



Blaine County 4-H News

October, 2008

MSU Extension
Blaine County
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Dear 4-H Members, Leaders and Parents,

Happy National 4-H Week and welcome to a new 4-H year! We are very excited about the upcoming 4-H year. It promises to be a fun, exciting learning experience for everyone! We encourage everyone to get more involved in your clubs, try new projects, join the youth leaders or livestock judging team, and attend more county events.

The new 4-H year officially begins October 1, 2008. You need to get your enrollment, re-enrollment, leader forms and release forms turned in by October 24th. Remember, leader dues are \$5 to the Blaine County 4-H Council.

As we begin the new 2008 ~ 2009 4-H year, Organizational leaders are reminded to turn in your yearly calendar, lists of club officers, and a current club photo to the Extension Office. Thank You! We know this is a big job and we appreciate your efforts!

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2007-2008 4-H Achievement Night

Thank you Big Flat 4-H Club for hosting 4-H Achievement Night on September 28th. We had a great turnout in Turner on Sunday evening. Thank you to all the clubs for participating. Congratulations to all the Achievement Award Winners!

New Club for the 2008-2009 4-H Year

The Pioneer Pals 4-H Club is back, under new leadership and with new members. If you are thinking you would like to try a new club this year or know of someone looking to join 4-H, please contact the Extension Office so we can get them in touch with Pioneer Pals.

Shooting Sports Elk Trip

All 4-H members and their families are invited to join the shooting sports members to go to the Missouri River to watch the elk on Sunday October 5th. We will be leaving from the Extension Office at 1:00 on Sunday. Please call the Extension Office by Friday October 3rd to let us know you are coming. We will have a potluck supper when we get there. Please bring a supper item to share with the group.

National 4-H Week

October 5-11, 2008 is National 4-H Week! This year's National 4-H Week promotional kit will highlight 4-H's work in science, engineering and technology (4-H SET). Looking for items to promote National 4-H Week in your community? Look no further,

<http://www.4-hbrandnetwork.org/> is your place to download kit materials.

We look forward to viewing your 4-H Club window displays promoting 4-H. Please call the Extension Office and let us know the location of your display.

If you need any ideas for promotional activities, please let us know. Clubs are welcome to promote 4-H in area schools, on the radio, in the newspaper and to other groups throughout the county.

Achievement Night Club Rotation

FYI~ The Achievement Night Rotation is:

- 2009 ~ Valley Clovers
- 2010 ~ Harlem Variety
- 2011 ~ White Pine Porcupine
- 2012 ~ Bear Paw Buddies
- 2013 ~ Paradise Pals
- 2014 ~ Pioneer Pals
- 2015 ~ Big Flat

Note about 4-H Age

Just as a reminder, when you are filling out your re-enrollment forms you may notice your age listed on the forms. Many of you cross it out, unless it is way off please leave it. The age listed is your 4-H age. Your 4-H age is the age you will turn during the 4-H year.

Enrollment Forms

Enrollment forms will be out to your organizational leaders very soon. Please be thinking of which projects you would like to enroll in for this 4-H year.

As you are filling out your re-enrollment forms, please check the form to make sure all the information is correct. Please be sure to check your birthday, address, phone number, e-mail address and all other information. Also, make sure you and your parents sign both sides of the enrollment forms and all the release forms. Thank you!

Blaine County Extension Office Website

We have just completed the first steps to our new Blaine County Extension Website. It is up and running on the web. Important 4-H activities, newsletters and forms will be posted and updated monthly on the web. You can access the site at: <http://www.msuextension.org/blaine>

Club Photo

The start of the 4-H year is a great time to get out your cameras and get a club photo. All clubs need to turn in your photo, yearly calendars and lists of club officers by Friday, November 14th.

Organizational Leader Update

With the addition of new organizational leaders and a new club this year, we will be holding another organizational leader update. Please mark November 5th at 7:00 at the Triple E Room on your calendar. All organizational leaders and interested leaders are invited to attend. Some of the items to be discussed include fun activities for 4-H clubs, leader training, officer training, and project workshop training.

County Wide Flu Clinic

The Blaine County Health Department will be hosting a mass flu clinic on October 29, 2008 from 8:00am-12:00pm. The Blaine County flu shot challenge is a test of the public health system's capacity to distribute vaccine to a large number of people in order to protect the health of the community.

Anyone who wants to receive a flu shot is eligible to participate in the flu shot challenge.

The Blaine County Health Department is asking for our help in distributing information to all the areas of Blaine County.

If you are willing to help the health department please contact the Extension Office.

2008 Sugarbeet Festival

The 4th Annual Sugarbeet Festival will be Saturday October 11th in Chinook. All 4-H Clubs are welcome to sell crafts, food and other items at the Sugarbeet Festival. This year, the Sugarbeet Festival is featuring the cattle industry. For more information on all of the activities visit the Chinook Chamber of Commerce website.

[http://www.chinookmontana.com/Sugarbeet Festival.html](http://www.chinookmontana.com/SugarbeetFestival.html)

4-H Livestock Judging

The Blaine County 4-H Judging team will be practicing on Wednesday's this fall. Practice dates are October 1st, October 8th, October 15th, and October 22nd at 6:00 PM at the Triple E Room. We will leave for NILE on Monday October 13th and return Tuesday evening. MSU Ag Days is October 30th- November 1st in Bozeman. As soon as we get details about the Ag Days Judging Contest, we will let you know.

Montana Advanced Youth Market Beef Program:

The Montana Advanced Youth Market Beef Program began in 2004 as a way for 4-Hers interested in market beef projects to take their education to the next level. Instead of taking one steer to the county fair and selling it for a premium price, participants in the AYMBP begin feeding three animals in January and have them finished in time for a pen show at Midland Bull Test in Columbus, MT at the beginning of June.

4-H and FFA youth from ages 12-19 are eligible to participate in the AYMBP. Cattle are shipped directly from Columbus after the live pen show to the Swift and Co. processing facility in Greeley, CO. Calves are sold on a quality and yield grade basis, and participants are paid carcass value after all marketing and transportation expenses are deducted. Participants must keep detailed feed, health, and financial records, and must be current in Quality Assurance training. They receive monthly newsletters containing information on animal selection, nutrition, management, marketing, beef industry trends, and more. They also receive carcass information from their animals.

Background:

The Montana 4-H Youth Advanced Market Beef Project is designed to be better aligned with current beef genetics and the cattle feeding industry of today. The current timing of county fairs is reflective of the cattle industry of the 1920's and 1930's when fairs were developed. The cattle feeding industry has experienced significant change over the last 30 years. Cattle today are weaned 200 to 300 lbs heavier than before due to earlier breeding, cross breeding, and selection for larger framed cattle. Typically cattle weaned in the fall are sent directly to a feedlot and are finished in 180 to 220 days.

The main focus of the Advanced Beef Project is to expand youth knowledge of animal science, consumer demands, and the competitive feeding industry. Goals for this program are to provide advanced youth beef education in the following areas: economics, genetic selection, nutrition, health, record keeping/data interpretation, and quality assurance.

How to Enroll:

4-H and FFA youth from ages 12-19 are eligible to participate in the program. The pen of 3 steers are weighed and tagged locally by January 15, 2009 to get an initial weight. Interested youth should first contact the Blaine County Extension Office prior to October 31, 2008 to indicate their interest in this program. If there appears to be enough interest from around the state, youth will be asked to formally enroll in the project and pay a transportation deposit of \$50 by November 15, 2008.

The possession date for the steers will be January 15, 2009. Each participant will receive three panel ear tags to identify their pen of 3 steers. The live show is tentatively scheduled at Midland Bull Test in Columbus, Montana on June 3, 2009. We need a minimum of 15 participants to conduct the program, so encourage youth to enroll early!



Several Blaine County 4-H Horse project members and their families attended the 2008 4-H Trail Ride hosted by Mike & Connie Copenhaver on September 7th.



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4-H: The Youth Development Program of MSU Extension

The MSU Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.