

Well Done!

April 2026



Teton County Shooting Sports Team

Kneeling left to right - Crew Egbert, Michaela Skierka, Lexi Egbert, and Josiah Bacon
 Back row left to right - Andy Watson, Alan Peace, Rebekah Wall, Leah Paulson, Blaise Skierka, Izzy Cornelius, Jack Tacke, Hannah Meyer, Brian Bedord and Chris Tacke
 Not Pictured - Gibson Franks, Kingston Egbert and Kyndal Becker.



Danae Isakson!

Join us in welcoming Danae Isakson to the Teton County MSU Extension Office! We are excited to have her join our team! Her first day was March 26. If you're in Choteau, stop by and say hello.

On the Horizon

- Mar 31.....Swine Possession Deadline: paperwork, photos, fees, Extension Office, Tue at 5 pm
- Apr 1.....4-H Camp Registration opens on Zsuite under 'Events'
- Apr 6.....Livestock Committee Meeting: Fairfield, New Life Church, Mon at 6 pm
- Apr 7.....Lamb/Goat Possession Deadline: paperwork, photos, fees, Extension Office, Tue at 5 pm
- Apr 15.....Project Drop/Add Deadline: Wed at 5 pm
- Apr 19-25....4-H Volunteer Appreciation Week
- Apr 25Meat Science Education Day, 1 to 4:30 pm in Townsend, MT find out more on pg. 10
- Apr 26..... **All-Species Showmanship, Livestock Quality Assurance, and Nutrition event-see pg. 7**
- May 1.....Fair Registration opens
- May 3.....Swine LQA at Pearson's, Sunday at 3 p.m.
- May 19.....4-H Camp Registration closes
- May 17.....**4-H Poultry and Rabbit Show (Practice for Fair!) see pg. 8**
- May 29.....Fair Registration Closes
- Jun 7-10.....4-H Camp at Camp Rotary
- Jun 24-28....4-H Fair Week! Interview Judging, Livestock Shows, Sale



Beyond Ready

Teton County's Rocky Mountain Top Shots Compete at the State Meet in Bozeman

By Coach Loren Tacke

On March 7-8, Teton County's 4-H shooting sports team, the Rocky Mountain Top Shots, traveled to Bozeman to compete at the state meet. With more than 500 competitors entered in a variety of events, the Top Shots proved exactly why they are regarded as one of the premier programs in Montana.

The team was led by a veteran group of senior shooters: Leah Paulson, Rebekah Wall, Kyndal Becker, Hannah Meyer, Izzy Cornelius, and Jack Tacke. These athletes served as the backbone of the team throughout the weekend. The veteran shooters demonstrated composure and focus, showcasing skills that have been refined through years of practice while competing at the highest level.

While the experienced shooters set the tone, the future of the program was equally promising. The team welcomed several first-time shooters to the state stage, including Josiah Bacon, Lexi Egbert, Crew Egbert, Kingston Egbert, and Gibson Franks. Despite the pressure of a large and competitive field, these newcomers showed confidence and determination while gaining valuable experience competing at the state level.

The Rocky Mountain Top Shots were coached by head coach Brian Bedord, along with assistant coaches Alan Peace and Chris Tacke. The coaching staff emphasized that the weekend's success was truly a team effort. As a program, they continue to build a culture of excellence while helping young shooters develop not only their shooting abilities but also responsibility, discipline, and sportsmanship.

According to Loren Tacke, the county shooting sports coordinator, the team's performance reflected the dedication and preparation that went into the season. "The team really demonstrated why we are one of Montana's top teams," Tacke said. "Many of our young shooters shot personal records and continued to show maturity and growth in the sport while veteran shooters stepped up as leaders, setting the example through their focus, discipline, and commitment to helping the entire team succeed."

The coaches noted that while medals and placements are exciting accomplishments, the real success comes from the values the program instills in its members. Hard work, teamwork, and dedication continue to define the Rocky Mountain Top Shots and are the foundation of the program's ongoing success.

The team and coaches would also like to thank the parents and families for their support and commitment throughout the season. Their encouragement and involvement play an important role in the continued growth of the program.

With another successful state meet behind them, the Rocky Mountain Top Shots look forward to building on their achievements and continuing a tradition of excellence in the years to come.

Teton County's Rocky Mountain Top Shots Compete at the State Meet in Bozeman



Senior Girls - left to right -
Rebekah Wall and Leah Paulson



State Medal Winners: left to right
Jack Tacke (Prone - 1st place, Standing - 3rd place),
Lexi Egbert (Prone - 2nd place),
Hannah Meyer (3P - 2nd place,
Pistol - 2nd place, SB pistol - 2nd place)



Teton County 4-H Communications Day Highlights

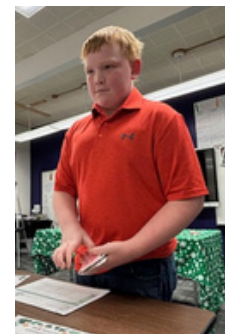
Teton County 4-H members brought big energy to Communications Day on Saturday, March 14, at Power Public School, where the Challenging Champs 4-H Club hosted a fantastic event! Youth impressed judges and supporters with creative presentations, confident public speaking, and plenty of 4-H spirit. Despite winter weather challenges, participants showed up ready to shine - building skills, cheering each other on, and representing their clubs with pride. What an awesome day of learning, leadership, and communication growth for our 4-H community!



Grand Champion:
Waverly Konen, Spring Creek:
Tea-Riffic Tea Party Tips



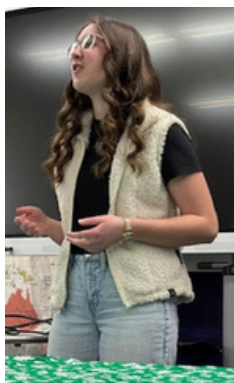
Teen Ambassadors emceed the event and helped judge the event.



Reserve Winner:
Ben Diekhans, Challenging Champs:
Magic Tricks

Seniors (ages 14 and up)

Annika Konen, Spring Creek: Cross Country
Leah Paulson, Spring Creek: More Than Just a 10
Anna Paulson, Spring Creek: More Bites of Beef



Juniors (ages 11-13)

Iris Carlson, Spring Creek: My Plate
Lily Carlson, Spring Creek: Declan's Sweet Ride
Alisha Williams, Spring Creek: Caring for Rabbits
Claire Duty, Spring Creek: Pocket Pet Playtime
Abigail Toeckes, Challenging Champs: The Sun and Moon Systems
Caleb Tockes and Calvin Diekhans, Challenging Champs: Stir ups



4-H Club Adult Volunteer Spotlights



Ryan Pfeifle is a dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer for the **Challenging Champs 4-H Club**, making a lasting impact through his leadership of the Robotics program. He leads with passion and determination, inspiring members to explore, learn, and grow in their understanding of robotics. Ryan generously shares his knowledge and skills, helping members build confidence and develop new abilities in a hands-on and engaging way. His commitment to teaching and mentoring has made the Robotics club a valuable and exciting part of our Challenging Champs 4-H.

Laura Toeckes is a dedicated and valued volunteer for the **Challenging Champs 4-H Club**. She has generously given countless hours of her time and energy, especially through her work on our Power All-School Reunion luncheon last summer. Laura took charge of planning the menu, purchasing all the ingredients, coordinating our 4-H members with the cooking and baking of the meals, and assigning shifts for the members to work. Attendees of the lunch commented that our club's meal was better than catered meals they have been served. Laura also recently put much effort into planning, creating and serving lunch at our Teton County 4-H Communication Day. Laura has committed time to our Cloverbuds program and our photography project members. She consistently shows up to nearly all our club events eager to help and serve our club.



Deanna Burgmaier is known around Teton County as a quilting and sewing leader, but she is so much more. Deanna was the **Challenging Champs** organizational leader for more years than we can count, she served on Leader's Council, she was the head of 4-H camp for many years and has led many volunteer projects to get members involved in making their community better. Deanna is currently the Cloverbuds leader for Challenging Champs. Over the years, she has helped members sew miles and miles of quilts and guided countless sewing projects. Every club needs a leader like Deanna!

4-H Club Volunteer Spotlights

Adult volunteers within the **Eager Eagles 4-H Club** are vital in creating an educational and supportive environment for our 4-H youth. Our volunteers help 4-H members gain hands-on experience and confidence in many ways by sharing their knowledge and dedication to our members as both instructors and mentors. Their commitment has built a close-knit club where members feel supported and motivated to try new projects, have new experiences, encourage others, and continue 4-H membership long term. Eager Eagles adult volunteers create a village and because of them our 4-H members, pre-junior to senior, feel welcome and eager to participate.

- Lynda Allen
- Melissa DeBruycker
- Ryan DeBruycker
- Kelly DeBruycker
- Coy Egbert
- Katie Egbert
- Rocky Forseth
- Holly Hamilton
- Hillary Killorn
- Ashle Morris
- Heidi Pearson
- Christina Skinner
- Chris Skinner
- Brad Williams
- Patricia Williams



Eager Eagles 4-H Volunteers are Dedicated to 4-H Youth as:

- Club leaders
- Project leaders (cooking, poultry, rabbit)
- Beef and swine superintendents
- Hosts that provide education at Livestock Quality Assurance Events
- Assist with Communications Day
- Participate in 4-H Committees (Meat & Greet, Livestock, Communications, Fair)
- Livestock Committee officers (secretary & treasurer)
- Participate with youth for Adopt a Highway clean-up
- Assist with Shooting Sports
- Livestock record book judges during 4-H Fair
- Assist with clean-up after "Get Your Kicks at 6"
- Provide bake sale items for annual bake sale service project
- Provide planted flowerpots for annual Flowerpot Fundraiser
- Help at 4-H Fair with textiles and livestock
- Willing to give assistance and knowledge with many different projects at anytime

Livestock Ready Clinic

This event includes 4-H LQA, showmanship, and feed representatives for all species

When: April 26, 2026

📍 132 Stevenson Rd. Sun River, MT

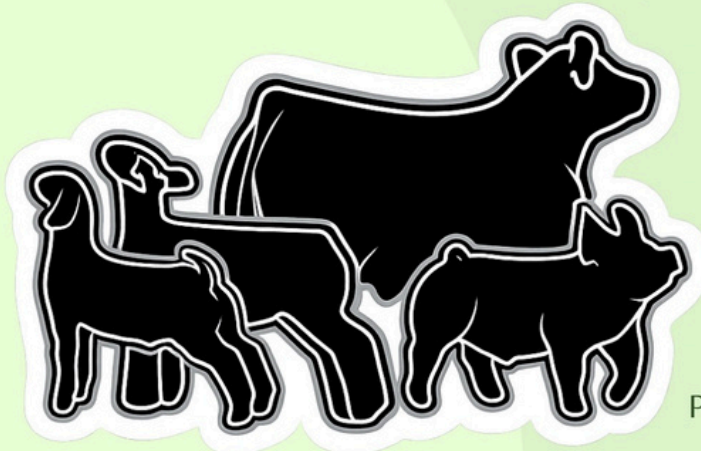
10 AM - Sheep & Goats, 12:45 PM - Pigs, 2 PM - Beef

Be ready to engage and talk about your animal! Lunch will be provided by a special sponsor at noon!

**We encourage members to bring their animals. You are able to check their weight to see if they are on track!

What you will learn:

- Daily Care
- Feeding
- Showmanship



To RSVP, Please Contact
Katy Morris
(406) 590-5467

Please mention the species and the number of animals you are bringing!

4-H POULTRY & RABBIT SHOW

(MULTI-COUNTY, WITH CO-JUDGES
MANDIE REED, WHEATLAND COUNTY,
AND JACK WARD, TETON COUNTY)

SNACKS
AND
FUN
PRIZES!



"This will be a practice show for kids who want to practice before the Fair, to feel more comfortable!!"

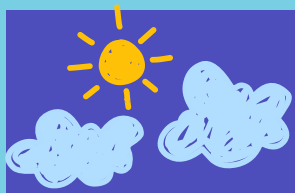


When: Sunday May 17th, 2026 AT 2PM
Where: The Choteau Volunteer Fire Hall
at 920 8th Ave NW, Choteau, MT 59422

Hosted by Hannah,
Youth Member of Teton County 4-H

Please RSVP by May 12th to
📞 Hannah at 406-590-2283





Teton County Camp Counselors:

Grace Toeckes

Jack Toeckes

Jessica Toeckes

Annika Konen

Isaac Toeckes



Parents will need to
provide
transportation to
and from Camp
Rotary.



TIME TO REGISTER FOR CAMP!

Camp will be at Camp
Rotary in Neihart from

Sunday, June 7 -
Wednesday, June 10



Registration Information:

Camp Registration is on ZSuite and
registration will close on May 15th.

A packing list will be sent to
registered campers.

SAVE THE DATE

4-H & FFA MEAT SCIENCE EDUCATION DAY



APRIL
25
1:00-4:30 PM

**TOWNSEND
SCHOOLS**

210 N. PINE
TOWNSEND MT 59644

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A farm to fork experience of meat science featuring hands-on activities that explore:

- Meat processing.
- Relationship between animal care, quality assurance practices and meat quality.
- Kitchen chemistry and cooking.
- Meat and food safety.

All livestock species represented including rabbit and poultry.


Meat tastings including goat, lamb and rabbit.


Open to 4-H and FFA members, ages 8-18.

Cost: \$10

Pre-registration required. Opens in March.

For more information:

 406-266-9242

 broadwater@montana.edu

If you need special accommodations or have questions about physical access, please contact the MSU Extension Office in Broadwater County at in advance of your participation or visit.

Montana State University Extension is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of educational outreach.



Hosted by the Broadwater County 4-H
Livestock Committee.

UPDATED!

2026 Teton County Club Rotations

Clubs, it's time to begin planning for your role in the Fair. Include the youth in your Club to brainstorm ideas and to take part in the decision-making process to meet your Club's responsibilities.

A good strategy is to create sign-up sheets, with specific tasks, days, and times for families. See the more detailed chart on the next page!

Challenging Champs

- Provide hospitality for Interview Judges
- Create the 4-H Exhibit Hall Display

Eager Eagles

- Exhibit Hall Set Up, Maintenance during Fair week, Clean Up
- Recruit Greeters for Exhibit Hall

Old Agency

- Meat and Greet (coordinate 4-H baked goods and set up and staff the buffet line, clean up after Meat and Greet)

Spring Creek

- Concessions (option to make and sell yummys -or- recruit food trucks!)
- Weatherbeater Daily Facility Maintenance

4-H Fair is one of those special life events that makes forever memories....

- **Vote for a Fair Theme by Mon, Apr 6, at 12 noon (watch your email!)**
- **Coming soon: Dates for Swine and Lamb/Goat in-person Livestock Quality Assurance (LQAs) with superintendents. Remember, 1 in-person LQA per year, minimum, is required. Dates will be sent by text and email.**
- **Note that 4-H Senior Member Katy Morris is teaching an LQA on April 26, and Junior member Hannah Meyer is hosting a poultry and rabbit show on May 17! Way to go, ladies - that's great leadership!**

2026 4-H Club Rotations

Club	Club Rotation	Club Rotation Description
Challenging Champs	Hospitality Team for Interview Judges	Interview Judging: Wednesday 11:45 a.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide lunch and snacks for judges at the Pavilion
	Create the 4-H Exhibit Hall Display	Wednesday 5-7 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After Interview judging is finished
Eager Eagles	Exhibit Hall Set Up, Maintenance, and Clean Up	Tuesday 3-5 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up the Exhibit Hall (Pavilion) Wednesday-Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touch-up the Pavilion restrooms once daily during Fair Sunday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up the Pavilion
	Recruit Greeters for Pavilion	Recruit 2 volunteers (in pairs works best) to be greeters at the 4-H Exhibit Hall at the Pavilion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are three, 3-hour shifts on Thursday (4-7), Friday, Saturday (9-12)
Old Agency	Meat & Greet	Saturday evening: Buyer Appreciation Meal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help set up, serve and clean up at the catered Buyer Appreciation Meal • Collect, coordinate, display, and serve the 4-H desserts potluck
Spring Creek	Weatherbeater Facility Management	Friday and Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twice daily maintenance of restrooms and twice daily emptying of trash cans • Keep things looking spiffy before and during the Auction!
	Concessions	Sell concessions as a club fundraiser (optional) or recruit food trucks (or a combination of those two options!)

Club Commotion

Eager Eagles



Members of the Eager Eagles 4-H Club present a check for \$215 to the Fairfield Historical Society.



Eager Eagles 4-H Club members present Fairfield Jr. Women a check for \$215 to help with the building of their Little Town in the Fairfield City Park.



Eager Eagles 4-H Club members working at their annual bake sale at the Fairfield Christmas Stroll on December 4. They made a profit of \$430 and split the amount between two Fairfield organizations.



Eager Eagles 4-H Club members fill Easter eggs with candy as a donation to the Fairfield Easter Egg hunt. They filled and donated 200 eggs.

Spring Creek

Spring Creek hosted a Friends & Family 4-H Dance



Teen Ambassadors Annie Diekhans, Ayden & Nolan Debruycker go to PROM!

Club Leadership Corner

Involve your club in planning for next 4-H year

At the end of this 4-H year, we will have a countywide Leaders Retreat to share ideas, grow new ones, and build a better Teton County 4-H together!

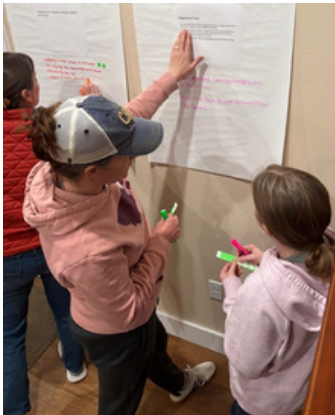
Please help schedule this meeting.

At this meeting, we will do a workshop to complete the 4-H Club Yearly Plan.

Access the 4-H Yearly Plan plan and begin thinking about it with your club.

Check out tips and tricks for planning the club year.

Plan your club meetings using the 4-H Club Meeting Wheel.



Kelly DeBruycker and Iris Carlson discuss how 4-H youth can attend more state 4-H events

Learn how to use a great brainstorming tool with your club to create your plan.



Bryan Carlson and Nolan Debruycker discuss how to involve more adult volunteers.

At the March 4-H Council meeting, we used this strategy to make decisions on 4-H policies. We were able to cover a lot of ground and come to consensus quickly. All parents and youth were involved and made new friends. If you have questions about how to do this, or would like Shelby to facilitate this at your next meeting, please contact the Extension Office.

Club Youth Game/Recreation Leader

How well do your club members know each other's names (parents too)?

Find out and...Play the *Circle Toss Name Game*

To play this game you will need several small items that can be easily tossed. First everyone makes a big circle. Next, toss the item to a person across from you as you say their name. They then toss the item to another person across from them and say their name. Continue this until you are the last person and the item comes back to you. This is the pattern. Repeat the pattern by tossing the item once or twice until everyone can learn the pattern. Then make it harder by adding more items to toss, keeping the same pattern. This is a great welcoming game to play and connect before your club's business meeting.

2026-2027 Leadership Opportunity!

Seeking a 4-H Council Vice President for the 26-27 4-H Year. Nominate someone from your club! If they are willing to participate they should plan to attend the September 2026 4-H Council meeting.



INTERMOUNTAIN & BEYOND THE BEARTOOTH

LIVESTOCK JUDGING CAMP

YOUTH AND ADULT INSTRUCTION

MAY 28TH- 30TH, 2026

CARBON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

96 Rodeo Road, Red Lodge, MT

Youth Registration: \$100

Adult Registration: \$150

DOES NOT INCLUDE LODGING

FREE CAMPING AVAILABLE AT FAIRGROUNDS

COACHES:

SIERRA MEYERS & NOLAN HILDEBRAND, LINN-BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ABBY JOHNSON: AUBURN UNIVERSITY

REGISTER ON ZSUITE

MARCH 23RD TO MAY 15TH

Questions? Contact:

Sarah-Jane French, sarahjane.french@montana.edu or (406)-322-8035

Amber Elliott, amber.elliott1@montana.edu or (406)-962-3522



**MONTANA 4-H
FOUNDATION**

Contact Info/Resources

Teton County MSU Extension

Mailing Address:

- PO Box 130, Choteau, MT 59422

Phone (voice call):

- 406-466-2491

Text only:

- 406-530-5373

Email (send club minutes, most questions/issues):

- teton@montana.edu

Other:

- <https://www.montana.edu/extension/teton>
- <https://www.facebook.com/TetonCoExt>
- <https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h>



Fair Dates

2026 June 22-28

2027 June 21-27

4-H Congress, Bozeman

2026 July 7-10

Camp Dates

2026 June 7-10

Jenn Swanson

*Teton County MSU Extension
Agriculture and Natural Resources,
4-H and Youth Development, and
Community Development
jenn.swanson@montana.edu*

Shelby Jones-Dozier

*Teton County MSU Extension
Family and Consumer Sciences,
4-H and Youth Development, and
Community Development
shelby.jonesdozier@montana.edu*

Jamie Smith

*Teton County MSU Extension
Administrative Assistant
teton@montana.edu*

Danae Isakson

*Teton County MSU Extension
Administrative Assistant
teton@montana.edu*



Teton County MSU Extension Office
PO Box 130
Choteau, MT 59422