



# JUDITH BASIN CO. 4-H NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2025

### CLUB MTG DATES

Geyser - April 27

Stanford - April 6, 5pm. Bring bag of wrapped candy.

Utica - April 7, 6:30 @ Hobson School



### FAIR NEWS

Fairbook Cover contest ends April 1.

Entries can be emailed to [judithbasin@montana.edu](mailto:judithbasin@montana.edu).

- Portrait layout only
- B&W or Color are ok
- Drawings or photos must be done by 4-H member
- People may be in submission but not primary subject
- Must include "Judith Basin County Fair July 28 - August 1, 2025 Stanford, MT"

Winner receives a \$40 gift card to North 40!

Fair Book Ads are due immediately to be included in the fair book. **April 10 is the final day to submit ads.**

Fair Entry opens May 1, 2025!

- Before entering, review the Divisions and Classes on the fair page of our website. Many have changed this year.
- All livestock exhibitors must also sign up for the project interview in Fairentry. You will not be automatically entered for your livestock project interview.

### 4-H HAPPENINGS

Hunting Shooting Sports Meeting April 13th 1:30 at Stevenson's Sale Barn

Swine Tag information due to Ext Office April 15th.

Community Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Scramblers - April 17th 10:30am at Stanford School. All young kids are invited!


Scrambler's Annual Easter Bake Sale at D's Supermarket - April 19th from 9-12pm or when it's all gone!

Sheep/Goat will have a tagging/weigh day on May 18 at the fairgrounds.

Required Horse Forms are due to the Ext. Office by June 1. Forms can be found on the 4-H Forms page of our website.

Senior Camp registration is open until May 12 in ZSuite. Camp dates are June 9 - 13, 2025.

Junior Camp registration opens April 7 and closes May 9. Registration will be through ZSuite. Camp dates are June 3-6, 2025.



National Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 20-26. Thank your 4-H Leaders for all they give to our clubs and communities!



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[www.montana.edu/extension/judithbasin](http://www.montana.edu/extension/judithbasin)

## DEMONSTRATION DAY

Congratulations to all who participated in the county Demonstration Day in March. The Demonstration Day participants are invited to a special Ice Cream Sundae Social during fair project interviews.

First place in each age division received a pass from fair set-up and clean-up!

Senior - Peyton French

Intermediate (4 way tie) - Ava Grove, Olivia French, Armani Stevenson, Teller Stevenson

Junior (tie) - Meredith Linhart, Marcus Grove

Second place received a food voucher for the Fair food booth!

Senior - Kate Hedstrom

Intermediate - KayDe VandenBos

Junior - Kenadee Waltz

Third place received a 4-H bag full of fun swag!

Senior (tie) - Mac Hedstrom and Royce Holzer

Intermediate - Avalee Coalter

Junior - Piper Schmitt and Presley Probert



Thank you to Jim Moore and Lindsay Schmitt for judging our competition this year! And a big thanks to the Mikkelsons for providing lunch between Quality Assurance training and Demo Day!





SCHOLARSHIPS

Colt R. Memorial Project Scholarship applications are being accepted until June 1. This scholarship provides funds to be used towards your 4-H project. Details, qualifications and application are on our website.

Jan French Memorial Scholarship applications are due June 1. Details on applying can be found on the 4-H page of our website.



LIVESTOCK QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING

Livestock Quality Assurance Training is a MT 4-H required training that members must complete before showing livestock. If you are due for this training you were notified by Sidney via email. You cannot show livestock at the fair if you are not current on this required training. For those that missed the training in March, there are two dates in April for you to choose from. Please RSVP to Sidney with the date you will be attending. Both dates are tentative depending on number of RSVPs. April 11 - 4pm at the Courthouse April 27 - 1:30 pm at the Courthouse Some members may be eligible to complete the course online. If you are eligible for the online option you received an email with instructions. However, we highly encourage in-person training.

SENIOR CAMP 2025 MAKING CONNECTIONS AND CONQUERING OBSTACLES: AMB WEST CHALLENGE COURSE JUNE 9TH-13TH

We are excited to be offering a new adventure this year for senior camp. We are again partnering with Judith Basin County and joining us this year will also be Chouteau County. We are still working to plan the camp in its entirety, but we will be headed outside Paradise Valley tucked in the mountains of Emigrant, MT. We will be working as a team on a rope course, learn the art of fishing, practice our etiquette, work on life skills such as cooking a meal on a budget, and maybe check out some grizzly bears. Registration Due May 12th.

Located at the Mountain Sky Guest Ranch in Emigrant, Montana, the Challenge Course is just a short distance from West Creek Ranch. The Challenge Course opened in 2018 and is used for event programming, team building, bonding and in-person interactions intended to bring people closer together.

The Challenge Course provides guests with an exciting opportunity to test their nerves on elements suspended 30 to 40 feet in the air. Guests start with a low ropes' element to get comfortable and then move onto the high elements with names such as "Islands in the Sky", "Multi Vines" and "Leap of Faith." Trained guides support guests while they take on different sections of the course that have them climbing, traversing, crawling, swinging and zip lining up to 20 miles per hour.

The Challenge Course is adaptable to the participants' goals and creates a shared experience for people of all ability levels.

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1ST AGES 13+ \$60

2025 JUDITH BASIN CO FAIR JULY 28th - AUG 1st. Monday July 28: 8am Working Ranch Horse Fairgrounds. Tuesday July 29: 9-11am Project Interviews, 9-11am Indoor & Cloverbud Projects, 3-6pm Livestock Weigh-ins, 7pm Exhibitor Meeting. Wednesday July 30: 8am Horse Show, 9-11am Grade School exhibits, 1-2:45pm Open Class exhibits, 3pm Open Class Judging, 4pm Dog Show. Thursday July 31: 7:30-11am Swine Show, 11:15-2:15pm Small Animal Show, 2:15-6:30pm Beef Show. Friday August 1: 8-11am Sheep & Goat Show, 8am Ultrasounds, 11:30am Small Animal Round Robin, 12:30 Large Animal Round Robin, 1:30 Adult Showmanship, 4:30 Pet Parade and Awards Ceremony, 5pm Buyer Dinner, 6pm Livestock Sale, Barn Dance.



Take Down Saturday Aug 2 9am



## Notes from your Lamb Leader!

Hi JBC Lamb Folks!!

Where did March go??!! WOW! Summer is fast approaching!! Lamb sales are in full swing across the country right now! It's always exciting to see the new crop of genetics that the kids will get to work with. I hope you are all zero' d in on where you will be getting your lamb project. If you are raising your project, good for you! If you are buying this years lamb, I am enclosing some things to consider when it comes time to purchase your lamb.

### Tips on Buying a Winner!!!

Getting your new lamb is exciting, however, it shouldn't come without some careful consideration to size, frame and genetics. These things will play a huge role in how well your lamb will grow and perform for you.

There are 4 things I recommend considering prior to going to a sale to purchase a lamb. They are:

1. Breeder Reputation - Is the person you're buying from an honest, trustworthy person who will sell you a healthy lamb at a fair price? Will they stand behind the sale and be available to answer questions, guide and support you if you need help?
2. Lamb Size - The frame and size of your lamb when you purchase it will be used to predict how large your lamb will be at the time of the fair. Most market lambs will finish at 125-145 pounds. Lambs will typically gain between 0.5-0.75 pounds per day. Larger framed lambs may grow faster and smaller framed lambs may grow slower. When you buy a lamb, you should know when you want the lamb to reach its goal weight and be prepared to do some math based on the size and skeletal form that you're choosing from.
3. Sex of the lamb - Ewe lambs will typically be more expensive than wether lambs. If you do not have plans to keep and breed your show lamb, selecting a wether lamb for your project may be a better financial decision.
4. Age of the lamb - Your lamb will need to be around 6 months of age at your fair date. Do not try to get a young lamb and think he will grow fast if you push him. That will not work. The opposite is also true for older lambs. You should not buy an older lamb and expect to "hold" him for a later fair.

When you get to your selected sale, it can be overwhelming. There might be a large selection of lambs and they may all look very similar. Take your time. If possible, narrow down the lambs to a few that fall into your pre-determined criteria from above. Some major features you should base your buying decision on are:

- Structural soundness
- Muscling
- Growth traits
- Eye appeal

### Structural Soundness

Remove any lambs from consideration that are not structurally sound. Lambs that have unsound feet and legs, or have a severe underbite, crossbite or overbite should not be considered. Look for nice strait legs when viewing the lamb from the front and rear. The lamb's pasterns should be as straight as possible. The base of the hoof to the "wrist" area at the base of their legs should be as close to vertical as possible. The rear legs should have a natural curvature to the hock. The lambs jaw should seat straight, and it's teeth should line up naturally with its top gum.

### Muscling

Evaluate the lamb's length, muscling and hip structure. The most expensive cuts of lamb are in the rear portion of it's body. Handle each lamb and compare the length of their body from their last rib to their hip. The longer the lamb the better but equal weight should be paid to muscling down the lamb's topline. The width and length of the loin should be considered. The lamb should have good muscling in the rear legs.

### Growth Traits

An additional thing to consider is bone structure. Long, tall, heavy-boned lambs with a large skeletal system tend to grow faster, but may fill out and reach an ideal market finished weight slower than a small, trim well balanced lamb. Depending on where you buy your lamb, the lambs genetics will depict the growth pattern.

### Eye Appeal

Eye-appeal is a subjective measurement and can be difficult to explain. Purchasing a lamb that looks good when set up and when moving around the pen will be an advantage when you get to the fair. An attractive lamb will draw the judge's eye and be considered more carefully than an equally-long and well-muscled lamb that lacks balance and a fluid gate. The lamb's front end is where it will gain or lose points for eye appeal and flashiness in the show ring. The lamb's neck should be nice and long and blend smoothly into the shoulder. Look for a lamb whose shoulder is slightly higher than its rump, which will give you a lamb which is straight lined, balanced and flat topped when in the show ring. Try to avoid choosing a lamb with a bulky front end, as these lambs will look unbalanced and heavy. In a well-balanced lamb the rack, loin and rump should each make up about 1/3 of the lambs body length.

Hopefully you find this helpful information when going to choose your new lamb! Try not to be overwhelmed and just have fun!! I'm here if you have any questions or need any help! 406-949-2528

Janna



JUDITH BASIN CO 4-H CALENDAR

APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Fair Book Cover Contest Ends	2	3	4	5
6 Scramblers Club Mtg	7 Utica Club Mtg  JR Camp Reg Opens	8	9	10 FINAL DAY FOR FAIR BOOK ADS TO BE INCLUDED IN FAIR BOOK!	11 **Quality Assurance Training make-up 4pm at courthouse	12
13 Hunting Shooting sports Mtg	14	15 Swine tags due	16	17 Community Easter Egg Hunt 10:30am at Stanford School	18	19 Scrambler's annual Easter Bake Sale 9-12 @ D's
20 Easter Sunday	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Geyser Club Mtg  **Quality Assurance Training make-up 1:30pm at courthouse	28	29	30			

\*\* Quality Assurance dates are tentative depending on number of RSVPs