



Ravalli County 4-H News

October 2009

Dear 4-H Families,

Happy New 4-H Year! Our office is geared up and ready to go for the upcoming 4-H year. We are excited to share another year with our current 4-H families and new families who join the program. The Ravalli County 4-H program has so much to offer for both volunteers and members.

The new 2009-2011 Montana 4-H Clover Project Selection Guide has a new look and new projects! This Clover will be used for the next two years so please hang on to it for this year and next year. Everyone is on a tighter budget these days and creating the Clover to serve for two years was a way to help. Not only that, it helps save our environment!

Take a few minutes to look through the entire Clover – either online (montana4h.org) or with the publication available through our office and your Org Leader. There are so many new projects to take advantage of and perhaps you might stumble upon something that sparks your interest! When I talk with people in our community about the 4-H program, many believe they have to own livestock or a small animal to participate. Some people believe they only can do the projects listed in the Clover but that’s not true either.

4-H can be anything and everything – your imagination is your limit! Try a Self-Determined project, which is perfect for members looking for a new challenge.

There are also some new projects added to the Montana 4-H Clover this year. We have Wind Energy, Meat Goat, Babysitting, Theater Arts, Visual Arts, Service Learning, and Western Heritage Project. Discover new things and reach new goals!

I encourage you to talk to a friend about joining 4-H – maybe they think 4-H is different than what you can do. Take the 4-H challenge and tell some people about 4-H!

As always, call with any questions or comments and have a great October!

Katelyn Andersen
MSU/Ravalli County Extension Agent

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Oct. 1	New 4-H Year Begins!!
Oct. 4-10	4-H National 4-H Week
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Oct. 31	Happy Halloween!

November and Beyond!

Nov. 1	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day—Office Closed
Nov. 16	4-H Council Meeting, p. 5
Nov. 26	Happy Thanksgiving! -Office Closed
Feb. 1	CWF Deadline, p. 4
Mar. 11-14	WRLF, p. 4
Jun. 12-19	CWF, p. 4



Greytak Calendars

are coming in soon! Just \$10.00 each supports the 4-H and makes a great gift! Call the Extension Office today to reserve your copy!



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 15th of each month and be limited to one-half page. Newsletter items can be emailed to ravalli@montana.edu or delivered to the Extension Office. Check out the Ravalli County 4-H website: <http://www.msuextension.org/ravalli>

Happy October 4-H families!

Can you believe another year has gone by? I sure can't. As all of you are busy beginning a new 4-H year, we at the council level are too. As you ready yourselves for the new year, please be aware that there are some changes coming your way. One of those changes is your council representation. As you may have seen in a previous newsletter, each club now has opportunity to have a council member. It is so exciting to think about some new members coming to council meetings and give a new perspective.

As everyone is aware by now, we are still without a council treasurer. Thank you to everyone who has graciously volunteered to help us out until we find a new treasurer. Please continue to be patient with us. Congratulations and thank you to all those who waited for special premium checks, we worked as fast as we could to get them out to all of you. If anyone is interested in this position, again, please let us know.

The hard work and dedication of all of the volunteers is not unnoticed, even though we sometimes don't say it enough or we forget that we are working with volunteers. Always be sure to keep that in mind when you're asking a lot or even a little of someone. Without the proper thanks we are likely to lose out on some very special people who choose to work with the Ravalli County 4-H Program. I ask that everyone be sure to send out those all important thank you cards to everyone who had a hand in your project area.

Sooooo, **THANK YOU!** To everyone from indoor exhibits, to animal projects and the Corner Café, your efforts are 100% seen and appreciated.

We would appreciate any feedback you may have. You can either e-mail it to the Extension Office or to myself: preston1163@msn.com. Please remember to add your suggestions to your feedback or join us at a council meeting.

Good luck to you all in your new 4-H year!
Nancy Preston
Ravalli County 4-H Advisory Council President



June 12-19, 2010

Application Available @
www.montana4h.org

Due: Feb 1st, 2010

Save the dates!!!

Stevensville Horizons is hosting a Halloween Party

- When: Saturday, October 31
- Times: 5:30-8 PM
- Where: St. Mary's Center.
- They are looking for people, organizations and 4-H clubs to donate their time to host a booth or help with the event. After the Halloween Party, there will be a Teen Dance from 9-Midnight.
- If you are interested in hosting a booth, contact Sarah at 777.5617.



BLAZING TRAILS TO NEW MEXICO

New Mexico looks forward to being your host for the **2010 Western Regional Leaders' Forum (WRLF) in Albuquerque, March 11-14**. All 4-H leaders, teens and staff from the 13 western states, 2 Canadian provinces and the Pacific Territories are invited. The event is capped at 400 participants, so don't delay in registering.

On-line registration is available now. For further information and registration go to <http://nm4h.nmsu.edu> and then click on "details" under the WRLF logo.

Join us in "The Land of Enchantment".

Calling all interested 4-H members and Volunteers:

The following positions are open on the Montana 4-H State Livestock Committee for District 1: 2 volunteers, up to 2 Extension Agents, two teen representatives

District 1 includes the following counties: Ravalli, Mineral, Missoula, Lake, Sanders, Flathead and Lincoln.

Terms will be 3 years beginning and ending in January. Major responsibilities include Animal Quality Assurance Programs, the Advanced Market Beef Project, Livestock Leaders Forum (could be held in combination with the State 4-H Horse Leaders Forum), Updating or Adding Curriculum, and policy decisions. This committee and its responsibilities will continue to take shape as we meet and discuss statewide livestock issues. If interested please contact the Extension Office for an application.

Application Deadline: Dec. 1, 2009



HORSE AWARDS BANQUET!

- When: Saturday, October 24, 2009
- Time: 6:00 pm
- Where: Corvallis Grange Hall
- Please bring a main dish and salad or main dish and dessert
- For questions/arrangements contact Jonell Erhart at (406)777-1354 or jonell@cybernet1.com

Volunteer Appreciation Banquet
Thursday, October 22, 2009 6:30-8:30 pm

- Come enjoy "Chicken Parmesan" prepared and served by The Community Cooking Connections teens!
- Gillette Vaira, UM Graduate student in Broadcast journalism, former State 4-H Officer will speak
- RSVP by Friday, Oct. 16th to the Extension Office at 375-6611
- Did you take some great photos this year? We are creating a slide show celebrating the 4-H Year! Please bring or email digital photos to Extension by Monday Oct. 12. **Hope to See You There!!**



Ravalli County 4-H Advisory Council Meeting

Every club has one voting delegate, for more information, see the President's Welcome on Page 2 of this newsletter

When: Monday, Nov 16, 2009

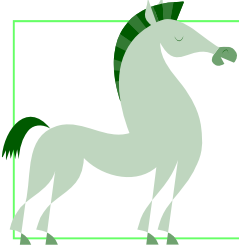
Time: 6:30 pm

Where: Extension Meeting Room

Reminder to all 4-H Treasurers & Secretaries

Don't forget to submit copies of your reports to the extension office for your club records!!

Thank You in Advance!



Horse Committee Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009
7pm in the Extension Meeting Room

Livestock Committee Meeting

Next meeting: Oct. 27, 2009

Time: 7 PM

Location: Stevensville Main St Association



County-Wide Swine Meeting



- When: Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2009
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Where: Stevensville Main Street Association

Hope to See You There !!

South Valley Poultry Meeting
When: Third Tues of the Month (Oct. 20th)

Time: 6:30 pm

Place: 1055 Honeywell Rd, Corvallis

For more information contact: Virginia Chaffin at 363-4793



North Valley Poultry Meeting

When: Oct. 29

MPFA Poultry Show in Great Falls Oct. 10th

For more Information, please contact Laura DeNitto at (406)273-4645



County-Wide Dog Meeting
TBA

For More Information
Contact:
Mickey Powell at (406)777-1652



No County-Wide Rabbit Meeting for October

For More Information
Contact Katie Freemann
At (406)207-6218



County-Wide Goat Meeting
TBA

For More Information
Contact: Hiedi Etter at (406)381-2282

Attention all you Music Buffs Come Join the Hooligans!

Do you love music? Have you ever thought what it would be like to D.J.? Do you have an extra night or two a month to go to parties or dances? Would you like to earn some extra money for 4-H related events? If you said yes to any of these questions, then we have the gig for you! On Wednesday, Oct. 14th, 6:00pm at the Lone Rock School, we will be having a meeting for anyone interested in learning how to become a D.J. and running the 4-H Sound Equipment. Come Join the Hooligans! Must be a freshman in high school or older to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Heather Hudson at 406-240-6419 or Nancy Preston at 777-1163

Come Join the Ravalli County 4-H Teen Council!!!

- Next Meeting: Sun. Oct. 11th
- Time: 4:00pm
- Where: 4050 Sierra Way, Stevensville
- For more information contact : Terry Halstead at (406)240-2878
- Hope to see you there!!



Thank you so much from all of your 2009 Ravalli County Swine Barn Superintendents!

Wow, what a fair!

Without phenomenal youth, parents, friends and all other supporters of the fair and 4-H in general, we would not be able to have such an organized and friendly barn. There is no doubt in our minds that we have only the best of the 4-H youth in our barn. We hope that the 2009 fair was as great of an experience for you as it was for us.

It is never easy when you have sooo many youth involved in anything. Having over 120 youth involved in one large animal project, WHEW! We are ever surprised by our growing numbers and the amazing support that all of us receive. We are also ecstatic to announce that for the second year in a row, every single stall was cleaned out by 4:00 p.m. on Monday! Great job!

We would like to say a special thank you to those of you who were generous enough to understand when mistakes were made. I, Nancy would like to apologize for those hiccups, as it is my responsibility to be absolutely sure that the sale order is correct.

So thank you for your merciful understanding of this volunteer's mistakes. All that I can say is, "I WILL try to be sure there are NO mistakes next year." However, I cannot guarantee that. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know.

Speaking of "Thank you's"! Thank you, thank you, and thank you to every person that volunteered in the swine barn this year.

We truly could not do it without you. From the amazing and brave board men, to those helping get kids to the ring, sale day hog runners, ribbon and gate people and clerk support.

Congratulations and thank you to the two youth who went above and beyond to earn the 2009 Most Sportsman Like Exhibitors: Colt Hudson and Aedan Snead. This is an award that we think very highly of and are proud to have youth like Colt and Aedan around as role models, we could not ask for better!

Thank you again for the great year and be sure to watch for any changes coming your way!

Nancy Preston, Jeff Hale, Chris Thorson and John Bodner

Volunteer Barn Superintendents

2009 Ravalli County Carcass Results

Sheep Carcass Awards

1. Erica Allen
 2. Gracie Kollman
 3. Sophie Rogers
 4. Ashley Reid
- Largest Rib Eye – Shanae Denney

Swine Carcass Awards – Top 4

1. Emily Hanson
 2. Breanna Erickson
 3. Elisa Plocher
 4. Ashley Lewis
- Largest Lion Eye – Amber Powell

Beef Carcass Awards

Supreme Champion Market Beef (live & carcass)

1. Garrett McNeill
2. Taylor Bolin
3. Brittany Hancock

Carcass Evaluation:

1. Nathan Potton
2. Garrett McNeill
3. Marie Morin
4. Breanna Meuchel



Questions and Answers

Montana 4-H Volunteer Application and Background Check

Why is Montana 4-H doing a background check on all volunteers? Montana 4-H Center for Youth Development (Montana 4-H Center) aims to provide a safe and positive experience for youth in 4-H with a standard of care. This Standard of Care for the 4-H program has increased to include a background screening for all adult volunteers.

I'm just a parent, do I need to have a background check done? This new process will ensure that every adult who has one-on-one contact with a youth has a sound background. Any individual who volunteers in a capacity that includes face-to-face, unsupervised contact with youth must have a background check completed. Examples included but are not limited to: organizational leaders, project leaders, chaperones, volunteers transporting youth, superintendents, etc. If a parent decides not to fill out a volunteer form, there will have to be a screened volunteer with them at all times when in contact with youth.

What company is doing the criminal background check? Montana 4-H Center has selected Hire Right to complete the check. Additional information about the screening and information that may be obtained is located on the "4-H Volunteer Disclosure and Consent Form."

Do I have to give my Social Security Number? Yes, the Social Security Numbers is required for identification purposes and to conduct the criminal background check. This information will not be kept by HireRight or the 4-H Center. Upon completion of the report and notification from the 4-H Center regarding the volunteer applicant's acceptance or non-acceptance, we will cut the information off the bottom of the sheet and shred that information.

Where will this information be stored? Your application will be stored in the locked filing cabinet in the Extension Office.

How long will it take before I find out if I am accepted as a volunteer? Our office will process the information as quickly as possible. The Montana 4-H Center will review the information obtained in the criminal background checks from HireRight and information received from the Extension Office. They will make the decision regarding the volunteer application. After a decision has been made, a letter will be sent to each volunteer stating their acceptance as a volunteer within the Montana 4-H Program. This should be about two weeks from the time your application is filed in our office.

How often do you run a check on me? Once an individual has successfully cleared the certification process and been accepted as a volunteer, he/she will be considered a certified volunteer as long as no break in service occurs or he/she is not dismissed as a 4-H volunteer. Volunteers will be re-screened if there is a break in service for one calendar year or more or if new information arises regarding their background. MSU Extension retains the right to screen a volunteer at any time during his/her service. Future changes to this policy may require follow-up screenings of certified volunteers on a periodic basis.

Will I have to do this every year? After the initial screening, volunteers should complete the following on a yearly basis:

1. Review/edit and sign an annual Ravalli County 4-H Leader Enrollment form
2. Complete and sign the Montana 4-H Volunteer Personal Background form.
3. Complete and sign the Montana 4-H Volunteer Agreement and Standards of Behavior Form.

If I had a background check done through my employer, why do I have to do it with Montana 4-H? Volunteer or employment criminal background checks from other organizations or agencies will not be accepted in order to meet the criteria of the Montana 4-H Volunteer certification process.



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Important Dates to remember



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

4-H: The Youth Development Program of MSU Extension

Return Service Requested

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