



February 2025

The tree is more than first a seed, then a stem, then a living trunk, and then dead timber. The tree is a slow, enduring force straining to win the sky.

— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

On the Horizon

- February 3 Livestock Committee Meeting, Teton County Courthouse Conference Rm, Choteau, 6 pm
- February 10 Rec Lab Registration Opens, Zsuite
- February 14 Ambassador Applications Due, Fri, 5 pm
- February 14 Camp Counselor Applications Due, Fri, 5 pm
- February 14 Montana 4-H Foundation Scholarship Applications Due, Fri
- March 3 Council Meeting, Teton County Courthouse Conference Rm, Choteau, 6:30 pm
- March 12 Rec Lab Registration Closes, Zsuite
- March 28 Communications Day Registration due, Fri
- April 1 Swine Possession Deadline, paperwork, photos, fees, Extension Office, Tues, 5 pm
- April 15 Lamb/Goat Possession Deadline, paperwork, photos, fees, Extension Office, Tues, 5 pm

Montana Farmer’s Union \$100 Sentence Grant

Once again the Montana Farmer’s Union (MFU) is offering the \$100 Sentence Grant. Many clubs took advantage of this grant money last year to do positive work.

MFU has \$10,000 to send to 4-H clubs in Montana. Funding is open now and will be awarded through October 1. They would be thrilled to receive an application from every club in the state.



Beyond Ready

Find more information and the application form on pages 9 and 10.

ROCK

YOUR

RECORD BOOK

You have set your goals and begun to fill out “My 4-H Year.”
Now let’s look at starting a non-animal project journal.

You will need one non-animal project journal for each non-animal project you are enrolled in this 4-H year. We can print the pages you need at the Extension office or you can [visit our webpage to get the pages yourself](#).

For each non-animal project journal do the following:



- At the top of the first page fill in the 4-H Year (2024-25).
- Add a photo of yourself working on your project.
- Fill in your name, county (Teton), project name and how many years you have been in the project.
- Your **goals** should already be completed. If you haven’t done this step yet, take a few minutes and do it now. Look back at the December 2024 newsletter for guidance, if needed.
 - Take some time to review the goals you have set for yourself and record anything that has happened as you have tried to reach your goals. Record setbacks and your adjustments to them as well as progress.
- The next part is about recording the **activities** you do in the project as you do them.
 - It is easiest if you do this little by little as each activity occurs throughout the 4-H year.
 - First fill in the date.
 - If you know the exact date of an activity, enter that.
 - If you do not know the exact date, that’s okay, too. Just record the month and year.
 - Next, record the activity. (For example, “Gather materials for making my quilt.”)
 - Then, write what you learned. (“Buying fabric can be very expensive. Now I will always check my leftover fabric scraps and any available through our quilting group before buying new.”)

Get all your project journals filled in up to this point during February. In March we will return to your non-animal project journals and tackle the financial record portion! **Keep up the good work!**



How do you eat an elephant? The answer is, one bite at a time!
Record books are the same. Divide any large task into many small parts, and working steadily, you can achieve it.



Ag Agent's Corner: by Jenn Swanson

Hey 4-H Clubs - Are you looking for a FUN-draiser? Reserve your date to be the Clean Up Crew after a *Get Your Kicks at 6* concert!

Who? Your 4-H Club (minimum of 3 families on the crew)

What? Clean up at 8 pm after the concert (takes 45 minutes or fewer)

- take down signs, empty trash cans, pick up litter, sweep the dance floor, etc.

When? See schedule below and sign up before the dates are gone!

Where? At the Bandshell in Choteau City Park

Why? So easy to make \$150 and have fun along the way!

How? Contact Jenn by email (Jenn.Swanson@montana.edu) or phone/text (406-868-4570) to reserve your Club's date!

- Thu Jul 10: Scratchin' Gravel (bluegrass)
- Thu Jul 17: Rehman Quintet (jazz)
- Thu Jul 24: The Sterling Drake Band (roots, americana)
- Thu Jul 31: Little Jane and the Pistol Whips (americana)
- Thu Aug 7: Brigid and Johnny (cowboy tunes, swing)
- Thu Aug 14: Ten Years Gone (classic rock, alternative, pop)



4-H Achievement Day! Coming October 7, 2025

Start collecting *great photos* for the all-club *slide show* and be thinking of 2 fun and unique Club awards to present your members!

Cultivating Leadership

By: Shelby Jones-Dozier, FCS and 4-H Agent

Cultivating youth leaders is one of the many benefits of 4-H. Teton County 4-H has several opportunities for youth to take that first step towards leadership whether it's as a club officer or a camp counselor. Another great opportunity is the Ambassador Program. This year, new ambassadors will have the opportunity to learn from our senior ambassadors: **Ayden DeBruycker, Waverly Konen, Grace Toeckes, and Mikayla Toeckes**. Each new ambassador will be paired up with a senior mentor to guide you along your leadership development journey.

The 2025 Ambassador Application is now open and will be **due on Friday, February 14, 2025**. Scan the QR code or click on the link. Contact the Extension Office if you would like to have a paper application mailed to you.

2025 Teton County Youth
Ambassador Application



[Click this link for the
2025 Ambassador
Application](#)



Calling all Youth Camp Counselors!



2025 Camp Counselor Application

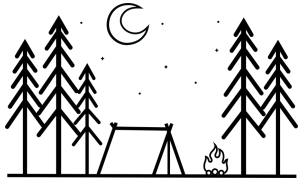


Summer may seem far away right now, but it's not too early to start thinking about 4-H camp! The 2025 Camp Counselor application is now open and will be **due Friday, February 14, 2025**. Camp counselor planning meetings will be monthly beginning in March and wrapping up with an overnight retreat in June.

Camp counselors need to be 13 (4-H age) and attend a minimum of two planning meetings and the June retreat. Experience in club leadership and participation in a state level 4-H event is preferred. Attending Rec Lab and/or Congress is highly encouraged to get ideas for workshops and learn new group games.

[Click this link for the
2025 Camp Counselor
Application](#)

Camp will be at the TASGA grounds in Choteau this year. Be a part of the team to develop new traditions and create a great summer experience!



Many Hands Make Light Work!



Adult volunteers needed for Summer Camp 2025.

Teton County 4-H camp will be **July 22- 24, 2025**, in Choteau at the Teton Antique Steam & Gas Association (TASGA) grounds. We are seeking adults to volunteer in shifts to help at camp.

Please consider helping at camp, even if only for a few hours.

Let us know how you can assist by completing the survey.



2025 Camp Adult Volunteer Survey

[2025 Adult Camp Volunteer Survey Link](#)

Mark Your Calendar for Communications Day!

Communications Day will be **Saturday, April 27**, at Choteau Public School. This event will include a Stir-Ups Competition and Western Heritage Persona Interviews. Club leaders, consider planning a club level Communications Day in February or March! The Communications Day application is now open and will be due Friday, March 28, 2025.

[Communications Day Registration Link](#)

This competition is open to all 4-H members from Cloverbuds to Seniors. 4-Hers 13 and up who win a blue ribbon will be eligible to compete at state Congress in July. For those 14 and up, Congress winners will be eligible to attend National 4-H Congress as a member of the Montana Delegation.



Communications Day Registration-
due March 28, 2025

Learn about the different ways to compete in Communications!
Click on the links below to learn more.



[Communications Contests](#)



[Stir Ups Competition](#)



[Western Heritage Persona Interview](#)



Club Commotion

Baking Project Day

A Teton County baking day was held on Sunday, January 5, with members from different 4-H clubs attending. Judy Cornell of Conservation Grains gave a milling demonstration and members conducted a pancake recipe trial. Each 4-Her received one bag of Conservation Grains Flour to use in their baking projects.



Teton County Horse Club

Teton County Horse Club members competed in the State Horse Show on September 19-21, 2024, at the 406 Arena in Vaughn.



Prairie Stars

Prairie Stars held a fundraiser on January 11-12, 2025, at the Rocky Mountain Rifle Club where a 4-H instructor shooting clinic was held. The fundraiser involved serving breakfast and lunch on both days.



4-H Council Seeking New Officers!

4-H Council is seeking a new secretary for 2025-2027. Youth and adults are both eligible to serve as secretary. Our treasurer position will be vacant later this year and we are seeking a *treasurer-in-training* to work with Rachel Christensen to learn the ropes! Please contact the Extension Office to learn more.

Greytak Calendars



The 2025 Greytak calendars are at the office! They are \$15 and the proceeds benefit our Teton County 4-H Council and statewide 4-H programs.



**Beyond
Ready**

Thinking about feed...

The 2025 **North 40 Junior Livestock Feed Program** (10% discount card) that can be used for 4-H project livestock animal feed and show supplements have arrived at the Extension office. All cards need to be signed by the 4-H member and their club leader. Also consider checking in on feed costs and programs with our local store, **Western Feed Corral** in Choteau.

Rec Lab

What is Rec Lab? “Rec Lab” stands for Recreation Lab and means that everything at this Montana 4-H state event is hands-on and fun! This event provides an opportunity for youth 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 and tricks for being a better club, camp and community leader.

Montana 4-H Rec Lab is open to youth 13+ years old (age as of Oct. 1st, 2024). 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. The event has a camp feel because everything will take place in one school or location! Participants will bring air mattresses and sleeping bags to sleep on the gym floor, and attend workshops all together in the school and join lots of social and fun activities.



Registration will be through ZSuite and is set to open on February 10 and will close March 12. The cost will be around \$100 per person. Participants will have the opportunity to pick from a list of workshops during registration.

Volunteers: The idea of sleeping on an air mattress in a school gym may not be your idea of a fun weekend, but this is a great event for you too! The program is conducive to meeting people from around the state and exchanging ideas. You are sure to gain some great info and bring home motivated youth leaders.

Thank you to District 6 counties: Meagher, Gallatin, Park, Broadwater, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, and Lewis and Clark Counties for planning and hosting this event.

Monthly Online Leadership Academy

Join the Montana 4-H Leadership Academy workshop series on Sunday afternoons in the 2024-2025 4-H year. Each month, the State Ambassador Officer Team will present a different workshop topic that they have found to be important as they have developed their own leadership abilities. The leadership academy is for Montana 4-H members interested in exploring and developing their own leadership skills while serving their county 4-H program in new ways. The workshop content is considered beginner level for emerging leaders. Members with more leadership experience may find this to be a review and should consider mentoring younger members just starting out in leadership activities before or after these workshops. [Visit the website to register for the workshop series and receive the Zoom link.](#) Sunday Trainings at 3:00 PM: February 9, 2025 and March 16, 2025.

2025 Montana Livestock Shows

January 19	Montana Winter Fair, Lewistown (Beef Only)
April 12	Golden Triangle Preview & Jackpot Show, Great Falls (Beef Only)
April 26	Jr Beef Spring Fling, Deer Lodge (Beef Only)
May 3-4	Black Diamond Junior Jackpot Show & Clinic, Billings (All Species)
May 24-25	Battle of the Big Horns, Sheridan, WY (All Species)
May 30 – June 1	Cow Camp Clinic, Wilsall (Beef Only)
May 31	Champion Choice Camp, Helena (Lambs & Goats)
June 6-7	Badlands Classic Jackpot and Clinic, Glendive (All Species)
June 7	Golden Triangle Preview & Jackpot Show, Great Falls (Swine, Lambs & Goats)
June 8	Cowtown Classic, Miles City (Beef Only)
June 12-15	Kootenai Classic, Couer d'Alene, ID (All Species)
June 14-15	Helena Jackpot, Helena (All Species)
June 14-15	Beartooth Banners & Buckles, Red Lodge (All Species) (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
June 15	Yellowstone Classic Jackpot Show, Billings (Beef Only)
June 21-22	The Beaverhead Breakout Jackpot, Dillon (All Species)
June 28	Bakken Classic, Watford City, ND (All Species)
***	Western Ranch Spectacular, Billings
***	Home Run Club Lamb Futurity Market & Breeding, Billings
July 11-13	Montana Royal Junior Livestock Show, Kalispell (All Species)
July 18-19	Tobacco Root Royale, Twin Bridges (All Species)
July 19	Fred Everson Memorial Show, Lolo (Beef, Lambs & Goats)
***	Eager Beavers Jackpot Show, Wibaux (All Species)
July 25-August 2	Montana State Fair, Great Falls (All Species)
August 5-10	Western Montana Fair, Missoula (All Species)
August 8-16	Montana Fair, Billings (All Species)
October 10-18	N.I.L.E., Billings (All Species)



Dear Montana 4-H Club,

Montana Farmers Union (MFU) knows 4-H does a fantastic job of educating youth about farms, ranches, community, and creating future leaders. We do the same thing and that is why MFU wants to send you money to support your efforts!

Simply send us a sentence stating what your club wants money for and you will receive ... \$100!



MFU has \$10,000 to send to 4-H clubs in Montana. Funding will available until October 1, 2025. Grant application is included with this letter.

Steps to Successful Sentence Grant Completion:

1. Since each club can only apply once each year, the sentence for the Grant needs to be discussed and decided on as a club.

Please note, that 4-H Leaders Councils are not eligible for this grant application, but are encouraged to submit for a regular sponsorship request at montanafarmersunion.com/sponsorship

2. Have a 4-H member from your club write one sentence below in the designated space, describing what your club needs. It can be as simple as the following examples:
The Constantly Cooking 4-H club wants to make healthier snacks for our meetings and needs money for food. OR As aspiring artists, the members of the Pencil and Pig 4-H club would like to purchase art supplies.
3. Then, have a club officer and leader sign the bottom of the application.



MONTANA FARMERS UNION \$100 Sentence Grant Application – 2025

4-H member must write the sentence below.

The below signed 4-H Member (preferably a club officer) verifies that they discussed the \$100 Sentence Grant Application as a full club and the club has voted and agreed upon the above listed sentence. At least one officer and a club leader need to sign for verification.

Club Officer: _____ (Print) _____ (Sign) _____ (Date)

Club Leader: _____ (Print) _____ (Sign) _____ (Date)

Let us know who the Contact and Payee on the check should be. Preferably the check will be sent to your club. If you don't have a bank account for your club, a 4-H leader may be named as the Payee.

Make check payable to: _____

Email address of 4-H club or payee contact: _____

Phone number of payee contact: _____

County where club is located: _____

The club or payee mailing address: _____

Mail this completed application to:
Montana Farmers Union 300 River Drive N PO Box 2447 Great Falls, MT 59403

Or email a photo/scanned copy of the completed application page to:
office@montanafarmersunion.com with "\$100 4-H Sentence Grant 2024 – CLUB NAME" in the subject line.

For MFU Office Use | Review by _____ Date _____

Contact Info/Resources

Teton County MSU Extension

Mailing Address:

- PO Box 130, Choteau, MT 59422

Phone (voice call):

- 466-2491/2492

Text only:

- 406-530-5373

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

- teton@montana.edu

Other:

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



Fair Dates

2025 June 24-29

2026 June 22-28

4-H Congress, Bozeman

2025 July 8-11

2026 July 7-10

Camp Dates

2025 July 22-24

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