



ISSUE 02

THE CLOVER CONNECTION

June Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

UW Signing.....Pg. 1
Days

The Educator’s Desk... Pg. 3

Brenda’s Blog..... Pg. 4

Sewing Workshops ...Pg. 6

Gold Rush..... Pg. 7

4-H Reminders Pg. 9

Upcoming Events..... Pg. 12

Get In Touch Pg. 15

MAY SPOTLIGHT



A New Chapter in Life

With school coming to an end, that can only mean one thing... summer is right around the corner, and for a special group of Laramie County 4-H’ers, this chapter in their life is coming to a bitter sweet end as they graduate from high school and prepare for what comes next in their life. For some it may be that at the end of the summer they will be heading off to college. For others it may be entering the workforce. While the next stage of their life may hold uncertainties, one thing is for certain: 4-H youth know how to take a challenge, rise up to the challenge, and complete the challenge without hesitation.

Read more on page 1.

A New Chapter in Life

By Brenda Madrid

Laramie County 4-H Educators, Rebecca Austin and Brenda Madrid, had the pleasure of working with the University of Wyoming Admissions Office to host UW Signing Days at 5 of our local high schools: Burns, Central, East, Pine Bluffs, and South High Schools. These schools welcomed UW as they hosted the signing day events. Any youth who had agreed to continue their post-secondary education careers with the University of Wyoming that attends one of these five schools, were offered the opportunity to sign in agreement that they will be attending the University of Wyoming in the fall.

The signing ceremony was conducted, and youth presented themselves to their peers, parents, and community members, by introducing themselves and what they plan to study at the University of Wyoming. Educational goals varied greatly, from nursing and psychology to rangeland and resource management and pre-med. Youth then got to open a packet that the University provided and sign a certificate stating that they had decided to attend the University of Wyoming. At the conclusion of the signing, there was an opportunity for pictures, and then each school celebrated differently. Some of the schools had a small reception afterwards with sweet treats.



Laramie County 4-H had two youth attend the UW signing days- Ashton Rigby from Pine Bluffs High School and Brody Medina who attends East High School. Each of these students were presented with a Brown, Gold, and Green graduation chord to show their choice of the University of Wyoming post-secondary school and their participation in the 4-H program.

Read more on page 2

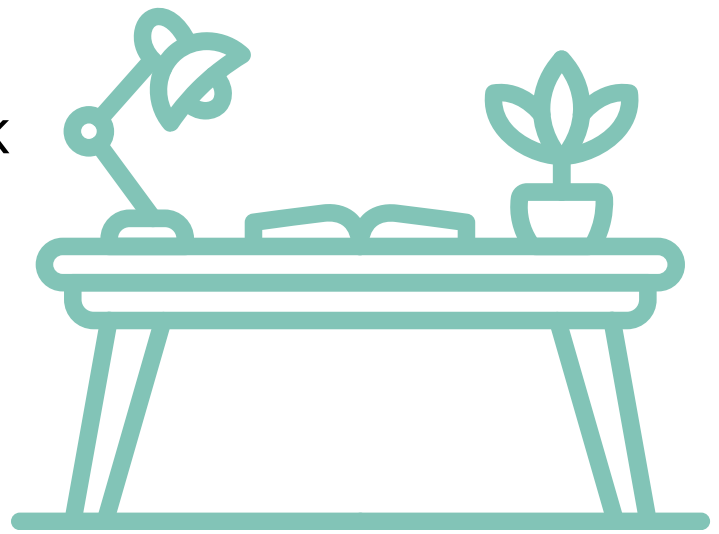
In addition to these two youth, the University of Wyoming 4-H gave green cords to five other youth who have chosen a different route after graduation. Regan Allen, Alexandria Brady, Kade Clark, Nicole Moore and Katalyna Wolski. Some of these youth members have chosen to attend another college and some have chosen to enter the workforce.

Whatever our seniors have choose to do with the next journey of their life, Laramie County 4-H and the UW Laramie County Extension Office are proud of the accomplishments they have made and wish them the best! We know the hard work, dedication, and commitment that you have put forth to reach this accomplishment. May your future be as bright as you are!



The Educator's Desk

Rebecca Austin



Well, in typical Wyoming fashion, we got a little spring with our snow! It has already been a whirlwind of a month with so many events happening and exciting opportunities in the works.

Brenda and I both had the opportunity to celebrate our seniors and award their 4-H graduation cords, so without further ado... CONGRATS to all of our graduates on this incredible accomplishment! On a personal note, I also celebrated a milestone this spring by graduating with my Master's degree in Learning, Design, and Technology. I'm excited to continue my education this fall as I pursue a doctorate in the same field (we'll see how long the excitement lasts!).

May was packed with fun and memorable events, including Kubota Orange Days, high school graduations, a sewing workshop, and Gold Rush. June is shaping up to be even busier as we gear up for fair season!

Kicking things off on June 6 is our Leathercraft Workshop. Don't forget: Cloverbuds can make their own belt for free, so be sure to join us for a fun, hands-on experience.

County Shoot will take place June 8-13, and we already have more than 100 members registered! Most events will be held in Pine Bluffs at the On the Range Shooting Complex. The official schedule and time slots will be released soon, so keep an eye out for more details.

And get ready, because Showcase Showdown is just around the corner! From June 15-18, join us in Laramie for a week full of events, workshops, and opportunities to connect with fellow 4-H members. Be sure to check the schedule on the UW State 4-H website to see everything happening throughout the week. There are also plenty of activities planned specifically for Cloverbuds, making it a great event for the whole family.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our 4-H Project Workshop Days on June 23 and 24. June 23 will focus on livestock and animal projects, along with Fashion Revue practice, while June 24 will feature workshops centered on static projects. We plan to have experts representing a variety of project areas, dedicated work time for last-minute fair preparations, and opportunities to explore something completely new. More information will be posted soon, so stay tuned!

As we start to move into one of the busiest and most exciting times of the 4-H year, we hope you'll take advantage of these opportunities to learn new skills, connect with others, and continue growing through your projects. Thank you to all of our members, families, volunteers, and supporters for everything you do to make our programs successful. We look forward to seeing you throughout June and wish everyone the best as we head into fair season!

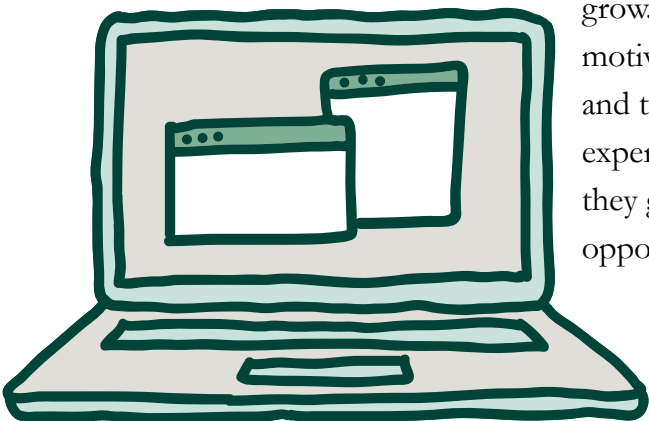
Greetings! I can't believe that summer is here and the official busy season is here! I am sure that you are all working diligently on your projects, and as you do, keep in mind what your goals were as you decided which projects you were going to take in 4-H this year. Each of your projects are helping shape you into a well-rounded person, who will be able to accomplish anything you set your mind to. Goals are what help to make your projects and learning successful and measurable. Speaking of goals, did you know the 4-H organization as a whole sets goals as well?

National 4-H has created the 4-H Beyond Ready initiative which is designed to help every young person in 4-H to gain the skills and confidence to be ready for work, life, and leadership. This is not new, as 4-H already does this- hands-on learning, caring relationships, and youth leadership- but it expands into a clear framework for preparing youth for the future. National 4-H's goal is that by the year 2030, 4-H aims to prepare 10 million young people to be "Beyond Ready." This means youth will not only ready to graduate, but also read to thrive in school, work, and their communities.

You might be asking yourself, what does "Beyond Ready" mean? In 4-H it describes a youth member who can work well with others, adapt and problem solve, lead with confidence, grow through challenge, and serve with purpose. These life skills may sound familiar, and they should because these are skills that are built through meetings, projects, service, and leadership opportunities in your community clubs!

Community clubs help support Beyond Ready youth by doing what they have always done: club activities, running meetings, working on committees or project teams, encouraging youth to try new projects or contests, leading service projects, and mentoring younger members. When members "learn by doing," they are practicing the same skills employers, educators, and communities value most. Every community club is a place where youth become Beyond Ready. Beyond ready helps 4-H youth see how what they are doing today connects to their future, and the skills that they gain help make them adaptable, capable, and ready to make a difference.

Adults and families play an important role in making the Beyond Ready experience possible, as every parent, mentor, and volunteer help youth grow. They do this by encouraging responsibility, curiosity, and self-motivation. Adults help guide youth through the goal setting, reflection, and teamwork process, as well as sharing their own real-world experience with youth. When youth are surrounded by adult who care, they gain a new perspective on challenges. Challenges become opportunities instead of hardships.



Why did National 4-H decide to create this initiative? For all the important reasons. Young people need adult partnerships now more than ever. More than half of Gen Z reports feeling loneliness and failure. 52% of youth feeling like they are failing their life goals. Youth are missing more school than before, as 30% of youth are chronically absent, and that number has doubled since the 2018-2019 school year. The job gap continues to grow, but with 4-H preparing youth with life skills needed for the workplace, the goal is to assist in closing that gap.

Youth that participate in 4-H programs are three time more likely to participate in a community service than youth who are not in 4-H. They are two times more likely to report living life with intentionality and purpose than those who are not in 4-H. Youth are two times more likely to have the goal of being a leader in their communities than those who are not in 4-H.

We need to support our youth in every step of their 4-H career, because when they participate in 4-H, they emerge ready for anything. When their 4-H career is over, they may decide to join the military, the work force, apprenticeship programs, or 2-year or 4-year colleges. No matter what decision they make at the end of their 4-H career, they are beyond ready to complete the next opportunities they may face in their life! This is what makes 4-H such a great program, as it truly holds true to its motto: To Make The Best Better.

My wish for our 4-H youth this summer is simple: learn what you can, continue to build upon the goals you have set for yourselves in your project areas, have fun, and continue to make yourself the greatest version of yourself you have ever been!

Sincerely,

Brenda Madrid



Need a garment.... These kids got you covered!

Written By Rebecca Austin

"We had an amazing turnout at our recent sewing workshop! Sheala Roof hosted a hands-on workshop for 4-H members, guiding youth through sewing basics while helping them complete pillowcase and apron kits. Some of our more ambitious members even took on extra challenges, including creating projects like an adorable pumpkin cat hat.

The workshop ran from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and several members who were new to sewing successfully completed an entire project by the end of the day. Beginners started by practicing stitching techniques with paper templates before moving on to create their own pillowcases.

Be sure to keep an eye out for some of these projects at the fair! Our youth did an incredible job, and we want to give a big thank you to Sheala Roof for sharing her time, skills, and expertise with our members.



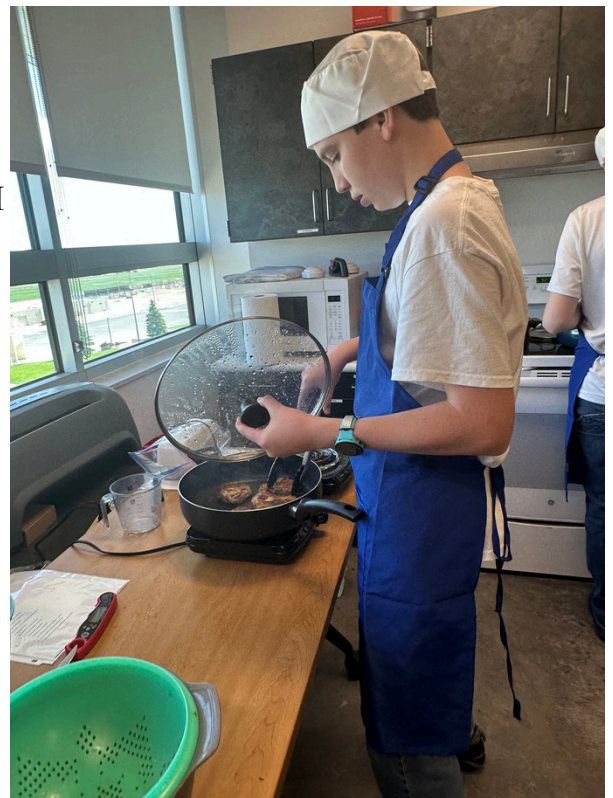
If you missed this workshop, don't worry! Our next workshop will be on June 20th, and we'll also be hosting a 4-H Static Projects Workshop on June 24th. More info to come!"



Gold Rush

Laramie County 4-H Gold Rush was held on Saturday, May 30th, 2026. Gold Rush is the county practice competition where 4-H youth members can prepare for the Wyoming 4-H Showcase Showdown. The competitions that were offered at Gold Rush for youth to compete were food cook off, prepared and impromptu presentations, table setting, cake decorating, hippology, produce evaluation, livestock skillathon, and dog skillathon.

4-H and Cloverbud members were able to participate in learning about Robots, although this year we did not offer a competition for it. They were able to play with drones and an R2D2 robot. While they played with those, they were able to learn a little about how robotics work.



In the food cook off competition, there were three junior/intermediate teams and one senior team that competed. For food cook off, youth members have one hour to prep, cook, and clean up their cooking stations. They had to plan a meal to present to the judge based around a theme. This year's theme was Celebrate 250 with Sizzle and Spice. The youth are scored on team work, safety, preparation, management skills. Then they are scored on their presentation- appearance of the plate, knowledge of the nutritional value, a cost analysis of the dish, and much more.

During the prepared presentation contest, youth were able to give a speech, demonstration, or illustrated talk. Presentations this year ranged all the way from how to raise a baby bottle goat to eye contact to the 4-H Creed. There were many other topics as well for the prepared presentation contest. Youth also had an opportunity to participate in the impromptu presentation contest, where they were able to draw three topics and choose one to present on. They then had 3 minutes to prepare, and then they had to give their speech to the judge. This is a more challenging contest, because youth have to organize their thoughts and come up with what they are going to say in a short amount of time. In the presentation contest this year, we had 24 youth participate.

Continued on Page 8

Written by Brenda Madrid, 4-H Military Educator

Gold Rush

For the table setting contest, youth must demonstrate their ability to properly set a table for one guest at a meal or event. Each contestant were able to provide all of the table setting items they would need and a menu. They had 15 minutes to arrange the items for the place setting, and then they were interviewed by a judge. Each table had their own theme, and this year some of the themes included Harry Potter and camping. There were some very creative themes this year, and the judge was impressed by many. We had 15 youth participate in table setting at Gold Rush this year.

The cake decorating theme this year was Celebrate 250 Years. Youth got to decorate their cake forms with butter cream frosting. For many, this was the first cake they had ever decorated, and so many skills were learned by our first time cake decorators. They learned how to mix frosting colors, how to pipe frosting, and how to decorate. There were six cake decorators this year, and we are hopeful they will come back next year with all of their newly learned skills.

In hippology, youth get to test their knowledge about horses. This year youth got to compete at different stations. The stations included identifying parts of a western saddle, horse color, and horse equipment. This year we had seven youth participate in hippology.

Produce evaluation is just that: judging fruits and vegetables... and telling the officials why you placed them the way you did. Depending on their age group, youth had an opportunity to identify 20-32 produce items. They had to judge eight classes of produce. Depending on their age division they had to answer eight questions, give four sets of reasons, or a combination of both. There were 15 youth participate in produce evaluation at Gold Rush this year.

The livestock skillathon contest tests youth on all their knowledge about livestock. In the contest this year, youth had to identify 5 breeds of cattle, sheep, goats, and swine. They also had to identify 5 wholesale cuts of each of the animals, as well as 5 external parts of the different animals. Youth also had to answer 10 questions about quality assurance, identify 10 types of livestock feed, and identify 10 pieces of livestock equipment. This year, we had 10 youth participate in the livestock skillathon contest.

In the Dog skillathon contest, youth had to know breed identification, internal and external parts of the dog, eye types, tail types, ear types, and they had to read health records. This year they got to participate in a live evaluation of a dog; a very special thanks to our pup friend Poppy! We had 14 youth from Laramie County 4-H participate in this contest.

Overall, this year's Gold Rush brought a lot of fun and memories for members, with the possibility to learn something new. With over 30 youth participants this year, it is clear that Gold Rush offers something for everyone

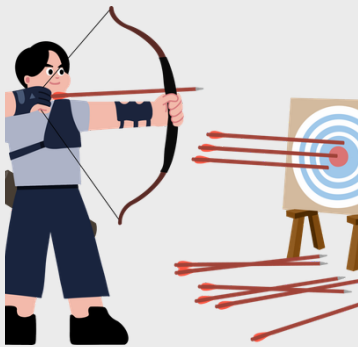


Laramie County 4-H Reminders



YQCA Registration

If you are showing an animal at fair, you need to complete a YQCA course. They're available to take online at yqcaprogram.org or you can attend an in-person course. **The deadline to be YQCA certified is July 15th.** Anything submitted after this deadline will not be accepted. Please email your certificates to Mary Twitchell at mtwitch1@uwyo.edu



Laramie County 4-H Shoot

County shoot will be June 8th -13th, 2026. Final schedules will be sent out this week to those competing in county shoot.

Showcase Showdown



Showcase Showdown is June 15th - 18th in Laramie. All participants need to pay the Extension Office. Invoices will be emailed out Friday, June 5th. They will need to be paid by Thursday, June 11th by 6:00 p.m.

Laramie County 4-H Reminders

Wyoming 4-H State Shoot

July 9-12, 2026

Registrations due: June 15, 2026

On-line Registration Link:

https://wyoming4h.formstack.com/forms/state_shoot



CHANGING THE FUTURE OF
YOUTH SHOOTING SPORTS

Meredith
We inspire. She makes it happen.™



Steve Mack

State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator

University of Wyoming Extension

1000 East University Ave.

Dept. 3354

Laramie, WY 82071

(307) 766-5170

smack@uwyo.edu

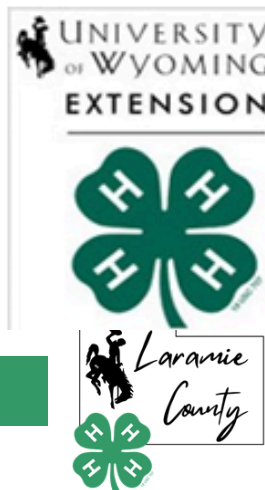
The Wyoming 4-H State Shoot is held in Douglas, Wyoming on the State Fairgrounds and at shooting ranges four miles south of Douglas.

What you need to know to register:

- Which disciplines will you be competing in? What class in each discipline?
- Are you interested in qualifying for the award trip to Raton, NM? (Senior age only)
- Commemorative apparel will be available during the event for purchase.
- Payment is due to your local 4-H county extension office.
- You can find more information about state shoot on the state 4-H website:

<https://wyoming4h.org/opportunities/events-activities-state-shoot/>

All range officers and those helping at each range are Wyoming 4-H volunteers. This event would not be possible without their time and dedication!



Laramie County 4-H Reminders



Image Credit: (far left) Washington County, VA; (top left and right) Choctaw County 4-H, Jasano Brooks; (bottom left and right) Macon County 4-H, Claudio Papapietro.



YOUR VOICE MATTERS! ENGAGE IN A LOCAL CIVICS PROJECT WITH THE SMITHSONIAN

AGES: 10-19

DATES: OCTOBER 2026 - MARCH 2027

JOIN THE 2026 STORIES 4-HISTORY PROGRAM

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States with the Smithsonian Institution! Through the **Stories 4-History program**, you will develop a civic engagement project that amplifies local stories of democracy. With support from Smithsonian experts, state and local 4-H leaders will guide you to identify a local changemaker that has made a positive contribution to your community and discover how you can use your voice to become agents of change--shaping the future of the places you call home. Through research and interviewing, you will create a 5-10-minute video with your findings.

PROGRAM DATES

The Stories 4-History program runs from **October 2026 - March 2027**.

ABOUT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, with 23 museums and the National Zoo, shaping the future by preserving heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world.

WHY STORIES 4-HISTORY?

All of us have issues that are important to us. We all have voices that we can use to shape the future of our communities. Through this experience, you'll:

- Gain a deeper understanding for your local community and its history through interviews and research.
- Discover techniques to tell effective stories through a video project.
- Build career readiness experience through skill development, leadership, and teamwork.
- Understand the importance of informed citizenship and democracy in our local communities.
- Apply what you learn to advocate for change in your community.

"The experience reinforced how local engagement can drive positive change, particularly in rural communities where resources and opportunities may be limited. Through informed advocacy and active participation in community discussions, we can help shape the future of education in our region"

4-H Member, Virginia

UPCOMING EVENTS



A sign with a red border and yellow dots, hanging from a string of colorful triangular bunting. The text on the sign reads: "FAIR ENTRIES DUE BY JULY 15TH!" followed by "For any questions regarding Fair, please reach out to Laramie County Fair." Below the sign are the Laramie County Fair logo and a QR code.

FAIR ENTRIES DUE BY JULY 15TH!

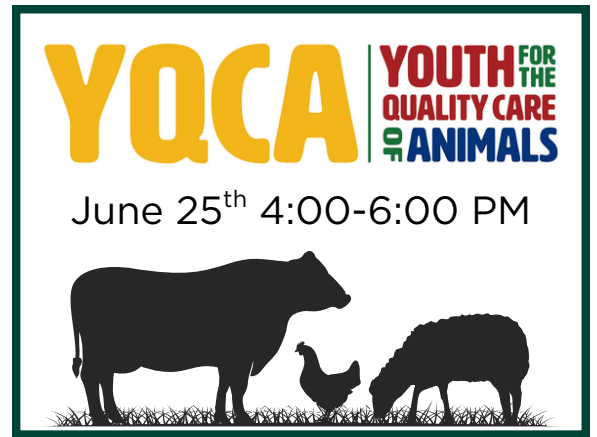
For any questions regarding Fair, please reach out to Laramie County Fair.



A photograph of a white goat's head. Text overlay reads: "Sheep, Goat, & Swine Tagging". Below the photo are the dates: "June 4th 4:00-6:00 PM" and "June 6th 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM".

Sheep, Goat, & Swine Tagging

June 4th 4:00-6:00 PM
June 6th 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM



Logo for YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) with the text "YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS". Below the logo is the date and time: "June 25th 4:00-6:00 PM". At the bottom is a silhouette of a cow, a chicken, and a sheep.

YQCA | YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS

June 25th 4:00-6:00 PM



A photograph of two rabbits, one white and one grey. Text overlay reads: "RABBIT WORKSHOPS". Below the photo is the date and instructions: "June 18th Please bring your rabbits, wear a long sleeved shirt, and bring a carpet square."

RABBIT WORKSHOPS

June 18th Please bring your rabbits, wear a long sleeved shirt, and bring a carpet square.

UPCOMING EVENTS

4-H PROJECT WORKSHOP

Join us June 23rd-24th from 9am-5pm for a dedicated time to work on 4-H projects! We will be hosting Fashion Revue and Static Projects, with access to materials, peers, and professionals.



June 23rd

- Fashion Revue Practice

June 24th

- Static Projects (visual arts, photography, leathercrafting, natural resources, and more!)

Register by scanning the QR code!



JUNE 20th

Sewing Workshop!

Join us on June 20th from 9AM-4PM for a sewing workshop!

The workshop will take place in the LCCC Pathfinder bldg., room 419.

- Open to all 4-H members
- Sewing materials and tools will be available for workshop use
- Some sewing machines will be available for use
- Youth may bring their own machines and projects to work on, but it is not required



UPCOMING EVENTS



M & K Building at Archer

9:00-10:30 AM- Cat Showmanship
9:00- 10:30 AM- Rabbit Showmanship
11:00 AM-1:00 PM- Poultry Showmanship
11:00 AM- 1:00 PM- Dog Showmanship
1:30 PM-3:00 PM- Pocket Pet Showmanship



Small Animal Showmanship Clinic

Tuesday, June 23rd

\$10 per person

Price includes supplies & burritos



Laramie County 4-H Nature Day Camp Save The Date!

July 15th, 2026

Curt Gowdy State Park

Example Workshops:

- Birds
- Macroinvertebrates
- Soil
- Wildflowers
- Fishing
- Pollinators
- Outdoor Cooking
- Animal Tracks
- Landscape Art
- Texture Rubbings
- Geology



Main Office

Mary Twitchell

Admin Associate

(307) 633-4383

4-H Educators

Rebecca Austin

4-H Educator

raustin5@uwyo.edu

(307) 633-4499

Brenda Madrid

Military 4-H Educator

bmckinzi@uwyo.edu

(307) 633-4496

Want to submit an event? We'll post your event to social media, Band, and on our Website Calendar. Fill out the form by scanning the QR code below or visit <https://form.jotform.com/LaramieCounty4H/event-submission-form>.

If you want to share a story or highlights in the newsletter, reach out to Rebecca Austin at raustin5@uwyo.edu. The newsletter is sent out on the first of each month.



Newsletter designed and partially authored by Brenda Madrid



Extension



The University of Wyoming is an equal opportunity provider.

