



# Weston County CHATTER



## August 2023

### Erin's Notes

I've been trying to get my thoughts written down the last few days about the 2023 Weston County Fair - I have seen so many awesome posts by parents about the week and they are each so perfectly written and everything I start to write seems less than put together. So here goes....

I enjoyed each moment of Fair this year. I am always a little sad when Fair is over for the year, it really is one of my favorite things! I love seeing the 4-H members excited about their projects, enjoying their time together, learning, laughing and teaching each other. I love seeing the community coming together to celebrate the long standing tradition of county fair together.

Thank you! Thank you to each 4-H member, parent and volunteer who participated in the Fair and helped to make it a wonderful experience for all. Thank you to the Fair Board Members who showed up, worked their tails off and made sure Fair was a success. Thank you to the show superintendents who share their passion with each of us during Fair, we couldn't do it without you! Thank you to the judges who shared their knowledge, love of fair, time and expertise with each of us. Thank you to the Livestock Sale Buyers who support our youth in very generous ways. THANK YOU!

On another note, if you haven't heard, Abbey has left the Extension Office to head to Cosmetology School this fall, so you'll have to bear with us as we search for a new Administrative Assistant for our office - there may be a few days that we are closed as we are busy at State Fair, etc.

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Thank  
You!

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# UPCOMING DATES



## August

August 1 - State Fair Meeting

August 7 - Fair Board Meeting @ 6:30 PM

August 15-19th - Wyoming State Fair



## September

September 4 - Labor Day - Extension Office Closed

September 6 - Junior Livestock Committee Meeting

September 11 - Fair Board Meeting

**September 15 - Record Books DUE**

September 19 - Upton Cloverbuds

September 20 - Record Book Judging

September 21 - Newcastle Tumbleweeds



## October

October 1 - New 4-H Year Begins

October 1-7 - National 4-H Week

October 4 - Junior Livestock Committee Meeting

October 9 - Fair Board Meeting

October 17 - Upton Cloverbuds

October 19 - Newcastle Tumbleweeds

October 29 - Achievement Day



# THANK YOU NOTES

## Why It Is Important To Write THANK-YOU Notes

There is value in a handwritten thank you note. If someone does something for you or gives you a gift, traditionally a note of thanks is sent to the giver to express your gratitude. You may be thinking “well this is 2023 and times have changed.” Yes, times have changed. We have Facebook, email, cellphones and texting literally at our fingertips just about 24/7. It’s so easy to call, email or send a text with an emoji expressing thanks, however it just isn’t the same as receiving a note “in the mail”. The conveniences of technology are really no excuse for not handwriting (yes on paper!) a note to express your gratitude. Surely, as you read this you are asking why. Well, a thank you note may seem like a small thing, but it carries a big message of appreciation and gratitude more than any text ever has. There is something old-fashioned and especially heartfelt about writing it down by hand for both the writer and the recipient. Receiving a tangible piece of snail mail says to its recipient, “I am thinking about you, and I am thankful for you. Here is the handwritten proof.” So, here are 10 Reasons Why You SHOULD

### Write Thank You Notes:

1. It is always the right thing to do.
2. It can make the difference in getting the scholarship or getting the job or the client or future donations.
3. It sets you apart.
4. Gratitude is good for the brain. Some studies have shown it also reduces aches and pains and has other health benefits. (Pers Individ Dif. 2013 Jan;54(1):92-96).
5. It will make someone's day! Having a handwritten letter amongst a pile of bills and junk mail is heartwarming.
6. It is an opportunity to reflect on our gratitude and appreciate the time and energy someone put in to do something nice on our behalf.
7. It serves as a keepsake – no one typically saves an email or a text but a letter, definitely!
8. It perpetuates an important part of our culture and contributes to a lost art.
9. It shows you to be a thoughtful and appreciative person.
10. It lets the giver know that you did indeed receive their gift.





# HOW TO WRITE A THANK YOU CARD

- **Dear [Name of person].**

If “Dear” sounds too formal to you and you know the person well, you can get away with “Hi”, as in “Hi Michelle!”

- **Thank you for the [description of gift] [name of gift].**

Example: Thank you for the fuzzy brown scarf.

- **At least one sentence about the item; something you did with it, a reason you like it, when you plan to use it.**

Ideally, make the sentence 2 parts, like the example below. This makes the note feel more sincere.

For example: It matches many of my clothes and I know I’ll use it on my trip to Iceland.

- **Tell the giver you appreciate the thought or time they put into it and the occasion for which the gift was given.**

Example: It was so thoughtful of you to think of me on my birthday.

- **Sign off.**

“Love” is fine for family members and close friends.

For others, some choices are “Yours Truly”, “Regards”, or “Warm Regards”.

*many  
thanks*

- **Sign your name.**

Don’t make this an autograph scrawl; neaten it up so you they know it’s you.

That’s it! Hopefully this thank you card template made things a little easier for you.

Learning how to write a thank you note is not as exhausting as you may have thought. Once you know how to write a couple of sentences that truly express your feelings, you’ll find it’s a piece of cake to crank out those thank you notes. And you’ll feel good that your gift-giver knows you really mean it.



# **Jr. Livestock Committee**

Next Meeting:  
September 6th  
6:00 PM

**REMINDER:  
WRITE YOUR THANK YOU  
NOTES AND DROP THEM  
OFF TO ERIN AT THE  
EXTENSION OFFICE PRIOR  
TO SEPTEMBER 1**

## **NEW IN 2023**

1. Thank you notes will be required for all animals sold in the Junior Livestock Sale. An addressed, stamped thank you note for each buyer or add-on donor must be turned in to the Extension Office before your sale check will be mailed.
2. All sale checks will be mailed on September 1, 2023 (if thank you notes have been received)



## **Fair Board**

Next Meeting:  
August 7th  
6:30 PM  
Events Center

# State Fair Info




## **NEW THIS YEAR! Animal Drug Testing:**

NEW for 2023, the Wyoming State Fair will be drug testing Swine, Beef, Goats and Sheep. For these market species, drug testing will be mandatory for the Grand Champion and Reserve Champion award winners and two randomly selected market animals from each species.

**Why:** At the Wyoming State Fair we value education, animal welfare, protecting the food chain, and fostering fair competition. Drug testing is a valuable tool to help exhibitors and families to understand the possible implications of using substances on their animal.

**How:** By 12 pm on opening day of the 2023 Wyoming State Fair, exhibitors MUST turn in their drug declaration forms to the Exhibitor Office drop box **ONE FORM IS REQUIRED PER MARKET ANIMAL**. Drug Declaration forms can be found at [wystatefair.com](http://wystatefair.com) or picked up at the Exhibitor Office.

The text is framed by two decorative arrangements of yellow sunflowers with green leaves. On the left, a large sunflower is at the top, with several smaller ones and leaves trailing down. On the right, a large sunflower is at the top, with several smaller ones and leaves trailing down.

**Weston County  
State Fair Meeting  
Tuesday, August 1st  
6:00 PM  
Extension Office**

# RECORD BOOK HELP SESSION

at the Extension Office or via Zoom

<https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/99160838599>



September 5th - My 4-H Story and Submitting  
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

YOU MUST BE ENROLLED WITH **ACTIVE** STATUS IN 4-H IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN **ANY** 4-H ACTIVITIES. YOUTH MUST HAVE **ACTIVE** STATUS BY **MAY 15TH** TO PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER ACTIVITIES (CAMP, FAIR, ETC.)

ENROLLMENT FEES ARE DUE AT THE TIME OF ENROLLMENT

## PLEASE NOTE:

YOU ARE NOT COVERED BY THE 4-H INSURANCE UNTIL YOU HAVE ACTIVE STATUS IN ZSUITE!



# 2023 IMPORTANT DATES

- August 15-19 - Wyoming State Fair
- September 15 - Record Books Due
- September 20 - Record Book Judging
- October 1 - New 4-H Year Begins
- October 1-7 - National 4-H Week
- October 29 - Achievement Day



*"[4-H] represents unchanging American values in a changing world - values like learning from doing.. caring for a community, leadership.. integrity. Those things don't change. And they're kept alive by young people who are not burdened down with doubt, but have a fresh hope for the future."*

President Jimmy Carter  
4-H Club's 50th Anniversary Conference  
April 17, 1980

# ***VOLUNTEER CORNER***

Wyoming 4-H

UW | EXTENSION

## ***4-H RECORD BOOK TIPS***

Invite a Record book expert to your club of project meeting to help you out.

Wyoming 4-H

UW | EXTENSION

## ***4-H RECORD BOOK TIPS***

Have special time at club and project meetings to record what you have done. Volunteers can help be providing a list of dates on an agenda or written in front of the room.



# 4-H BULLETIN BOARD



**WELCOME**

**NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS**

**NOVEMBER 24-28, 2023**  
**ATLANTA, GEORGIA**



A chance for youth to expand their skills, engage with other 4-H members, and be inspired to make an impact in your club, community, county and world

**Ages 14 (as of January 1st of that year) and older, are invited to be part of the 2023 Wyoming delegation.**



Apply by September 1st, 2023 online.  
More information at <http://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/opportunities/travel.html>



## 2023 District Make It With Wool Contest

Date: November 12th

Place: Niobrara County Fairgrounds,  
Lusk

Who: Open to Weston, Niobrara,  
Goshen, Converse and Natrona  
County

Age: 5 and up

If you have questions, reach out to  
Erin



**“Ask 4-H Anything”**  
The State 4-H Office is going to start a communications support process where parents, volunteers, youth- anyone- can email in questions about 4-H. Then, on at least a monthly basis, the question will be posted with the answer to the State 4-H Facebook page. Sort of a “Dear Abby” (now I’m dating myself!) or Ask-A-Vet approach to answering questions. Emails can be sent to [4-H@uwyo.edu](mailto:4-H@uwyo.edu) with “Ask 4-H” in the subject line for inclusion. This will be anonymous, and we will monitor the questions that will be answered and posted- complaints will not be posted! The goal is to educate many by answering the questions from the few.





# OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE



## WYOMING STATE 4-H LEADERSHIP TEAM

### What is the State 4-H Leadership Team?

The State 4-H Leadership team is a select team of senior aged youth that have demonstrated leadership in their county 4-H programs, and who are interested in developing and refining skills to teach other 4-H youth about leadership, promotion, and service. Team members will also work on events/projects pertaining to their project area of choice.

### Who can apply for the State 4-H leadership Team?

Current Wyoming 4-H members ages 15-18, that are in good-standing in their County 4-H program, who enjoy taking leadership opportunities and having a positive impact on Wyoming 4-H and their project area.

### When can I apply for the State 4-H leadership Team?

2024 State 4-H Leadership Team applications are open till September 2nd. Interviews will be conducted in September and October. With the team selected by November 1st.

### Why should you apply for the State 4-H Leadership Team?

The State 4-H Leadership Team provides opportunities for youth to represent Wyoming 4-H through leadership and service at all statewide events and activities including state leadership team retreat, Showcase Showdown, Legislative Day, State Shoot, and the Wyoming State Fair. Team members are also involved in providing county or multi-county leadership workshops, assisting at all state 4-H contents and events, and representing 4-H at organizational meetings. Team members will also be provided an opportunity to focus on a project or event related to their project area of choice. This provides new opportunities for youth to become leaders for their projects at a state level.

### Have more questions?

**Please Email:**  
[wyo4hleadershipteam@gmail.com](mailto:wyo4hleadershipteam@gmail.com)

**To Apply Please Visit:**

<https://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/opportunities/state-opportunities/state-leadership-team/index.html>



UNIVERSITY  
OF WYOMING

## Extension Weston County

### Office Location

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### Erin:

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### Abbey:

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### Vicki:

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### Monday - Friday

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 4:30 PM



### Weston County Extension Website:

<https://wyoextension.org/westoncounty/>



### Weston Extension:

<https://www.facebook.com/WestonCountyExtension>

### Weston County 4-H:

<https://www.facebook.com/WESTONCOUNTY4H>

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