



Weston County CHATTER



July 2026

Erin's Notes

We are in the final countdown to County Fair! We have been having so much fun at all of the great project meetings - if you haven't taken time to attend one of the Blue Ribbon Project Quest days, you are missing out!

I encourage every single 4-H member (and thier parents) to enter something in the 2026 Weston County Fair. County Fair offers a place for everyone in the county to be involved in one way or another. Sharing our talents and gathering together to celebrate our successes and even the challenges is what makes County Fair such a unique and special event. This year feels a little extra special as we celebrate America's 250th Birthday!

- Fair Entry Deadline is July 3rd!
- Extension Office is closed July 3rd

MY CONTACT INFO:
epersche@uwyo.edu
307-746-3531

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2026 IMPORTANT DATES

January 18- Beef Weigh In and Tagging
February 1 - Market Beef Ownership and Tagging Deadline
February 15 - 4-H Scholarship Deadline
March 20 - Farm School Applications Due
April 19 -25 - National Volunteer Week
April 24 - Fairgrounds Work Day
May 1 - Horse, Dog and Cat ID Forms Due
May 15 - Enrollment Deadline for all summer 4-H Activities
May 26 - Swine, Lamb & Goat Tagging and Weigh In
June 1 - Market Goat/Lamb/Swine and Breeding Livestock
Ownership Deadline
June 9 - Shooting Sports Awards
June 15 - 18 - Showcase Showdown
June 27 - 4-H Camp
July 3 - Fair Entry Deadline
July 3 - Horse Safety Certification Deadline
July 9-12 - State Shoot
July 20 - Fabric & Fashion Judging Day
July 20 - Carcass Contest
July 22 - Fair Set Up Day
July 24 - August 2 - Weston County Fair
August 5 - State Fair Meeting
August 10-15 - Wyoming State Fair
September 15 - Your 4-H Stories Due
September 18 - Cloverbud Celebration
October 1 - New 4-H Year Begins
October 4 - 10 - National 4-H Week
October 10 - 4-H Jubilee
November 16 - Passport to 4-H Adventures



Blue Ribbon Project Quest

Exploring New Skills, Creating Fair-Ready Projects.

Sign up for one or for them all! At each Project Quest you'll create at least one fair entry that will be completely ready for County Fair! We will even keep it at the office so it doesn't get lost before Fair! Please RSVP on the Friday before each Project Quest to make sure that we have enough supplies for everyone that plans to attend.

July 7th

- **9:00 AM - Photography with Emily Hartinger**
 - Bring photos that you have taken in a digital form to print
 - Learn how to mount
 - Complete skill statements
- **1:00 PM - Christmas in July - Visual Arts projects**
 - Complete several Visual Arts projects that will be perfect for County Fair entries
 - Complete skill statements

July 14th

- **9:00 AM - Exploring Entomology - Bugs, Bugs and More Bugs!**
 - Scott Schell, UW Entomology Specialist
 - Learn how to collect, preserve and pin bugs
 - Have a entomology exhibit for fair
 - Complete skill statements
- **1:00 PM - Cake Decorating**
 - Abby Kottwitz
 - Create a 6-inch round cake to enter at county fair
 - Learn how to frost and decorate
 - Complete skill statements

July 21st

- **9:00 AM - Blue Ribbon Cookie Academy**
 - Bake cookies to enter at county fair with Morgan Heiman
 - Learn how to correctly enter foods and nutrition entries
 - Complete skill statements
- **1:00 PM- Fair Entry Preparation/Skill Statements/Final Touches**
 - Bring your fair entries, get help with skill statements
 - Practice interview judging

WESTON COUNTY FAIR 2026

RAISED ON FREEDOM & WESTON COUNTY FAIRS 4-H SCHEDULE

Friday, July 3rd

- Fair Entries Deadline

Monday, July 20th

- Fabric & Fashion, Quilting, Knitting and Fashion Revue Judging - 10:00 AM - Senior Center
- Carcass Contest - 6:00 PM

Wednesday, July 22nd

- Fair Set Up Night - 6:00 PM

Friday, July 24th

- Cat Show - 2:00 PM

Saturday, July 25th

- Parade Line Up - 9:00 AM
- Parade - 10:00 AM

Monday, July 27th

- Horse Show - 8:00 AM
- **Static Exhibit Check-In - 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM**
- Public Fashion Revue - 7:00 PM - Senior Center

Tuesday, July 28th

- Dog Show - 8:00 AM
- **Static Exhibit Interview Judging - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**
- Rabbit and Poultry Check-In - 5:30-7:30 PM
- Horse Show Awards - 6:00 PM
- Dog Show Awards - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, July 29th

- Sheep, Goat, Swine Weigh-In - 7:00-8:00 AM
- Beef Weigh-In - 8:00-9:00 AM
- Rabbit Show - 9:00 AM
- All Livestock Exhibitors Meeting - 1:00 PM - Show Ring
- Swine Show - 7:00 PM

Thursday, July 30th

- Poultry Show - 9:00 AM
- Robotics Showcase - 5:00 PM
- Sheep and Goat Show - 6:00 PM

Friday, July 31st

- Beef Show - 8:00 AM
- Pet Show - 11:00 AM
- Round Robin Contest - 1:00 PM
- Junior Livestock BBQ - 4:30 PM
- Junior Livestock Sale - 6:00 PM

Saturday, August 1st

- Static Exhibits Released - 9:00-11:00 AM

Wednesday, August 5th

State Fair Meeting - 6:00 PM



FAIR EXHIBITS

What is the difference between a 4-H project and a 4-H exhibit? Each year, 4-H members enroll in project areas that interest them. They set goals to plan what they will learn in each project area.

When they bring things to fair to show what they learned, these are called exhibits.

Members choose projects when they enroll in 4-H in ZSuite. Fair Entries are entered into FairEntry prior to the fair entry deadline - July 3rd! Just because you are enrolled in 4-H in ZSuite does not mean that you are entered for fair! Examples of projects for Fair are below:

Foods & Nutrition Project

Fair Entries

- Chocolate Chip Cookies
- Biscuits
- Thumbprint Cookies

Robotics Project

No Fair Entry required -
just participation at
Showcase Showdown,
County Robotics
Showcase, etc.

Market Lamb Project

Fair Entries

- Hamp Cross Ewe
- Speckled Face Wether

Once you have decided what you are going to bring to County Fair you'll need to do a few things.

Step 1: Log in to FairEntry.com and create your entries for your exhibits

Step 2: Prepare your exhibits for fair - each project is a little different - your market lamb preparations look very different than your chocolate chip cookie preparation!

Step 3: Bring your exhibits to Fair at the appropriate time

Static Exhibits (things like foods and nutrition, photography, etc.) are due to the Fairgrounds on
Monday of Fair from 9:00 am - 7:00 PM

Fabric and Fashion Exhibits are due to be judged on July 20th

Livestock comes in according to species during Fair week

SKILL STATEMENTS

- Skill statements need to be completed for each static exhibit that you are bringing to fair
- Skill Statements are REQUIRED for a static exhibit to go to State Fair
 - At State Fair this is the only information the judge has about your project since there is not Interview Judging. The more information you provide the better!
- Use the following form or create your own that includes all of the information requested
- Preparing your skill statement ahead of county fair is a great way to prepare for your interview judging at Fair
- If you have questions, please call and ask!

Weston County 4-H Skill Statement

Name: _____ **4-H Age:** ____

Project:_____ **Years in Project:**_____

Item: _____

Please include the following information for the judge

- Goals for your project
 - Where did you get the idea for your project
 - What did you learn
 - How did you create your exhibit
 - What did it cost to make your exhibit
 - Did something not work or go well
 - Include any information you want the judge to know about your project
 - Include photos
- For Foods entries also include:
 - Recipe
 - Source of recipe
 - For Food Preservation entries you **MUST** include:
 - Recipe
 - Source of recipe
 - Food Preservation Label attached to entry

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Interview Judging

It is important to remember that an interview is a conversation between you and the judge to discuss and evaluate the exhibit you have completed. It is meant to be an educational experience for you, the 4-H member; an opportunity to practice communication and interview skills that you will be use in the future. When participating in interview judging, 4-H'ers should dress appropriately. You should be clean and neat. Speak clearly and look the judge in the eye. No gum, candy or other things should be in your mouth.

Take a deep breathe before you head to the judges table.RELAX!

When you sit down...

- Smile and introduce yourself to the judge
- Tell the judge how many years you have been in 4-H or how many years you have been doing welding, baking, electronics, etc. (whatever project you are currently getting judged).
- Tell the judge about your exhibit.
- Give the judge some time to look over and examine your project.
- The judge may then start to ask you some questions....

Questions a judge might ask you...

- Tell me about your exhibit. How did you do it (processes, steps, plans)? Did you experiment with different techniques?
- Where did you find the information/idea/pattern for your exhibit? Did you make any changes to what you found to show your own creativity?
- Did your project turn out as you planned? If not, how is it different?
- What new things did you learn? How will you use what you learned for your projects next year?
- What did you do best?
- What was the most difficult/easiest part of completing this exhibit?
- What caused you the most problems with your exhibit?
- How much time did this exhibit take to create?
- Did you have any help to do this? Could you do it again on your own?
- Would you do this project again? If so, what might you do? Would you do anything differently - changes or improvements next time?
- Why did you choose to make this exhibit?
- What do you plan to do with this exhibit after the fair?
- What did you learn about yourself?
- What did you learn about your exhibit?
- What did you learn about your 4-H project?

- What would have happened if. . . .?
- How can you use what you learned from this project?
- What are some ideas or goals you might like to strive for next year?

The judge may share knowledge and skills that would be meaningful to the 4-H'er such as ways to improve the exhibit. 4-H members can prepare for the interview by reviewing their exhibit, steps that they took to make it and by looking over the above questions so that they are ready to answer the questions that the judge may ask. You may be teaching the judge how to do a new technique so explain how you created your exhibit.

Interview judging of projects in 4-H merely means that the 4-H member and the adult or judge have the opportunity to go over the article to be evaluated. Together they decide how much progress has been made or in what ribbon classification it should be placed.

Remember to practice your interview with your parents and grandparents before you come in front of the judge.

THE DANISH SYSTEM OF JUDGING

Exhibiting is part of 4-H educational experiences.

Judging is based on comparison to a standard, not on comparison to others in the class.

Judges may consider skill level based on age and circumstance, and expect a higher performance from older 4-H'ers, so there is some variance within the standard.

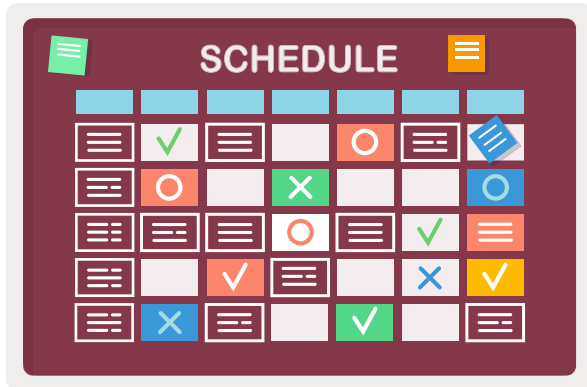
Award groups are as follows:

- **Purple Ribbon** - Excellent quality. Usually reserved for top two or three of the group, but not limited in number given.
- **Blue Ribbon** - Superior quality. The standards have been met.
- **Red Ribbon** - Average to above average quality. Shows signs of quality, but does not completely meet the standards. Some areas need further improvement.
- **White Ribbon** - Below average quality. Does not meet standards. Denotes improvement needed.

Interview Judging Schedule

Interviews will happen like last year.

Each project area will be assigned a time and judge. Schedule will be sent out as soon as possible.



Fair Set Up Night

July 22nd

6:00 PM

Many hands make light work!

Pizza afterwards

Livestock Exhibitor Information

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, 2026 (if thank you notes have been received)
3. A mandatory livestock exhibitor meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 29th at 1:00 PM at the show ring. All exhibitors are asked to attend.
4. A short bio will be required for all youth with livestock in the sale. Bios will be due to Erin by noon on Friday of Fair.
5. Youth need to invite buyers to attend the sale. All 4-H livestock exhibitors will receive a "Marketing You and Your 4-H Livestock" email with information on inviting sale buyers.

VFW 4th of July Parade
Patriotic or Historical Events
Costumes Encouraged!
No Political or Campaign entries

Larry Blessing 605-209-5129
Stan Dixon



CLOVERBUDS

The 4-H Cloverbuds Program in the University of Wyoming's 4-H program is a non-formal education program designed for children ages 5-7. Participation, safety, personal development, learning and fun are the highest priorities for Cloverbuds programs. Cloverbuds is designed to introduce young people to cooperative learning and the many things they can do in 4-H. These programs are adult led, activity-focused, and are built on cooperative learning rather than competition. There are two different Cloverbud clubs that meet in Upton and Newcastle.

UPTON SCHEDULE

July - County Fair

August - no meeting

September 18 - Cloverbud Celebration

NEWCASTLE SCHEDULE

July - County Fair

August - no meeting

September 18 - Cloverbud Celebration

You can join Upton Cloverbuds class at
<https://www.remind.com/join/u4hclover>
or by texting @u4htumble to 81010.

You can join Tumbleweeds class at
<https://www.remind.com/join/n4hclover>
or by texting @n4htumble to 81010.



4-H PROJECT NEWS



DOG PROJECT

Agility Practices - Lauren Pickle

- July 12th

Beginners - 3:00 PM

Advanced - 3:30 PM

Please bring:

- flat buckle collar with a regular 6 foot leash
- high value treats
- water for kids and dogs
- poop bags

July 19th

- final agility practice at 3:00 PM for everyone
- followed by moving all of the equipment to prepare for County Fair



4-H PROJECT NEWS



SHOOTING SPORTS PROJECTS

IMPORTANT DATES:

- July 9th - 12th - State Shoot in Douglas

Good Luck to our Weston County Shooters at State Shoot

- McKinley Hepker - Muzzleloader, Shotgun, Archery
- Zacoy Jewitt - Archery
- Grace Rightnowar - .22 Rifle
- Tanner Taft - Shotgun, Archery, .22 Rifle
- Sawyer Todd - Archery, .22 Rifle & Pistol, Air Rifle & Pistol
- Finnley Todd - Archery, .22 Rifle & Pistol, Air Rifle & Pistol
- Tanner Lenardson - Muzzleloader, Shotgun, Archery, .22 Rifle & Pistol, Air Rifle & Pistol
- Taylor Lenardson - Archery and Air Rifle
- Breckan Morton - Muzzleloader, Shotgun, Archery, .22 Rifle & Pistol, Air Rifle & Pistol
- Tevon White - Shotgun, Archery

Congratulations!

**Wyoming Outstanding
Lifetime Volunteer
of the Year
Cliff Abbott**



4-H PROJECT NEWS



MARKET ANIMAL PROJECTS

County Fair Weights:

- Market Steer Minimum Weight: 1100 pounds
- Market Heifer Minimum Weight: 1050 pounds
- Market Lambs - Minimum 90 lbs
- Market Swine - Minimum 200 lbs
- Market Goat - Minimum 50 lbs

If you would like to weigh your animals between now and County Fair, please call the Extension Office to schedule a time.



Carcass Contest
Monday, July 20th
6:00 PM

Weston County Fairgrounds

MARKET SALE INFORMATION

LX Bar Processing
Buffalo, WY

- Is now federally inspected
- Will take additional animals from County Fair the night of the sale
- Will deliver processed meat to Newcastle when it is ready

4-H PROJECT NEWS



SHOWMANSHIP CLINIC

Monday, July 20th
6:00 PM
with JJ Lipp and others
Weston County Fairgrounds

Following the carcass contest we will have showmanship practice for all species. Bring your show halters, show sticks, etc.

BEEF PROJECTS

Beef Fitting Workshop
with JJ Lipp
July 7th
6:00 PM
Beef Barn



Bring:

Hose, soap, brushes, blower, clippers, show sticks, halters

HORSE PROJECT

Safety Certifications must be completed for each horse that you plan to show as well. Safety Certification Deadline is July 3, 2026.

4-H PROJECT NEWS



SWINE PROJECT

JOIN US IN GOING WHOLE HOG IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FOOD INSECURITY IN WYOMING!

Sources of high-quality protein are notoriously expensive and difficult to procure for local anti-hunger organizations. In partnership with University of Wyoming Extension 4-H and FFA, Fair to Fork works to purchase hogs not sold at junior livestock sales from every county in Wyoming, through a lottery selection. Wyoming Hunger Initiative will purchase the pig, ensure the meat is processed by a USDA or state-inspected participating facility, and then coordinate with the 4-H or FFA member to donate it to a local anti-hunger organization in the county of origin.

Think a **pig** can't
change the world?
Think again.

We know Wyoming kids have a heart
for helping; we also know you're never
too young to join the fight against
food insecurity.



Interested in
participating
in Fair to Fork?

COMPLETE
THIS FORM TODAY!



John P.
ELLBOGEN
FOUNDATION



UNIVERSITY
of WYOMING

Extension

Get signed up via the QR code shown below by July 3rd. One youth from Weston County will be chosen in 2026. Please let me know if you have any questions. This is a great way to help our community and if you are already raising a second market pig this is the perfect place for it to go.



Wyoming 4-H

We're asking for your help in strengthening the Wyoming 4-H program. As part of the national Beyond Ready initiative, youth ages 13 to 18 are invited to complete a short, anonymous survey about their 4-H experience. Your participation is vital.

The survey is part of a nationwide effort to better understand how 4-H is helping youth build life skills, feel connected, and prepare for the future. We need at least 250 responses from Wyoming 4-H members to ensure our state is well represented and to help us continue improving the program for youth across Wyoming.

The survey takes just a few minutes and can be accessed here:
https://4hcouncil.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6DsCKWqW7AhPB9s
The deadline to complete the survey is July 15th.



**Beyond
Ready**



JR. LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

Next Meeting:

September 2nd @ 6:00 PM
at Event Center

Members

Hale Redding	Rebecca Kelton
Curtis Rankin	Morgan Loepp
David Kline	Sara Rankin
Stephanie Kline	Katrina Tysdal
JD Rhoades	Grace Sandrini
Cindy Rhoades	Lindsey Guden
Nastel Dean	Sara Ogle
Erin Persche	



FRIENDS OF FAIR

Friends of Fair is a non-profit organization to benefit the Weston County Fairgrounds. The purpose is to encourage and stimulate use of the grounds and to help the fair board have the highest quality fair.

Next Meeting:

Contact Megan Stith or
message Weston County
Friends of Fair on Facebook

FAIR BOARD

Next Meeting:

July 13th @ 6:30 PM
at Fairgrounds

Members:

Billy Jackson
Francie Hamilton
Mason Kaiser
Lindsey Guden
Joe Tedar

Wyo

TEXT



TEXT
WYO
TO
741741

DON'T GO IT ALONE

powered by Cathedral Home & Crisis Text Line

**THE COWBOY CODE OF ETHICS TELLS US TO LIVE EACH DAY WITH COURAGE,
AND WE KNOW IT TAKES COURAGE TO ASK FOR HELP.**

**TEXT "WYO" TO 741741 FOR FREE, CONFIDENTIAL MENTAL HEALTH AND
CRISIS SUPPORT FROM A VOLUNTEER CRISIS COUNSELOR STRAIGHT FROM
YOUR PHONE.**



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Extension Weston County

Office Location

204 W Main Street
Newcastle WY 82701



(307) 746-3531

Erin:

epersche@uwyo.edu

Beverley:

westncty@uwyo.edu



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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