October 2026

SANDERS COUNTY 4-H DISPATCH

4-H News

Happy Birthday!



October:

2	Beneniah Turner
3	Emalyn Roofener
4	Anaelle Avilla
4	Parker McAferty
13	Jeremiah Frank
15	Loganne Curry
21	Hoyt Bangen
23	Marina Stenersen
24	Maichelle Champneys
25	Katherine Wrobleski
30	Lainey Erwin

November:

2	Kyla Warnes
7	Gavin Hafner
8	Judah Champneys
13	Tristyn Campbell
18	Quincy McClimans
20	Soren Feiro
21	Declan Finlay
28	John McNamara
29	Warren Finlay

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MSU Extension Agents: Wendy Carr & Jamie Schmidt
MSU Extension - Sanders County
1037 W. Main St.
Thompson Falls, MT 59873
(406) 827-6934

sanders@montana.edu
wendy.carr@montana.edu
jamie.schmidt1@montana.edu

montana.edu/extension/sanders/4h.html
montana.edu/extension
montana.edu/extension/4h

WELCOME TO THE NEW 4-H YEAR: 2026-2027

Happy New 4-H Year!

We are excited to begin the new 4-H Year and look forward to working with and seeing you in the coming months. As the New Year begins so does the re-enrollment process. Your Organizational Leader has all of the materials that you will need to re-enroll for the 2026-2027 4-H year if you haven't already received them. An email has also been sent out to all 4-H families that included enrollment information. Although it may seem like a lot of information and it may seem daunting to go through it all, by taking the time to review all of the materials provided by your leader and the email you will be better prepared for the 4-H year. Remember that if you have any questions do not hesitate to contact your Organizational Leader or the Extension Office. We are all here to help you have a rewarding, successful 4-H year!

Remindedr:

November 15 is the absolute latest to re-enroll.
No re-enrollments will be accepted after this date





Re-enroll Online through ZSuite!

Re-enrollment for the 2026-2027 4-H year is now open.
Please make sure to re-enroll through ZSuite using the same log-in information as last year.
4h.zsuite.org

Click on the link below for re-enrollment instructions
montana.edu/extension/4h/resources/club_resources/4henrollment/index.html
Ask your Organizational Leader for the green Enrollment Guidelines sheet for more complete detailed enrollment information if you haven't already received it.

Enrollment fees may be paid online during your enrollment through ZSuite or through your Organizational Leader and are due by **November 15.**

IMPORTANT Project Manual Info

REMINDER!

Families will be ordering their project manuals online from the MSU Extension Distribution Center using the following link:

extension-store.montana.edu/category/youth
Once you have the project books figured out (either by looking in ZSuite during enrollment or by looking in the project selection guide) you can use the search bar to enter the code. This should make it easier to find your materials.
ie: ***Bite Into Beef - BU8143*** / Just enter the letters & numbers after the project manual title. Please call the Extension Office if you have any questions!

All members are expected to journal all they do in their 4-H projects and 4-H club work in their record books. Those journals must be included in their record book. Journals may be printed from the 4-H website at:
https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/resources/project-resources/record-books/
or the Extension Office will provide members with the necessary journals (4-H Year and Project journal forms). Contact your Organizational Leader or the Extension Office if you are unable to print your own journals. Don't hesitate to contact your club leader or the Extension Office with any questions you may have.

Reiminder to 4-H Members

IF YOU WON AN AWARD AT THE FAIR OR IF YOU RECEIVE ONE AT ACHIEVEMENT DAY, PLEASE REMEMBER TO SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION TO THE DONOR WITH A THANK YOU NOTE! IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHO TO THANK PLEASE CONTACT KAREN DWYER AT TFL4067@BLACKFOOT.NET OR CALL HER AT 827-4067

DONT MISS ACHIEVEMENT DAY!

All Families are encouraged to attend.
Sunday, November 1, 2:00 pm
At the Pavilion in Plains.
(located at the Sanders County Fairgrounds)

Join the Sanders County 4-H Community to recognize and honor the 2025-2026 4-H Award recipients.

This year the South Side Sparks will be bringing desserts, and all other clubs will bring finger foods. Council will provide nachos with taco seasoned ground beef and nacho cheese.

Year end awards will be presented!

NOTE: Along with livestock awards and various other awards, awards for exhibits that were entered in the Home Ec Building at the fair will be presented at this event. If you entered an exhibit(s) in the Home Ec Building we strongly encourage you to attend Achievement Day.

Awards announced at fair can be picked up at Achievement Day.

You may be presented an award!

Thank you to the South Side Sparks for Hosting Achievement Day this year!

People Partner Grants

Does your club have ideas for improvements in your community? Would you like to make improvements at the fairgrounds? Here is an opportunity for you to apply for the funds to make it happen. The Montana 4-H Foundation awards People Partner Grants to groups and individuals for programs that enhance the quality of living for people in their communities. Now is the time to get started on paperwork. Information is available online at:
mt4hfoundation.org/grants.html

Applications open Dec. 1st and are due by February 14th
Each application is eligible for up to $500

Welding/Sewing/Quilting and Foods & Nutrition Project Members

Sanders County 4-H offers a sewing machine and microwave to an outstanding junior or senior member who applies during the Sanders County Fair. If you are interested in either of these awards you can begin now preparing yourself to qualify. Members must be enrolled in the respective project and meet the following qualifications to be eligible to win.

Qualifications include:

Sewing Machine

- Enrolled in Sewing/Quilting project
- Enter a minimum of 4 exhibits in a Sewing project or 2 exhibits in a Quilting project at the fair
- Complete an interview for exhibits submitted at the fair
- Provide updated record book project forms from the current and previous 4-H years for judges to review for growth in the project at the fair

Microwave

- Enrolled in a Food/Nutrition project at the fair
- Enter a minimum of 6 exhibits in a Food/Nutrition project at the fair
- Complete an interview for exhibits submitted at the fair
- Provide updated record book project forms from the current and previous 4-H years for judges to review for growth in the project at the fair

$100 to go towards welding gear of your choice

- Enrolled in a Welding project at the fair
- Enter a minimum of 2 exhibits in a Welding project
- Complete an interview for exhibits submitted at the fair
- Provide updated record book project forms from the current and previous 4-H years for judges to review for growth in the project at fair

Member will let the Extension staff know if they wish to be considered for this award when member checks in exhibits in the Home Ec building at the fair. Contact the Extension office with any questions!

2027 Summer Outbound Programs for 4-H Youth

This year there are 6 International Outbound summer programs available for the new 2027 program year for MT teenagers!

The countries that are available in 2027 for current 4-H members, ages 12-19 (and not in college) are:

- **Japan - 8 week:** June 9 - Aug 6 (15-18 years old)
- **Japan - 4 week:** July 7 - Aug 6 (12-18 years old)
- **Costa Rica:** June 24 - July 23 (15-18 years old)
- **South Korea**: July 7 - Aug 6 (12-18 years old)
- **Norway:** June 17 - July 17 (15-18 years old)
- **Taiwan:** June 30 - July 30 (12-18 years old)

For program eligibility & fees contact Dave Brink at:
david.brink@montana.edu / 406-822-3545

For more information visit:
states4hexchange.org/summer-outbound/

2027 Online Application Link:
https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/104148-States-4-H-International-Exchange

DATES
To Remember 2026-2027

October
26 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. – Plains, 4-H Pavilion

November
1 Achievement Day @ 2:00 pm, 4-H Pavilion, Plains
6-8 4-H Fall Leadership Training - Copper King Hotel & Convention Center, Butte, 4-H age 14+
15 ***Deadline for 2026-2027 enrollments of re-enrolling members***
17 Deadline for organizational leaders to submit any enrollment fees to Extension Office
16 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. – Plains, 4-H Pavilion
17 Club Treasurer's correspondences due to Extension Office for year-end audit along with Year-end Financial Summary report & 1% fee

December
1 Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m., 4-H Pavilion
1 Club year program plan & club officer list due to Extension Office
28 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 4-H Pavilion - Plains

January
9 Market Beef Tagging (morning tagging in HS at Stephens Ranch, afternoon tagging at Havens Arena)
25 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 4-H Pavilion

February
2 Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Minnie's Cafe, Thompson Falls
TBA State Scholarship applications due in State 4-H Office TBA State 4-H Rec Lab registration due
14 People Partner Grant applications due in State 4-H Office
TBA State 4-H Rec Lab registration due
22 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 4-H Pavilion

March
TBA Meat Raffle sales start
TBA Communication days and Stir Ups
TBA Sanders County Scholarship Applications Due
TBA Communication Finals day TBA
TBA State 4-H Rec Lab
22 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - Plains, 4-H Pavilion

April
6 Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. – Plains, 4-H Pavilion
26 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - Plains, 4-H Pavilion

May
1 State Award applications due in State 4-H Office
14 Congress Letters of Interest Due
18 Jake Legard Camp Scholarship Nomination Forms Due
24 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - Plains, 4-H Pavilion

June
2 Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. - Extension Conference Room, Thompson Falls
TBD Sheep/Goat/Swine Tagging, Sanders County Fairgrounds, Plains
10 Fashion Revue/Patchwork Parade - Plains Bible Church
15 Montana State 4-H Congress registration deadline
14-19 Multi-County 4-H Camp
28 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - Plains, 4-H Pavilion

July
1 Project Add/Drop deadline
1 FairEntry Registration Opens
1 Barn Duty Sign-Ups open
TBD Pre-Congress – Bozeman
TBD Montana State 4-H Congress – Bozeman
21 FairEntry Registration Deadline
26 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - Plains, 4-H Pavilion
29 Leader of the Year and Honorary Member Nominations Due
29 Junior Achivement and Little Chief Award Applications Due
29 Deadline to sign up for Barn Patrol

August
3 Council meeting, 6:00 p.m. – 4-H Pavilion
TBD Fishtrap Lake Family Campout
23 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., 4-H Pavilion, Plains
28 Fair Readiness Day

Sept
2-5 Sanders County Fair
12 Carcass Evaluation, Superior Meats
TBD Member record books due to Club Organizational Leader
TBD Outstanding Member County Award Nominations due to Club Organizational Leader
TBD Record book results due to Extension Office from Organizational Leader
TBD List of Outstanding Member County awards due to the Extension Office from Organizational Leaders
27 Livestock Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 4-H Pavilion

Sanders County 4-H Council Meeting
October 6, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by President Joanne at 6:01 p.m., Extension Conference Room, T Falls.
Minutes of August meeting - Accepted as presented. No changes to Agenda.
Treasurer's Report – Account in the black, awards bills coming in. Budget for 2026-2027 - up for approval in December.
Correspondence - thank you from Solveig Nygaard, scholarship recipient.
Reports

- Livestock – Fair board is considering a later hour for Sunday display removal at fair. Photographer was great, poultry processing worked. May add a miniature beef class next year; changing dairy and meat shows to be different days? Start earlier? Making the fair a day longer? Steve Spurr offered to be parking coordinator next year. Consider changing Home Ec project interview date or time for goat and horse members?
- Ambassadors – Gavin related his personal goals. Officer selection coming, will plan more dances (with swing music), another Cloverbud camp. Possible community service committee. *Terry moved to support Gavin's upcoming trip to National Congress with $200 from council; Jen seconded; motion carried.*
- Clover Cafe – Reviewed budget and results. Some funds remain from the grant. Total food expense $11,730. Proceeds $16,000 plus. Overall profit about $3500. Cost per plate – $11.22, charge to 4-H families, $10. Review complimentary tickets to superintendents. Kitchen committee has met once since fair. Discussed multi-meal tickets when some meals are not used. Please offer suggestions or input directly to Jamie, and many thanks to Jamie for her passion and time given to the Clover Café! Fair Board asked to have old 4-H pictures in the pavilion framed with captions added for year round display.
- Meat Raffle – Raised $16,587 (over $3000 at fair). Expenses, 5% to clubs for what sold; 25% to livestock committee after expenses. Consider selling at two barns at the fair.
- Awards – Jamie and Wendy are working on some adult awards. Will label outside of 2027 fair award envelopes to "turn in to Karen asap."

No Old Business
New Business

- New Club in Camas Prairie - for Camas Prairie/Lonepine/Hot Springs area. Sixteen members (six new to 4-H), officers elected, meetings third Wednesday (Oct. 21). Carrie Nieman and Michelle Bangen are leaders. Club name choices were presented to council; Country Chaos was approved.
- New countywide Project Proposal - Lacey Reinhardt from South Side Sparks presented a proposal for a new Clover Café 4-H Project envisioning a two hour meeting each month at the pavilion, learning how the café runs, farm to table, where food comes from, and serving a buyers' breakfast before the livestock sale at fair. Lacey will lead. Additional information is available at the Extension office. Approved. Project will be added to ZSuite.
- Changing Club Form was approved for adoption after *Terry's motion, Jen second, motion carried.*

(Council Minutes continued on next page)

(Council Minutes continued from previous page)

- Achievement Day, South Side Sparks will host by setting up chairs (no tables) and bringing desserts, other club families will bring finger foods. Ambassadors will lead, Josh Ekberg will speak, and barn superintendents will present awards for their individual barns, while Ambassadors will present Home Ec awards.
- Scholarship awards – can we give the funds directly to the recipients rather than sending it to the academic institution? Will research for December meeting.
- Exception to rules for members with sports – Joanne reminded Council of the importance of supporting well rounded members, therefore giving some grace for sports players.
- Nomination Committee for Council Officers is Karen.
- Donations: *Karen made a motion for Council to donate $100 to Montanans for 4-H (formerly Legislative Breakfast); Terry seconded, motion carried. Terry made a motion to donate $250 towards the new pavilion at Loon Lake; Karen seconded, motion carried.* Donations are possible because of unexpected funds raised with Kiss a Pig Contest.
- Enrollment deadline is Nov. 15 for families re-enrolling. Remember that members who have not turned in record books will not receive premium money, will not advance a year, and will be on probation (turn in a completed to date record book two weeks prior to fair in order to show an animal.)
- 4-H Year Calendar was revised and will be reviewed as the year progresses to reflect changes needed. Fair Entry date for fair projects next year is changed to July 1 to July 21.
- Juli announced a free 4-part grant writing workshop beginning October 15, sponsored by Sanders County Community Development. Further information is in the Dispatch and the Ledger.

Main meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.
Meeting continued in closed session with Executive Committee, adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Members present: President Joanne Burk, Vice-President Jen Avilla, Treasurer Terry Stephens; Courtney Frank, Sarah Dana and Kassidy Dana, Trout Creek Mavericks; Gavin Hafner, County Ambassador; Brooke Trainor-Eldridge, Thompson Falls Mountaineers; Kari Bauer and Michelle Bangen, Country Chaos; Lacey Reinhardt (ZOOM) and Juli Thurston, South Side Sparks; Wendy Carr and Jamie Schmidt, County Extension Agents; Karen Dwyer, Secretary.

Sanders County 4-H Livestock Committee
Minutes for August 24, 2026
6:30pm 4-H Pavilion, Plains

Present: Alan Hafner-Chair; Tara Browning-Vice Chair/Swine Superintendent; Terry Stephens- Council Treasurer/Secretary/HSW Club Leader; Raelyn Cox- Goat and Cat Superintendent; Presley Cox- Goat Assistant Superintendent; Wendy Carr-Extension Agent/Horse Superintendent; Juli Thurston-Sheep Superintendent; Coby Guenzler- Beef Superintendent; Jennifer Avilla- SSS Club Leader; Carrie Guenzler; Matt Havens; Celena Clarke; Courtney Frank; Sara Dana
Meeting Called to Order: 6:37 pm by Tara

Minutes from July Meeting - approved

Treasurer's Report-Terry reported that we paid for the plug at the announcer stand and had a few miscellaneous expenses related to fair. We have a balance of $2093.18.
Agenda Review:

Old Business
Fair Improvements Update
- **Outlet by announcer/clerk area in livestock arena**. This is done and the fair board agreed to pay half the cost.
- **Upgrade electrical in camping area**-nothing.
- **Microphone/speaker system in 4-H arena**- Wendy reported that we just needed a new mike for the existing system and Josh got us a new portable system that can be used for lots of events.
- Sand-this is a project for next year. The arena and stalls will both need sand added.
- Paint Horse Barn- We will do this next year.

Fair Awards/Sponsor Report
  - Money is coming in, but it's still slow. They got a few responses from the Facebook ad.
  - Green sponsorship banners- Alan will hang these Wednesday night. Tara suggested using magnetic hooks so we can hang them on the barn.

Kiss A Pig Update
- There will be buckets at fair. Winner will be announced at the start of the sale.

Kitchen Update
- The tasting day went great. Tara made videos to post online. A few of the recipes were tweaked. They will paint in the pavilion and set up everything on Saturday.
- Livestock committee will provide a 10 meal pass to each Superintendent and Assistant. Tara suggested getting food for the superintendents during weigh-in. We will get meat and cheese and fruit trays from McGowans. Carrie will pick up.

Photographer Update
- Morgan Owens will be the photographer this year. She would like example photos from each species.
  Poultry Processing Update
- Wendy talked to Christi and we can process poultry early Monday morning at the wash racks. Steve will be available to do it at 7 am.

Fair Readiness Day
- Ashley will have a table set up to hand out entry tags, parking passes, rodeo tickets, take raffle money and sell meal passes.

Facebook Ads for Market Sale
- We will try some sponsored ads on Facebook.

Skidsteer
- Studs donated the use of a skidsteer for the fair. We need people to run it. Coby and Corey can.

Dog Policy (Service Dogs)
- According to MSU, we don't have to allow service dogs in the animal barns because our animals could be considered prey to a dog. Alan made a motion to institute an absolutely no dogs in the barns rule. Jen 2nd. Motion passed. We will need signs and possibly cards with a script for all superintendents.

Premium Money Update
- The fair board gave us an additional $1000 for premium money.

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New Business

Exemption to the Rule

- A request was made by a member to purchase an additional lamb because they have ringworm in 2 of their lambs and only 1 B lamb. Alan made a motion to deny and Carrie 2nd because it is too close to fair to bring in a new animal. Motion passed.
- Terry brought up the fact that she witnessed a potentially communicable disease on a farm with 4-H animals. We will have to wait for blood work to come back before we can make a decision on what to do as far as allowing animals from the farm to show at fair.

Check in and Weigh In Assignments

- Superintendents will be in by 11

A beef member requested putting a cauldron in their stall for a Harry Potter themed decoration. It was agreed that this would be fine.

Chance (the judge) would like to have a meeting with all the project members who are showing before each show to talk about his expectations and answer any questions. He would like to have an animal to demonstrate with at each meeting.

Species Reports

- Beef- Coby would like to have a beef bowl on Thursday night and to have a practice in the ring on Friday night.
- Horse- Numbers have gone down since the start of the year. There will be 13 members at the fair.
- Poultry- Raelynn is still doing project meetings. Hannah Christienson would like to sponsor an award for poultry in honor of Gordon Cummings.
- Rabbits-Raelynn is doing project meetings. Going good. There are new rabbits this year.
- Sheep- Going good.
- Goat- All good. Kids all know their stuff. All the goats have made weight. 10 market, 8 dairy and 2 pack goats signed up.
- Swine- 1 pig died and quite a few are underweight.
- Dog- The dog show will be Sunday at 6:00.
- Cat- Going great.

Announcements

Next meeting September 28th at 6:30 at the Pavilion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY - ONLINE SERIES

MEMBERS 12+, 4-H AGE

Join Montana 4-H members from across the state for **Leadership Academy**, a series of interactive online workshops designed to help youth build skills they can use in 4-H, school, and their community.

Meeting **one Sunday each month beginning in November from 6:00 to 7:00 PM**. Leadership Academy is led by the Montana 4-H State Ambassador Officer Team and advisors. Each workshop focuses on a different leadership skill and gives youth opportunities to learn, practice, share ideas, and connect with other 4-H members.

Throughout the series, youth will **know themselves, communicate, work together, solve problems, and take action as** they grow their confidence and discover how they can make a difference.

Leadership Academy workshops can also be paired with local county leadership or ambassador meetings, giving youth an opportunity to put what they learn into action through projects that strengthen their **4-H program and community**.

Leadership Academy is open to youth of all ages, with workshop activities and content designed especially for emerging leaders ages 11–14.

KNOW YOURSELF: Self Awareness
November 1, 2026 6-7 PM
What makes you, YOU? Discover the strengths you bring to a group, what makes your leadership style unique, and one skill you want to grow.

MAKE CONNECTIONS: Communication
December 13, 2026 6-7 PM
Good leaders listen first. Put your communication skills to the test as you practice listening, asking great questions, and getting your ideas across clearly.

BETTER TOGETHER: Teamwork
January 10, 2027 6-7 PM
Good teams need everyone. Take on fun challenges while discovering how to share ideas, include others, encourage teammates, and help a group succeed.

FIGURING IT OUT: Problem Solving
February 7, 2027 6-7 PM
Be ready for anything to happen. Tackle a challenge, explore different solutions, make a plan, and learn what to do when Plan A doesn't quite work.

MAKE IT HAPPEN: Initiative
March 7, 2027 6-7 PM
Don't just have an idea, put into action. Spot an opportunity to make a difference and turn your idea into a first step you can actually take.

For additional Information and to register please use the following link:

https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/programs_and_events/academy.html

MONTANA 4-H LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Congratulations to our top meat raffle ticket sellers:

Lilamae Stephens
Samuel Clarke
Blaine Helvey
Abigail Bauer
Hannah Olson

The top Meat Raffle ticket sellers will each receive a gift card

Thanks to everyone for making the meat raffle a successful fundraiser!

Congratulations to the following members on receiving the Symbol of Excellence, Certified Lamb, Goat Carcass of Merit and Grand & Reserve awards!

Swine Symobol of Excellence

Grand Champion *-Kiya Hjorth*
Reserve Champion *- Jasmine White*
Jordan White
Hoyt Bangen
Emalyn Roofener
Luke Dana
Lainey Erwin
Jebediah Browning
Blaine Helvey
Kassidy Dana
Joshua White
Makaylyn Reinhardt
Edward Fairbank
Andrew Frank
Mariah Finlay
Anneka Turner
McCoy Newton
Declan Finlay

Certified Lamb Carcass

Grand Champion *- Hannah Olson*
Reserve Champion *- John McNamara*
Kyla Warnes
Kylie Silva

Beef Awards

Grand Champion Beef Carcass *- Gavin Hafner*
Reserve Champion Beef Carcass *- Josh Ekberg*

Goat Carcass of Merit

Grand Champion *- Arya Kifer*
Reserve Champion *- Brielle Clarke*
Adeline Havens