2026-2027 GALLATIN COUNTY 4-H ANIMAL PROJECTS

Beef - Market or Breeding

Project Leaders:
Annabel Morgan (406) 580-9003 zbara.morgan@gmail.com
Beef Committee gallatinbeefproject@gmail.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Meetings/Workshops vary (October - July) - Schedule in Newsletter
Must attend mandatory weigh-ins and a minimum of (4) Beef Meetings to be eligible for Fair.

Project Notes:
- Youth members must be at **least 10 years old** (age as of Oct. 1st) to participate.
- Project will be capped at **75** members

Cat

Project Leader:
Julie Oghigian (714) 206-4636 montviewlabs@yahoo.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Alpenglow Vet Hospital, Bozeman
1st Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm (Nov. - May)
No meeting in December and January

Project Notes:
- Allows Cloverbuds (ages 5-7) to join in addition to youth members ages 8+ (age as of Oct. 1st)

Dog - Obedience

Project Leader:
Jen Olser (406) 388-4789 facility@montanamurraykennels.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Montana Murray Kennels, Belgrade
Seminars/Field Trips TBD (intermittently October - April)
Dog Practices: Weekly on Wednesdays, times TBD (April-July)

Project Notes:
- Youth members must be at **least 8 years old** (age as of Oct. 1st) to participate.
- Project will be capped at **40** members

Dog - Agility

Project Leader:
Jen Olser (406) 388-4789 facility@montanamurraykennels.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Montana Murray Kennels, Belgrade
Dog Practices: Weekly on Wednesdays, times TBD (April-July)

Project Notes:
- Youth members must be at **least 8 years old** (age as of Oct. 1st) to participate.
- Youth members must have completed at least **1 year** of the Dog Obedience Project to be eligible for Dog Agility

Dairy Cow

Project Leader:
Shawna Oostema (406) 580-7819 fcclashawna@hotmail.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Primarily at the Gallatin County Extension Office
Meetings/Workshops vary (January - June) - Schedule in Newsletter

Project Notes:
- Youth members must be at **least 8 years old** (age as of Oct. 1st) to participate.

2026-2027 GALLATIN COUNTY 4-H ANIMAL PROJECTS

Dairy Goat

Project Leaders:
Lea'h MacDonald (406) 220-3556 lmk80@live.com
Rachel Colton (406) 548-1915 rachelacolton@gmail.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Meetings/Workshops vary - Schedule in Newsletter
Must attend a minimum of (4) Goat Meetings to be eligible for Fair.

Project Notes:
- Youth members must be at **least 8 years old** (age as of Oct. 1st) to participate.

Meat/Market Goat

Project Leaders:
Lea'h MacDonald (406) 220-3556 lmk80@live.com
Rachel Colton (406) 548-1915 rachelacolton@gmail.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Meetings/Workshops vary - Schedule in Newsletter
Must attend mandatory weigh-in and a minimum of (4) Goat Meetings to be eligible for Fair.

Project Notes:
- Youth members must be at **least 8 years old** (age as of Oct. 1st) to participate.

Horse - Horsemanship

Project Leader:
Horse Committee & Clinics gc4hhorse@gmail.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Varies - Schedule in Newsletter

Project Notes:
- Youth members must be at **least 8 years old** (age as of Oct. 1st) to participate.
- **All** Horse Project members must be enrolled in a Horsemanship Project (English or Western) Level if participating in any additional horse projects.

Horse - Colt to Maturity

Project Leader:
Amy Free (406) 581-4140 amymfree@gmail.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Varies - Schedule in Newsletter

Project Notes:
- Has additional member age and Horsemanship level requirements - Contact Leader for more information.

Horse - Green Horse

Project Leader:
Amy Free (406) 581-4140 amymfree@gmail.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Varies - Schedule in Newsletter

Project Notes:
- Has additional member age and Horsemanship level requirements - Contact Leader for more information.

2026-2027 GALLATIN COUNTY 4-H ANIMAL PROJECTS

Horse - Jumping & Dressage

Project Leader:
Sheila Smart (406) 539-1806 smarthorses.ss@gmail.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Varies - Schedule in Newsletter

Project Notes:
- Youth members must be at **least 8 years old** (age as of Oct. 1st) to participate.

Horse - Working Ranch Horse

Project Leader:
Dave Casto (406) 581-7969 castoconstruction@gmail.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Varies - Schedule in Newsletter

Project Notes:
- Youth members must be at **least 8 years old** (age as of Oct. 1st) to participate.

Poultry - Meat/Market or Breed/Show

Project Leaders:
Shawna Oostema (406) 580-7819 fcclashawna@hotmail.com
poultrygallatin@gmail.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Gallatin County Fairgrounds Exhibit Buildings and/or Belgrade Schools
4th Monday of each month at 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Must attend a minimum of (4) Poultry Meetings to be eligible for Fair.

Project Notes:
- Allows Cloverbuds (ages 5-7) to join in addition to youth members ages 8+ (age as of Oct. 1st) . However, Cloverbuds cannot participate in Market.
- Project will be capped at **70 youth members** (ages 8+) and **20 Cloverbud members** (ages 5-7)

Rabbit - Meat/Market or Breed/Pet

Project Leaders:
Jim Murphy (406) 946-2522 murphyjm89@gmail.com
Monica Samson (406) 399-1866 samsonwm98@gmail.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Gallatin County Fairgrounds Exhibit Buildings, Bozeman
3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00pm
Must attend a minimum of (4) Rabbit Meetings to be eligible for Fair.

Project Notes:
- Allows Cloverbuds (ages 5-7) to join in addition to youth members ages 8+ (age as of Oct. 1st) . However, Cloverbuds cannot participate in Market.

Sheep - Market or Breeding

Project Leader:
Jodi Smith (406) 580-2984 kjsmithhouse@yahoo.com
JodiLynn Kelley (512) 663-5569 jodilynnkelley08@gmail.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Meetings/Workshops vary - Schedule in Newsletter
Must attend mandatory weigh-in and a minimum of (4) Sheep Meetings to be eligible for Fair.

Project Notes:
- Youth members must be at **least 8 years old** (age as of Oct. 1st) to participate.
- Project will be capped at **50** members.

2026-2027 GALLATIN COUNTY 4-H ANIMAL PROJECTS

Swine - Market or Breeding

Project Leaders:
Merle Farrier (406) 580-8850 merle.farrier@gmail.com
Swine Committee gallatinswineproject@gmail.com

Meeting Place, Date & Time:
Meetings/Workshops vary - Schedule in Newsletter
Must attend a minimum of (4) Swine Workshops to be eligible for Fair.

Project Notes:
- Youth members must be at **least 8 years old** (age as of Oct. 1st) to participate.
- Project will be capped at **145** members.

Please Note:

The Animal Projects listed above are those that Gallatin County 4-H currently has a volunteer leader for. Projects typically meet at least once a month and activities are led/guided by that leader. Additional requirements for Animal Projects will be outlined in the annual Livestock Contract.

**At this time, Gallatin County 4-H and the Big Sky Country State Fair (Gallatin County Fair) does not offer or allow Open Class or Independent livestock/animal exhibits or shows. Therefore, if a youth member is interested in participating in an animal project or exhibiting an animal at the county fair, they must join one of the above leader-led projects and adhere to the project's requirements to be eligible.

There are over 200 projects offered in Montana 4-H - see complete Project Selection Guide here: https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/index.html.

4-H ENROLLMENT POLICY: Our county 4-H program enrollment **OPENS** October 1st and **CLOSES** January 15th each year – which means ALL youth and volunteers MUST be enrolled in 4-H and any/all projects they plan to participate in no later than January 15th, especially if planning to participate in the Fair in that project area.

Please note: some Projects have enrollment caps and/or tagging deadlines and may close prior to January 15th.