



ISSUE 01 THE CLOVER CONNECTION May Newsletter

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APRIL SPOTLIGHT



Month of the Military Child

April was the Month of the Military Child, and the community came together to honor our military kids and their families. On April 7th, we hosted our Month of the Military Child event, beginning with the signing of the proclamation, followed by an evening of festivities. Highlights included a helicopter landing in the LCCC parking lot, visits from UW’s Science Initiative Roadshow and the Cheyenne Children’s Museum, as well as 4-H representation from our local clubs. A giant axolotl even made an appearance—can you spot it in the photo? *Read more on page 2.*

Welcome!

This year, we've had the pleasure of welcoming two new 4-H educators:



Rebecca Austin - 4-H Educator

Rebecca is number five in a family of seven kids, although that played out in her favor as she got all the hand-me-down legos from her older brothers. As she grew up watching Bill Nye, Mythbusters, and Nat Geo, her love for science grew, and her passion for STEM never faltered (except for Math just a little bit in high school). She has always had a love for learning, which drives her to create and make new things, as well as experiment with what she has. She now tries to impart that same excitement on her three daughters and her supporting husband.

Rebecca is set to graduate with her Master's in Education this May!



Brenda Madrid - 4-H Military Educator

Brenda grew up in Sheridan, Wyoming, and was a 10-year member of 4-H. She was also active in FFA, Job's Daughters, and wrote for her high school newspaper. She grew up in a family that raised cattle together while Brenda also raised, and showed, sheep, pigs, rabbits, and poultry for Fair Projects. Since high school, she has lived in Utah, Montana, and then back to Wyoming again where she made Cheyenne her home and met her husband. She now has two children, Annabelle who is 13 and Rize who is 6.

In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, going camping, playing board games, and traveling. She enjoys reading, baking, and crafting. She received her Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Education in 2011 from Utah State University.

Month of the Military Child Event Highlights

By Brenda Madrid

April marked the Month of the Military Child, a month where military youth are recognized for their courage, sacrifices, and service to their communities, country, and their world. While navigating childhood and pre-adolescence can be challenging for all youth, military youth face additional challenges as their families serve. It is important that they are recognized for their resilience and service. The University of Wyoming Extension recognizes and appreciates how much these youth do for their communities. The partnership with University of Wyoming Extension Laramie County 4-H and the Wyoming National Guard Child and Youth program



brought and evening of fun, learning, and encouragement to the annual Month of the Military Child event. The event was held at the Laramie County Community College American National Bank Conference Center in the Pathfinder Building, with outstanding attendance. There were a total of twenty-three community booths, a small petting zoo, and a Lifeline helicopter landing. The event began with an awards ceremony, where Cheyenne's East High School JROTC Color Guard presented the flag and one East High School choir student presented the

National Anthem. Col. McGee delivered a captivating speech emphasizing the significance of military-connected youth and their contributions to their communities. While attending the Month of the Military Child event, numerous military-connected youth received certificates of appreciation. There was a small petting zoo provided by Laramie County 4-H members.

The community booths included five local 4-H clubs (Circuit Breakers 4-H Club, Laramie County Junior Leaders 4-H Club, Saddle Mountain Mavericks 4-H Club, Western Swing Dancing 4-H Club, and Wind Wranglers 4-H Club), Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Fly Dragon Studio, Cheyenne Children's Museum, Texas Roadhouse, Laramie County Public Library, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center



Trauma Unit, Laramie County DARE, Specialty Counseling, Wyoming Starbase Academy, Laramie County Fire Station #2, American Medical Response, FE Warren School Liaison Mary Jacobson, local bee keeper Kathy Juniker, 21st Century Equipment, and two booths from the University of Wyoming Science Initiative Roadshow; which showcased healthy living and reptiles. Each booth provided educational opportunities for youth and families to participate in, creating a unique educational experience for all ages. Youth and families had the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics ranging from 4-H, bees and honey, painting, packing wounds, 3-D printing, and much more.



The partnership between University of Wyoming Laramie County 4-H and the Wyoming National Guard Child and Youth program brought community members, military members, and their families together to have a celebration in honor of our military youths. The evening provided an engaging and educational experience while emphasizing the importance of supporting our military and military-connected youth.



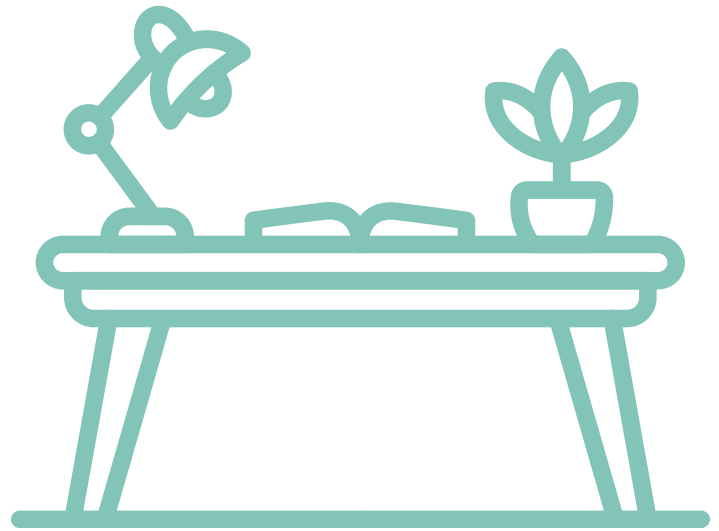
The Educator's Desk

Rebecca Austin

I want to start with a heartfelt thank you for the warm welcome and support I've received since beginning this role. I certainly hit the ground running, officially starting on March 9th alongside Brenda, the Military 4-H Educator, and I've truly appreciated how welcoming everyone has been.

Since starting, I've had the opportunity to sit in on several club meetings, formally introduce myself, and begin getting to know the wide range of incredible projects happening across the county.

For those I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, I'd like to briefly introduce myself. I live in Cheyenne with my husband, three daughters, two dogs, and our recently acquired Green-Cheeked Conure (courtesy of my eldest daughter). My husband was born and raised in Cheyenne and participated in 4-H as a youth, while I am brand new to the program. I grew up in Colorado and, unfortunately, was not exposed to 4-H, but I have always maintained a strong love of learning and am thrilled to now be part of this program and community.



I would describe myself as a lifelong learner and a bit of a “jack of all trades.” Over the years, I've explored a wide variety of interests, including emergent technologies (3D printers, laser cutters, etc.), Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality development, coding, art galleries, digital art, photography, board game design, and more. If there's something new to learn, I'm usually eager to dive in. I'm excited to bring that curiosity and experience into this role.

Please feel free to reach out at any time if you have questions, concerns, or simply want to introduce yourself. I may not always have immediate answers, but I can promise I'll do my best to help find them—and I'll likely learn something new along the way as well!

Hello! I am the Laramie County 4-H Military Educator! I want to take a moment to introduce myself to those of you who I have not met yet. I was born and raised in Sheridan, WY, and was a 4-H member myself. I have an Associate's Degree in Agricultural Sciences and a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Education. My husband and I have two kids, and as a family we love to go camping. In my spare time I also enjoy reading, crafting, and cooking. I am so excited to work with the 4-H families in Laramie County!

I started this position in March, and I feel like my feet hit the ground running. We are in our busy season, and all good things are already happening! April was the Month of the Military Child, and it was a great month celebrating Military Youth. Laramie County 4-H started off in organizing a Month of the Military Child Family Event- which was a fantastic celebration for all in attendance. We had around 15 vendor booths including CRMC trauma unit, where kids got to pack wounds. We also had a small petting zoo, a booth with reptiles, and a phenomenal guest speaker. I personally would like to thank all of the 4-H clubs that assisted with the event, as well as all of the folks who helped plan, organize, and help educate youth during the evening! Wednesday, April 15th was Purple Up! Day, as well. I want to thank everyone who wore purple to help honor our military youth.

Moving into summer, I want to remind everyone that there are some important deadlines coming up. First and foremost, goat, sheep, and swine tagging will be offered on three days this year. They will be Wednesday, May 27th (from 4:00-6:00 p.m.), Thursday, June 4th (from 4:00-6:00 p.m.), and Saturday, June 6th (from 9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.). These will be held outside of the community house, like they have been done in past years. If you have questions regarding

tagging, please reach out to the Fair and Events Office at 307-633-4670.



I also want to remind all livestock exhibitors that you must have your Youth Quality Assurance training up to date. The day that is needed to be done by is July 15th. If your YQA training is not complete by that date, you will not be able to sell at the fair. Please be sure that you print off your certificates of completion and send them to Mary Twitchell to put in the file.

We also have some great summer time learning and competitions coming up, so be sure to check out all of the fun included in this newsletter- there is information on Gold Rush, Showcase Showdown, and much more! I encourage all members to be as active in 4-H as you possibly can be. As with any program, what you put into your 4-H career you will get out of 4-H!

I want to thank everyone for being so friendly and welcoming into this position. I am truly blessed to live in Laramie County. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions!

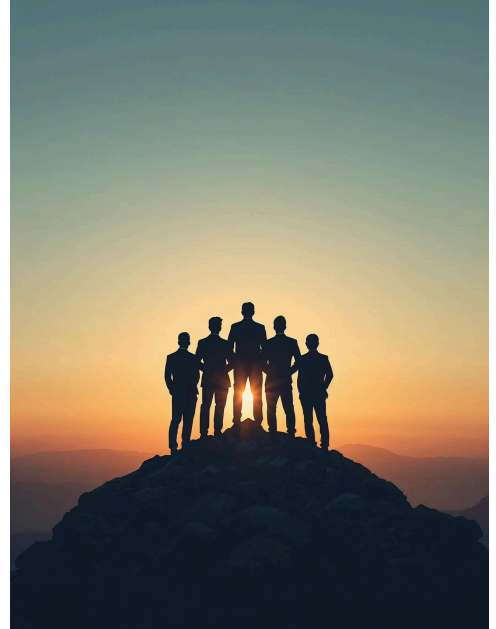
Sincerely,

Brenda Madrid



National Volunteer Week

4-H would not be what it is without our amazing volunteers. In celebration of National Volunteer Week, we invited the community to nominate volunteers they wanted to recognize, and winners were randomly selected from those nominations to receive free drink cards, courtesy of Paramount Cafe. Congratulations to **Jennifer Becksted, Mandy Good, Jesse Dersham, Lanae McDonald, Deb Dolph, Sarah Aldersea, Hannah Fields, Crystal Rosner, Jessica Crowder, Emily Boizot, Laurie Hauska, Marius Wilson, Ashlee Carson, Shannon Ferree, and Aaron Borgerding**, and thank you for the time, energy, and dedication you've contributed to 4-H.



We also want to extend our sincere appreciation to all of the volunteers who were nominated but not selected this time. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. Your commitment and impact are essential to the success of our program, and we are grateful for everything you do. You are the heart of this program.

WY State Meat & Wool Judging Contests

Laramie County Senior 4-H Meat Judging Team placed as the 2026 Wyoming State Reserve Champion Team. The team consisted of Brody Medina, Emily Shuck, Samantha Duran, and Walt Martinz.

Laramie County Junior Wool Judging Team placed as the 2026 Wyoming State Champion Team. Team members included Teigen Derner, Adelynn Crowder, Bemley Watkins, and Allis Martinz.

Congratulations to all of our Meat & Wool Judges! You all worked extremely hard, and we are proud of you!

Written by Brenda Madrid, 4-H Military Educator



Cloverbuds

We had our first Cloverbuds meeting on April 27th and it was a blast! Youth ages 5-7 who attended read about a French snail named Escargot, then made some fun snail snacks and crafts. Cloverbuds will continue to meet on the last Friday of every month from 4:30-5:30 in the LCCC Pathfinder building, room 415.

Our website now has a section dedicated to Cloverbuds where we will include fun, printable activities, coloring pages and projects to do on your own. Be on the lookout!

Website Upgrade

Laramie County 4-H has a new look, with an updated website designed to better serve our members, families, and volunteers. The site now includes dedicated sections for 4-H members, Cloverbuds, and Volunteers, making it easier to find relevant information and stay connected with the program.

We are also in the process of expanding the website to include a resource hub for specific project areas, which will provide helpful materials, guides, and tools to support project learning and participation. In addition, our calendar is actively being updated and is now conveniently displayed at the bottom of the main 4-H page, allowing you to quickly view upcoming events, deadlines, and opportunities.

Community members, leaders, and families are encouraged to contribute to the calendar by submitting events. To add an event, please visit the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/LaramieCounty4H/event-submission-form>

Visit our new website at <https://wyoextension.org/laramiecounty/4h-youth-development/>





Clover Club Showmanship Clinic

The 4-H Clover Club's first member ran Showmanship Clinic was a booming success. It was held at the Archer Complex on Sunday April 19th. There was a wide range of animals: including Rabbits, Chickens, Swine, Sheep, Market, Breeding, and Dairy Goats, and Horses.

The event was organized and ran by the Clover Club members. When the dust settled the members realized that while introducing their species to others who were looking for new opportunities in 4-H, they were also expanding their own knowledge and skills. This was a great experience for all who participated and everyone had fun!

Written by Brylee Snell, Clover Club Member



Top Buyer Scholarship

This year we had 25 Laramie County 4-H youth submit applications for the Top Buyer Scholarship. Each individual worked hard to complete an application, a presentation, and an interview in front of a panel of judges about their livestock projects. Presentations and interviews were held on April 27th, 2026. Every one of the youth did an outstanding job presenting their projects, and the passion for the livestock industry was very clear on the evening of the presentation and interviews among the 4-H participants.

Four youth from each of the 4-H age divisions are awarded the Top Buyer Scholarship each year to assist with their livestock projects. This year's junior winners are Ethan Breton, Braydee Bulgrin, Waylon Ferree, and Reese Reko. The intermediate age division winners are Addison Aldersea, Adelynn Crowder, Sage Derner, and Kwincy Landers. The senior age division winners are Landon Shei, Reece West, Riley West, and Katalyna Wolski. Each winner will be awarded a \$1500 scholarship.

Each 4-H livestock member is encouraged to apply for the Top Buyer Scholarship. Watch for more information next spring on the 2027 scholarship on how to apply. Congratulations to all of the winners.

Written by Brenda Madrid, 4-H Military Educator



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



Gold Rush

Registration is now open for Gold Rush! Participants need to be active members on ZSuite, and can register in the events tab. Visit www.4h.zsuite.org to register. **Registration closes on May 23rd.** For more information or questions, please reach out to the 4-H educators.



Showcase Showdown

Registration is open for Showcase Showdown! Register now and choose one of the registration options. **Individual registration closes on May 31st.** For more information and to register, scan the QR code on the left or visit <https://wyoming4h.org/opportunities/showcase-showdown/>

Laramie County 4-H Reminders

Animal ID Forms and Other Due Dates

A reminder that Dog and Cat ID forms are due in June!

- Dog ID forms are due by June 1st and can be turned in to the Extension Office.
- Cat ID forms and vaccinations are due by June 10th and can be turned in to Crystal Rosner or to the Extension Office.
- Horse Safety Certification due dates will be released by the Horse Superintendent
- Market sheep, goats, and swine need to be in compliance by June 1st.



For any questions or if you would like more information, please contact the Extension Office at (307) 633-4383. For inquiries that are Laramie County Fair-related, please reach out to the Fair Manager, Nicholle Watkins, at nwatkins@laramiecounty.com

UPCOMING EVENTS




Volunteer Training
May 5th 5:30-7:00PM
LCCC Pathfinder
Bldg, 419

Food provided!
Limited to 10 participants



YQCA | **YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS**

May 6th 5:00pm-6:00pm



Learn about your 4-H Beef Project and get YQCA certified!
May 16th
9AM-12PM

BEEF EDUCATION DAY

RABBIT WORKSHOPS



May 21st Please bring your rabbits, wear a long sleeved shirt, and bring a carpet square.

Sheep, Goat, & Swine Tagging



May 27th, 4:00pm-6:00pm

LARAMIE COUNTY 4-H

GOLD RUSH

MAY 30th

Register on ZSuite!

Sheep, Goat, & Swine Tagging



June 4th, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Sheep, Goat, & Swine Tagging



June 6th, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Main Office

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Admin Associate

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4-H Educators

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4-H Educator

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Brenda Madrid

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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 Rebecca Austin



Extension



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