



Valley County 4-H News

February 2012

4-H Members, Parents and Leaders

As the new year begins we should all take a deep breath and reflect on the goals that we set at the beginning of the 4-H year and measure our progress in each area.

Some may need to revisit their goals, increase their expectations, or change directions in project work. I challenge each member and leader in Valley County to step out of your comfort zone and participate in at least one new activity that interests you. This may be as simple as representing your club at a Valley County 4-H Council meeting or as thrilling as attending Recreation Lab in Lewistown this spring or presenting a demonstration at Life Skills Day. Your 4-H experience is limited only by your own inhibitions.

Coming up this spring are Washington DC Trip and State Exchange planning meetings, Montana Recreation Lab, and Teen Leadership activities. As you read through this newsletter, be thinking of new opportunities for personal growth. "4-H! Be all that you can be"

Sincerely,

Roubie Younkin MSU Extension Agent Valley County



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

CLUB MINUTES TREASURER REPORT

A reminder that the extension office needs to receive a copy of your club minutes, treasurer report, and copy of bank statement each month.

STATE REC LAB 2012

March 16-18, Lewistown, MT

Theme: "100 Years of Green"

Early Bird Registration due Feb. 7

Regular Registration due Feb. 14

All youth 4-H age 13 to 19 are invited to sharpen their skills as a leader. (age as of October 1, 2011)

Over thirty different workshops are being offered over the course of four sessions ranging from round braiding, 4-H Letterboxing, minute to win it, to tangled webs! Rec Lab provides youth an opportunity to meet other youth from across the state, develop leadership skills, and learn fun recreational activities that can be used in club settings, county events and at other unexpected moments. Rec Lab is for youth 13 years of age or older as of October 1, 2011. The early-bird registration fee is \$75.00. Lodging and meals are included in the registration fee. Be sure to mark your workshops, as they are determined on a first-come, first-serve basis. All 2012 Rec Lab t-shirts will be available for \$10 so be sure to mark your size when you register. Event details are available online at www.montana4h.org. Go to Events. . .Montana 4-H Rec Lab.

Contact the office if you are interested or have questions about this event.

MSU Scholarships

All prospective 2012 fall freshmen, please be advised of the scholarship opportunities available to you. Details can be found at:

www.montana.edu/wwwnss/scholarships.shtml

STATE EXCHANGE

Those interested in the state exchange trip need to have a \$150 deposit to 4-H Council turned in at the office by March 1st.

Washington DC Trip Youth

Members who have committed to traveling this summer must complete a leadership project form (plan of action) and return to the Extension office.

Remember that leadership involves others. Does your project include teaching or training someone, organizing a group event or project or leading others through the development of life skills?

If you have questions regarding your teen leadership project, please contact Roubie at 263-5408 or the office at 228-6241.

Girls For A Change!

Girls For a Change is a grass-roots initiative whose mission is, "to empower girls to embrace their future,



confident about their individuality, supported by friends, parents, and mentors and secure in their ability to lead and to achieve self-sufficiency, fulfillment and success." We are very excited to

have President of Montana State University Dr. Waded Cruzado as our keynote speaker! Dr. Cruzado is the first woman and first minority to serve as a university president in the State of Montana. Her commitment to teaching and volunteer service is certain to be an inspiration for all Montana girls and is a great example of what is 100% Possible in your life. For more information, visit the website www.allthrive.org It will be held at MSU, Bozeman on Saturday, February 25, for high school girls in 8-12 grades. Cost is \$20 per girl.

Community Service Project

At the last council meeting it was decided to have a county-wide community

service project. One project that was chosen is the Community Garden that will be built just east of the Milk River Activity Center. Stay tuned for more info as this project is currently in design stage.



HOST AN INTERNATIONAL DELEGATE

We are entering the time of year where we are looking for host families for our summer Inbound programs. The largest of these programs, of course, is the Japanese program and we need 34 host families. In addition to the Japan programs, there are opportunities for a few families to host delegates from Argentina and/or Finland. The host family application forms are available online or here in the office. Program dates:

Japan: July 22 - August 18
Argentina: July 9 – August 7
Finland: July 2 – July 30

In addition to the summer youth programs, we also need host families for the IFYE program. These are 18+ youth primarily from European countries who would like to work on a farm or ranch in Montana. Hosting periods are about three weeks long and begin mid-June. Finally, we have about four high school students coming to Montana next year through the Japanese organizations (LEX and Labo) as well as through the FLEX (Eurasian countries) program. These kids arrive late July to mid August and stay through the school year. See the 4-H website for application materials for IFYE and high school programs (www.montana4h.org).

Open your home to an exchange student and open your lives to the world. This is a great chance to meet someone from another country and to make a lifelong friend. **The deadline for all hosting applications is April 1, 2012.**

CAMP COUNSELORS

Are you finally old enough to be a counselor not a camper? Do you want to make camp a great experience and memory for others like it was for you? Application forms for camp counselor positions are available at the office. Youth in grades 9-12 are eligible with preference given to members who are older. Camp retreat will be held March 10 & 11 in Culbertson. June 25-27 camp will be held at Pines Youth Camp, Fort Peck.

Counselor applications are due in the Extension Office Wednesday, February 15.

Thank you Western Valley 4-H Club for organizing and leading the Fun Day activities.

Have you given your demonstration or talk at your club meeting yet?

Join the fun! Presenting a demonstration or talk gives you the chance to share what you have learned. In a demonstration you should both show and tell how to do something related to one of your 4-H projects. Be sure it is a teaching moment!

Everyday you listen to others and they listen to you. You share ideas with your parents or friends trying to be as clear as possible so they understand what you mean. That is what demonstrations and illustrated talks are all about - learning to organize and present ideas so that others will understand you.

When you show others how to plant a flower or how to make a bird house, you are demonstrating. You may use posters, pictures and charts to help explain your idea. Learning how to plan and give a demonstration will help you at school, express your ideas to other people, and in the future, get a job.

Let's get ready for the county-wide event called Lifeskills Day. Here you will have the opportunity to present your topic, learn from others, and receive premium money for doing so. More information will follow as to when and where of this event.

What is Leaders' College?

As a 4-H volunteer leader you are invited to participate in this leaders' training. The Leaders' College curriculum is a series of interactive sessions designed to teach adult and youth volunteer leaders the fundamental principles of positive youth development needed to support and strengthen 4-H clubs. Leaders new to Leaders' College can take Levels 1 and 2. Level 3 will also be available.

Level 1: What is Youth Development
Level 2: Partnering with Youth and Best Practices for Youth Development.

Leader's College will be held in Miles City on March 3. Registration is due February 24.

Contact the office for more information and a registration form.



Valley County Extension
501 Court Square, Box 12
GlasgowMT 59230

LIST OF DUE DATES:

Minutes, treasurer report, bank statement - due each month

Livestock survey - due February 3rd (please get them in so we have them for the
Livestock meeting set for Feb. 20)

Rec Lab to be held in Lewistown - registration due no later than February 14

Camp counselor application - due February 15

Leader's College - registration due February 24

State Exchange - deposit due March 1

International - host delegates - application due April 1

Next livestock committee meeting - February 20, noon at the Oasis

Next council meeting - February 21, 5:30 p.m. Courthouse

The programs of the MSU Extension Service are available to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Dr. Douglas Steele, Vice Provost and Director, Extension Service, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717.

4-H: The Youth Development Program of MSU Extension