



Weston County CHATTER

October 2026

Erin's Notes



Happy New 4-H Year!

Can you believe that it is October 1st already? I am still in shock that this will be the sixth 4-H year in Weston County, and I am so excited for all that comes with a brand new 4-H year! Celebrating the new 4-H year gets me excited for all of the possibilities that the year ahead can hold. I'm looking forward to meeting the brand new 4-H members and families that will join Weston County 4-H this year. I hope that each one of them will find a place to call home, an activity that SPARKS a new project to explore and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Next week is National 4-H Week and we have some really fun things planned to celebrate all of the amazing things that are Weston County 4-H! But first, I need everyone to jump to Page 6 of the Chatter and join the Band app so that you can have all of the communication for the year. Each person who participates in the daily activities will be entered for the drawing of the day for a fun 4-H prize!

Thank you to the 4-H members who submitted Your 4-H Story this week. Reading through them is one of my all-time favorite parts of my job! These stories are also so critical to helping me tell the story of Weston County 4-H throughout the year. The impact of 4-H is stronger when I can use youth voice to tell the story of why 4-H matters to our stakeholders, donors, Commissioners, and potential 4-H members and volunteers.

I'm excited to see what this new 4-H year brings. Here's to another year of learning by doing, making the best better, and helping our youth be Beyond Ready!

Erin

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 2 - 2026 Important Dates
Page 3 - National 4-H Week
Page 4 - 4-H Jubilee Invitation
Page 6 - Band App Info
Page 7 - 4-H Enrollment Information
Page 11 - Cloverbuds
Page 12 - 4-H Project News
Page 16 - Statewide 4-H

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



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



NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

OCTOBER 4TH - 10TH, 2026

Participate on the Weston County 4-H Facebook page.
Each day there is a fun prize and a drawing at the end of the week!



Sign Up Sunday

Sign up on ZSuite and encourage a friend to join 4-H!



Go Green Monday

Show off your 4-H Spirit and WEAR GREEN



Tuesday Tips

Post your best 4-H advice



Way-Back Wednesday

Share those 4-H memories as we look how far we've come!



Thankful Thursday

Thank someone who supports 4-H



Favorite Project Friday

Highlight your favorite 4-H project.



4-H Celebration Saturday

Let's Celebrate at the 4-H Jubilee!



4-H JUBILEE

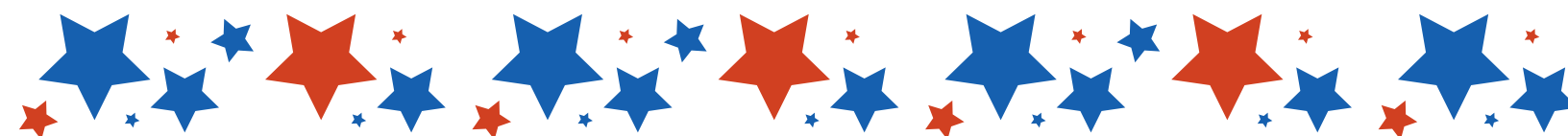
A CELEBRATION OF THE
2026 WESTON COUNTY 4-H YEAR



● 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





WESTON COUNTY 4-H IS MOVING TO BAND!

As we kick off a new 4-H year on October 1, we're excited to introduce a new way for 4-H families, members, and volunteers to stay connected!

We'll be using the BAND app as a central place to share important 4-H information, reminders, announcements, schedules, and updates throughout the year. Our goal is to make it easier for families to know what's happening, what's coming up, and what they need to know!

What can you expect to find on BAND?

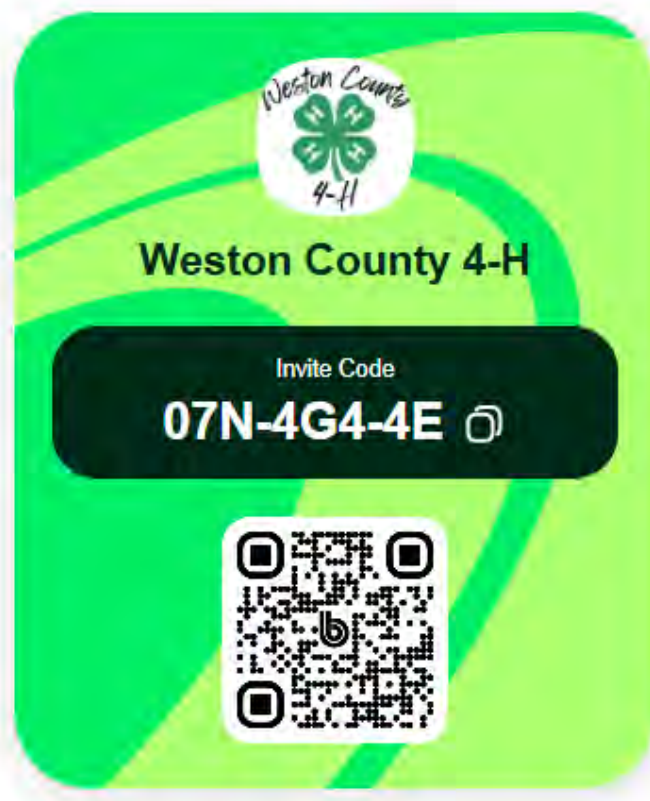
-  4-H announcements and reminders
-  Upcoming events and important dates
-  Project and educational opportunities
-  Club and county-wide information
-  Photos and highlights from 4-H activities
-  Important updates from the Extension Office

JOIN NOW

BAND will become an important part of our 4-H communication as we begin the 2026–2027 4-H year.

If you're a 4-H member, parent/guardian, or volunteer, we encourage you to join us! Download the BAND app and join the Weston County 4-H Band.

We're excited to have a new tool to help keep our 4-H family connected, informed, and Beyond Ready! ❤️🍀



4-H Enrollment Info

4-H AGES

4-H Age is determined by your child's age as of January 1, 2027.

- Cloverbuds are 5-7 years old as of January 1
- Junior 4-H members are 8-10 years old as of January 1
- Intermediate 4-H members are 11-13 years old as of January 1
- Senior 4-H members are 14-18 years old as of January 1

HOW TO ENROLL

Visit <https://4h.zsuite.org/> to complete your 4-H Enrollment

Below are tip sheets to help you create a new profile or access your current one.

The earlier in the 4-H Year that you complete your 4-H Membership (Enrollment) the more you will benefit from the 4-H program!

ENROLLMENT FEES

October 4 – 10th – National 4-H Week – no enrollment cost

October 11th – December 31st – \$10 per member

January 1 – May 15th – \$20 per member

****No cost for Cloverbud members****

Enrollment Deadline

Youth must be enrolled with active status in 4-H in order to participate in any 4-H activities. Enrollment fees are due at the time of enrollment. Please note: youth are not covered by the 4-H insurance until you have active status in ZSuite!

Youth must have active status by May 15th to participate in summer activities (camp, fair, etc.) This deadline will be strictly adhered to.



ZSuite 4-H Enrollment



Existing Family Profile

Enrollment must be done **ANNUALLY** to stay *active* in 4-H!

1. Go to <https://4h.zsuite.org/>
2. Use the same email & password you used to sign up, select **LOGIN**
3. Choose the **PRIMARY ACCOUNT** to enroll 4-H Members
4. You will see a list of all the household members and their current enrollment status.
 - a. **Red** = **INACTIVE 4-H Member**
 - b. **Green** = **ACTIVE 4-H Member**
5. Select the 4-H Member's Name you wish to update, select **ENROLL MEMBER NOW**



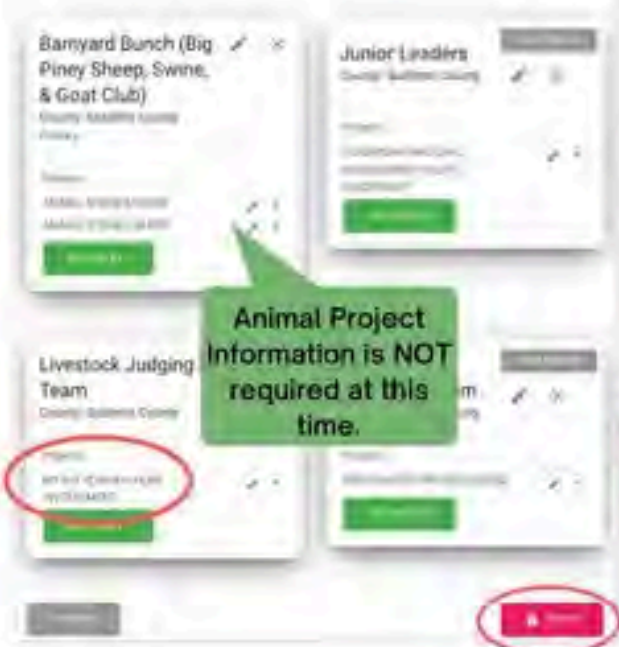
First Year 4-H Members, make sure to add the First Year Member "CLUB". This will waive the Registration Fee.



6. Fill out 4-H Member's info, select **Continue**
 Fill out PERSONAL INFO, select **Next**
 Fill out all six drop down WAIVERS, then select **Next**
 Dropdown to your CLUB, select **Add Club**
 - a. Select **Add Project**
 - i. If you are interested in
 1. Junior Leaders
 2. Livestock Judging Team
 3. Livestock Skillathon Team
 make sure to add them as a Club.
 - i. **ALL 4-H Members** should Add **MY 4-H YEAR/MY 4-H YEAR INVOLVEMENT** as a Project in one Club, Select **Add Project**
7. Select **Add to Cart** and then you can either **+Add Enrollment** or **Submit**. Must be submitted to be complete.

Enrollment in 4-H for Johnny Cash

Membership Enrollment from Johnny Cash



Once submitted, your Enrollment will change from Pending Approval to Active when the Extension Office receives payment!



ZSuite 4-H Enrollment



New Family Profile

If you've never signed in to ZSuite before, follow these steps:

1. Go to <https://4h.zsuite.org/>

2. As a Family creating a new Profile, select **SIGN UP**

a. Fill in all of the fields, select **LET'S GO!**

Adding 4-H Members

You are now on the **Dashboard** tab

1 Select **+ Household Member**

2 Fill out 4-H Member's info,
select **Continue**

3 Fill out PERSONAL INFO,
select **Next**

4 Fill out all six drop down
WAIVERS, then select **Next**

5 Dropdown to your CLUB,
select **Add Club**

a. Select **Add Project**

i. If you are interested in

1. Junior Leaders
2. Livestock Judging Team
3. Livestock Skillathon Team

make sure to add them as a Club.

i. ALL 4-H Members should
Add **MY 4-H YEAR/MY
4-H YEAR INVOLVEMENT**
as a Project in one Club,
Select **Add Project**

6 Select **Add to Cart** and then you can
either **+Add Enrollment** or **Submit**.
Must be submitted to be complete.

**First Year 4-H Members, make sure to add the
First Year Member "CLUB".
This will waive the Registration Fee.**

**If you need assistance, don't hesitate to
select the ZSuite LIVE CHAT!**



Once submitted, your Enrollment will change from **Pending Approval to **Active**
when the Extension Office receives payment!**



WYOMING 4-H PROJECTS



ANIMAL SCIENCES

- Beef Cattle
- Cats
- Dogs
- Dairy Goats
- Meat Goats
- Horses
- LLamas & Alpacas
- Pocket Pets
- Poultry
- Rabbits
- Sheep
- Swine
- Veterinary Science

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Aerospace
- Computers
- Electricity
- Robotics

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Entomology
- Geology
- Nature & Ecology
- Range Management
- Shooting Sports
- Sportfishing
- Wildlife and Hunting

HEALTHY LIVING

- Foods and Nutrition
- Gardening and Horticulture
- Health
- Outdoor Recreation

LEADERSHIP & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- Civic Engagement
- Youth Leadership
- Self Determined

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

- Cake Decorating
- Crocheting
- Fabric and Fashion
- Interior Design
- Knitting
- Leathercraft
- Photography
- Quilting
- Ropecraft
- Visual Arts
- Woodworking
- Welding

FIND YOUR SPARK WITH A 4-H PROJECT

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

October 13

Upton Community Center

4:00- 5:00

NEWCASTLE SCHEDULE

October 15

Weston County Events Center

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM



PUMPKINS!!

4-H PROJECT NEWS



FOODS AND NUTRITION

Schedule:

- October 16th - Pot Pies

Location

- Extension Office

Time

- 2:00 PM



FABRIC AND FASHION

Schedule:

- October 9th - Bat Garland
- October 23rd
- November 13th
- December 4th
- December 18th

Location

- Weston County Senior Center - Michael's Room

Time

- 2:00 PM



4-H PROJECT NEWS



MAKE IT WITH WOOL

Converse, Goshen, Natrona, Niobrara and Weston Counties

NOVEMBER

15

1:00 PM

NIOBRARA COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS

4080 US HWY 20
LUSK, WY 82225

ENTRY DEADLINE NOVEMBER 9TH

AGE DIVISIONS - AS OF JANUARY 1, 2026

- Young Sewers: ages 5-7
- Pre-Teen: ages 8-12
- Junior: ages 13-16
- Senior: ages 17-24
- Adult: age 25 and older

CATEGORIES

- Garment
- Made for Others
- Wearable Accessory
- Wool Quilt/Other Wool Art/Non-Wearables

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY:

- Completed Entry Form (please send all wool samples, check made to MIWW, and form to district director)
- \$15 entry fee for each category entered
- Three 5"x5" samples of each wool used or three 36" lengths of each yarn used

For More Information

Erin Persche

epersche@uwyo.edu

307--746-3531

<https://wyoextension.org/westoncounty/make-it-with-wool-contest/>



4-H PROJECT NEWS



LIVESTOCK PROJECTS

Feeding Through the Drought

An Educational Evening for Livestock Producers & 4-H Families

October 20th, 2026

5:30 PM

Weston County Events Center
Newcastle, WY

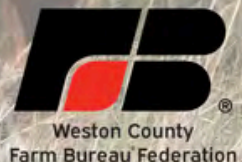
Dinner and presentations from UW
Extension, CHS Nutrition and SmartLic

Brought to you by:



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

Extension



When grass is short and feed costs are high, having a plan matters.

Join us for an evening focused on practical strategies for feeding livestock through drought conditions. Hear from feed representatives and UW Extension agriculture educators as they share information, resources, and ideas to help you navigate challenging feed situations.

Topics will include:



Feed options & alternatives



Making the most of available forage



Evaluating feed quality and nutritional needs



Managing feed costs

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:

Visit the Facebook page for
meeting dates and details

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



JOIN THE FUN!

WYOMING STATE 4-H

BINGO CHALLENGE

THE WHOLE MONTH OF OCTOBER!

HOW IT WORKS

- 1 Pick up your 4-H Bingo Card at your county office before National 4-H Week.
- 2 Complete fun challenges like:
 - Share your 4-H Story
 - Wear your 4-H Shirt
 - Post a picture with your project
 - Invite a friend to join 4-H
 - Thank a volunteer
- 3 Mark off each square as you go and document each completed square!
- 4 Return your completed card to your county office. They will sign it and send a photo to the State 4-H Office!



PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!

for completed rows/columns, as well as blackout cards!

WHERE TO GET YOUR CARD

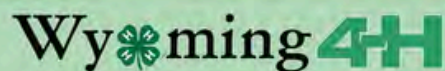
Available at your County Extension Office

CELEBRATE, SHARE, AND SHOW YOUR 4-H SPIRIT!

Bingo cards will be available on the new Band app!

Statewide 4-H Service Project

THANK YOU CARDS & CARE BASKETS FOR FIREFIGHTER CREWS



What We're Doing

Wyoming 4-H youth and families are uniting to honor firefighter heroes by making handmade thank-you cards and assembling care baskets with snacks, personal care items, and encouraging messages.



How You Can help

- ✓ Make a few thank-you cards (hand-drawn or written)
- ✓ Collect items for care baskets:
 - Snacks (granola bars, trail mix, protein bars, meat sticks, gum)
 - Drinks (hydration drink packets, Coffee)
 - Personal care items (sunscreen, Lip balm, heavy duty hand lotion)
 - Small Gear Extras (pocket-sized notepads, pens, durable mini flashlights)

Work with your local 4-H club to drop off cards and baskets to local Fire Stations, Wildland Firefighter Crews, USFS Crews and BLM Crews.

When

The Month of October!

Share Your Impact!

Take photos of your club delivering your service project and share with, #Wyoming4-H and/or 4h@uwyo.edu



Wyoming 4-H



Holiday Card Contest

Calling all 4-H members - let your creativity shine!

Who Can Enter

- Open to all enrolled Wyoming 4-H Members

How To Submit

- Email your design to 4h@uwyo.edu with subject line "Holiday Card Contest"

What To Submit

- Original holiday card design
- Front cover or whole design folded
- Size 5x7 inches
- Include a holiday greeting/message
- Digital format (JPG, PNG, or PDF)
- Make sure to sign your card!

Submission Deadline

October 25, 2026

Prizes

The Winning card will get to select an item from the Wyoming 4-H e-store with an allotted balance.

Winning card will be sent to all Wyoming 4-H Stakeholders, and for sale for anyone to purchase! Get creative and spread holiday cheer!



Wyoming 4H



APPAREL STOREFRONT!

Official Wyoming 4-H gear, available for purchase!

- ★ T-shirts, hoodies, hats, and more
- ★ Sizes for youth and adults
- ★ Perfect for clubs, families, & supporters
- ★ Delivered straight to you



Storefront will be open September 28th - November 1st!

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

OPEN



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM



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Weston County Extension Website:

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



Weston County Extension Office:

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

Weston County 4-H:

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



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