

Judith Basin County 4-H Policies

Approved February 2025

Ambassadors:

4-H Ambassadors are implemented in Judith Basin County. (6/1990)

The 4-H Council will pay at least 50% of registration of fall Ambassador Training for the current and prospective ambassadors. (1/2019)

Ambassadors are required to turn in a completed record book in order to continue serving as ambassadors and are highly encouraged to attend 4-H Congress and Fall Leadership Training. (10/2014)

It is required that county ambassadors must attend the County Fair as well as complete a demonstration on Demo Day. (2/2025)

Awards:

The 4-H Council will give a "Friend of 4-H" appreciation award to a non-4-H individual or business. (12/1976)

If a member has received a project pin already, s/he will get a certificate for any additional year in that project. (11/2004)

All member awards and recognitions, and criteria for their selection, will be included in the Judith Basin County 4-H Policies for all members to read.

Completion of 4-H year:

4-H members must complete at least one project in order to be considered as completing the 4-H year. This includes the completion of the permanent record (My 4-H Year), Project and Financial Journals. (11/2005) A 4-H Story must be submitted in order to be eligible for an award. (10/2014)

Congress, State:

Members must give a demonstration or speech to qualify for Congress, not a broadcast, interview or commercial. Only those receiving a blue or red ribbon for their demonstration or speech qualify to attend Congress. The Judith Basin County 4-H Council will pay at least some registration fees for Montana 4-H Congress delegates. (10/2014)

Congress, National:

4-H members attending National Congress will receive financial assistance from the Judith Basin

4-H Council, as a contribution towards their trip, from the Trip Fund Savings. (10/2010)

County Council:

Council officers serve 2 years. (11/1963)

4-H Council Treasurer will be in charge of the 4-H Foundation quota every year. (11/1998)

County Grievance Procedure:

Anyone with a grievance regarding any action of the county 4-H program may file a written statement that includes, at a minimum: name, date, statement of facts, policies violated, names of violators, and the signature of person(s) submitting the grievance. The Extension agent and county council executive committee will serve as a grievance committee unless one of the executive committee is involved in the grievance. In that case, the Extension agent will appoint someone else to take their place. The grievance committee will gather information and prepare recommendations for the resolution of the grievance. (11/2005)

Enrollment:

The enrollment deadline is November 30 of each year. (11/2005) A late fee of \$25 per member, per month will be applied Starting December 1st and processed through ZSuite. (2/2025)

The add/drop deadline for all 4-H projects is May 1st of the current year. (2/2025)

Fair:

Each member exhibiting at the Judith Basin County Fair must participate in both set up and take down. (6/1989) Updated (2/2025)

Any member not helping set up and tear down at the fair will receive no fair money. (2/1990)

Each club is expected to donate an item worth at least \$50 to the auction at the Judith Basin County Fair. Any club not donating will pay the average of the items sold.

Fair, Barn Superintendent:

Beef, sheep and swine superintendents are to assign pens. No individual will be allowed to enter early and reserve pens. Clubs will be placed together. (6/1989)

Fair, Complaint Procedure:

A complaint of violation of fair rules should first be presented to the barn superintendent for resolution. If not resolved, the complaint will then be presented to a committee composed of the superintendent, the Extension Agent, and one member of the **4-H Council**. Violators will be given one warning. A second violation will result in disqualification from classes (including market and showmanship) and the livestock market sale. (11/2004)

Fair, Dress Code:

Showmanship attire for all livestock classes should be nice, long pants (with no rips and not faded), long sleeved collared, buttoned-up shirt, closed toed, clean shoes except with cattle and horses boots are required. Official FFA attire is appropriate. (2/2020)

Fair, Food Booth:

Any member **who has an exhibit at the county fair** must work in the food booth during the current fair. (2/2025)

Fair, Interviews:

All project interview judging will be held the week of Fair. (10/2014) **Members with exhibits at the county fair must interview on interview day to show at that subsequent year's fair.** (2/2025)

At interview day, members must also present up-to-date project records to the interview day judge. (2/2025)

Fair, Livestock:

FFA members must have livestock interviews and FFA livestock records up-to-date. (11/2004)

The Judith Basin County Fair is not a terminal show. (10/2004)

Livestock checks cannot be issued until thank you notes are delivered to the Extension office, stamped and ready to mail. (1/1985)

Fair, Livestock Sale:

Grand and Reserve Champion animals must sell at the fair. The grand and reserve champions will lead the sale order. A member may sell only one animal at the fair, unless they have more than one grand or reserve champion animal. (2/2020)

White ribbon animals at the fair cannot sell in the auction (2/1983)

Re-sale animals sell after other animals in sale-first sale money goes to the member. (9/1988)

If two animals were shown at the fair, even though only one sold in the sale, both are eligible for the carcass competition. (9/1999)

An animal not shown at the fair cannot be hauled and slaughtered with the 4-H animals. (11/2004)

Market animals will be sold in the order they are placed. (9/2003)

Fair, Record Books:

Each club's leaders must provide a list of eligible exhibitors to the Extension Office. (1/2001)

Members enrolled in a livestock project who do not complete their project by submitting a completed record book by September 1st of that 4-H year will not be allowed to show an animal at the Fair the following year. (1/2019) **Updated (2/2025)**

Fair, Showmanship:

Members must show their own class winning animals in showmanship and in the Round Robin. (1/2019) **If a member has concerns about showing their animal in the Round Robin, they must contact the 4-H Council to request any exceptions.** (2/2025)

Showmanship will be seniors first, intermediates next, and then juniors to follow so juniors may learn from the older members. (3/1997)

If there is no Grand or Reserve showman, he/she will not be in the Round Robin, for safety reasons. (11/2000). The Reserve Champion in each showmanship class should have their animal ready in the event they are to show in the Round Robin. (11/2008)

Showmanship levels will be split according to age as of Oct 1 of the current 4-H year:

Juniors - 8-10 year olds

Intermediates - 11-13 year olds

Seniors - 14 years and older (9/2002)

Funds:

Proceeds from the annual auction at the fair, above the Montana 4-H Foundation quota of \$5/member, will be put in a trip funds savings account to be used in the future years if there is a shortage of funds, or for the national trip contribution. (10/2014)

Horse Project Guidelines:

Please see the back of this policy handbook.

Leader Responsibilities:

The 4-H Council will receive a financial statement at every meeting, and all clubs will turn in a financial statement to the Extension Office by November 1st of each year.

Livestock Judging Contests:

There are three county livestock judging contests per year, and the top two of three scores determine a team. (1/1976)

If a 4-Her is delegated to go to a judging event and cannot go, they are responsible for notifying the Extension office so an alternate can be selected. (11/2004)

Livestock Judging: a beginner could judge as a beginner for three consecutive judgments, then they move up to juniors. If they are comfortable with less than three consecutive judgments, they can make the decision to move up, but they cannot go back to beginners. (7/2003)

Mileage:

Mileage will be paid only for fair and Demonstration Day judges, and the 4-H Foundation Representative's trip to Congress. (9/2003)

Member Responsibilities:

To be eligible to show at the following year's fair, all members are required to attend at least 50% of all 4-H club meetings or events during the current 4-H year. (2/2025)

It is the member's responsibility to write a proper thank you letter to their animal buyer or any sponsor of buckles or awards. After the fair each year, a distribution list will be provided to each leader with the necessary thank you details for each member. (2/2025)

Quality Assurance Training:

All first-year livestock members exhibiting a market and/or breeding animal must complete the county Quality Assurance training to show at the county fair. Additionally, members advancing to the Senior division who are showing market and/or breeding animals must also attend the county Quality Assurance Training to be eligible to show at the county fair. (2/2025)

Teen Leaders:

All members who are at least 13 years old on October 1 of the 4-H year are eligible to be a part

of the county teen leader group and participate in their activities.

Teen Leadership Project plans are due to the Extension Office Jan 15th. (11/2004)

Weigh-in:

Market animals must be weighed and tagged by the species weigh and tag day in order to be eligible to show at the Fair. (1/2019)

Market animal weight limits are set at: 1600# for beef, 325 # for hogs, 165# for sheep, and 120# for goat. Animals may weigh more than the maximum but will only be paid up to the limited number of pounds. The minimum weight requirement for animals entered in the fair is 70# for goat, 115# for lambs, 200# for swine, and 1100# for beef. (1/2018) Updated (2/2025)

Independent Members:

Judith Basin County fair will not recognize independent members. (10/2012)

COUNTY LEVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Livestock Judging

Each year three “sanctioned” county livestock judging events are held. You must attend 2 of 3 judging contests to compete at the Nile Judging. Contact the Extension Office for more details.

Demonstration / Speech Day

This competition is open to all 4-H members. The competition is divided into three age groups: beginner, intermediate, and senior. Intermediate or senior members may give a speech, demonstration, or illustrated talk. Only beginner participants may give a commercial. Senior competitors who receive a blue or red ribbon for their speech or demonstration are eligible to go to Montana 4-H Congress in Bozeman.

An impromptu speech category was added to the prepared speech contest in the Senior division for Demonstration Day. (9/1988)

Add a 5-minute “Show and Tell” Cloverbud category to the Demonstration Day schedule. (1/2003)

4-H members who cannot attend Demonstration Day need to give their demonstrations prior to Demonstration Day in front of two to four members of the 4-H Council and the Agent. If extenuating circumstances arise, they will be dealt with on an individual basis. (3/2003)

Early presentations are not eligible for the county awards, but will receive a ribbon. (11/2004)

4-H Camps

Senior Camp- This event is held yearly in cooperation with Fergus County. Registration is limited to 30 participants ages 13 years and older. Various courses on leadership and teamwork are presented.

Multi County Junior Camp- This is held the first part of June at 4-H Camp Rotary in Monarch. It is open to 4-H members in 3rd – 6th grades.

Tween Camp- This camp is open for 4-H members in grades 6, 7, & 8 will be offered in summer or winter depending on the year.



STATE LEVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Fall Leadership Training

Fall Training is the annual development retreat for Montana 4-H Ambassadors and other youth leaders. The event is planned, implemented, and evaluated by the State Ambassador Officer Team. Ambassadors and prospective ambassadors will leave the weekend prepared and excited to take the knowledge and skills they have gained and apply them in their counties. It is also a great place to have youth leaders exchange ideas and create a statewide network of resources.

Montana 4-H Citizenship Seminar

Montana Citizenship Seminar is designed to inspire 4-H youth as they learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Youth delegates gain hands-on experience with the legislative process by participating in a mock legislature, create and debate bills, work with other youth from across the state, meet with elected officials, tour the capitol, and participate in a service-learning project.

Montana 4-H Congress

This event is held each July on the Montana State University Campus in Bozeman. Members must be 13 yrs. of age by Oct. 1 of the current 4-H year to be eligible. Participants compete in individual or team contests and may have the opportunity to attend a regional or national event if they win at the state level.

Legislative Breakfast

During the years when the Montana legislature is in session, the Legislative Breakfast provides an opportunity to educate legislators about the work and successes of 4-H and MSU Extension. Youth and adult constituents from across the state come together to share ideas, issues and concerns. This event is usually held at the Red Lion Hotel in Helena with a practice dinner the evening before the breakfast.

The Montana 4-H Horse and Livestock Forum

The Montana 4-H Horse and Livestock Forum is an opportunity for 4-H leaders and teens to further their skills in working with youth in the Horse and Livestock Projects. Workshops and demonstrations are offered throughout the event

and time is allowed to share ideas from county to county. Workshops may be taught by university researchers, Extension Agents, industry professionals, 4-H leaders, or 4-H teens. The Forum is held every other year to run opposite the Alberta, Canada 4-H Horse Leaders Forum and may be hosted by any county or group of counties in Montana.

4-H Leadership Forum

This event is held annually at locations around the state to provide a forum for the gathering of ideas for leaders and junior leaders. The Forum includes workshops on a variety of topics related to 4-H projects and to overall youth development, as well as, updates on 4-H programming and recognition for outstanding achievements. This is an exciting event for leaders, new and old, and provides a wonderful opportunity to meet others from across the state

Montana 4-H Recreation Lab

This event provides youth an opportunity to enhance their leadership, communication and team building skills in an action packed and interactive setting. Rec Lab programming is designed to provide participants with tips for being a better club, camp and community leader. 4-H'ers must be age 13 and older as of Oct.1. It is held in March or April and is hosted in various counties.

Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp

Youth ages 14-18 and 13 year olds if they have graduated the 8th grade, spend one week in the summer at Lubrecht Experimental Forest 35 miles northeast of Missoula. Cost varies; however, local conservation districts sponsor a portion of the registration fee. Applications are usually due the end of June and the camp is usually held in July.

Montana Range Days

This is held in June or July at various places in the state. Range Days is designed for the whole family. Several scholarships are made available to winners of this event. Contact the Extension Office for more information.



NATIONAL LEVEL OPPORTUNITIES

National 4-H Congress

Each year, 4-H'ers who have achieved the highest awards, either by winning a State Award or a State Contest, are invited to attend National Congress in Atlanta, Georgia at Thanksgiving. Delegates spend a week in Atlanta attending leadership and citizenship workshops as well as participating in community service activities. Delegates have a chance to interact with many different 4-H members from around the country.

Citizen Washington Focus

Go to Washington, D.C. for a week in June to experience our nation's capital, meet your legislators and meet 4-Hers from around the country. During this week-long trip, delegates have the opportunity to tour the Smithsonian and the National monuments as well as visit with Montana Senators and Representatives. Montana delegates travel as a group with two adult chaperones.

Leadership Washington Focus

This week-long leadership event held in Washington DC in June or July is specially designed for middle school students (grades 7-9). 4-H delegates will build confidence in their abilities to motivate others in meaningful action, practice effective communication and public speaking, develop an understanding of their own personal leadership style and form friendships with other 4-H'ers from across the nation. Participants will be accompanied by an adult chaperone. Application deadline is January 1.

National 4-H Conference

National 4-H Conference delegates engage in personal development experiences that increase their knowledge, resources, and skills while they discuss topics affecting youth and 4-H programming nationwide. Delegates are empowered to create positive social change in their communities and have the opportunity to practice and apply their skills in a real-world setting. This conference registration is typically due in January, and the conference is typically in April. Youth must be 15-19 years old to attend.

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

People Partner Grant

This is a program that offers financial support to groups and individuals to develop projects that will benefit their communities. 4-H groups and individual members are invited to apply for a "People Partner" grant. Applications should be submitted to the 4-H Foundation Office by February 1. Details and application information can be found at montana4h.org/#program:31.

Freshman AG Scholarship Program - MSU

Several scholarships are offered each year through MSU. The purpose is to encourage talented young men and women who are interested in agriculture to pursue an education at MSU. Information and applications are available at ag.montana.edu/students/scholarships.htm.

Leroy Keilman Scholarship

Through the generosity of Mr. Leroy Keilman of Billings, MT a scholarship will be given to a graduate of Hobson High School to attend the College of Agriculture at MSU. The interest earned from money deposited with Montana FFA will provide money for the scholarship (approx.

\$400-\$500). Applications are available at Hobson High School.

Other Opportunities:

AMTOPP Scholarship for Current 4-H'ers ages 9-19
Douglas & Nancy Dear Memorial Scholarship
Montana Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship
Carson Christensen Memorial Scholarship
Montana Meat Processors Scholarship
MABA/MGEA Agri-Business 4-H Scholarship
Montana Wheat & Barley Scholarship
Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply Scholarship
N.A. Jacobsen Scholarship
Montana 4-H Shooting Sports Scholarship
Barbara Edens Memorial Scholarship
Bud Dawson Livestock Scholarship
Miller Scholarship
W. Doyle Stocks Scholarship
Wilcox Family Scholarship
Montana 4-H Council Scholarship
Cedric & Elfriede Maurer Memorial Scholarship
Anton and Helga Sundsted Pioneer Scholarship
Detail and application information for these opportunities can be found at montana4h.org/#program:30.

JUDITH BASIN 4-H HORSE PROJECT GUIDELINES

OBJECTIVES

- To encourage 4-H members to learn as much as they can about horses while developing their leadership skills, their sense of responsibility, their initiative and their self-reliance.
- To promote and develop good sportsmanship in all aspects of our program.
- To recognize the 4-H member's safety comes first and is followed by the safety of the member's horse.

POLICY RULES

- All horsemanship level project animals shown by 4-H members in 4-H classes must be owned by the member or in partnership with his or her immediate family, or member must have access to the project horses for the project year. All project horse(s) must be declared by June 1. Corresponding Identification Forms for each horse must be turned into the Extension Office by June 1. The horse(s) must be in the continual care of the 4-H member from June 1 through the State 4-H Horse Show. Changing horses will only be accepted with a release and approval of the horse committee.
- No stallions allowed in any 4-H projects.
- Members need to take the horse projects consecutively. A member must be 12 years old during the current project year and have completed Horsemanship Levels I – III and be approved by the horse committee *before* enrolling in the Colt to Maturity project, the Green Horse project, or other option projects. The decision to take the Colt to Maturity or Green Horse project needs to be decided early in the fall before signing up for the project. The reason for this, is these projects require a *lot of time* (not just two months of summer) to complete them satisfactorily.
- If a member wins a Grand Champion award in any Western or English horsemanship class, she/he must move on to the next level. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the horse superintendent.
- If a member wants to repeat a project level, they must be approved by the Horse Committee at the time of

enrollment.

- All horses in the Colt to Maturity project must be owned by the member or the member's immediate family, or the member must have access to the horse. The horse must be in the *continual care* of the member from the start of the yearling year through the completion of the fifth year, Colt to Maturity project animals may *not be* trained by a professional trainer. Members can take lessons and go to clinics with these project horses. However, *IF* a 4-H member encounters serious problems with their project horse they may seek help from a professional or someone more experienced than themselves as long as the member is present to see how the problem is corrected and consequently learn from the training session. The intent is to keep the project safe for the member and to have some logical progression to the project. *Intent:* To give all members a timeline in which to acquire their project horse. To maximize the training opportunities for the member throughout the entire five years. To encourage the member to do all the training of the horse(s).
- A green horse is a horse less than 5 years old that was not started as a yearling by the member. The level is determined by the age of the horse and/or by the days of training the horse has had and must be assessed by the horse committee.
- Once a horse becomes a project animal it may not receive professional training unless the member is involved in that training. The horse needs to be in the continual care of the 4-H member from June 1 through the State 4-H Horse Show. *Intent:* To allow the member to become knowledgeable in all levels of "Horsemanship," "Green Horse" and "Colt to Maturity" projects by learning by doing. To encourage the member to assume sole responsibility for the training of a colt to maturity or green horse project animal; to encourage the members to go to trainers for advice when needed; to encourage trainers to conduct clinics for all members in a county; to further horsemanship or training skills; and to discourage the use of trainers actually riding the project horse, except in a case where the trainer deems the safety of the member is threatened.
- A horse carried as a 4-H Horsemanship Levels project may be shown by more than one member of the immediate family in any one year at the county show, state fair or state 4-H horse show providing that neither the horse nor the member competes against himself. If there is a conflict in schedules for any reason, the exhibitor will have to determine in which class to participate and scratch the other. *Intent:* to recognize that the best experience is for each member to own and care for his/her own horse. To further recognize that there are families with more than one child that cannot afford more than one horse. To allow immediate family members the opportunity to be included in the county and state horse shows if the family cannot financially justify another horse.
- If a member wants to ride two levels in one year, the first level must be completed and assessed before July 1. This includes completion of the manual and the riding skills. The member needs to arrange for an early assessment to take place at a time other than a regularly scheduled horse meeting.
- A member must compete at the same project level as enrolled in the county.
- If enrolled in both Western and English, the member should alternate riding western or english at the horse meetings. Time probably will not allow a tack change. Members need to enroll separately for Western and English Horsemanship on their enrollment cards at the beginning of the year.
- A member may ride only one horse per Western level, one horse per English Horsemanship level, and one horse per Ranch Horse level. Members may ride at only one level English Horsemanship and one level Western Horsemanship. If riding both Western and English, levels ridden can be the same level or only one level above or below. A maximum of three horses are allowed in Horsemanship levels, if showing Western, English, and Ranch Horse.
- **Horses entered in the Horsemanship level classes cannot also be entered in the Colt to Maturity or Green Horse project categories.**
- Only 4-H members can ride and show their project horses while at the horse meetings, horse shows, clinics or fairs.
- NO physical abuse of horse will be tolerated.
- All 4-H project horses need to be vaccinated and dewormed in the spring. This will prevent member's horses from becoming sick and causing them to miss horse meetings, clinics or shows.
- Horses must be sound and capable of traveling sound at all gaits. This is so the member can ride and fully participate in the horse meetings, horse shows and fairs.
- Horses shown for showmanship, trail, bareback, equitation, barrel, and pole classes must be designated as "project

horses” which means they are initially signed up in a horsemanship, colt to maturity, green horse, hunter hack or ranch horse project.

- Waivers for riding helmets must be turned into the Extension Office and a list shall be sent to all horse leaders so they know who is required to ride with a helmet.
- The Fair Book dress code states “Showmanship attire for all livestock classes should be nice, long pants (with no rips and not faded), long sleeved collared, buttoned-up shirt, closed toed, clean shoes except with cattle and horses boots are required.” The horse committee adopts this dress code with the addition of requiring either a western hat or helmet for all classes not just showmanship. If members have any questions about whether their outfit is acceptable, they should contact the show (barn) superintendent, currently Erlonna Erickson, well in advance of the show to ensure compliance with these policies and Fair Book Rules.