



Weston County CHATTER

September 2026

Erin's Notes



Summer went by in a flash, and I'm still in shock that it is over. I've been spending some time reflecting on all of the great 4-H opportunities we had this summer, and I can't say thank you enough to the youth, parents, volunteers, interns, Extension Office staff, and so many more who made this summer such a huge success.

Each time I get to tell the story of Weston County 4-H to Commissioners, community members, State 4-H and Extension staff, and others, I find myself thinking about how lucky I am to have a front-row seat to the magic of 4-H.

I love that my job allows me to watch our 4-H members learn, grow, do incredible things, sometimes fail, and then succeed. The magic of 4-H is alive and well in Weston County and across Wyoming, and fair season brings it clearly into focus.

I get to watch 4-H'ers learn how to interview judge, standing in front of someone they've never met before and telling them all about their projects—and then walking away so proud of themselves and with a newfound confidence. I get to see them lead 1,200-pound steers around the show ring with a smile (sometimes forced) on their faces, even after that steer has gotten away a few times and maybe even drug them for a bit. And then they come out of the ring knowing that they got him shown.

I get to watch older 4-H'ers see big goals and dreams they've worked toward their entire 4-H careers come true. (It still gives me goosebumps when I think about it.) And one of my favorite things to watch is seasoned 4-H'ers sharing their knowledge with the newest 4-H'ers. It takes me back to my first years of 4-H and reminds me of those older 4-H'ers that I idolized.

Having the opportunity to work alongside the dedicated and passionate volunteers who invest their time, knowledge, and money into these youth is both humbling and inspiring. They show up and pour their hearts into these youth and our county fair to make sure each of them has an opportunity to showcase their projects and be proud of what they have accomplished.

And the judges who take the time to use their knowledge and expertise to fill our youth with confidence while challenging them to learn and grow are also a special breed of people.

We so often underestimate the power of saying thank you, but from the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU for allowing me to be a part of your 4-H journey in Weston County.

Here's to the magic of 4-H—and to all of the people who make it possible. ♥

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 2 - 2026 Important Dates
Page 3 - Your 4-H Story
Page 7 - 4-H Jubilee Invitation
Page 9 - Cloverbud Celebration

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

DON'T FORGET!
Your 4-H Story is due September 30!
Tell your story. Share your growth. Leave
your 4-H legacy.

And mark your calendar:
October 10 • 6 PM • 4-H Jubilee

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 18 - Cloverbud Celebration
September 30 - Your 4-H Stories Due
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





Your 4-H Story

—

Creating Your Own 4-H Legacy



"The Magic of Your 4-H Story"

A Captivating Story to Share

Who: Each 4-H member should write and submit a 4-H Story each year. This will replace the traditional record books of the past.

What is the 4-H Story: Your 4-H Story is the final chapter of your 4-H year. It is a way to capture the highlights of your 4-H experiences, a place to show your growth and the impact that 4-H has had on your life during the past year. It is your personal story of what 4-H means to you! It becomes a record of your time in 4-H that you can keep for the future to share with your children when they become 4-H members!

Submitting Your 4-H Story: A typed or handwritten story. There are no requirements for length, style, format, etc. Most stories are between one and three pages, but the length is entirely up to you. A great story is one that tells your experience well. This is your chance to let your creative voice shine.

Where to submit: Use the online form or drop a hardcopy off at the Extension Office.

- Link: <https://bit.ly/46O8yze>
- QR Code:
- Located on the website:

<https://wyoextension.org/westoncounty/your-4-h-story/>



When: Deadline for 2026 4-H Stories is September 30th. Stories can be submitted anytime throughout the 4-H year. If you only participate in shooting sports, write your story and submit it in March! You can start writing your story now and add to it throughout the year.

Why: Your 4-H Story is the summary of your 4-H year and it is a place to reflect on your experiences, capture your memories and create a record of your achievements. Your 4-H Stories will be used to highlight outstanding 4-H members on Facebook and in the local newspapers, in the Extension Office window, to showcase all of the different projects that 4-H offers and as a marketing tool for 4-H in Weston County.



Crafting Your 4-H Story

This is **YOUR** story! Write it in your own words and let your voice shine through. Tell about the best and worst moments of your 4-H experience this year. Did you try something new this year and absolutely love it? Or maybe you decided that new thing really wasn't for you. How did the skills you learned in 4-H help you in other areas of your life? You don't need to answer every question. Use these ideas to help tell your unique 4-H story.

Weaving Your 4-H Story

- Introduce yourself
- Why did you join 4-H?
- Talk about your projects and your goals
- Highlight learning experiences and unusual situations that the year held
- Explain how 4-H has helped you to become a better leader and citizen
- Share how you were involved in your club, county and community events
- Showcase your favorite parts of 4-H
- What do you want to improve upon or do differently next year?
- Tell about how you have changed or grown as a person as a result of your involvement in your projects and 4-H this year
- Explain how you could use the life and/or project skills you learned from being in 4-H in other areas of your life
- Talk about your experiences at County Fair, Showcase Showdown, State Fair and other 4-H events
- How did you help others - members, volunteers, your community, etc.
- Describe a moment that made you proud, nervous, surprised, or excited.

Tips

- Proofread!
- Read your story out loud to someone - this is a great way to find mistakes and rough wording.
- Be creative - you can use humor, poetry, quotes, etc. to create your story



Catching my very first fish at my first 4-H Camp



Shooting archery at the 2023 State Shoot. I placed 9th in the Senior Class D division.



Champion of Champions Market Lamb Show at the Wyoming State Fair. What an amazing experience, even if my lamb hated the drone!

ADDING MAGIC TO YOUR 4-H STORY WITH PICTURES

"A picture is worth a thousand words"

- Select up to 5 photos to submit with Your 4-H Story
- Choose pictures that help tell your story
- Highlight your projects and your major accomplishments
- Show that you are learning
- Fill out the captions
- Photos can create a sense of place, personality, or emotion more clearly and quickly than the written word
- Images powerfully confirm and expand upon what we read in the text



Competing in the Robotics Contest at Showcase Showdown. We had the Champion Team!



Helping make cookies for the First Northern Bank Open House. What a fun community service project!



4-H JUBILEE

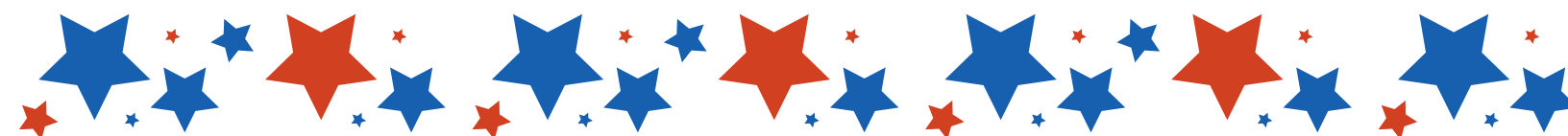
A CELEBRATION OF THE
2026 WESTON COUNTY 4-H YEAR



● OCTOBER 10 AT 6 PM ●

ALL-AMERICAN CARRY-IN DINNER
Bring your favorite All-American main dish,
salad, side, or dessert to share!
Drinks and tableware will be provided

CELEBRATING THE MEMORIES WE'VE MADE. INSPIRING THE ADVENTURES STILL TO COME.





Everyone is welcome!
Members, families, volunteers, sponsors, donors,
and friends of Weston County 4-H are invited to
attend.

Wear your favorite red, white, and blue and join us
as we celebrate another incredible year of Weston
County 4-H and kick off an exciting new year
together!

We will

- **Celebrate an incredible 2026 4-H year**
- **Honor member accomplishments**
- **Thank our amazing volunteers**
- **Recognize our sponsors and donors**
- **Look back at the highlights of the year**
- **Kick off the 2027 4-H year**

OCTOBER 10TH AT 6:00 PM
WESTON COUNTY EVENTS CENTER
NEWCASTLE, WY
RSVP BY OCTOBER 8, 2026
TO 746-3531 OR WESTNCTY@UWYO.EDU



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

September 18 - Cloverbud Celebration

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

NEWCASTLE SCHEDULE

September 18 - Cloverbud Celebration

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

Weston County
4-H

CLOVERBUD CELEBRATION

REACHING FOR THE STARS

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH
2:00 PM**

WESTON COUNTY EVENTS CENTER
**RSVP BY 9/15/26 TO 746-3531 OR
WESTNCTY@UWYO.EDU**

It's time to celebrate our Cloverbuds who
have spent the last year *Reaching for the
Stars* as they explored all 4-H has to offer,
created friendships, had fun and, most
importantly, *Learned by Doing!*

Wear your favorite red, white & blue!

**Parents and families are invited to join us as
we wrap up the year and celebrate!**

JR. LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

Next Meeting:
October 7th @ 6:00 PM
at Event Center

Members

Hale Redding	Rebecca Kelton
Curtis Rankin	Kylie Carson
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:
October 12th @ 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

IT TAKES COURAGE TO ASK FOR HELP
THE COWBOY CODE OF ETHICS REMINDS US TO LIVE EACH DAY WITH
COURAGE. SOMETIMES COURAGE MEANS ASKING FOR HELP.
NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO?
TEXT WYO TO 741741 FOR FREE, CONFIDENTIAL CRISIS SUPPORT.



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>

Issued in furtherance of extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mandy Marney, Director, University of Wyoming Extension, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Wyoming Extension, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming 82071.

It is the policy of the University of Wyoming Extension not to discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, sex, gender, color, religion, national origin, marital status, disability, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, genetic information, political belief, or other status protected by state and federal statutes or University Regulations in matters of employment, services or in the educational programs or activities it operates, in accordance with civil rights legislation and University commitment. To request accommodations, please contact the UW Weston Extension Office at 307-746-3531 or westncty@uwyo.edu to discuss possible solution(s) to fit your specific needs.