



New Member
4-H family
Welcome Packet

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Welcome to the 4-H program in Ravalli County. We are so pleased to have you and your family involved in the program!

This booklet should be reviewed with you by a club or someone from the Extension Office so your questions can be answered as you go through the information.

You will also want to review “The New Family Handbook”; it is a Montana 4-H publication and is available at the Extension Office. The book contains the basic information about 4-H, the Pledge, Motto, emblem, the Learning Model and Philosophy of 4-H are explained in detail.

All 1st year members should also have a copy of “For the Record”; it will help them understand the record forms and how to complete them.

Information about contacting us at the Extension Office is in the back of this booklet. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to getting to know you and sharing 4-H events and activities with you!

Sincerely,

Ravalli County Extension Staff

4-H Year Time line 2007-2008

October

- ☼ Clubs hold re-enrollment and re-organization meetings – be sure to attend!!!
- ☼ 4-H Year begins (4-H age is calculated by this date – October 1)
- ☼ Enrollment and Re-Enrollment begins
- ☼ Record Book Completion Information due to the Extension Office
- ☼ National 4-H Week (always 1st full week in October)
- ☼ County Award Nominations due in Extension Office – First Friday of October
- ☼ County Awards Acceptance due in Extension Office – Third Friday of October
- ☼ County Awards Night – Tuesday Evening in October
- ☼ Fall Ambassador Training

November

- ☼ Enrollment continues
- ☼ Project materials distributed at club meetings
- ☼ Award programs in clubs
- ☼ National 4-H Congress in Atlanta (always Thanksgiving weekend)

December

- ☼ Enrollment continues
- ☼ Club Holiday activities
- ☼ Camp Counselors applications

January

- ☼ State Leaders Council Dues paid for all enrolled leaders
- ☼ Market Steers weighed
- ☼ Western Regional Leaders Forum
- ☼ Alberta Leaders Forum
- ☼ Club Officer Training
- ☼ IFYE (International 4-H Youth Exchange) applications due
- ☼ 4-H Legislative Breakfast, Helena (Legislative years only)

Winter

- ☼ Record Books – take 10 minutes each month to keep it updated
- ☼ Project Books – take 10 minutes each month to get your activities done!
- ☼ Project Workshops – conducted by club project leaders, some offered by County

February

- ☼ CWF (Citizenship Washington Focus) application due
- ☼ Susan Kay Duffner CWF Scholarship applications due
- ☼ Japanese Outbound applications due

March

- ✿ 4-H Carnival
- ✿ Western Regional Leader's Forum (WRLF)
- ✿ 4-H Citizenship Seminar, Helena (Legislative years only)
- ✿ Japanese Host Family Applications due
- ✿ FLEX/IFYE Host Family Applications due
- ✿ National 4-H Conference, D.C.

April

- ✿ County Speech & Demo Day
- ✿ County Fashion Revue
- ✿ State Award Selection Committee Applications due
- ✿ National Volunteer Week
- ✿ Phon-A-Thon

May

- ✿ 4-H Project Drop/Add deadline
- ✿ State Award Applications due
- ✿ County Ambassador fees due to State

June

- ✿ Citizenship Washington Focus
- ✿ Congress Registration due
- ✿ IFYE's arrive & depart
- ✿ Bitterroot Barn Bash

July

- ✿ Congress, Bozeman, Montana
- ✿ 4-H Camp at Loon Lake near Bigfork, Montana

August

- ✿ Work on record books and show to leaders
- ✿ Indoor Exhibit Interview Judging
- ✿ 4-H Horse at Fair
- ✿ 4-H Dog at Fair
- ✿ 4-H Livestock to Fair
- ✿ Ravalli County Fair

September

- ✿ Finish record books
- ✿ County Awards nominations due
- ✿ Last day of the 4-H year

Read your 4-H Newsletter every month for information about these events and more! READ YOUR 4-H NEWSLETTER EACH MONTH FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ALL THESE EVENTS AND MORE!!!

Take advantage of all there is to do in 4-H!

4-H Clubs



4-H Clubs are the backbone of the 4-H program! The entire family should attend and participate in club meetings and activities.

Attend your monthly club business meetings! This is your opportunity to learn parliamentary procedure and experience democracy in action. You will also complete important paper work at meetings; get updates on club and county level activities and reminders about deadlines.

Improve your community! Every club completes at least one community service project each year. You will take pride in seeing the results of this project and enjoy the team work required to complete it.

Have fun! Games and activities should be a part of every club meeting, and clubs will have special fun events throughout the year.

Meet new friends! You will truly get to know your fellow members and create life long friendships with entire families.

Youth/Adult Partnerships! You will learn to appreciate your fellow 4-Hers of all ages, working with them as partners on a team.

Family Opportunity! Your whole family can be involved in 4-H together, and you can each pursue your own special interests and set your individual goals.

Fund Raising! Most clubs have at least one fund raiser per year. Members learn that working together toward a common goal can be fun and fulfilling.

There are 21 4-H clubs in Ravalli County. Contact the Extension Office for the phone numbers of the Organizational Leaders for each club.



4-H Projects

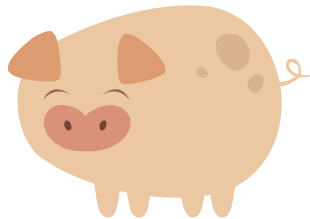
Every member is required to enroll in and complete a minimum of one project per year.

4-H is based on a “learn by Doing” model. Projects are hands on educational activities.

There is huge variety of projects and members can choose projects that hold a special interest for them. Members should be encouraged to take a realistic number of projects that they can complete each year.

Project workshops may be available on the club level, if parents and teen and adult leaders are willing to volunteer as project leaders.

Set three project goals for the year and make them fun and attainable. Accomplishing realistic goals is a very satisfying life skill. Young people learn to evaluate their personal challenges and success.



Workbooks and Project literature

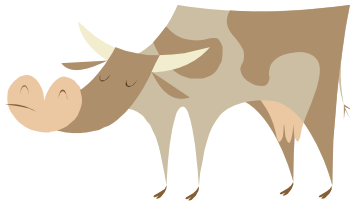
If a project is listed in the “Clover” literature it comes from the state. If it is a county project listed on the yellow sheet, there will probably be only a brief project outline.

The cost of the project literature is on the order form. You also may ask the office.

Please read in the front part of the project books to learn more about completion requirements. Most workbooks require completing seven activities per year.

Project literature is distributed by the Extension Office, through the Club Organizational Leader at the beginning of each year. Material ordered later may be picked up at the Extension Office.

Market Animal Projects



Please make a careful note of the weight and tag deadlines for each species in the 4-H newsletter. The ear tags will be available for a nominal cost at the weigh-in. There are deadlines for weighing in all market animals that will be sold at the Ravalli County Fair.

Thank your notes – All members that sell an animal at the fair are expected to write their buyer(s) a thank you note. You may have the note ready and give it to your buyer at the livestock sale or send it to them. We must have record of your note before your check will be released.

Market Animal payments-Your check will be mailed to you. Checks are not mailed until buyers have paid the bank for the animals. Checks are usually mailed out before December.

Promotion-The Livestock Committee asks that market animal owners contact potential buyers prior to the fair, they help promote the 4-H & FFA Livestock sale that is held on Saturday morning of the fair.

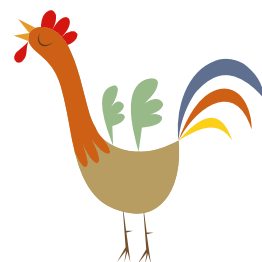
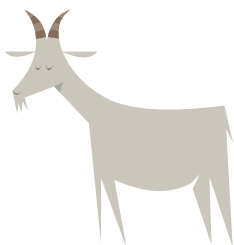
Quality Assurance – All 4-H and FFA livestock project members must complete this training each year in able to sell an animal at the fair. This training helps ensure that you are providing a high quality product to consumers. Small Animal project members also have a Quality Assurance program to attend if they want to sell their animals.

Animal projects

All appropriate vaccinations for ALL animals, (livestock, horses, pets and small animals), must be up to date to bring that animal to any clinics or to the fair.

All animal projects have a workbook that requires the completion of at least seven activities per year.

All animal projects are scheduled for a pre-fair interview that must be completed in order to show at the fair. These are non-premium, participation interviews that give the member an opportunity to share their learning and growth in the project.



Horse Projects



All members must start with Horsemanship I, with/or both English or Western. If a member is more advanced, they may be “assessed” by the horse committee and moved up in levels **before April 30**. The leader should also check the workbook when they assess the member’s skills and make sure the workbook is completed for that level before they move the member up. The leader must contact the Extension Office to notify them of level changes.

- ❁ All project changes must be done before the drop/add deadline on May 1.
- ❁ Members must have completed Horsemanship 1 and 2, and be enrolled in or completed Horsemanship 3 before they can enroll in any other Horse projects.
- ❁ All horse members may enter Showmanship at the fair for their age group. You must write this entry on your fair entry form.
- ❁ Make sure all vaccinations are current for your horse before you bring them to any clinics, or to the fair.

Leaders and Parent Opportunities

Training



District Leaders Training/ Meeting: We are in District 1 and the other counties are Missoula, Lake, Flathead, Sanders, and Mineral Counties. This event is held in one of these counties each fall.

State Leaders Forum – Held in the fall of each year. This provides great training, new ideas and networking. This rotates about the state each year.

County Leaders Training - Conducted by the Extension Office periodically around the year. Look in your newsletter for dates.

Alberta Leaders Forum – Held in January each year. This provides great workshops and lots of new ideas. Leaders must apply by mid-October

Western Regional Leaders Forum – held each year in one of the western states.

Shooting Sports Leaders Training – to work with any children, besides your own, in the shooting sports projects, you must go through one of these trainings.

4-H Council

The Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month. Members are nominated from the 4-H leaders and volunteers. Council assists Extension Agents in conducting the county 4-H youth development program. Look in the newsletter for time and location.

Record Keeping



- ✿ This is a Life Skill that 4-H teaches. Record keeping is required to advance each year.
- ✿ A general record, (My 4-H Year), is kept each year that gives members an opportunity to record all of their activities, and awards, 4-H and non 4-H. They also keep separate records for each projects that include a “What I Did- What I Learned” section and financial records.
- ✿ If a member wants to advance to higher levels in a project they must complete the records and project requirements for that project.
- ✿ For a member to receive a yearly completion award and move up a year in 4-H, they must complete all sections of the “My 4-H Year” record and records and requirements for at least one project.
- ✿ Record books are due to the Club Organizational Leader before the fair entry form is signed.
- ✿ Record forms are available in the Extension Office for a small fee.
- ✿ These records can be used as a reference for scholarship and job applications.
- ✿ If a member does not complete their records, they may re-enroll, but will not get year end awards, or move up in project levels.
- ✿ Green 4-H folders or binders can be purchased at the Extension Office to keep your Records. It is not required to have your records in one of these.
- ✿ New members are advised to purchase a book called for “For the Record” that gives detailed instructions on completing 4-H record forms. These are available for sale in the Extension Office.
- ✿ Helpful Hint – keep a family calendar on which you record ALL activities, to be used as a reference for record books.

Public Speaking



4-H has a reputation of producing members that are fluent speakers and great communicators. Members learn this skill by participating in their club business meetings, fair interviews, and club and county public speech meets. Cloverbuds can do a show and tell if they wish.

Presentation options for all members

- ☞ **Prepared Speech** – memorized speech with no visual aids, (Seniors could also give an impromptu speech)
- ☞ **Illustrated Talk** – a presentation with visual aids, but no end product
- ☞ **Demonstration** – a presentation with visual aids and an end product

Additional options for members 13 and younger

- ☞ **Broadcast** – pretend to be a radio or TV announcer and read your presentation
- ☞ **Commercial** – prepare a short commercial
- ☞ **Interview** – prepare a resume and participate in a mock job interview
- ☞ **Show and Tell**
- ☞ **Cloverbuds** – Not required to participate in public speaking but have this option if they choose.

Literature that explains each of these type of presentations, how to prepare and time requirements is available at the Extension Office. There will also be information in the newsletter.

County Speech and Demo Day is held each spring. Look for dates in the newsletter. Senior members who get a blue ribbon may apply to participate in the public speaking events at State 4-H Congress.

2007-2008 County 4-H Ambassador Team

Senior Ambassador: Patrick DeNitto

Junior Ambassador: Danica Loucks

Key Leader: Patrice Loucks

This group would like to visit all 4-H clubs to share record keeping. They are also a great support in certain project areas, and would be happy to help with club workshops! They are always looking for prospective ambassadors to join their join.

4-H Teen Council – They meet every other month to set goals, create workshops. This includes all youth interested in getting things done for the county program.



Carnival

In March, the Ravalli County 4-H Clubs hold a carnival in Corvallis with many different booths, games and food. This carnival is staffed by the 4-H clubs but is open to the public. The money raised from the carnival is used to help pay expenses for the year for all the different programs.

Camps

Loon Lake 4-H Camp for all members is held at Loon Lake the last week of July. The camp has adult chaperones, Junior Counselors (JC) and campers. Four days and three nights filled with crafts, outdoor recreation, and lots of activities. This camp is planned and organized by 4-H teen camp counselors under the supervision of a camper director.

Phon-A-Thon

4-H members compile lists of donor names and call and ask for pledges of money to 4-H. They keep a percentage of the money pledged to help pay for camps and trips. Talk to the 4-H agent if you are interested in this.

County level Activities

Livestock Judging Clinics – these are held during different times throughout the year. Check your newsletter for dates.

Speech & Demo Day – public speaking and demonstrations. Senior members may go on to 4-H State Congress. Check your newsletter for date.

Fashion Revue is a chance to show of your sewing and quilting skills. Senior members may go on to 4-H State Congress. Check your newsletter for date.

Stir Ups is a cooking contest. Senior members may go on to 4-H State Congress. Check your newsletter for date.

Adult and Teen leaders

Your club Organizational Leader, project and activity leaders will be able to answer many of your questions. Teen members with first hand experience in a project or activity are also a great resource. We have county level resource leaders that are willing to help in specific areas.

Out of County Opportunities for Teen Members

The members that participate in these activities often become more active and successful with their 4-H career.

Citizenship Seminar – Held for three days in Helena, during legislative years. Must be 14 by October 1 of the current year. Members write a bill before they attend with the goal of getting that bill through the “4-H Senate”. Learn about our State Government through actual participation.

State Rec. Lab – For members 13 or older by October 1 of the current year. Rotated throughout the state and held Friday through Sunday, usually in April. Learn leadership skills to teach and lead recreational activities.

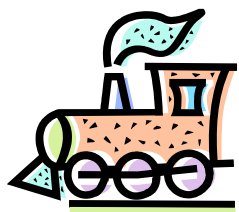
State 4-H Congress – For members 14 and older by October 1 of the current year and held at MSU in Bozeman. Our county requires its members to earn a trip to Congress; they can do this by winning a spot on a judging team, winning a blue ribbon at Speech and Demo Day, Fashion Revue or winning the county Stir Ups Contest.

Please encourage all senior members to participate in county Speech and Demo Day, if they have ANY desire to attend congress). Competitions, workshops, speakers, recreation and socialization fill four days.

National 4-H Congress – For state award winners and currently held in Atlanta, Georgia right after Thanksgiving.

National DC Citizenships Focus – applications due in May. 4-Hers from across the nation gather at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Tours of Washington D.C. along with workshops and seminars on government and citizenship fill the agenda.

District One Teen Retreat – Held in the spring at Loon Lake 4-H Camp. Attendees must be 13 at the retreat. Teens gather from the counties in District One to learn leadership skills, recreation ideas and perform community service for the camp.



FAIR TIME



Early preparation will reduce stress:

- ✿ Work on indoor exhibits throughout the year
- ✿ Keep your record book up to date
- ✿ Work on your workbooks throughout the year
- ✿ Practice with your animals
- ✿ Attend workshops and clinics to get all the information and advice you can
- ✿ Attend appropriate county committee meetings so you understand schedules and policies

Read the Fair Book

- ✿ Copies are available at the Extension Office
- ✿ Refer to the Fair Book to complete your entries
- ✿ All schedules and rules are in the fair book – the 4-H schedule should be referred to for 4-H activities, not the general fair schedule in the front of the book
- ✿ Be sure you know the dress codes for animal shows
- ✿ Be sure to refer to the 4-H Department, not open class for 4-H entry information

Fair Entries

- ✿ Completed in August
- ✿ Respect the fair entry deadline, plan ahead if you are busy in August read the 4-H section of the fair book for the correct class and lot numbers
- ✿ If you want to compete in showmanship, enter it on your fair entries the projects listed at the top of the entry form are what you are eligible to enter in, you must write all your entries on the blank lines provided proof read your entries when the fair book comes out in July.
- ✿ If you have ANY changes you must contact the Fairgrounds.
- ✿ Pen and cage numbers will be assigned by the Fair Superintendents

Interviews

- ✿ All indoor entries are judged by interviews. All non-perishable projects will be scheduled for Monday the week before fair. Members bring their exhibits and visit with the judges about how they prepared them and what they learned in the project.
- ✿ Foods and horticulture are interviewed on Monday of fair week. Bring your record and work book to the interview.
- ✿ All livestock and horse entries must also participate in an interview. They will be scheduled.

- ✿ If you cannot attend an interview on the scheduled date, you must make an appointment with the Extension Office to have an “absentee” interview.
- ✿ Bring your exhibits and record books to this interview.

General fair hints

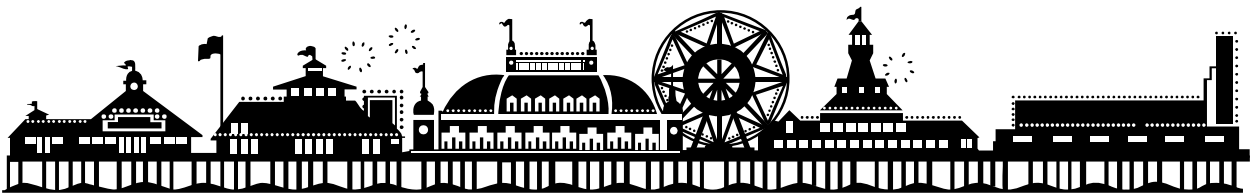
- ✿ There is a huge demand for camping spots on the fairgrounds. Contact the fair office to get your name on a spot.
- ✿ Everyone must purchase day passes or season passes for the fair. The proceeds from this income pay for the premium money awarded exhibitors and help run the fairgrounds.
- ✿ Get your thank you cards ready for any special premiums you win throughout the fair. Special premiums are donated by people within the community in an area of their choice. Thanks cards are required before you receive special premiums sent from the Extension Office.
- ✿ Fair ribbon premiums (different from special premiums) are given by the fair depending on the ribbon. There are deadlines for picking these premiums up from the office. Check the fair book for more information.

Have fun

- ✿ Fair time should be a positive learning experience that your entire family enjoys and shares.

4-H Food Booth

- ✿ The food booth is operated during the fair and is the primary fundraiser for the Ravalli County 4-H Program.
- ✿ Each club must take at least one shift during the fair. All members, leaders and parents should work a shift for their club.
- ✿ Each club should call and be assigned a shift.
- ✿ This is an opportunity for 4-H members to learn about food service and customer service.



Awards & Recognition

Members County Awards

- ☼ This process begins in September each year when members are nominated for county awards in project areas, plus community service, leadership, agriculture and safety.
- ☼ If a member accepts the nomination, they go on to participate in “Awards Discussion Groups”. This gives them the opportunity to share their achievements, ideas and advice with other members in the same project or activity.
- ☼ Facilitators ask questions and keep the discussion going, and then make recommendations for members they feel deserve a county award. These awards are presented at the member’s club awards program.

Members Yearly Completion Awards

Members are recognized for completing each year in 4-H. These awards are presented at the club’s award program.

Members State Awards

These awards are selected through an application process. Senior members may apply in any project area, leadership, community service, agriculture or safety. These applications are due May 1 and announced at State 4-H Congress

Cloverbuds

The Coverbud program is non-competitive and for children in grades kindergarten to third grade or until they can join 4-H. Cloverbuds are given a certificate at the end of each year.

Scholarships

County- Scholarships are available for those in need. The 4-Her will need to write a letter of need and submit it to the Extension Office.

State - The Montana 4-H Foundation awards numerous scholarships to MT 4-Hers.

Volunteer of Excellence

This is a state award that recognizes 4-H Leaders that have proven to be “volunteers of excellence.” They are nominated on the county level and then chosen by the state.

Outstanding 4-H Alumni

This is a state award that is given to 4-H alumni that have continued to contribute to their communities. They are nominated on the county level and then chosen by the state.

Questions?

Monthly 4-H Newsletter

- ✿ Mailed around the first of the month. It is also available online at:
<http://www.homepage.montana.edu/~ravalli>
- ✿ Please read it over carefully each month
- ✿ This will provide dates, deadlines, registration forms, upcoming activities, committee news, policy & advice

Ravalli County Extension Office

We are located in the Ravalli County Administrative Building in Hamilton;
Or call: 375-6611 we are here to help and answer your 4-H questions!

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