

4-H FAMILY NEWSLETTER

RAVALLI COUNTY 4-H

Schedule of Events

APRIL 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- 4/3—Quality Assurance South Valley, 7:00 - 9:00 pm., Election Rm Courthouse basement
- 4/5—Small Animal Meeting, 7 pm., Feed and Farm Meeting Rm.
- 4/6—Swine Mtg., 7pm., Kootenai Garage, Stevi
- 4/7-9—Dist. One Teen Retreat, Loon Lake
- 4/20—County Sheep Meeting, 7pm, Stevi Main St. Assoc.
- 4/21—Deadline for Breeding Project essays contest
- 4/22—Kathy Hammer's retirement celebration, 4-7, election room, Courthouse basement
- 4/22—Quality Assurance North Valley, 7-9:00pm, location TBD
- 4/30—Submission deadline for 2008 4-H Calendar Story Contest



Schedule of Events May

- 5/1—all livestock breeding stock must be owned by the 4-H member by this date
- 5/6—first day of Hamilton Farmer's Market, 9am-12:30, 205 Bedford Street
- 5/7-9—Phonathon, Election Room, Courthouse
- 5/15—Deadline for Clover Photo Contest Entries
- 5/22—Hog Weigh-In, Mandatory, Fairgrounds, 5:00-8:00 pm.
- 5/27,28—Garden City Rabbit Breeders Show



Schedule of Events June

- 6/1— Sheep weigh-in, mandatory, Fairgrounds, 5-8:00 pm.
- 6/8-10 —The 15th Annual Montana Junior Beef Expo, Central Montana Fairgrounds in Lewistown.

MAY 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JUNE 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

The date, time, and location of any of these scheduled activities are subject to change. If you have any questions, please call the Extension Office for updated information (375-6611).

All items for the next months' newsletter must be submitted by the 25th of each month and be limited to one-half page. Newsletter items can be emailed to 4-H_news@earthlink.net or delivered to the extension office.

4-H Council March Meeting Highlights

The council met March 20th in the meeting room across from the extension office. The major topics of discussion included the hamburger stand, quality assurance program, newsletter and the Kids First sound system.

The council continued debate on the future of the hamburger stand and came to an agreement to keep the same menu and system as in the past. An immediate review following the fair will dictate the direction of the 2007 hamburger stand.

Win Smith, the newly elected member to the fair board, greeted the council and offered insight to the hamburger stand and fair board activities. A detailed report was given by Patrice Loucks regarding archery, shooting sports, and leader training events. Shelley Brown visited about live-stock judging training trips and the future of livestock judging practices and competitions. Livestock quality assurance program is planned for the end of April with trainings at Lone Rock Cafeteria and the Ravalli County Election Room.

4-H will be taking ownership of the Kids First sound system. Concerns of storage, repair, taxes, insurance, and usage were expressed and discussed. The newsletter process was discussed and many members voiced concerns of article length, pictures, and timeliness of newsletter publishing. The council urged the newsletter editor to remain firm on deadlines and use her own discretion as to length of articles and pictures so as to make the newsletter easier to download, read, and print while on slow internet speed computers.

The council adjourned at 9:30pm.



to

Mandatory Quality Assurance

It is absolutely essential for every child who intends to sell an animal at the fair to attend one of these classes.

Two workshops are offered: April 3rd, 6:30-9 p.m., Elections room, Courthouse
 April 22nd, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Lone Rock Cafeteria

These clinics will be in the form of informative, hands-on stations and impart the knowledge needed to safely and humanely raise a market animal. Project kids need to know these elements to provide good care for their stock. The workshops will have five stations and should take approximately 2 hours to complete (so you don't have to attend the entire 4 hours at Lone Rock). Remember, **Livestock Committee has changed the requirements - you must complete Quality Assurance by May 1st, it must be done every year and it is mandatory.**

*** * * You will NOT be allowed to sell an animal at the fair if you do not attend this training! * * ***

Call Extension, 375-6611, Margaret Yuhas, 273-2989 or Peg Andersen 273-6618 with any questions.

Ravalli County 4-H WebsiteUp and Running!

Thanks to Patrick DeNitto, member at Florence; Millie Veltkamp; and MSU Information Systems. The new URL is:
<http://www.homepage.montana.edu/~ravalli>

PHONATHON is coming up!

The dates for this year's phonathon are May 7, 8, & 9 at the Election Room in the basement of the Ravalli County Courthouse. Any of you who wish to participate in this year's phonathon must call either Mary Monahan at 961-4666 or Nancy Hnizdil at 363-2306 **by March 30.**

4-H Congress

CONGRESS: Members interested in participating need to be contacting Extension, 375-6611. Refer to March Newsletter for a list of the competitions. Leaders are needed to organize county level competitions to determine who will represent our county at Congress.

CALLING ALL PROSPECTIVE COUNTY 4-H AMBASSADORS!

Please call the Extension Office, 375-6611, if you are interested in becoming an ambassador. The interviews will take place before May 1. Ambassadors promote 4-H to members and to the public. They help at county, district and state events. Ambassadors are required to attend Fall Training Oct. 19-21 and submit a Plan of Action by Nov. 1.

THANK YOU to the following Hamilton dentists for supporting 4-H and supporting the Fair:

- Dr. Michael Taylor, DDS PC
- Canyon View Dental PC, (Justin and Stacey Simmons)

Corvallis Memorial Day Carnival

A Carnival is being planned in Corvallis **after the Memorial Day Parade, May 29th, 2006.** Contact Jennifer Powell, 961-0086, if you would like to have a booth. This would be a great fundraising and public relations opportunity for 4-H Clubs!

Hamilton Farmers Market

The first Market will be **May 6, 2006** and you can plan on selling any Saturday this season. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Market Manager Laura Craig at 961-0004.

Montana 4-H "Learn by Doing " Clover Photo Contest

Montana State University Extension 's 4-H Youth Development program is sponsoring a 4-H Clover Photo Contest for 4-H members and other Montana youth. The theme of the contest is "Learn by Doing."

One \$100 prize and two \$50 prizes will be given for favorite photos that show pictures of kids *learning by doing* through Montana 4-H. **Entries must be postmarked by May 15, 2006**

Please contact extension office (325-6611) for more info and entry forms.

2008 4-H Calendar Story Contest - Get Your Entries in Now

Have Your Story Featured in the 2008 National 4-H Calendar!

National 4-H Supply Service wants to hear about your favorite 4-H project and why it is meaningful. Your story could be used in the 2008 National 4-H Calendar. Sending in a submission may even get you a free gift certificate towards your next purchase of merchandise from the 4-H Source Book!

The 2008 calendar theme is "My Favorite 4-H Project". It will be up to 4-H members, volunteers, parents, staff and partners to furnish the stories that will be featured. These personal testaments must tell the what, when, where, why, and how; so everyone can understand how 4-H projects are meaningful.

One story for each month will be featured in the calendar and the author will receive one \$10 gift certificate towards a future purchase in the 4-H Source Book. Please limit your entry to 125 words due to the space restrictions of the calendar. Don't forget to include your contact information.

Please e-mail, fax or mail your stories to:

Maria Cascioli
National 4-H Supply Service
7100 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
mcascioli@fourhcouncil.edu
Phone: 301-961-2948; Fax: 301-961-2937

The submission deadline is April 30, 2006.

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship & life skills.

TWO BREEDING PROJECT ESSAY CONTESTS OFFERED

Farmers State Bank and Bitterroot Stockgrowers are each offering a \$300 grant to two young people selected as the best entries. The essays will be evaluated by a committee of leaders, stock owners and bank personnel. Member's essays **should NOT** include their name and address. Put this information on a separate cover sheet. Numbers will be assigned the entries for the evaluators to ID the essays.

Details:

1. Members CAN NOT be in their last year of 4-H or FFA.
2. The essay should:
 - A. Be at least one page long, neat and easy to read. Be thorough and not too brief.
 - B. Discuss past projects taken.
 - C. Indicate available facilities, pasture, feed, buildings.
 - D. Indicate need.
 - E. Discuss what you would learn by having a breeding project.
 - F. Explain what you plan to do with the \$300 grant if you have one of the winning essays.
3. **Deadline for essays will be April 21, 2006 at the Extension Office, 215 S 4th Suite G, Hamilton MT 59840.**

WHEP

The Montana 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) is a 4-H youth natural resource program dedicated to teaching wildlife and fisheries management to junior and senior level (ages 8-19) youth in Montana. Participants in WHEP have a greater understanding of the value of land and how it can be managed to benefit many wildlife and fish species.

Interested in getting involved? Contact either the Missoula or Ravalli County Extension office or Gregg DeNitto (273-4645)

NEW RESOURCE LEADERS

Dawn Moore (961-4940) will help all youth interested in the Llama Project.

Christy Searle (207-2601) will help all youth interested in the Miniature Horse Project.

Don Gardner (961-4436) will help all youth interested in 4-H Leathercraft.

Parents you too can be a resource leader. Do you have a hobby or skill you would be willing to share with youth? Let us get you and the youth who want to learn that skill together. Call 375-6245 Thank You!

REC LAB 2006

Three chaperons and five Ravalli County 4-H members attended Rec Lab in DeerLodge March 17-19. The weekend was jam packed with games, swimming, workshops, dancing, a flag retirement ceremony and an incredible activity at the Old Territorial Prison. The event was very well planned and executed by District 5. All members who are 4-H age 13 or older are encouraged to attend this great annual event. Next year District 6 will host (Helena, White Sulpher Springs, Bozeman). Watch for news around January 2007. Ask Patrick DeNitto, Jake Schroeder, Megan Baker, Danica Loucks or Andrew Loucks about their experience.

Would your club like to make some additional money? You may rent the 4-H cotton Candy machine and sell cotton candy at your next event! Please contact Amy Veltcamp at 777-4949

Montana Junior Beef Expo slated for June

The 15th Annual Montana Junior Beef Expo has been set for June 8-10, 2006. This annual youth event will again be held at the Central Montana Fairgrounds in Lewistown. Many events are being lined up to keep everyone involved and busy. Some of the many events include the jackpot steer show, open showmanship, eight individual breed shows, team fitting contests, team sales contests and don't forget the annual exhibitor/family BBQ. Entries will be sent out the beginning of May. If you did not receive entry information last year or have any questions, please contact Mike Vanek or Mardi Linhart at 406-538-2164 or send an email to mmcattle@midrivers.com. If you have a heifer or steer in your show pen, come to Expo, meet some new friends and have some fun.

Reminder: ALL Livestock breeding stock must be owned by the project member by May 1.

RECORD BOOKS

Record books will need to be taken to the fair this year. Barn superintendents will post times for interviews with the project member at the fair.

Swine Meeting

...for new members or those with questions with their swine project. Thursday April 6 at 7:00 pm at Kootenai Garage in Stevensville.

SWINE

Mandatory weigh-in will be Monday 5/22 at the fairgrounds from 5 - 8 pm.

Changes recommended by the Swine Committee and approved by both the Livestock Committee and 4-H Council include:

- Change market hog weight range to a minimum of 230 lbs. and a maximum of 280 lbs.
- Members must have their market hog weighed at the Spring weigh-in at the fairgrounds.
- Members involved in a swine breeding project may request of the barn superintendent to have their market hog weighed at their facility. This request must be in writing, at least 30 days in advance of the Spring weigh-in. The barn superintendent will arrange for weighing on the Spring weigh-in date and will provide for an observer and identification of the hog.
- Members requesting this exemption will have in place and follow an appropriate biosecurity plan. Appropriate biosecurity procedures developed by the Swine Committee will be followed during the off-fairgrounds weigh-in.
- All hogs will be ear-tagged or individually identified by some other means at time of Spring weigh-in by the barn superintendent or their representative.
- Members whose hog loses their ear tag must contact the barn superintendent immediately and have the tag replaced.
- No hogs without an ear tag will be allowed to compete as a market hog.
- Hogs weighed in for the Ravalli County Fair may not be tagged, shown or sold at any other fair.

COUNTY SHEEP MEETING

There is going to be a Countywide Sheep Meeting for all those enrolled in the Sheep Project. It will be held **April 20th, 7:00 PM, at Stevensville Mainstreet Association**. This is an informational meeting about Fair changes, weigh-in, etc. It is suggested that at least one member from each club attend, but everyone is welcome. Questions, call Mary Koenen at 777-3809 or Margaret Yuhas at 273-2989.

SHEEP Weigh-In

Mandatory weigh-in will be Monday 6/1 at the fairgrounds from 5 - 8 pm.

The Garden City Rabbit Breeders Show

The Garden City Rabbit Breeders are planning a show on Memorial Day Weekend, May 27 and 28. For more information, please call Helen Eden (rabbits) 363-6252 or Laura DeNitto 273-4645.

SMALL ANIMAL MEETING

O.K. Friends of small animals. We shall meet on April 5 - Wednesday- 7 p.m. Feed and Farm meeting room.

Pigeons

Looking for a home: 3 registered pigeons, 20 not registered pigeons. Call Jake Hawkins, 777-7110.

Rabbit

California short hair Siamese looking female rabbit. 1 year old, box trained, gentle. To a good home. 777-2819.

Kathy's Retirement Party – Ya'll Come!

A retirement celebration for Kathy Hammer will be held on Saturday, April 22 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Election Room in the basement of the Courthouse in Hamilton. Enter the south door.

Table service, drinks, peach cobbler with ice cream will be furnished. The meal will be potluck so bring your favorite dish to share. This will be a good time to share a Kathy story with the group.

A memory book of photos is being put together by Peg Andersen. If you have some to share give Peg a call at 273-6618 or 240-2627.

You could bring Kathy (the queen of cards) a card with a memory or best wishes. Remember green is her favorite color! Bring a \$1.00 bill (or more) for a Kathy Hammer 4-H camp scholarship.

Please call the Extension Office 375-6611 by Tuesday, April 18 to put your name on the list so we know how many to plan for.



RAVALLI COUNTY 4-H

4-H The Power of YOUth



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