

JANUARY 2026



TOOLE COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER



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Hello 4-H Families!

Happy New Year!! There is a lot of information included in this month's newsletter so please be sure to read through it all.

New Year, New Goals! Project books are here and ready to be picked up in the Extension Office. Please stop by and get them so you can get a head start on working on your projects.

We are still needing a couple of Toole County Day Chairs for the Marias Fair this year. If you are interested at all, this is a paid position. If you need more information, please contact the Extension office. We cannot run the food booth without our day chairs!

The 4-H camp counselor application is included with the newsletter so be sure to check if you are eligible to be a counselor. It is so much fun and a great experience for young leaders.

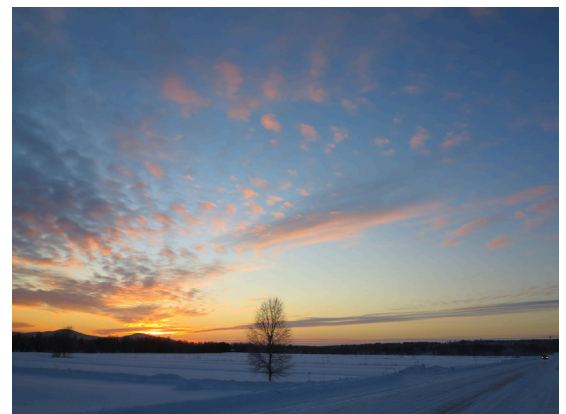
I hope you all had a relaxed holiday season and ready for the new year and new 4-H goals!

If you haven't paid for your 4-H member's registration, please remember to do so. Reminders will go out soon to those who haven't paid yet. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Kim & Jackie

TAKE A PEEK AT WHAT'S INSIDE:
UPCOMING EVENTS
GINGERBREAD HOUSES
CALENDAR



UPCOMING EVENTS

FSA Youth Ag Loans

If you are looking for a way to finance your 4-H projects for this year (or wanting to take on a larger livestock project), consider visiting with the Farm Service Agency. They recently increased the loan limit to \$10,000 and funds can be used for the purchase of animals, feed, supplies, etc. Youth between the ages of 10 and 20 are eligible. Loans are repaid annually and can be termed out for up to seven years for the purchase of breeding stock. Interest rate is 4.875%.

MRLA Free Membership

Marias River Livestock Association is now offering FREE membership to those who are members of our local 4-H & FFA!

Follow this link to join: <http://mariasriverlivestock.com/plans-pricing>

2026 Don Greytak Calendars

The Toole County Extension Office is selling Greytak Calendars. They are \$15 each! We have eight calendars left.

Livestock Committee Update

Members who show multiple market animals at the fair will be able to pay \$50/each to have those additional animals shipped with the fair animals and participate in the carcass contest, have processed meat returned on the truck, etc. Details will be firmed up as time gets closer. Example- 4-Her shows a steer and lamb, and sells the steer. They can have the lamb go on the truck, participate in the carcass contest, etc. for the \$50 fee.

Montana 4-H Leadership

Academy Monthly Zoom

Meetings, 6 - 7 p.m.

January 11 - Planning and Running a Project

Leadership Academy Monthly Workshops

Members 12+, 4-H Age, join the Montana 4-H Leadership Academy workshop on Sunday afternoons in 2025-2026 4-H year. The leadership academy is a network of Montana 4-H members interested in exploring and developing their own leadership skills while serving their county 4-H program in new ways. Each month the officer team members will present a different workshop topic that they have found to be important as they have grown their own leadership abilities. This workshop should be paired with a local county leadership meeting to work on county projects that serve the local 4-H program and community.

The workshops will be focused on basic leadership skills to get 4-H'ers more prepared as they move into larger and more demanding leadership roles, like camp counselors, teen leaders and county ambassadors.

Register for the link at https://montana.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1NR9vgT1Tw0c3xl.

4-H Horse Workshops

SAVE THE DATE FOR 4-H HORSE WORKSHOPS

Join 4-H horse for monthly beginner
horse project meetings!

All meetings will be at Glacier
County Annex in Cut Bank:

Upcoming:

- December 14 - 5:30 p.m. - Halter making with Remington and Danni Campbell
- January 11 - 5:30 p.m. - Horse vaccinations and deworming with Dr. Steven Hjartarson
- February 8 - 5:30 p.m. - Horseshoeing and trimming with Remington Winkowitsch



To participate, enroll in your local 4-H program through 4h.zsuite.org and select a beginning horse project:

- Horseless Horse - Horse is not required
- Western Horsemanship - Basics of western riding
- Working Ranch Horse - General ranch work

For more information: Glacier County Extension, 873-2239, kari.lewis@montana.edu
Thanks to Beretta Winkowitsch, teen leader, for organizing!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Montana 4-H Rec Lab - Save the Date

March 27-29, 2026- Columbus, MT

This year's Rec Lab will include a county tour and a trip to Montana Silversmith's Outlet Store. We plan to share lots of Stillwater County educational opportunities with you. More info to come!



Montana 4-H Rec Lab Workshop Proposals Needed

This year's theme: "4-H Escape: Do You Have the Skills to Unlock Your Potential?"

Bring your creativity and skills to life with a workshop that challenges participants to grow in leadership, communication, and team-building — the core of Rec Lab's mission!

Workshop proposals will be submitted through Google Forms at the link here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcMYQsAHodX-ry3QCH-U8g71JWZSvfSVSW8BS0YjvISOZIQ/viewform?usp=dialog>

Deadline to submit proposals is Monday, January 5, 2026. They have extended the deadline.

Both teens and adults (4-H volunteers, Extension professionals, community members & people from other organizations) are encouraged to submit workshop proposals. Please share with those who might be interested in presenting from your communities!

Montana 4-H Foundation Scholarship Applications - Seniors and College Students

The Montana 4-H Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for secondary education. These scholarships are available to both high school graduating seniors and current undergraduate college students.

Important Dates:

An email was sent through ZSuite on December 9, 2025.

Applications are due by February 14, 2026.

Visit: <https://www.mt4hfoundation.org/scholarships.html> and click on the "Application Platform" tab to prep materials.

Application Link:

<https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/program/Montana4HScholarship2026>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Montana 4-H Foundation People Partner Grants

The Montana 4-H Foundation is excited to announce that People Partner Grants are now open for applications! See details below as also on our website here:

<https://www.mt4hfoundation.org/grants.html> Please share with groups and individuals that may be interested.

Grant Purpose

These grants provide incentives and financial support to groups and individuals for programs that enhance the quality of living for people in their communities.

Application Deadline: February 14, each application is eligible for up to \$500.

Eligibility

4-H groups and individual members may apply. Grants are also open to non-4-H youth groups and individuals. Applications should meet the following criteria:

Youth should be involved in determining, planning, conducting, and evaluating the project.

Project will make it possible for individuals involved to accomplish something educational and worthwhile that helps the target audience reach a higher quality of life.

There is community support and acceptance of the project, as evidence by "partners" listed in the grant application, additional funding sources, and resource persons and agencies involved.

The project has lasting benefits. See grant application for more details.

Application Process

Complete the application online here:

<https://apply.mykaleidoscope.com/program/PeoplePartnerGrant2026>

Marias Fair Stadium Cup Logo Contest 2026

We are taking submissions for this year's Marias Fair Food Booth Cup Logo Submission deadline:

February 15 email, JPEG file to Lisa, lterry@montana.edu th Requirements: Must include the official 4-H Logo If including county list, must include Blackfeet Reservation, Glacier, Liberty, Pondera, and Toole Counties. Youth entries only.

Save the Date for 4-H Camp

4-H Camp will be June 24-26 in the Highwood Mountains for 4-Hers in 7th grade and under this year (no cloverbuds). Counselors will go down 6/23 to prepare. Camp Counselor application materials will be sent out with the newsletter for those senior members interested, applications will be due back Mid February so please watch for more details.

Help Needed

The Montana's Next Generation Conference is Saturday, January 31 in Shelby and typically attracts around 250 farmers and ranchers. Help is needed for various tasks that may include stuffing folders Friday morning, January 30 in Cut Bank, helping set up tables and chairs and decorating Friday afternoon in Shelby (approximately 2 - 5 p.m.), and babysitting, clean up, etc. Saturday, January 31 during the conference. Any help would be very much appreciated. It can be signed off on for community service hours or individuals can be paid for their help. Please let Kari know if you're available to help any of these times.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3D Archery Match- January 17, 2026 @PSSC 9am-5pm

The Pondera Shooting Sports Complex and Pondera 4-H Shooters invite you to come to an indoor 3D Archery Match at the Pondera Shooting Sports Complex. It is open to youth and adults. There are arm guards and fingers for youth to use at this competition.

Attached is an entry form. You can pre-register for specific times and prepay or pay on site. Time slots are first come, first served. Same day registration accepted on spaces available per time slot.

It'll be a fun time and a great way to beat winter's cabin fever.

Bring a friend and join in the fun, feel free to share with people who may be interested.

3D

ARCHERY MATCH

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JAN 17, 2026 @ PSSC

9AM-5PM

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EVERYONE WELCOME!

- 20 targets
- 5 stations
- 4 arrows per station (NO BROADHEADS)
- Youth and Adult Divisions
- Unlimited, Bowhunter, Limited, Barebow, Primitive, Olympic Recurve
- Line change every hour
- Reserve your time if you want otherwise first come first serve

Pondera Shooting Sports Club
972 Granite Rd Conrad, MT

Call Pondera Extension at 406.271.4054 or text Joel at 406.581.6243 or Brandon 406.289.0560 for sign up info.
Email ponderassc@gmail.com

YOUTH & ADULT

\$15/ENTRY
\$50 FOR 4
ENTRIES
CASH/CHECK/
CREDIT CARD



UPCOMING EVENTS

In- Person and Mail in Competition for Archery, Air Rifle and Pistol

We are hosting an In-Person and Mail In competition on Saturday, February 7th at the PSSC in Conrad. Youth may compete in person or mail in completed score sheet for archery or Orion targets for Air rifle or air pistol. Anyone needing Orion targets may request them from me or our office by email or phone. Coach Joel Farkell will have Orion targets at the Helena Competition this weekend for people who will be there.

Due to regular mail slowing down, encourage participants to plan ahead to make sure the entries, especially for the postal targets/score sheets to arrive at our office by February 6th.

We thank everyone for their past support and are looking forward to another fun event! IF anyone has questions, please reach out to me or Joel Farkell.

For scheduling questions: Pondera County Extension office - 406-271-4054 or pondera@montana.edu

For tournament information: Joel Farkell, Tournament Coordinator at 406-581-6243

Marias Fair Archery Shoot

The Marias Fair Archery Tournament/Invitational is live on Bowscore. Please see the two links below.

The Tournament is Sunday, February 1st. Be sure to read all the information before signing up.

Direct Link to Marias Fair Invitational- <https://bowscore.com/tournaments/marias-fair-invitational-2026#/>

Main Tournament page search for Marias Fair Invitational- <https://bowscore.com/tournaments#/>

A late registration fee will be added for all registrations after January 28, 2026.

On 10 AM Saturday, Feb. 28th at the Exhibit Building storage area we will need 4-6 people with pickups for chairs, tables and archery blocks. Probably helpful if people have some ratchet straps, too. Then off to the middle school to set everything up. Takes about 2 hours total. Proceeds shared between the counties who show up to help.

Also, North 40 approached Brent and they donated 4-5 prizes that will be raffled off. \$2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5. Prizes will be drawn after the awards ceremony. The money will go to one of our counties archery clubs to get archery equipment.

Marias Fair Archery Shoot Directions

Please read all directions before you register. You must choose a line time. There are two payment options: 1) Online through Bowscore with credit card payment as you register, or 2) Pay by cash or check sent to: Toole County Extension Office, Attn Kim Woodring at 226 1st Street South, Shelby, MT 59474. Please make checks payable to Blazing Arrows. You must register through Bowscore regardless of payment.

The Marias Fair Invitational shoot is for 4-H archers from across the state on February 1st, 2026. The shoot is located at 133 6th Ave S, Shelby MT, 59474 (The Old Middle School).

Please note: 4-H members in Glacier, Liberty, Pondera, and Toole Counties participating in the Fair Shoot must include payment by Wednesday, January 28th deadline. The cost is \$15 per event shot, a late registration fee will be added for all registrations after January 28, 2026. Invitational shooters (not from Pondera, Toole, Glacier, or Liberty County) can continue to register after the 28th, with a \$5 late fee will be charged (\$20 per event in total). Registration is open during the shoot based on line availability.

MARIAS FAIR ARCHERY SHOOT

Marias Fair Archery Shoot Directions Continued

Marias Fair competitors (Glacier, Liberty, Toole, and Pondera County archers) MUST COMPLETE an INTERVIEW to receive awards. Registration and payment for Marias Fair competitors is due by January 28th, NO EXCEPTIONS!! Late registration is not allowed for Marias Fair shooters, but you may register for the invitational along with the other counties after the 28th and will not be eligible for Marias Fair awards.

Please arrive to check in a half hour before shooting time or sooner.

Competitor's age is calculated as of October 1, 2025.

General: No flash photography during rounds. Set cell phones to silent ring or shut them off. Non-competitors must remain in designated spectator areas. Range commanders and event leaders have ultimate authority on ranges. Notify range commanders of any problems or questions as soon as possible. OBEY ALL CEASE FIRE COMMANDS IMMEDIATELY. By registering you agree to all rules as set forth in this application.

Archery Events

We will be shooting top and bottom rotation on all bales. Shooters will move from top/bottom and bottom/top after the fifth end. Bottom targets shoot during the first 2.5 min. Then top will get called to the line and given 2.5 minutes to shoot their end. All 10-meter archery rounds will consist of two practice ends plus 10 scored ends of three arrows each. Each end will be 2.5 minutes long. For all events, Montana 4-H Archery Rules will be followed for equipment (including arrow specs), archery events, and safety rules, including no drawdowns – bow must be drawn with arrow remaining level or lower. It is the responsibility of each archer to know and abide by the rules. Sight length shall be measured from the mounting screws to the sight pin or aperture. Stabilizers shall be measured from the point of attachment, including V-bar. Arm guards must be properly worn by all competitors. We will follow Montana 4-H Archery Rules R15.

Bow Divisions:

Primitive Bow (PB): Longbow or recurve bow with finger release and no sights or stabilizers.

Bare Bow (BB): Any bow with finger release and no sights. A single straight 12" maximum stabilizer is allowed.

Limited Bow (LB): Any bow with finger release and fixed sights of 5" or less. Sights adjustable without the use of tools, sight extensions or scopes are not allowed. No sight may be adjusted once the scoring has begun. A single straight 12" maximum stabilizer is allowed.

Bow Hunter (BH): Any compound bow with release aid and fixed sights of 5" or less. Sights adjustable without the use of tools, sight extensions or scopes are not allowed. No sight may be adjusted once the scoring has begun. A single straight 12" maximum stabilizer is allowed.

Unlimited Bow (UB): Any compound bow with release aid, stabilizer of any length, V-bar and/or any sight including movable sights or scopes with written information. (Lasers and sight lights not permitted.) Sight may be adjusted anytime during the round, but only by the archer.

Olympic Recurve (OR): Recurve bow with finger release, clickers, kisser button, V-bars, stabilizers of any length, and/or a single movable sight, written information allowed. Sight may not incorporate a prism, lens, or leveling device. Sight may be adjusted anytime during the round, but only by the archer. String peeps are not allowed.

JANUARY

1st & 2nd- Office Closed

4th- West Butte Club Meeting

8th- West Butte Cloverbud meeting 5:30 @ Sunburst Library

11th- Kountry Kids Meeting 2pm @ Exhibit Building

17th- 3D Archery Shoot in Conrad 9am-5pm @PSSC

19th- Office Closed- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

21st- Cloverbuds after school- 5pm @ Elementary Cafeteria

26th- Food Booth Meeting 7pm @ MRE

28th- Livestock Committee Meeting 7pm @ MRE

28th- Registration Deadline for the Marias Fair Archery Tournament

31st- Montana's Next Generation Conference

FEBRUARY

1st- Marias Fair Archery Shoot

2nd- Horse Committee Meeting 6pm @ MRE

6th- Camp Counselor Applications Due

7th- In-person and postal mail in competition at the PSSC in Conrad.

16th- Office Closed- President's Day

Toole County 4-H Club Contacts

Kountry Kids/ Blazing Saddles Leaders

Sanna Clark 450-2122

Emilie Vetch 460-1082

Anna Hemmer 470-1239

West Butte

Crystal McAlpine 450-0108

Tasha Hartwell 450-5619

Cloverbuds

Barb Larsen 460-2765