

February 2026

Packing Away 2025 and Looking Forward to 2026



On the Horizon

- Feb 2.....Livestock Committee Meeting, Teton County Courthouse Conference Rm, Choteau, 6 pm
- Feb 9.....Camp Counselor Application due, Monday, 5 pm on ZSuite
- Feb 10.....Rec Lab Registration Opens, ZSuite
- Feb 21.....Workshop: How to do a Communications Contest Event, location and time TBD
- Feb 24.....First Camp Counselor Planning Meeting, Cascade Co. Extension Office 6 pm
- Mar 2.....Council Meeting, Fairfield Public Library, Tuesday, 6 pm
- Mar 6.....Communications Contest Day registration due, Friday, 5 pm link in this newsletter or call office
- Mar 13.....Rec Lab Registration Closes, ZSuite
- Mar 14.....Communications Contest Day Event, Power Public School
- Apr 1.....Swine Possession Deadline, paperwork, photos, fees, Extension Office, Tues, 5 pm
- Apr 15.....Lamb/Goat Possession Deadline, paperwork, photos, fees, Extension Office, Tues, 5 pm
- May 17.....SAVE the DATE! Poultry and Rabbit Judging @ 2 p.m. at Choteau Fire Hall

Do you Have Your 4-H Project Books?

If you have not received your project books, please contact the office.

Reminder: Camp counselor registration closes on February 9, on ZSuite.

Check the January 2026 newsletter for details about 4-H Camp 2026.

Everyone is Welcome!

Project Day: Communications Competition Skill Workshop

Join Teton County Youth Ambassador Ayden DeBruycker on Saturday, February 21

Ayden, one of our 4-H high school seniors from the Eager Eagles club and Teton County 4-H Youth Ambassador, is leading a workshop for her 2026 leadership project. She will share practical lessons from her hard-earned experience delivering award-winning demonstrations at the state level. This project day is open to everyone, regardless of experience level.

Ayden's goal for this workshop is to enlighten kids from all levels: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Ayden says, "within all these levels I hope to demonstrate what steps and activities it takes to succeed in all levels of competition."

She will be leading the group in activities that will help on competition day. Specifically, how to properly respond to audience questions and practical strategies to switch posters without "*making too much of a scene*" Ayden said.

"I encourage all ages that are interested in Communications Day or that may be competing in the following month. If the competitors would like, they may do their presentation at the seminar in front of me or in front of a small audience to work on stage fright and nerves they may be having."



Ayden DeBruycker, Class of 2026,
Fairfield High School

Location and Time *to be determined*

If you are interested in attending, RSVP at the Extension Office 406-466-2491
or email teton@montana.edu

Unable to attend the Feb 21 Event?

Check out the link below to watch a
video about how to do a
demonstration.

[Video Examples of Demonstrations and
Illustrative Talk Presentations](#)

Teton County Communications Day will be on
Saturday, March 14, at Power Public School.

Registration is now open and will close on Friday,
March 6. Click on the link below to register or call the
Extension Office.

[Register for 2026 Communications Day](#)

2026 Stir Ups Challenge:

Oatmeal-based on-the-go breakfast bars

Click on the link for potential ingredients

[2026 Teton County Stir Ups Competition Information](#)

Ag Agent's Corner: by Jenn Swanson

Ten Spring Creek members honed their skills at the KMON Livestock Judging contest, bringing home the **1st Place 4-H Team Trophy** with 3 members placing in the top 10 as individuals:

Boaz Lytle - 1st
Libby Redland - 3rd
Polly Lytle - 8th



GET YOUR KICKS AT 6!

EARN 4-H CASH

FAST!

Who? Earn \$150 for your 4-H Club (minimum of 3 families per crew)

What? Clean up at 8 pm after the concert (takes 30 to 45 minutes)

When? Thursdays at 8:15 to 8:45 pm - July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and Aug 6

Where? At the Bandshell in Choteau City Park

Why? Easy money and enjoy the music and dancing, too!

How? Email Jenn.Swanson@montana.edu or text (406-868-4570) to reserve a spot

Club Leader News

All club leaders plan to attend the **March 4-H Council meeting** on Monday, March 2, at Fairfield Public Library at 6 pm. We will be reviewing our county level policies and procedures and need your input. Once the county level policies have been reviewed, they will be added to the Teton County 4-H website.

The Teton County Club Leaders webpage has been updated with the most current statewide 4-H financial policies, procedures, and best practices that all clubs and committees (groups with a 4-H bank account) across the state follow. These policies should be reviewed regularly by leaders to ensure their clubs are in good financial standing. **[Access the 4-H financial policy documents.](#)**
[Access the 4-H Financial Best Practices.](#)

Reminder:

- Update signature cards with the name of two current certified volunteer adult club members (could be leader and an assistant leader) and youth treasurer for each 4-H club bank account. Each club needs a minimum of two signers on each account.
- Update the mailing address for your club's monthly bank statements to the Teton County Extension Office: P.O. Box 130, Choteau, MT 59422. If your club receives e-statements, update the email address to Teton@montana.edu.
 - Contact the office with your preference to receive paper statements in the mail (mailed to youth treasurer) or electronically.

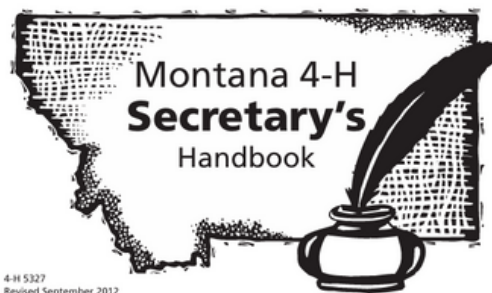
Club Youth Secretaries

Taking meeting minutes (notes) is the most important job of the club secretary. The goal should be to record the most important information at each meeting, without too much extra information. Make it a goal to summarize your meeting minutes to fit on one page.

[Review the downloadable worksheet to make it easier to complete your meeting minutes correctly.](#)



Adult Club Leaders, make sure your secretaries have their own copy of the Secretary's Handbook that they can write in.



Once you have finished writing your meeting minutes, follow this to-do list:

- Present your meeting minutes at the next meeting for club approval.
- Email or bring a paper copy of the approved meeting minutes to the Extension Office (teton@montana.edu). Each club will have a minimum of 6 business meetings per 4-H year reflected in meeting minutes.
- Give your club treasurer a copy of the approved minutes for the Treasurer's Binder. Each club will turn in the Treasurer's Binder to the Extension Office between October 1-31, 2026, for review.

Opportunities for Adult Volunteers

One cornerstone of 4-H is connecting youth with caring adults. There are numerous ways that adults can get involved in 4-H to support positive youth development. To learn about how you can get more involved, contact the Teton County Extension Office.

Do you have a skill or interest, like leathercraft or robotics, that you would like to share with 4-H youth countywide? **Host a Project Meeting!** You don't need to be an expert, just a caring adult willing to engage in the messy process of learning alongside a child. The format is up to you- it could be a single day event that lasts a few hours; or it could be several shorter meetings over the course of a few weeks. Give us a call at the Extension Office to help organize a project meeting. If you are already hosting a project meeting and want to invite folks, let us know and we can include it in the 4-H newsletter.

Do you have a teen 4-Her and want to help them connect to other 4-H teens from across the state? **Chaperone for Rec Lab or Congress.** As a chaperone, you will provide transportation and be that supportive adult as your teen and their 4-H friends explore new places and build Beyond Ready skills through engaging workshops. You will also grow by making new friends with other 4-H parents outside Teton County and taking part in learning workshops at each event. Call the Extension office to learn more.

Chaperone at Camp

This year Teton County is joining Cascade County for summer camp. Adult chaperones are an essential part of making camp a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. While at camp, adult chaperones will be able to play games, take part in learning workshops, and enjoy being a kid again. Camp will begin on Sunday, June 7, and will end on Wednesday, June 10.

Volunteer as a camp chaperone.

Assist Your Club at Fair

Reach out to your club leader to learn what your group's duties are during the Teton County 4-H Fair. Each club shares responsibilities at Fair and your involvement goes a long way to make this event a great experience for everyone.

Assist with Your Club Meetings

Be an active part of club meetings by engaging with all youth in your club, not just your own kids. Set a good example by listening, participating in the meeting's activities, keeping side conversations with other adults to a minimum, and staying off your phone. As your club leader for ways that you can help at each meeting.

Local Youth Compete in Season-Opening 4-H Archery & Shooting Sports Meet

Loren Tacke – Teton County Shooting Sports Coordinator

Bows were drawn and sights were set as local youth traveled to Helena to compete in the first 4-H Shooting Sports event of the year. The annual archery and shooting sports meet brought together some of the areas best young marksmen and women, and local teams delivered an outstanding performance, showcasing skill, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

Representing the Rocky Mountain Archers were three determined competitors: Dylan Ulsh, Logan Becker, and William Tacke. Coached by Rocky Forseth and Haven Murphy, the trio showed poise and precision on the range, setting the tone for a strong season ahead.

Meanwhile, the Rocky Mountain Top Shots arrived ready to compete, fielding a mix of experienced returning shooters and new talent. Team members included Kyndal Becker, Leah Paulson, Izzy Cornelius, Jack Tacke, Hannah Meyer, Blaise Skierka, Michaela Skierka, Josiah Bacon, and Gibson Franks.

Under the guidance of head coach Brian Bedord and assistant coaches Alan Peace, Holly Hamilton, and Chris Tacke, the team demonstrated discipline and focus, proving that countless hours of practice truly pay off.

Both teams performed well and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and dedication to their sport. The Helena meet provided a great opportunity for these young athletes to test their skills and build confidence as they begin a new competition season. Congratulations to our local 4-H shooting sports teams and coaches on a fantastic start to the year.

Archery

12–15 yrs – Dylan Ulsh: 3rd, 3D Target; 5th, Target Bowhunter Division

9–11 yrs – William Tacke: 3rd, Target Barebow Division

12–15 yrs – Logan Becker: Competed in 3D Target

3-Position Air Rifle

11–12 yrs – Jack Tacke 2nd, Hannah Meyer 3rd, Blaise Skierka 5th

13–14 yrs – Izzy Cornelius 3rd

15–19 yrs – Kyndal Becker 1st

Prone Air Rifle

9–10 yrs – Michaela Skierka 6th

11–12 yrs – Jack Tacke 3rd

13–14 yrs – Izzy Cornelius 2nd

15–19 yrs – Leah Paulson 2nd

Standing (Offhand)

11–12 yrs – Jack Tacke 1st



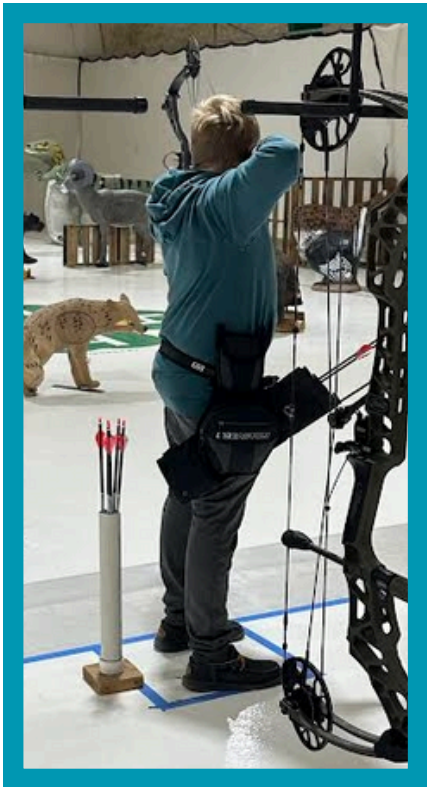
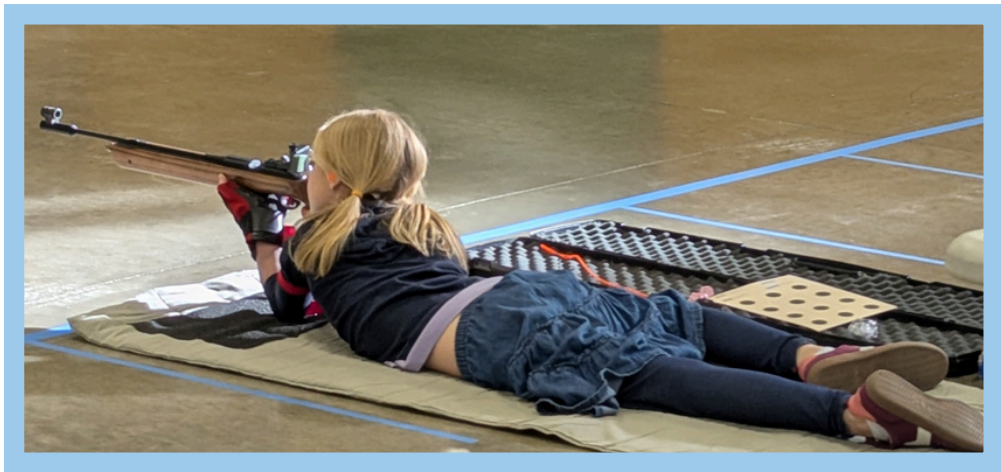
Air Pistol

9–10 yrs – Josiah Bacon 1st

13–14 yrs – Gibson Franks 8th, Blaise Skierka 9th, Hannah Meyer 10th

15–19 yrs – Leah Paulson 2nd, Kyndal Becker 3rd

Local 4-H Youth Compete in Season-Opening Archery & Shooting Sports Meet



4-H Shooting Team Competes in Kalispell

Loren Tacke – Teton County Shooting Sports Coordinator

On Saturday, January 24, members of the Rocky Mountain Top Shots and one athlete from the Rocky Mountain Archers traveled to Kalispell to compete in the Flathead Invitational Shooting Competition. The meet marked just the team's second competition of the season, and the athletes delivered an impressive performance. Every team member showed noticeable improvement, with all shooters recording their personal best scores so far this year. Competing for the Rocky Mountain Top Shots were Leah Paulson, Kyndal Becker, Hannah Meyer, Jack Tacke, and Josiah Bacon. Logan Becker represented the Rocky Mountain Archers in the archery competition.

The team was accompanied by Coach Chris Tacke and Teton County 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator Loren Tacke. Both leaders expressed high praise for the group's composure and technical growth.

"The athletes continue to demonstrate growth in their shooting techniques and a strong dedication to the sport," the coaching staff noted, highlighting the visible shift from fundamental practice to honing the skills necessary to compete at a higher level.

With the season now in full swing, the team is far from finished. The experience gained in Kalispell will serve as the foundation for their next challenge. The marksmen will have two weeks to refine their skills before heading to Conrad on February 7, for their next scheduled meet.

Results:

Archery

12-15 yrs. – Logan Becker

3-Position Air Rifle

11-12 yrs. – Jack Tacke 1st, Hannah Meyer 3rd

13-14 yrs. – Kyndal Becker 1st (1st overall)

15-19 yrs. – Leah Paulson 7th

Prone

9-10 yrs. – Josiah Bacon 4th

11-12 yrs. – Jack Tacke 1st

Standing

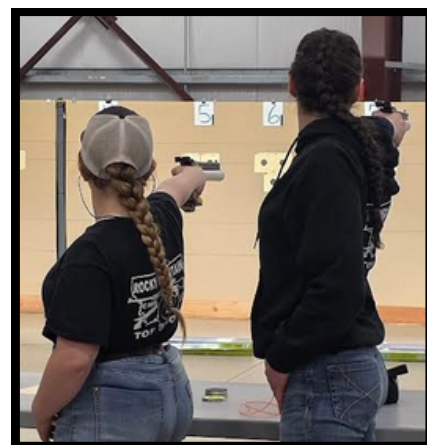
11- 2 yrs. – Jack Tacke 1st, Hannah Meyer 4th

Pistol

9-10 yrs. – Josiah Bacon 2nd

13-14 yrs. – Hannah Meyer 10th

15-19 yrs. – Leah Paulson 2nd, Kyndal Becker 8th



Montana 4-H Shooting Sports Schedule 2026



Location	Date	Competition	Contact & Registration Link
Conrad	2/7/2026	2026 Pondera County Invitational/Postal	Contact: wendy.wedum@montana.edu
Superior	2/14/2026	Mineral County Archery Shoot	Contact: loriecoter@stonetreesolutions.com Registration: https://bowscore.com/tournaments/mineral-county-4h-archery-open#/
Great Falls	2/21/2026-2/22/2026	Cascade County Invitational	Contact: smkirby19@yahoo.com Registration: https://fairentry.com/Fair/SignIn/23260
Fort Benton	2/28/2026	Chouteau County Archery Invitational	Contact: tyler.lane@montana.edu
Broadus	2/28/2026	Broadus Sharp Shooters Invitational-Archery	Contact: powderriver@montana.edu
Bozeman	3/6/2026-3/8/2026	State Shooting Sports Invitational	Contact: scott.francis@montana.edu
Ennis	3/14/2026-3/15/2026	Ennis Archery Shoot	Contact: melissa.ann.carney@gmail.com Registration: https://bowscore.com/tournaments/madison-valley-4h-shooting-sports-invitational-archery#/
Missoula	3/28/2026	Missoula County 4-H Archery Invitational	Contact: benhunting47@yahoo.com

Montana 4-H Rec Lab

March 27-29 in Columbus, MT

What is Rec Lab? It sounds like a funny name for a 4-H event. Rec Lab stands for Recreation Lab and means that everything is hands-on and fun!

This event is a 4-H member favorite: It provides an opportunity for youth and adults to enhance their leadership, communication, and team building skills in an action-packed and interactive setting. Rec Lab programming provides participants with tips and tricks for being a better club, camp, and community leader.

This event is ideal for younger senior members to attend as a first-time state event. It allows them to form relationships with 4-H peers from across the state, broaden their skills, and widen their network.

Who Can Attend?

- Youth participants must be 13+ as of October 1.
- Adult chaperones must be at least 21 years of age.

Registration

- **Parents will need to provide transportation to Columbus and attend as a chaperone.**
 - Parents can set up their own carpooling if more than one Teton County youth is attending. Call the office if you are interested and we will help organize.
- Youth participants must be 13+ as of October 1, 2025. Adult chaperones must be at least 21 years of age.
- Registration is \$100 and includes lodging, snacks, meals, t-shirts, workshops, and more.
 - Teton County 4-H Council will pay half of the registration fee for youth only, and the cost for youth will be \$50. Adult chaperones will pay full price to attend.



4-H Club Commotion!

The Challenging Champs grilling club created an entire meal on the smoker including steaks, baked potatoes, green beans and even an upside-down pineapple cake.

From left to right: Benjamin Diekhans, Jessica Toeckes, Caleb Toeckes, Abigail Toeckes, Calvin Diekhans, Trevor Woodhouse, and Colin Woodhouse.



Jenn Swanson came to Spring Creek's January meeting to share photos and stories of her agricultural tour in Costa Rica. Spring Creek members shared travel tales and parents wowed with Central American fruits and treats!



Spring Creek 4-H member Hannah Meyer attends a chicken workshop held at Mountain View Co-op in Black Eagle on January 14, 2026!



4-H members in horse projects attend a riding meeting on January 1, 2026. They practiced roping, horsemanship and worked a cow. New members worked on record books.

Happenings in Teton County 4-H



Iris Carlson and Clairia Duty, Teton County 4-Hers, provided babysitting services for Rooted in Resiliency Ag Conference attendees. Lily Carlson provided a helping hand at the conference to prepare lunch for conference attendees on Saturday, January 10, 2026.



Teton 4-Hers learned about how helmets prevent brain injuries while skiing thanks to a generous Innovative Programming grant from the Montana 4-H Foundation.

Do you have some great photos from things you've done in 4-H and want to see in the newsletter?

Email your photos to Teton@montana.edu

****Get permission from everyone in the photos first.**

Contact Info/Resources

Teton County MSU Extension

Mailing Address:

- PO Box 130, Choteau, MT 59422

Phone (voice call):

- 406-466-2491

Text only:

- 406-530-5373

Email (send club minutes, most questions/issues):

- teton@montana.edu

Website:

- <https://www.montana.edu/extension/teton>
- <https://www.facebook.com/TetonCoExt>
- <https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h>



Camp Dates

2026 June 7-10

Rec Lab

2026 March 27-29

Fair Dates

2026 June 22-28

4-H Congress, Bozeman

2026 July 7-10

Jenn Swanson

*Teton County MSU Extension
Agriculture and Natural Resources,
4-H and Youth Development, and
Community Development
jenn.swanson@montana.edu*

Shelby Jones-Dozier

*Teton County MSU Extension
Family and Consumer Sciences,
4-H and Youth Development, and
Community Development
shelby.jonesdozier@montana.edu*

Jamie Smith

*Teton County MSU Extension
Administrative Assistant
teton@montana.edu*



Teton County MSU Extension Office
PO Box 130
Choteau, MT 59422