Weston County CHATTER

November 2026

Erin's Notes

Turning back the clock yesterday and putting away the Halloween decorations has me feeling a little glum as we say goodbye to my favorite month of the year. I love the crisp fall mornings, beautiful afternoons, gorgeous fall colors, the pumpkin patches, National 4-H Week, the beginning of a new 4-H year and so much more that October holds. I'm definitely not ready for the sun to start setting before 5 p.m. every day for the next 100 days. YUCK! However, I am looking forward to a month of being more intentional about recognizing and appreciating the many things I have to be thankful for in November.

I participated in a volunteer training yesterday afternoon and one thing that really stood out to me as the training went on was how much 4-H has shaped the person I am today. Many of my favorite memories include 4-H projects, volunteers, trips and lessons learned throughout my time as a member, volunteer, and now educator.

We were asked to name a skill that has helped us be successful in our current careers. Many of the skills I learned and continued to develop through 4-H were the first things that came to mind. As we shared our skills and where we learned them, so many of those experiences led back to 4-H. When we talked about why we credited 4-H with teaching us those skills, the answer was simple: we Learned by Doing.

That really stuck with me. 4-H is about so much more than projects, fair exhibits, and ribbons. It's about the skills, experiences, relationships, and lessons that stay with us long after our 4-H years are over. It's about trying something new, making mistakes, figuring things out, and learning along the way. Those experiences help shape who we become and prepare us for whatever comes next.

I hope you will take a few minutes each day this month to write down the things you are thankful for. Research suggests that physically writing down the things we're grateful for can help us recognize and appreciate them even more. It doesn't have to be anything big or life-changing. Sometimes it's the little things that make the biggest difference.

As I head into November, I'm especially thankful for 4-H, the people who have been part of my 4-H journey, and the opportunity to help create those same experiences for the next generation. 💚

What is one thing your especially thankful for this November?

Erin

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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 2 - 2027 Important Dates
Page 3 - Band App Info
Page 4 - 4-H Enrollment Information
Page 8 - Hands to Larger Service
Page 9 - Cloverbuds
Page 10 - 4-H Project News
Page 16 - Statewide 4-H

2027 IMPORTANT DATES

January ___- Beef Weigh In and Tagging – To Be Announced
February 1 - Market Beef Ownership and Tagging Deadline
February 15 - 4-H Scholarship Deadline
March 15 - Farm School Applications Due
April 18-24 - National Volunteer Week
April 22 - Fairgrounds Cleanup for Earth Day
May 1 - Horse, Dog and Cat ID Forms Due
May 15 - Enrollment Deadline for all summer 4-H Activities
May ___ - Swine, Lamb & Goat Tagging and Weigh In - TBA
June 1 - Market Goat/Lamb/Swine and Breeding Livestock Ownership Deadline
June ___ - Shooting Sports Awards - TBA
June 14 - 17 - Showcase Showdown
July 2 - Horse Safety Certification Deadline
July 15 - Fair Entry Deadline
July 8-11 - State Shoot
July 26 - Fabric & Fashion Judging Day
July ___ - Carcass Contest - TBA
July 28 - Fair Set Up Day
July 30-August 8 - Weston County Fair
August ___ - State Fair Meeting - TBA
August 16-21 - Wyoming State Fair
September 15 - Your 4-H Stories Deadline
September 17 - Cloverbud Celebration
October 1 - New 4-H Year Begins
October 3 - 9 - National 4-H Week
October ___ - 4-H Jubilee - TBA

The complete 2027 Important Dates calendar will be released in December.

Weston County 4-H

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

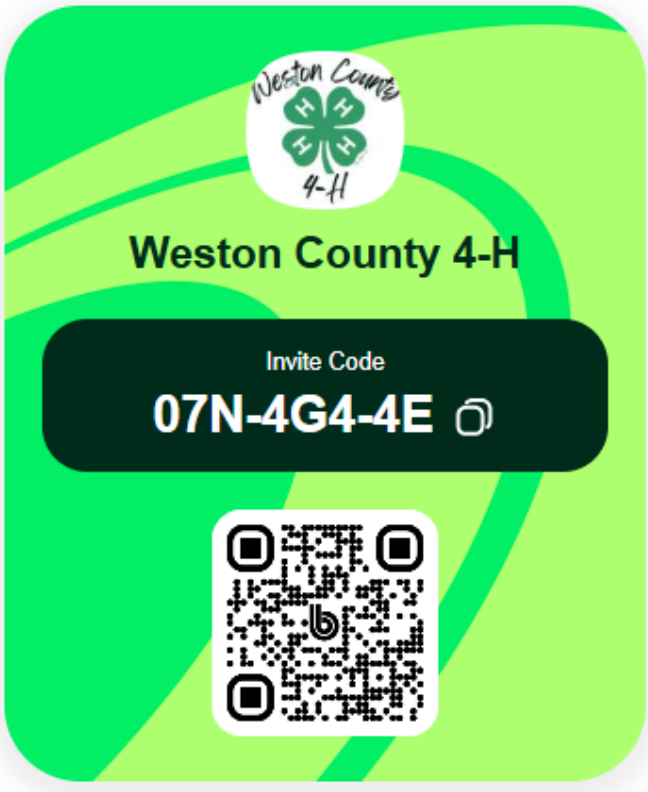
Not on BAND yet? Join today so you don't miss important updates and opportunities!

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

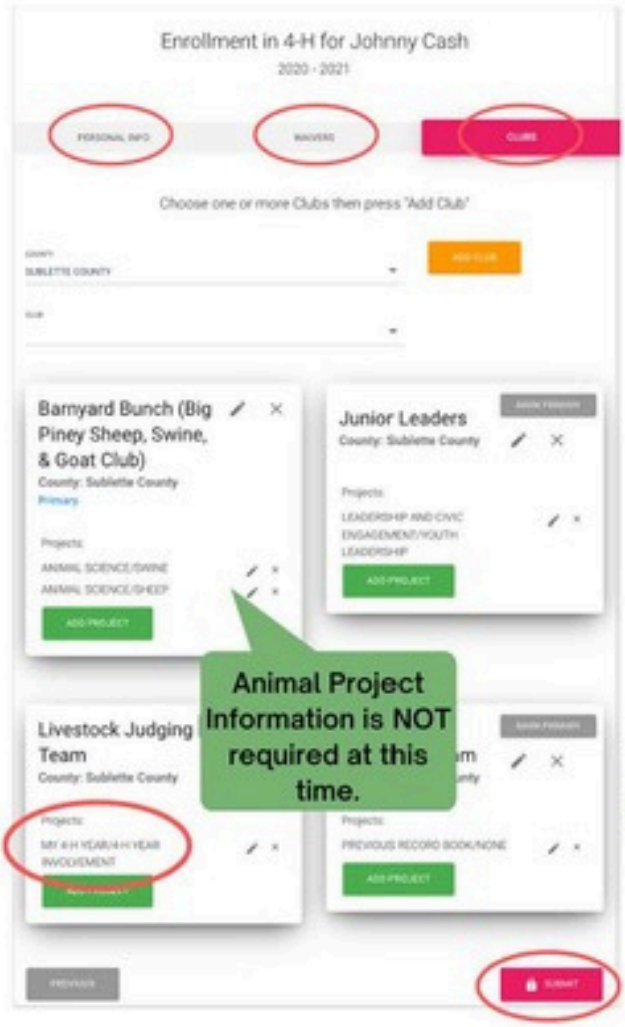
Enrollment must be done **ANNUALLY** to stay *active* in 4-H!

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.

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:

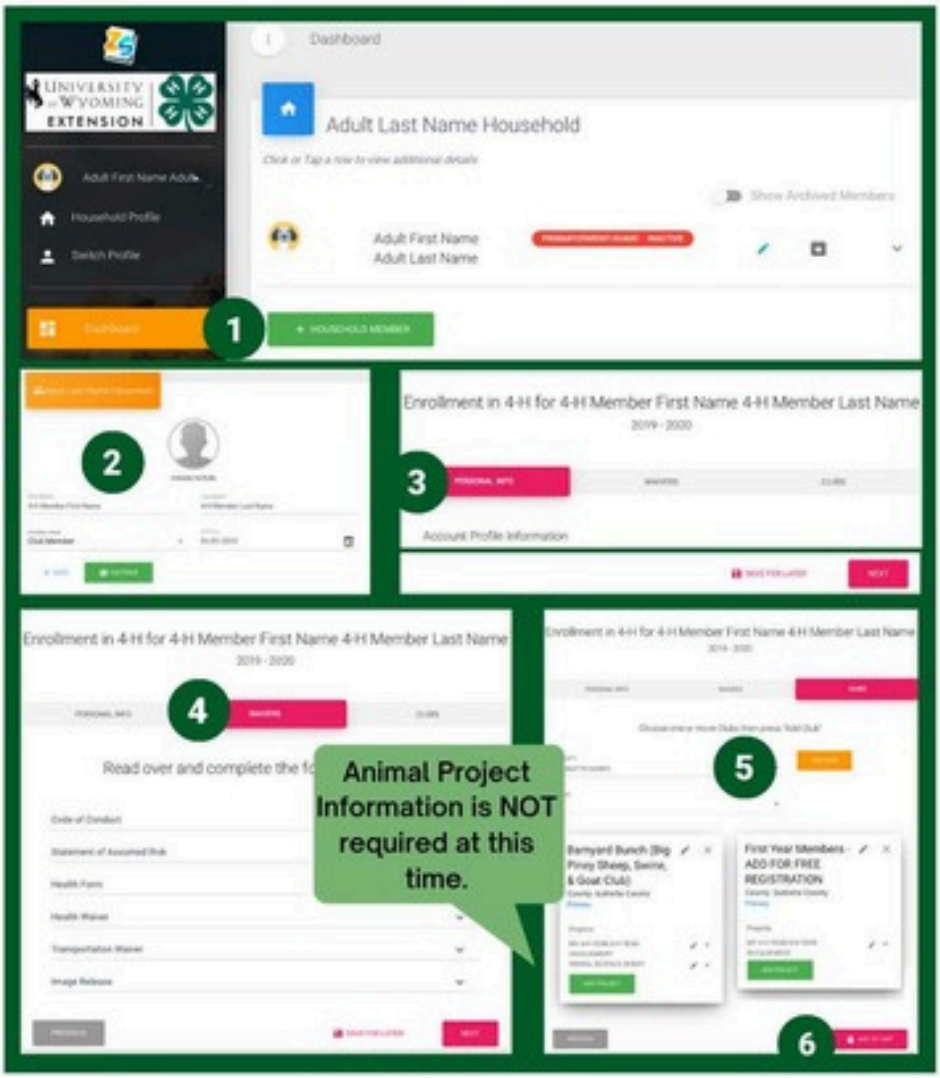
1. Go to https://4h.zsuite.org/
2. As a Family creating a new Profile, select SIGN UP
   a. Fill in all of the fields, select LET'S GO!

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

HEALTHY LIVING

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

LEADERSHIP & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- Civic Engagement
- Youth Leadership
- Self Determined

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Aerospace
- Computers
- Electricity
- Robotics

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

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

The **Hands to Larger Service Award** recognizes 4-H clubs that have demonstrated outstanding community service through projects in one of two areas: Health or Heart.

- **Health** projects focus on improving community access to resources and opportunities that promote healthier living.
- **Heart** projects focus on strengthening relationships, building connections, and fostering a greater sense of community.

Selected clubs will receive an award to support and encourage their continued efforts to make a positive difference in their communities. These 4-H members exemplify the values of 4-H by putting their hands to larger service and making a meaningful impact.

There is no limit to the number of project submissions a club may submit! Only projects submitted through the official Formstack submission form will be considered for the award.

Ready to showcase your club's service? Submit your project here: https://wyoming4h.formstack.com/forms/club_service_20262027



CLOVERBUDS

"Weston County 4-H Cloverbuds is a program for children ages 5–7 that introduces young people to the many things they can explore and learn through 4-H. Cloverbuds focuses on participation, safety, personal development, learning, and fun. Activities are adult-led and hands-on, with an emphasis on cooperative learning rather than competition. We have two Cloverbud clubs that meet in Newcastle and Upton."

UPTON SCHEDULE

November 17
Upton Community Center
4:00-5:00 PM
December - TBA
January 19
February 23
March 16
April 13
May - TBA
June - TBA
July 30- August 8th - County Fair
September 17 - Cloverbud Celebration

NEWCASTLE SCHEDULE

November 19
Weston County Events Center
4:00-5:00 PM
December - TBA
January 21
February 25
March 18
April 15
May - TBA
June - TBA
July 30- August 8th - County Fair
September 17 - Cloverbud Celebration

November

Cloverbuds Crack the Code





Come learn about three different robots and try some fun coding activities!

4-H PROJECT NEWS

FOODS AND NUTRITION



Schedule:

- **November 20th - Dot Cakes**

Location

- **Extension Office**

Time

- **2:00 PM**

FABRIC AND FASHION

Schedule:

- **November 6th**
- **December 4th**
- **December 18th**

Location

- **Weston County Senior Center - Michael's Room**

Time

- **2:00 PM**



4-H PROJECT NEWS

SHOOTING SPORTS

Weston County Sportsmans Club Banquet and Fundraiser

SAVE THE DATE!

The Weston County Sportsmans Club is planning the first annual Banquet and Fundraiser on February 13th and they need our help!

The fundraiser is to help raise funds to install a new air filtration system at the indoor range which will benefit us!

We will need 4-H members and parents to help serve dinner and help with games for the banquet. All 4-H youth who help will be entered to win a .22 rifle



Volunteer Training
Save the Date

- **March 6-7, 2027**
  Sheridan, WY
- **March 13-14, 2027**
  Wheatland, WY

Shooting Sports calendars and practice information will be coming out towards the end of November!

4-H PROJECT NEWS

SHOOTING SPORTS



The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) have scholarships available for high school seniors and current college students as well. The scholarship window is now open and applicants have until March 31st to apply. The CMP have opportunities available for students who currently shoot on a competitive shooting team and for students who DO NOT shoot competitively.

Here is the link to the CMP Scholarship Page: https://thecmp.org/cmp-scholarship-program/



Open to High School sophomores and juniors.
More information can be found at yes.nra.org/about/

BEEF PROJECTS

Getting Ready for Your MARKET BEEF PROJECT

LEARN • GROW • SUCCEED



Overview

Preparing for and showing livestock can be one of the most rewarding and educational experiences for youth. The lessons learned in showing and raising livestock are invaluable. It can feel intimidating to begin, but you don't have to know everything on day one. Ask questions, learn from your leaders and Extension educators, and enjoy the process!

Your goal isn't to know everything. It's to keep learning throughout your 4-H experience!

Before You Purchase Your Animal

Make sure you are prepared to meet your animal's basic needs before bringing it home.

Fenced Area
A safe, well-fenced area with at least 100 x 100 feet is recommended for one to four steers. This gives them room to exercise.

Feeder
Use a safe feeder that minimizes waste and keeps cattle from consuming rocks, dirt, and other debris.

Welfare
Make sure it holds enough water for the animal's daily needs and is heavy enough that it cannot be tipped over or easily broken.

Shelter
Helps keep a wind/snow break or shelter from protecting from cattle from snow, rain, hail, and other weather. Cattle generally do not need heat lamps if they can stay dry and protected.

Selecting the Right Market Beef

Don't just choose the biggest or flashiest animal. Look for an animal that is healthy, structurally sound, well-muscled, and capable of reaching an appropriate market weight by fair time.

- Good muscle behind the shoulder, along the top, and through the hindquarters.
- Good feet and leg structure.
- Smooth movement and freedom of motion
- Appropriate body capacity and growth
- A strong, level top
- Good balance: front, middle, and rear
- A shoulder that allows for smooth, unrestricted movement.
- A calm and manageable disposition

Balance is important!
Think about how all of the pieces fit together, not just one part.

Planning for Purchase Weight

Most market beef are born in the spring and purchased in the fall. October and November are a great time to start purchasing your show cattle for your upcoming county and state fair.

Use this formula:
Purchase weight + (Average Daily Gain x Number of Days on Feed) = Expected Fair Weight

Example:
700+(2.5 x 180) = 1,150 lbs.

1,100 – 1,600 lbs.

Average Daily Gain : 2- 3 lbs

Consider genetics, nutrition, health, management and other factors.

1. **Make sure to check your county fair/ state fair ownership and weigh-in requirements.**

Work with your extension educator, leader, or livestock mentor to help determine best purchase weight for what you are wanting.

Halter Breaking

Patience, consistency, and trust are key.

Never hit your animal. Your goal is to build a relationship and teach your animal to respond calmly to your direction.

1. Spend regular time with your animal.
2. Establish a routine and stick with it.
3. Some cattle learn quickly, while others take more time to break.
4. Stay calm, confident, and consistent.

Don't give Up!
Every animal is different, and learning how to work with your individual animal

Teaching Your Animal to Lead

Once your animal is comfortable with a halter, start teaching them to lead.

1. Always work from the left side.
2. Use gentle, steady pressure on the halter. Try to not jerk or yank on the halter.
3. Start with short distances and work your way up. Work with your show stick as you start out.
4. As you gradually start to increase the amout of time and work with your animal, you both will become more confident.

Small improvements add Up!

Common Health Concerns

Good health starts with prevention. Clean water, appropriate nutrition, clean environment, and regular observations can help keep your animals healthy.

Bloat
Excessive gas build up in the rumen can cause distention. Changes in the animal's diet and environment can help reduce this risk. Contact your veterinarian if you suspect severe bloat.

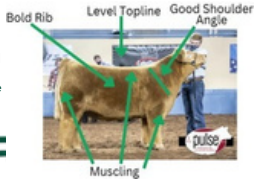
Acidosis
This can be caused by too much highly digestible feed. Feed changes should be made gradually and under professional guidance.

Ringworm
This is a fungal infection that causes circular skin lesions and hair loss. Sanitize shared equipment and work with your vet on a treatment plan.

If your animal becomes sick or you are unsure what to do, contact your veterinarian. Early attention can make a big difference.

Selecting your Market Cattle

You want your beef to be wide constructed with good muscling behind their shoulders, down their spine, and through their leg and forearm. Good cattle will also be able to move unrestricted and have a 45 degree angle at their shoulder. You also want them to 'balance' well. This means that the front 1/3 matches the middle and end 1/3's.



This project is more than the show

Your market beef project teaches youth responsibilty, patience, animal husbandry, nutrition, record keeping, communication, confidence, and perseverance.

Resources

- https://agnr.osu.edu/sites/agnr/files/imce/pdfs/Beef/FeedingShowSteer.pdf
- https://www.qcsupply.com/blog/product-tips-and-how-tos/beginners-guide-for-showing-cattle.html
- https://www.thepigsite.com/articles/keeping-your-livestock-show-animals-healthy
- https://www.purinamills.com/show-feed/education/detail/show-cattle-feed-top-tips-from-the-experts?

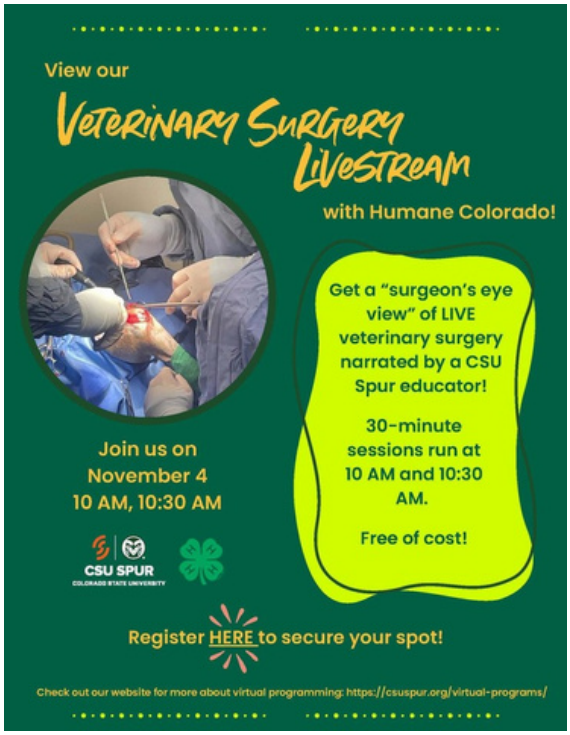
4-H PROJECT NEWS

LIVESTOCK PROJECTS



AgVocate Speaking Contest:
The Colorado FFA Foundation, in cooperation with the National Western Stock Show, is pleased to announce that we will once again host the AgVocate Speaking Contest, which will be held at the Stock Show in January.
The AgVocate Speaking Contest is a 6-10-minute, industry-focused multimedia presentation ("TED Talk"). Participants will choose a species area and a specific industry focus area. The contest is open to 4-H and FFA members ages 9 to 19 from across the US. The top four individuals in the Junior and Senior divisions will be selected by manuscript score to present at the NWSS during a specific species day that is listed in the rules. Finalists in each species will receive $100 and a plaque, and the Winners will receive an additional $250 and a belt buckle. The link to the contest rules and entry form is below; entries are due December 4, 2026, and manuscripts are due by December 18th. Participants ARE NOT required to exhibit at the NWSS.
AgVocate Speaking Contest Rules:
https://drive.google.com/.../1-9BMKIMFXFbFi48nMzDQQK.../view

Due December 4th
AgVocate Speaking Contest Entry Form: https://fs17.formsite.com/coffafdn/yv91mkwu0g/index



Vet Science Opportunity:
Join CSU SPUR for an incredible 30-minute journey of learning alongside a live virtual surgery!
This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to see science, medicine, and learning come together in real time.
You won't want to miss this amazing, hands-on-from-a-distance experience!
Come learn with us and experience something truly COOL!
Date: November 4, 2026
Register here: https://bit.ly/AnimalSurgery2026

JR. LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

Next Meeting:
February 3rd @ 6:00 PM
at Event Center



Members

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

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:
November 9th @ 6:30 PM
at Fairgrounds

Members:
Billy Jackson
Francie Hamilton
Mason Kaiser
Lindsey Guden
Joe Tedar



Civic Day is an opportunity for all senior-aged 4-Hers to tour the Wyoming State Capitol, observe legislative sessions, and meet the Governor and other key legislators.

Participants will learn firsthand how lawmakers work to shape and improve Wyoming and have the chance for youth voices to be heard.

If attending, participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation and lodging as needed.

Wyoming 4H Scholarships

Deadline: February 15, 2027

Appication: https://wyoming4h.formstack.com/forms/scholarships

As you consider the next steps in your education and career path, your involvement in 4-H may help you obtain scholarships at the college or school you choose to attend.

Each year the Wyoming 4-H Foundation awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to youth that will be attending a college, university, or technical school to further their education.

Find out details at: http://www.wyoming4h.org/4hfoundation/scholarships. Just click on each scholarship to find out its specific criteria, and then use the universal application to apply. There are many available scholarships! Up to $30,000 total for new and first-time qualified applicants!

Applications are due by February 15, 2027, and use a resume built from your 4-H Portfolio.

Remember - the best way to be awarded a scholarship is to APPLY!

Please call the State Office if you have any questions. Our number is (307) 766-5170.



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



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

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

Erin:
epersche@uwyo.edu
Beverley:
westncty@uwyo.edu

4-H GROWS HERE

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

Issued in furtherance of extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Derek Scasta, 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.