



Are You Ready for Fair? Checklist



Check out our website at <https://www.montana.edu/extension/gallatin/4hfair.html> to find all Fair information!

- Read the **2026 4-H/FFA Exhibitor Fairbook** – this publication contains **ALL** the 4-H/FFA exhibitor rules, divisions and classes you can enter, and the schedules for the 2026 4-H/FFA Fair. This document is **CRUCIAL** to navigating Fair. You **MUST** utilize the Fairbook when registering your exhibits and animal projects to ensure you register correctly!
- 2026 4-H/FFA Fair Theme is: “Hands in the Dirt. Hearts in the Work.”** Use this theme to decorate any animal stalls/posters/club or project displays. This is a fun way to unite 4-H/FFA across the fairgrounds!
- Use the online **ShoWorks** Fair Registration website to enter your project(s) exhibits/animals in the Fair by **Wednesday, June 17, 2026 by 5:00 pm. NO EXCEPTIONS!!**
 - **Fair Registration Website:** <https://gallatin4h.fairwire.com/>
 - To be eligible to enter and exhibit at Fair, youth must have been enrolled in 4-H/FFA and in each project area they plan to exhibit by the enrollment deadline of **January 15, 2026.**
- Pay any fair fees owed (fees/invoice are housed in your fair registration account) by **June 24th**.
- Submit Record Books:** **ALL** Livestock, Horse, Small Animal and Indoor Project Record Books are due to the 4-H Extension Office by **Wednesday, June 24, 2026 BY 5:00 pm.** You will get all your records back prior to your Project Interview(s) so you can take those records with you to your interview.



Record books are required to be up-to-date and include:

- **My 4-H Year** (one per member, per year)
 - The **“My 4-H Year”** document does not necessarily need to be turned in by June 24th *if* your **Club Leader** plans to review/sign it at a later date (check with them). **Members-At-Large** (not in a Club) will need parent signature in place of a Club Leader.
- **Project Records: Animal or Non- Animal Project Journal & Financial Record packet** (one per project, per member)
- **Project Manual/Curriculum/Workbook(s)** for each project with **SEVEN (7)** completed activities for this year (ask your leaders for what these activities should be as they vary from project to project)
 - **Project Records** must be turned in by June 24th to be reviewed, scored and then signed off on by **Project Leaders** based on completeness, content and project standards utilizing a record book rubric.

Record Book Organization & Scoring Process:

- Records must be **separated by project area** when turned in –in **separate folders or binders labeled with the 4-H member’s name**. Please refrain from turning in loose papers that are only paperclipped together, as papers can easily become separated or lost.
 - **FAQ:** *Since there is only one “My 4-H Year” per member per year, which Record Book should I include it with?* You may include your “My 4-H Year” with **any one of your project records.**
- This year, signatures for the **“My 4-H Year”** form and **Animal or Non-Animal Project Journal & Financial Records** will be verified upon Project Interview check-in. Members must have completed and appropriately signed forms at check-in in order to meet eligibility requirements for Fair and project nominations.

- Livestock/Small Animal (*includes Dog & Cat) and Horse Projects Interviews:**
 - Sign up for your 15–20-minute timeslot(s) for Animal Project Interview(s) on either **Thursday, July 9th or Friday, July 10th from 4:00-8:00pm.** Every youth in any Livestock/Small Animal and Horse project(s) must sign up for an interview in the project(s) that they plan to exhibit in at the fair.
 - *If you are planning to exhibit **multiple Livestock** species (ex. sheep, beef, swine) you will only need to sign up for one interview slot and you will talk about all your livestock projects with one judge.
 - If you are in the **Horse** project, you will need to sign up for an additional and separate interview slot from your livestock interview.



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- If you are in the **Dog or Cat** Project, you will need to sign up for an additional and separate interview slot from any Horse and Livestock interviews you may have. If you will be submitting a Dog or Cat Educational Poster, please bring the poster to this interview. Posters will be judged separately from your interview.
- **Animal Project Interview Signup:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084DA9A92AABFE3-63107092-2026#/>
- Indoor Project Interviews:**
 - Sign up for your 15–20-minute timeslot(s) for Indoor Project Interview(s) on **Sunday, July 12th from 12:00pm-5:00pm**. Every youth planning to exhibit an Indoor Project must sign up for an interview in each of the project(s) that they plan to exhibit in at the fair. Bring your project exhibit to your interview as it will be evaluated during your interview with a judge.
 - ****NEW SIGNUP FORMAT:** Instead, one long list of projects there are tabs across the top of the SignUp (not all projects are listed). Each tab is a different project. You will need to complete the signup on one tab before moving to your next project interview slot. Please take note of your scheduled time so you aren't "double-booked" if signing up for multiple interviews.
 - **Indoor Projects Interview Signup:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/13573DF03A0CAE5C53-indoor>
 - If you are entering projects in different divisions, you will need to complete an interview in each project division (Ex. if you are submitting exhibits in the cooking, baking, and photography divisions, you would need to complete 3 separate interviews).
 - **ALL 4-H/FFA Indoor Project Exhibitors** must pick-up their **Exhibit Tags** **PRIOR** to their interviews/exhibit judging.
 - **Exhibit Tags** will be available and must be picked up from the 4-H Office **between July 6-July 10** (you'll already be picking up your scored record books from the office during this time). Entry tags must be securely attached to the appropriate exhibit upon arrival to your Interview
- Purchase and pick up Fair Admission Wristbands and Parking Passes at Extension Office**
 - Typically in late June/early July, the office will send out an email when passes/wristbands are available.
 - Youth Exhibiting projects at Fair will get a **FREE** week pass wristband.
 - 4-H Parents/Guardians and siblings **ONLY** are able to purchase discounted week passes at the 4-H office.
 - "Drop Off" Parking Passes are limited to **one** per family. Free parking is available in Tamarack (Gate A) or West Oak lot (Gate B).
 - Only families with RV Camping spots will be allowed to park long-term in West Annex (Gate C) with a special pass from the Fairgrounds.
- Sign Up** for a shift at our 4-H Promotional Booth in the Indoor Exhibit Building:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084DA9A92AABFE3-63106256-2026>
- 4-H Café Concessions:**
 - ****Important Note: The 4-H Café Concessions Stand plan for the 2026 Fair is still to be determined.** At minimum, there will be food truck vendors set up near the livestock area that will be available to 4-H/FFA families during show days – please plan accordingly and support the generous vendors who are opening early to feed our families during shows. **Piece of Crepe** food truck will be open starting at 9am on Monday and 8am Tuesday through Saturday for breakfast. Also, **Huckin' Smoothies** food truck will serve coffee and will be open at 8am on Tuesday through Saturday.
- BRING** your Animals/Indoor exhibits to Fair (see schedule in Fairbook for check-in times)
- Follow established guidelines, refer to the **2026 4-H/FFA Exhibitor Fairbook** and schedules, and **HAVE FUN** at 4-H events **July 10-19, 2026!**
 - **4-H/FFA Market Livestock Sale:** Friday, July 17th at 4pm. Live, in-person bidding **ONLY**
 - Buyer Check-In opens at 2pm and Buyer's BBQ starts at 3pm (***4-H/FFA families may eat at the BBQ after 6:00pm**)
 - **Round Robin Master Showmanship Competition:** Saturday, July 18th at 1pm (AgWest Tent)
 - **Class of 2026 4-H Senior Recognition Ceremony:** Saturday, July 18th at 2pm (AgWest Tent)
 - **4-H Family Fun Night Dance (line and swing dance) w/ 4-H Ambassadors:** Saturday, July 18th 6pm-8:30pm (AgWest Tent) - All 4-H youth and parents welcome!

The MSU Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's preference employer and educational outreach provider. To request disability accommodation or to inform us of special needs, please contact the Extension office at 582-3280, 903 North Black, MT 59715 or email gallatin@montana.edu.