



ISSUE 05

THE CLOVER CONNECTION

September Newsletter

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BACK TO SCHOOL



AUGUST SPOTLIGHT



Sweet Summer Time

When we think of summer, as 4-H'ers most tend to think of projects, work, and County and State Fair. Do 4-H members stop to think about fun, relaxing, and spending time with friends? More than likely, you do think of that too. This summer, around 30 youth got to enjoy a day where they got to relax and learn a little about nature, while also participating in fun crafts and hanging with friends. Nature Day Camp at Curt Gowdy was a success!

Read more on page 1.

Summer Fun

By Brenda Madrid

On July 15th, Laramie County 4-H members and Cloverbuds gathered at Curt Gowdy for an eventful day of exploring, crafting, and fishing. We had around 30 youth and Cloverbud members enjoy making memories at the first annual Nature Day Camp at Curt Gowdy.

We started the morning off with friends from the Laramie County Conservation District letting our members play with soil and learn about soil texture.

Following the soil texturing, our older members went on a nature hike, while our Cloverbud members got to build a lizard pool floaty. Youth then got to view macroinvertebrates with the Laramie County Conservation District.

Once lunch was upon us, youth were able to make their own desserts by learning a little about solar cooking. They made their own solar s'mores using pizza boxes and tin foil to cook the marshmallows and warm the s'mores. This was a fun activity, but some of the youth will tell you that it only really melted the chocolate!



After lunch youth spent the afternoon fishing at Crystal Reservoir and making their own camp Tye-Dye T-shirts. Some youth went on to showcase their Tye-Dye T-shirts at the Laramie County Fair this year. Overall, the first annual Nature Day Camp at Curt Gowdy was a blast, and many Laramie County 4-H youth are excited to participate in it again. Laramie County 4-H would like to thank all of the parents and volunteers who helped with camp, the Laramie County Conservation District for their educational efforts, and all of the 4-H members and Cloverbuds who came and enjoyed the day!



The Educator's Desk

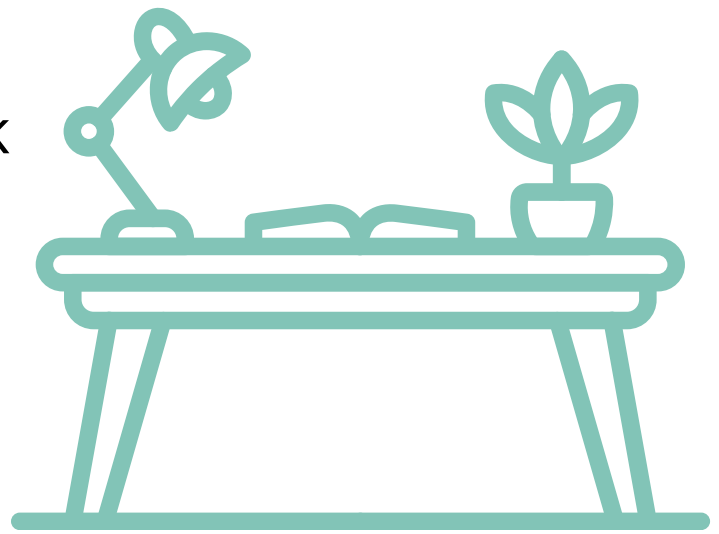
Rebecca Austin

Deep breath in, and hold for 1...2...3...4..., and breathe out. August has come and gone, fair season is complete, and school has begun again.

Wait, August is over?!

It has been quite the whirlwind of a month as we wrapped up County Fair and State Fair and jumped right into the start of a new school year! I want to start by saying congratulations and wonderful job to all of our members who participated in County Fair and State Fair. We saw so many amazing projects, showcases, and examples of outstanding showmanship from our 4-H'ers. It was wonderful to see the hard work, creativity, and dedication that our members put into their projects throughout the year.

As we get ready to kick off another 4-H year, we have quite a few fun and exciting things in store! From hands-on workshops to special events and new opportunities, this next year promises to be full of ways for our 4-H'ers to learn, create, and have fun. Be on the lookout for DIY robots, sewing workshops, more leathercrafting, and plenty of other activities as we work to provide fun and meaningful enrichment opportunities, especially during the colder months.



We are also excited to continue building on the programs and activities our members have enjoyed in the past while introducing some new experiences along the way. Whether your interests are in STEM, the arts, animals, cooking, outdoor adventures, or something completely new, there is always an opportunity to try something different in 4-H. We hope you'll join us for these activities, bring a friend, and make the most of another great year of learning, leadership, and 4-H fun!

Be sure to check out our upcoming events (hint, hint: achievement night is coming up), and we hope to see you all soon!

The barns and craft rooms might be a little quieter now, as the 4-H year comes to an end. What a whirling wind summer was, but boy it was fun! Can you believe that we are in the final month of the 2026 4-H year already?

As we wrap up the final month of the 2026 4-H year, I would like you to take a moment to reflect on how much you've accomplished this year, and where you would like to go with your projects and 4-H year next year. Fall is a time to start settling back into routines. School is starting up, the year's 4-H projects are put away and homework is beginning. With the start of a new schedule reflections can occur on what worked well over the last year and what might need some change or improvements. I know that I have been thinking about that as well. I am excited to kick off the new 4-H year with you all, as I see that we will have a lot in store for the 2026-2027 4-H Year.

One thing that I noticed a lot at both County and State Fair was mentorship. I loved how the older youth were willing to help the younger youth learn about projects. I noticed that junior aged 4-H'ers were willing to help youth who were not-yet showmanship age still learn and be excited about livestock and small animals. I congratulate you all for taking time out of the busiest weeks of the year to have fun, teach others, and still manage to do your absolute best with your projects. This is what 4-H is about. It is about taking something that you're passionate about and passing it on to future generations, and I applaud you for doing so.

While we are wrapping up our year, I would like to challenge each and everyone of you to fill out a record book.

Those can be found on your 4-H Zsuite profile and they are due September 30th at close of business (6:00 p.m.)

While you are filling out your record book, there is a section titled "My 4-H Story." In that section, I want to challenge you to include how you mentored another member this year. Share what the project was, who the other members were, how old they were, and what you did to help spark their interest in the project you were mentoring them in. I want to be able to read how you are passing along 4-H to another generation.

As always, I encourage you to reflect. Reflection is the best thing you can do from year to year. What worked well? What could have gone better? Every year you learn something new about your projects, and every year you change something about your projects. Include those things that went well in your record books and include something that you are thinking about doing differently next year. While change isn't always comfortable, it is necessary for progression. As we move forward through the next 4-H year, think about those changes that you have made in the past and those you are maybe considering for your projects.

I congratulate you on completing the 2025-2026 4-H year with what I hope is pride, success, and confidence. I encourage you to keep up the hard work in the next upcoming year, and as always please reach out if you have questions.

Best,

Brenda Madrid



Laramie County 4-H Food Pantry: A Community Service Opportunity for Every Club

Written By Brenda Madrid

Starting this fall, 4-H clubs from around Laramie County will have an exciting opportunity to participate in a county-wide community service project—the Laramie County 4-H Food Pantry!

The Laramie County 4-H Junior Leaders have taken the initiative to construct and secure a location for the new food pantry, and now they are asking for the help and support of other 4-H clubs across the county.

The Junior Leaders envisioned this project as an opportunity for the entire Laramie County 4-H community to work together to support members of our community. Participating in the food pantry project can also provide your club with an easy and meaningful community service project for the upcoming 4-H year.



How Can Your Club Help?

The Extension Office is currently working with the Laramie County Library and the University of Wyoming to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Although those discussions are still underway, we have everything in place to begin the project as soon as the MOU receives final approval.

Once the MOU is signed, the Extension Office will notify all clubs by email. At that time, clubs will be able to select a month when they would like to collect donations and stock the food pantry.

A Jotform sign-up is available through the QR code included with this article. Club leaders, please complete the form and select a month in which your club can participate.

Important Donation Guidelines

All food and toiletry items placed in the pantry must be donated. Club funds may not be used to purchase food for the pantry, as doing so would violate requirements associated with our federal funding.

Instead, clubs are encouraged to collect donations from other sources, such as:

- Neighbors
- Friends
- Family members
- Community members

Read more on page 5.



Food Pantry

This is a great opportunity for 4-H members to practice leadership, communication, and community engagement while making a meaningful difference right here in Laramie County.

Where Is the Food Pantry?

The Laramie County 4-H Food Pantry is located on West 22nd Street near the pollinator pond, in front of the Laramie County Library parking lot.

Join Us in Making a Difference!

The Laramie County 4-H Junior Leaders truly saw this project as an opportunity for all of Laramie County 4-H to come together in service to our community.

We invite every 4-H club to participate, choose a month, gather donations, and help keep the food pantry stocked. Together, we can turn a simple community service project into a lasting effort that helps make Laramie County a better place to live.

Watch your email from Brenda at the Extension Office for the announcement that the MOU has been finalized and clubs can begin selecting their months. We look forward to seeing Laramie County 4-H clubs come together to make a difference!

HELP US FEED THE COMMUNITY



LOCATED WEST 22ND IN FRONT OF THE LIBRARY

SUGGESTED TOILETRIES

- Deodorant
- Travel Soap Bars
- Travel Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toilet Paper
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Diapers

SUGGESTED FOOD ITEMS

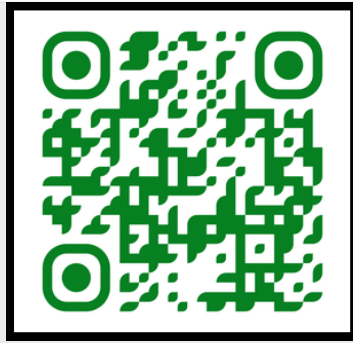
- Tuna/Chicken Pouches
- Canned Food w/ Pull Tabs
- Trail Mix
- Nuts and Seed Mix
- Granola Bars
- Shelf Stable Milk or Cheese
- Powdered Milk
- Peanut Butter Pouches
- Cereal Cups
- Oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, or Grits
- Applesauce
- Fresh Fruits or Vegetables
- Squeeze Electrolytes
- Baby Formula



Thank you for your support and donations.

FOOD PANTRY BUILT AND DONATED BY THE LARAMIE COUNTY 4-H JUNIOR LEADERS

New 4-H Year & Zsuite Re-enrollment



October 1st will start the new 4-H year! Please re-enroll starting October 1st on Zsuite. See the following instructions on how to re-enroll or give us a call at 307-633-4383. Remember, you will need to re-enroll with your Household profile and pin number!

1. All first-time families must create a HOUSEHOLD profile with a PIN # that is unique to the family.
2. Once created, you can add the youth participant to the family profile. The family information will auto-populate in the youth profile. (Please be sure that youth DO NOT select the volunteer box- this is for adult volunteers only)
3. Fill in the information, clicking continue at the bottom of the page to save and continue.
4. At the CLUB SELECTION page, click on the drop-down menu to find the club that you chose in step 3. (Please DO NOT select the Project Volunteer Club for youth)
5. Select the youth's desired project areas- youth can have as many as they like but must have AT LEAST ONE project selected. (Cloverbuds can ONLY ENROLL in the CLOVERBUDS PROJECT)
6. Once all Projects are selected, select "Add to Cart" to continue to the payment page.
7. The "Cart Checkout" page will display. The invoice for enrollment fees will display for the individual member. Please verify that the amount due is \$10.00. Note that if a shooting sport project was selected, there is an additional \$10.00 fee per shooting discipline in addition to the standard \$10.00 enrollment fee.
 - The shooting sport fees will only be added to the checkout page if it is included with the initial yearly enrollment fee. If shooting sports is selected after the \$10.00 enrollment fee is paid, the shooting sports fees must be paid in cash or check in the County Extension Office located at 1400 E. College Drive, Pathfinder Building, 406D, Cheyenne, WY, 82007.
 - Fee Explanation – 4-H Members must pay the annual enrollment fee of \$10.00. This fee can be paid online or in the Extension Office. Members who will be participating in shooting sports must pay a fee for each discipline that they select. This fee is only due once per project, per discipline (Archery, Rifle, Muzzleloader, Shotgun, Pistol). For example; if a youth will be participating in both "Pistol: Air Pistol" and "Pistol: .22 Pistol", they pay the \$10.00 fee once for the Pistol discipline. Shooting sports fees must be paid prior to attending shooting sports orientations or participating in the first shooting practice of the year.
 - Any fees paid to Laramie County 4-H for shooting sports or enrollment are non-refundable.
 - If you are enrolling more than one youth, you do have the option to select "Add Enrollment" to enroll all of your youth. When enrollments are completed, you may opt to follow the online payment directions or select "Submit & Pay Later/In-Person".
8. After hitting submit, your enrollment will become pending until payment or approval is completed. Once your payment and enrollment are completed and approved by the Extension Office, the enrollment will be active.
9. If you change your contact information or wish to change clubs, projects, etc., please return to ZSuite at any time throughout the year.

Laramie County 4-H Reminders



Record Books:

Record books will be due September 30th, 2026 at 6:00 PM. You can print them off and bring them into the Extension Office by this date, or you can submit the record books in Zsutes.

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF RECOGNITION, MYSTERY, & MAGIC

4-H ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT

join us in the

EMERALD CITY

An Award Celebration & Murder Mystery Event!

DATE:
Saturday, October 24th

TIME:
4:00 PM

LOCATION:
ANB Leadership Center
LCC Pathfinder Bldg

SOMETHING'S AFOOT IN OZ...
A mystery has unfolded in Emerald City! Can YOU help solve it before the applause fades to black?

DRESS UP!
THEMED OR NOT, WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

TRUE TROUPE

Laramie County

Wyoming 4-H



APPLY NOW FOR THE 2027 STATE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Applications Open — Deadline: September 7th at 11:59 PM
Must be 16-18 years old by January 1st, 2027
Apply here: tinyurl.com/2027SLT

Selected Team Members Will Get To:

- Attend a leadership retreat in Laramie October 16-18th
- Represent Wyoming 4-H at public and statewide events
- Lead activities for fellow 4-H members at events
- Develop and strengthen public-speaking skills at awards ceremonies
- Receive a \$900 scholarship toward a National 4-H trip of your choice
- Meet with legislators at the Wyoming State Capitol
- Receive a \$1,000 educational scholarship upon graduation and successful completion of Leadership Team service

UPCOMING EVENTS



Hear from high impact speakers, and get hands-on workshop.

Explore Washington D.C. sites.

Opportunities for Career exploration.

Build connections with teens from across the country.

IGNITE BY 4-H



- Youth 15 - 18 years old.
- Cost estimated at \$2000 per person.
- Scholarships will be available.

**MARCH
16-21,
2027**

APPLICATIONS

Apply by September 7th, 2026 online,
More information at:

https://wyoming4h.formstack.com/forms/ignite_4_h



Wyoming 4H

UPCOMING EVENTS



Wyoming 4-H



Explore
the world with
Wyoming 4-H

CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCES



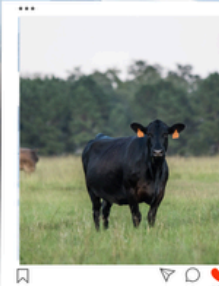
(17) experiences the world



Show all comments (17)



Show all comments (17)



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Alaska
June 22 - 29, 2027

Agricultural focused
hands-on experience
in Alaska

Chile
Mid-June 2027

2 week host exchange
opportunity with Chile

**Grow your cultural understanding, leadership skills and
make lasting connections across hemispheres. Learn
more about these exciting educational opportunities
within Wyoming 4-H during an informational zoom session**

September 8, 2026 - 7pm

During this informational meeting we will cover:

- What we will see and do during these educational experiences
- Travel logistics
- Affordable payment options
- How to enroll

*This opportunity open to enrolled Wyoming
4-H members 14 years and older*

For more information contact:

Alaska

Amber Armajo

307-347-3431

amwall@uwyo.edu

Chile

Emily Haver

307-328-2642

ehaver@uwyo.edu

MEETING

REGISTER HERE



UPCOMING EVENTS

Laramie County 4-H Meat Judging Practices

For more information, contact Stacy Broda!



Meat Judging Practices have started! Please contact coach Stacy Broda at 307-630-6094 if you are interested in judging or just want to try it out!



MEAT JUDGING YOUTH CONTEST SERIES



2026/2027

Hosted by UWyo Meat Judging
OPEN TO YOUTH NATIONWIDE

Contests

Oct. 5
Jan. 8
Feb. 15
Mar. 24
April TBD



Divisions

- Junior
- Intermediate
- Senior
- Novice
- Limited
- Experienced

Prizes

Contest awards 1st & 2nd
Year-end awards 1st & 2nd



Series rules can be found at
<https://bit.ly/3Urgd67>

Stay updated via Facebook
@University of Wyoming
Meat Judging Team



Contact: mckensie.phillips@uwyo.edu

(307) 766-2334

WYOMING

MEAT JUDGING YOUTH CAMP

Camp Dates:
Oct. 3 - 5

Location:
University of
Wyoming
(Laramie)

Register by Sept. 15

Cost: \$275/camper

Register here: <https://bit.ly/4qsjCxx>



THINGS TO KNOW

- Campers will need to secure their own lodging
- Arrive 3 PM Saturday, depart at noon Monday
- All meals provided
- Campers will receive:
 - UW Meat Judging Manual
 - Camp t-shirt
 - Clipboard, pens, pencils
 - WYO Meat Judging swag

Please bring your
hard hat
(if you have one)

Contact: mckensie.phillips@uwyo.edu

(307) 766-2334



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

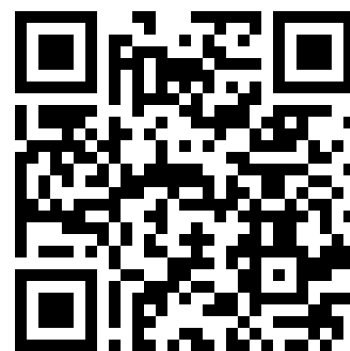
Military 4-H Educator

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



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Extension



*The University of Wyoming is
an equal opportunity provider.*

