gail Staffanson, Laurie Handy and Hannah Whiteman for helping with the Leaders supper meal. Thank you so much! It is very much appreciated.

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Jr. Leaders Meeting

The Jr. Leaders will be holding their January meeting on February 18th at 6:30p.m. The meeting will start at the Richland Rockets Hockey Dome, be sure to bring skates or money to rent skates. There will be a meeting to follow the skating.

Quilt Workshops

There may be a series of quilting workshops available if enough people are interested. If so there will be two classes offered according to skill level. If interested please call Nancy VanHook.

Feed Yard Talk

Livestock Judging Practice

For the past years the livestock judging team has done well at area contests with little training available. This is about to change. For members that attended the clinic on January 4th, that is only a taste of what is to come. I encourage members interested and serious about judging to attend the livestock practices that are coming up. There will be a clinic the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. This will help determine the team for Nile and will be mandatory that the State Congress Team attend a majority of these practice sessions. If we want to compete at a high level, we need to practice. There has never been a team in basketball, football, wrestling, volleyball, etc. to make it to State without practice. We will be meeting at 5:00 p.m. on January 18 and 6 p.m. on February 1 & 15, March 1 & 15, April 5 & 19, May 3 & 17, June 7, 21, 28 and July 5. Some times may change, so check with the office before each practice. The practice on the 18th will be at the Wick Ranch at 5:00 p.m. You the member will be **required** to have your **notes** from Ag Days reasons available and give your reasons over again. We will then be focusing on a class of cattle. If the weather is not good, we will be moving it to the Extension Office. I will make that decision on the 18th, just call the office.

MQA Class

There will be a MQA class on Saturday, January 27th at 10:00 a.m. at the Lunderby Feedlot. This will be a hands on class that will teach the essentials of livestock production. Topics covered will include proper shots, bunk management and health. Members will see a feedlot in operation along with their dairy heifer development program. This class is required every 2 years for members to sell at the fair. A second class will be offered on February 6th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Library basement. These will be the **ONLY** classes available this year.

Livestock Judging Opportunities

A livestock clinic was held in late December for members to prepare for the Ag Days Livestock Judging. The top placing for the event went to Top Reasons- Levi Helmuth, Top Junior Judge- Wyatt Handy, and Top Senior Judge- Joyce Wick who all received a very nice judging bag donated by Randy Searer. Congratulations to everyone who attended!

The Ag Days Judging Contest will be held on January 13 at the Gartner~Denowh Angus Ranch. Members must register the day of at St Matthews Center between 7:30 am and 8:30 am. The Ag Days Livestock Judging Team was decided from the December clinic and is as follows; Jr. Team: Hanna Jepsen, Wade McMillen, Taylor Searer, and Wyatt Handy, Sr. Team: Ben Johnson, Kayleen Searer, Levi Helmuth, and Joyce Wick. Any member may judge at this contest and compete for State Congress. The Congress Team will be decided by how the Sr. Members place at this event, Good Luck!!!

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Congratulations Kayleen and Amy!!!

Richland County has two members that have been accepted on the Montana Youth Cabinet. The purpose of the Youth Cabinet is to serve as an avenue for young people to provide advice and guidance to the Montana 4-H program. They are interested in recruiting a broadly representative group of teens who can help move Montana 4-H into the future as a leader in youth development organizations. Each 4-H district may have 2 youth representatives. The Cabinet will meet 4 times each year. Amy and Kayleen have done a great job on the local level and we look forward to all the great things to come. Congratulations!!!

Ambassador Team Happenings

Richland County is fortunate to have a very active Ambassador Team the last few years. Our team includes: Sr. Ambassador-Amanda VanEvery, Jr. Ambassador-Amy Redman, Perspective Ambassador-Sara McMillen and Key Leader-Holly Redman. The Ambassador team meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Footers at 11:45 a.m. Any 4-H member can attend and learn more about what they do. We cover what they have done in the past month and the plans for the next month. Some of the activities include: working with the Boys & Girls Club, county community service workshops and club workshops. If any member is interested in the Ambassador Program, please feel free to contact a member of the team.Great Job Team!

Speech Committee Meeting

Speech Day is just around the corner. The committee for speech day will be meeting on February 7th at 5 pm at the Bean Bag. I will be sending a reminder to those who have signed up, but we do need more to help.

Citizenship Washington Focus

Citizenship Washington Focus is a 4-H leadership program for members ages 15-19. The trip provides opportunities such as looking behind the scenes in our nation's capital, and meeting senators and representatives, listening to motivational speakers, workshops and attend assemblies that increase individual commitment to citizen involvement. The date of the trip is June 10-16 and the approximate cost is \$1500 per member. This will cover registration, airfare and transport/programming. A deposit of \$624 is due with the application. The costs do not cover lodging and meals for the 10th, nor do they include \$100 for personal expenses. There is some financial help available for members that are interested in this trip. If you would like an application (must be postmarked by Feb. 1st) please stop by the office and I would be more than happy to help you out with this.

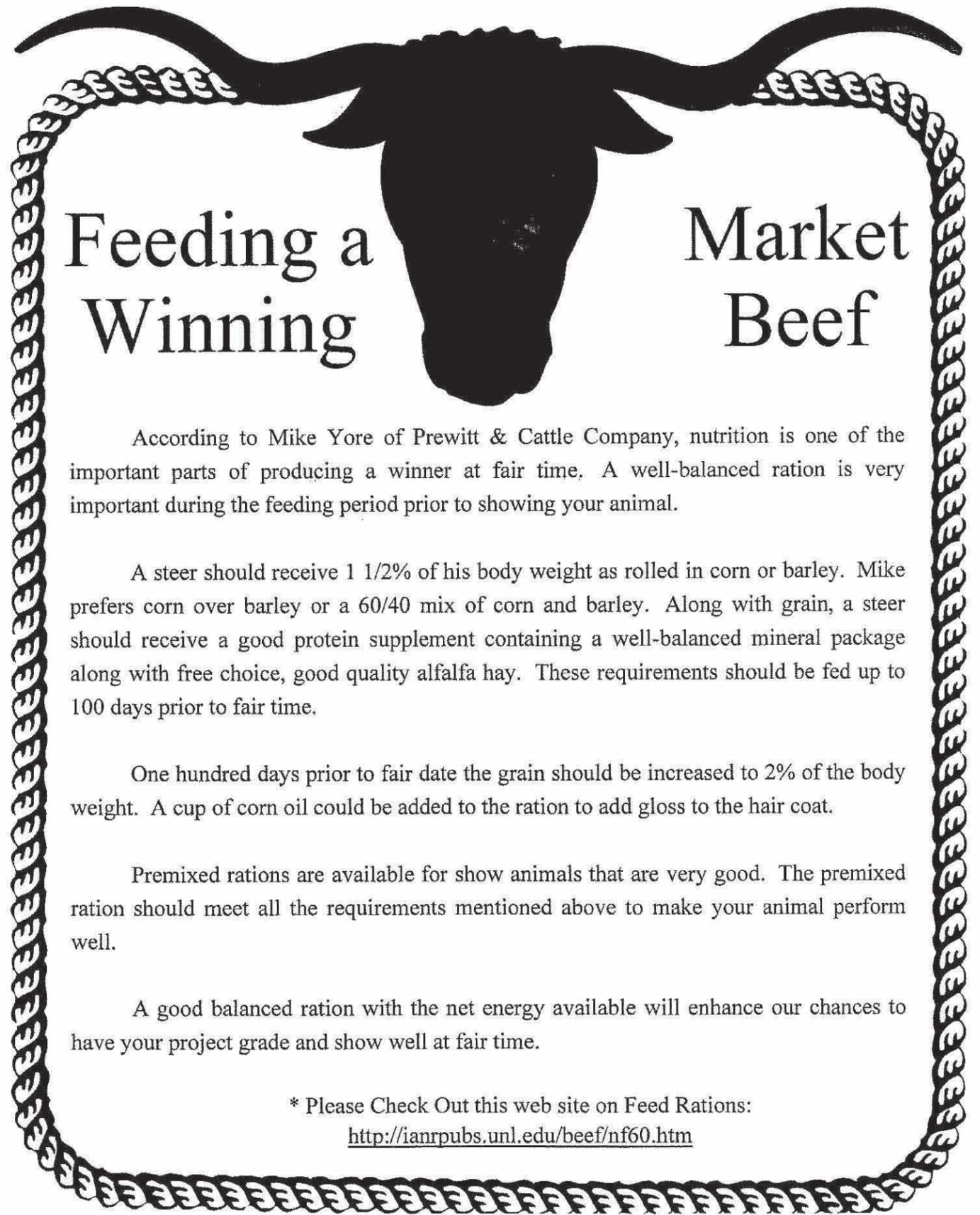
Dates to Remember

- Ag Days _____ January 12,13
- Office Closed _____ January 15
- Shooting Sports _____ January 20
- February 10
- Sewing Workshop _____ January 20
- IFYE Presentation, 6 p.m. Library _____ January 25
- MQA Dates, 10 a.m. Lunderby's _____ January 27
- 6 p.m. Library _____ February 6
- Grant Applications Due _____ February 1
- Rough Rider Livestock Judging _____ February 3
- Exec Meeting/Livestock Meeting 6:30/7:30 _____ February 5
- Knitting _____ February 10
- Leather Craft 6:00 p.m. _____ February 13 & 15
- Office Closed _____ February 19
- Ambassador Meeting, 11:45 Footers _____ Second Tuesday
- Livestock Judging Practice _____ 1st & 3rd Thursday

Community Service Projects

The local Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks would like some help. They are interested in finding a group to build nesting boxes for cavity nesting ducks such as Wood ducks, Barrow's golden eyes, common golden eyes, hooded mergansers, common mergansers and buffleheads. There is a set of plans on the web at 4-H Projects and Activities page at the following link: <http://www.richland.org/extension/4h.htm> This would be a great project for the People Partners Grant at the club level or even the county level. Matt Strozewski, local Game Warden, will be helping find the proper nesting habitat for any clubs interested.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Extension Office.



According to Mike Yore of Prewitt & Cattle Company, nutrition is one of the important parts of producing a winner at fair time. A well-balanced ration is very important during the feeding period prior to showing your animal.

A steer should receive 1 1/2% of his body weight as rolled in corn or barley. Mike prefers corn over barley or a 60/40 mix of corn and barley. Along with grain, a steer should receive a good protein supplement containing a well-balanced mineral package along with free choice, good quality alfalfa hay. These requirements should be fed up to 100 days prior to fair time.

One hundred days prior to fair date the grain should be increased to 2% of the body weight. A cup of corn oil could be added to the ration to add gloss to the hair coat.

Premixed rations are available for show animals that are very good. The premixed ration should meet all the requirements mentioned above to make your animal perform well.

A good balanced ration with the net energy available will enhance our chances to have your project grade and show well at fair time.

* Please Check Out this web site on Feed Rations:
<http://ianrpubs.unl.edu/beef/nf60.htm>