



Powder River County Footnotes 4-H News

December/January
2011/12

Happy Birthday Montana 4-H!

2012 marks the 100th anniversary of 4-H in Montana...a year to celebrate! Think of ways to celebrate the **Centennial** throughout the year. A year-long celebration.....that sounds like fun?!



Great Christmas Gift! - Greytak Calendars

The 2012 Montana Agriculture Calendars featuring the art of Don Greytak are available at the Extension Office. The calendars make great gifts, and all illustrations are suitable for framing. Calendars are \$10.00 each, payable to the 4-H Council.

4-H Club Treasurer's Training

4-H Club Treasurer's will have the opportunity to learn the basics of their job at a training on Thursday, December 1st at the Extension Office meeting room at 4:00 p.m. Club's are encouraged to have a leader present, too. Becky Anderson will cover the forms required to keep track of club finances and help newly elected treasurer's start off the new year in fine fashion.

Santa's Secret Shop-Holiday shopping for kids

Join in the holiday shopping fun at Santa's Secret Shop set for Wednesday, December 7th, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., during the community's annual Christmas Stroll. Parents and leaders are asked to assist the teens during the selling hours. A sign up sheet is available at the office. Thank you for your support of this fun Teen 4-H fundraiser!

Calendar

December

- 1—4-H Club Treasurer Training, 4:00 pm
- 6—Teen 4-H meeting, noon
- 7—Santa's Secret Shop, 4-7 pm, Courthouse Lobby

January

- 1—Applications due for Citizenship Washington Focus
- 9—4-H Council Meeting, 5:00 pm
- 20—4-H Mini-Congress, High School

February

- 1—People Partner Grants Due
- 1—Deadline for 2012 Montana 4-H Citizenship Seminar
- 15—Fairbook Dedication Nomination & Theme Due

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4-H Mini-Congress

Teens are again planning a fun and exciting event for this year's 4-H Mini-Congress. Teens have a variety of workshops planned to create an action packed and fun evening planned. Youth in 5th through 7th grade will receive registration forms through school. The event, filled with fun, food, and games, will take place at the Powder River High School on Friday, January 20th, from 2:30 until 8:00 p.m.

Fair Theme and Dedication Names Needed

It may seem early to be planning for the 2012 Fair, but it will be here before we know it. The Fair Board has asked for themes and names of people to whom the fairbook should be dedicated. There is a \$25 cash award to the club or person that comes up with the best theme. Both the theme and names of people should be submitted by February 15th, to the Extension office.

4-H Council Meeting Set

Come to the next 4-H Council meeting scheduled for Monday, January 9th, at 5:00 p.m. at the Extension Office. It's an exciting time to be a part of this great youth organization, come help make it the best!

People Partner Grants Due February 1st

The People Partner grant program, sponsored by the Montana 4-H Foundation, offers an opportunity for clubs and individuals to make a difference in their communities. 4-H members determine a need, write the grant application and implement the project.

Applications are available at the Extension Office and are due by February 1st. Projects funded in the past in Powder River County include sewing caps for cancer patients, building benches, and installing playground equipment. The grant is an excellent way to give back to the community.

Recruiting Key Leaders

Do you have certain expertise you'd like to share with youth? Are you interested in being the key leader for a project? We are again contacting people to be key leaders for project areas. If you have a particular interest in an area, and would like to work with youth or organize educational workshops, please contact us. We will sign you up today!

Enrollment Forms Due

Just a reminder to leaders that Enrollment Forms are due as soon as you can get them in.

Achievement of Excellence Award

To be eligible for an Achievement of Excellence award, which is a \$10 cash award given at Achievement Day, 4-H members must have completed all records in each project in which they are enrolled AND HAVE PARTICIPATED IN COUNTY SPEECH AND DEMONSTRATION DAY, which means presenting a demonstration, speech, illustrated talk, creative work or reading cowboy poetry. They must also have participated in the following:

- Assisted with 4-H promotion.
- Led an educational workshop
- Assisted with a County Event
- Helped individual kids with their projects
- Participated in a community service activity

-Exhibited at the fair for each project in which you are enrolled.

SENIORS: (14 years as of October 1, 2011) - Must complete 5 out of 6.

INTERMEDIATE: (11 - 13 years)-Must complete 4 out of 6.

JUNIOR: (9 - 10 years)-Must complete 3 out of 6.

Keep Track of Community Service Hours

As you are keeping your 4-H records up-to-date each month, be sure to note the amount of time spent doing community service activities. This can be made in parentheses following the activity, i.e. "Picked up trash on the highway" (2). Why is this important? According to Senior members applying to colleges and for scholarships, the amount of time spent doing community service is vitally important. If you keep track of it in your records as you go, whether you are 9 years old or 15; that information will be at your finger tips. Cool!



"Off the Record...4-H Records" ***by Mary Rumph***

As you begin your new 4-H year with renewed enthusiasm, keep in mind that with each project also go the 4-H records. Consider approaching record keeping with equal excitement. As a parent, I continually told my children about the value of 4-H records. They often said that keeping track of all that stuff is a "waste of time". However, when my kids reached the age of applying for a state award,

scholarships, or completing job resumes and a college application, the records suddenly became a valuable resource. Imagine having at your fingertips every ***community service project*** you've helped with since you were nine years old....every ***leadership activity***...it is powerful.

I like 4-H records for many reasons. To me, the empty pages are asking to be filled chalk-full of information generated by you. Many of you already have data to record. If you have had your first meeting of the year, you might have an office to fulfill. What new things have you learned to serve as a capable officer? If you attended 4-H Achievement Day, list it as an activity. Did you participate in an ice breaker? Did you receive an award?

As you select each project, think about why you are taking the project. The reasons why you are taking the project can be listed as ***goals***...see how tricky that is?! As you get older, your goals should become more challenging. Look at your records...if your goals after six years of 4-H are the same as the year you started...you might want to set some different goals.

My favorite part of records is the project journal. Remember, ***every*** project has a journal, even livestock projects. The beauty of the journal is that it captures what you did and more importantly, ***what you learned***. Instead of listing each day that you ride, "I rode my horse"; write about what skills you

worked on. For example: "I worked on cuing my colt to neck rein". Or, instead of "I fed my bum calf", "I introduced grain to my calf by feeding her some with my hand when she was done with the bottle."

And finally, photos. I can't over-emphasize the value of photos taken throughout the 4-H year. The pleasure in looking back over a decade of time to see how much growth has occurred is fun and rewarding. I'm not sure where it could better be captured than in 4-H records.

So, start now, if you haven't already. Update your records in a timely manner; after each meeting works well. The format you use is so flexible...on the computer, on paper, you choose whatever works best for you. The main objective...is just do them! Someday, you'll be glad you did.

2012 Citizenship Washington Focus

Go to Washington, D.C. for a week in June to experience our nation's capital, meet your legislators and meet 4-Hers from around the country. During this week-long trip, delegates have the opportunity to tour the Smithsonian and the National monuments as well as visit with Montana Senators and Representatives. The dates for the 2012 trip are June 9-16th. The estimated cost is \$1700. The Susan Dufner scholarship for \$500 is available to one delegate. Applications are due January 1st and are available at www.montana4h.org.

International Travel & Hosting Opportunities

Opportunities to travel and to host delegates from other countries are available through 4-H. The deadline for all Outbound programs is January 1, 2012. There are short-term exchanges to Japan, Australia and Norway for youth 14-18 and adult chaperones. IFYE exchanges are available to former 4-H members 19-30 with countries varying. The application for Inbound Hosting opportunities is April 15, 2012. These include youth delegates twelve and older from Japan, Argentina and Finland; year-long high school students from Japan or Eurasian countries and IFYE delegates who are 18 or older.

