

APRIL 2026



TOOLE COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER



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Follow us on Facebook @toolecountyextension

Hello 4-H Families!

Welcome to April! The Marias Fair will be here before you know it! Projects can be added or dropped until May 1st.

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!

Pig weigh-in deadline is Sunday, April 12th. Please send us the following information:

Members need to have the following information:

- Breed of pig
- Date of birth
- Beginning weight
- Breeder's name and address

Breeding Project information is also due on April 12th. Please send information to the office if you are participating.

- Beef – Bangs tag number and picture
- Sheep – Scrapies tag number and picture
- Swine – Picture
- Goats – Scrapies tag number and picture

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
PPD 2026
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>

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. 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. Livestock members who are in this situation will have the opportunity to select this option on FairEntry when they sign up for a market animal show.

Please note, your private treaty buyer or you would be responsible for all processing fees. The \$50 fee and the buyer information must be turned in to Jesse Fulbright on Saturday night of the sale in order to be included in animal transport.

Fashion Revue

Please mark on your calendars that Fashion Revue will take place Monday, July 6th. This is open to any members taking a sewing project or Ready to Wear.

There is also a Cloverbuds section!

We will also offer a section of Cloverbud Fair interviews in case that date works better for your family OR if you feel your child would be more comfortable on a less busy day than Wednesday of Fair.

Please reach out if you have any questions about Fashion Revue or Cloverbud interviews.

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 registration will open mid-April and members will be able to choose their workshops (space permitting) so register early to get your top picks for workshops!

Cloverbud Camp

Save the date for Cloverbud Camp n Wednesday, June 10th from 10am-2pm at the Exhibit Building.

Community Service Opportunity

The West Butte 4-H Club is doing a clean up day in Sunburst on May 2nd if anyone wants to get some Community Service Hours. Please contact Crystal if you want to join or have any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Livestock Committee Updates

Rules updated at the March meeting include increasing max market goat weight to 135, requiring scrapies tags for all goats and sheep, requiring market sheep and goats to have been born after September 1 of the prior year, the breeding animal identification forms (above), and requiring a picture submission of a dead market animal to the Extension Office/Livestock Committee before purchasing another member's officially weighed-in spare animal (if member doesn't have a spare)

Market Livestock Members - Begin Marketing Now!

For 2026, we're projecting 161 total market livestock, whereas there were 126 market animals sold in 2025. (Granted, some members will only sell one animal at fair so overall numbers will be less than 161, but the takeaway message is we are certainly UP on market livestock in 2026). Steer numbers are the same but we're looking at an additional 5 market lambs, 15 market swine, and 4 market goats compared to 2025.

With these additional numbers, it is important that 4-Hers begin marketing early! Start making a list of potential businesses and individuals to invite to the sale. Buyers need to have the date on their calendar early (Saturday, July 18, 3 p.m.) and be budgeting for the sale. Who are three NEW buyers you can invite - an orthodontist, accountant, relative, etc.? What is your plan for marketing? Can you send a 'Save the Date' now and a follow-up letter (mailed or hand delivered) this summer? The marketing piece is each member's responsibility and a great way to hone the life skills of hand shakes, introducing yourself, sharing about your projects, etc.

New Volunteers - Clover Academy Volunteer Orientation

New volunteers will need to complete a volunteer orientation in Zsuite. Log into your personal account, look on the left panel, then scroll to "Clover Academy," and click to begin your four training modules. This training takes around an hour to complete. Each module usually takes about 15 minutes. We cannot finalize your leader status until this orientation is completed.

Small Animal Judging Training

Are you interested in learning how to judge poultry, rabbits, cats and dogs, and being able to judge at county fairs? If so, you are encouraged to attend a virtual Small Animal Judges' Training on Monday, April 20th at 6 p.m. This training is for any interested adult. Let us know if you are interested and we will get you the link!



2026 PUBLIC PRESENTATION DAY

2026 Public Presentation Day

On Sunday, March 22nd we held Public Presentation Day at the First Baptist Church. Great job to all of those who presented. Great job to all of the Cloverbuds for presenting as well.

Pre- Junior Winners:

1st Place- Rose Welker

2nd Place- Liliana Denno

3rd Place- Hadley Ergenbright/ Curtis Kimmet

Junior Winners:

1st Place- Bridger Ergenbright

2nd Place- Moira Hemmer

Senior Winners:

1st Place- Corin Scarborough

2nd Place- Bridger Ergenbright, Kaylee Nickol and Desirae Salois

3rd Place- Grace Hemmer



4-H HORSE INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP

11th April | 10A.M - 2 P.M.
4-H EXHIBIT BUILDING AT FAIRGROUNDS



WORKSHOPS:

Nutrition

Lameness/ Gates of Horses

Safety Around Horses

Safe Trailing

Horse Helmet Video

*Ride Practice

*Dependent on Weather



LUNCH PROVIDED

TEXT 406-868-9149
RSVP/QUESTIONS

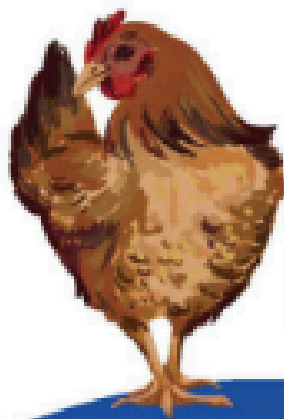
4-H POULTRY & RABBIT SHOW

(MULTI-COUNTY, WITH CO-JUDGES
MANDIE REED, WHEATLAND COUNTY,
AND JACK WARD, TETON COUNTY)

SNACKS
AND
FUN
PRIZES!



"This will be a practice show for kids who want to practice before the Fair, to feel more comfortable!!"



When: Sunday May 17th, 2026 AT 2PM
Where: The Chateau Volunteer Fire Hall
at 920 8th Ave NW, Chateau, MT 59422

Hosted by Hannah,
Youth Member of Teton County 4-H

Please RSVP by May 12th to
📞 Hannah at 406-590-2283





MONTANA
HEREFORD ASSOCIATION

2026 Heifer Grant

One (1) minimum of **\$1,000** grant to purchase a Hereford heifer.
The heifer must be purchased from a current MHA member.
Showing your heifer is not a requirement.

Eligibility to Apply

- Between the age of 9-17 as of January 1, 2026
- Current 4H or FFA member
- Must live in the State of Montana

Essay Topic

State why you deserve the heifer grant, how receiving the grant will help you with your 4-H/FFA project(s), how receiving the grant fits into your future goals in agriculture, why you are applying to receive the grant, and any previous experience taking care of livestock.

Application Deadline

September 1, 2026

If you have any questions, please reach out to infomontanahereford@gmail.com

Application Packet can be found on MHA's website, www.montanahereford.org/heifer-grant

Application Requirements

- Must Complete Application
- Complete an Essay
- Provide Three (3) Letters of Reference
- Submit a 3-5 Minute Video



APRIL

- 1st-** Cloverbuds after school- 5pm @ Elementary School Cafeteria
- 9th-** West Butte Cloverbud Meeting 5pm @ the Library
- 11th-** 4-H Horse Workshop 10am-2pm @ Fairgrounds
- 12th -** Second Camp Counselor Meeting 2pm in Chester
- 12th-** Kountry Kids Meeting 2pm @ Exhibit Building
- 12th-** Pig tagging deadline, Breeding project deadline
- 15th-** Cloverbuds after school- 5pm @ Elementary School Cafeteria

MAY

- 1st-** Add/ Drop Deadline
- 2nd-** West Butte Community Service Project and Meeting 10am (Weather Permitting)
- 3rd-** Lamb and Goat Weigh-in Deadline
- 5th-** Horse Committee Meeting 6pm @ MRE
- 6th-** Cloverbuds after school- 5pm @ Elementary School Cafeteria
- 9th-** West Butte Cloverbuds Meeting @ 4H Camground in the Sweetgrass Hills
- 10th-** Kountry Kids Meeting 2pm @ Exhibit Building
- 15th-** Fair Packets available, Fair registration opens on FairEntry
- 20th-** Cloverbuds after school- 5pm @ Elementary School Cafeteria
- 25th- Memorial Day- Office Closed**

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