

# The “Unwritten” Rules

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## Fair-Related

- Members showing Market Beef, Sheep and Swine projects must watch the appropriate Quality Assurance video prior to weighing their animal at the initial weigh-in. Must watch videos every other year. First-year in the species, watch the generic video. Third year in the species, watch the species-specific video. Don't have to watch a video after the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in the project.
- Members must turn 12 during the 4-H year in order to show a Market Beef Project at the Fair.
- All 4-H Clubs are expected to assist at the 4-H Café by working at least one 4 hour shift during the Fair (4-6 adults, 8-10 youth).
- 4-H Clubs are expected to contribute homemade pies and/or jams or fruits for the 4-H Café during the Fair.
- Clubs with more members than are required to work a Café shift will be asked to help “man” the 4-H Exhibit building for a 2 hour shift at the Fair.
- If you have a card on your project in the 4-H Exhibit Building saying “Winner of United Building Center Award,” for example, that means you should attend the Awards Ceremony to pick up your award and be recognized.
- Premiums: The 4-H exhibitor will receive the ribbons awarded for the merits of each exhibit. A separate ribbon rating will be awarded for the project and the interview. Premium money is paid by the **averaged** ribbon rating per class (Purple \$4, Blue \$3, Red \$2, White \$1). For example, Clothing Class 1110 received 2 Purple ribbons and 1 Blue ribbon for the interview. The average ribbon rating would be Purple and the total premium money for this class with two entries and the interview is \$4. The same applies for livestock projects. For example, if you enter five different lot numbers under Goat Class 2210, and you receive 3 Blue and 2 Purple ribbons, the most you receive is \$3 for that class. *(from the Fairbook – page 89 in 2008)*
- Premiums must be picked up from the Fair's Premium Bank. Check the Fairbook for hours and final pickup deadline. Premiums not claimed by the final deadline will be forfeited.
- Cash is awarded for Showmanship (top 3 places Junior and Senior) and Round Robin winners, and must be picked up at the 4-H Café by Sunday of Fair week. Failure to pick up by Sunday will result in forfeiture of the award. *(from the Fairbook – page 128 in 2008)*
- Dog Project: In order to compete in the Dog Show at the Fair, Members must a) attend the indoor classes in the spring \*, b) attend two fun matches, and c) turn in their up-to-date project books for review by the deadline. (\* First Year Members Only)
- Steers should have a halter and lead rope on them prior to unloading at Beef Weigh-in in January. Preferably, steers should be broke to lead by this time.
- All Breeding Livestock must be in the ownership of and in the care of exhibitors by May 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the Fair.

## Fundraising

- Anyone can use the Missoula 4-H Council Albertson's Community Partners Card to help earn “cash back” for the 4-H Program.
- Clubs are expected participate in Phone-a-thon or Pig Raffle, or to contribute \$5 per member to Missoula 4-H, which helps meet our commitment to the Montana 4-H Foundation. It is left to the discretion of the Club how this \$5 per member is raised (club fundraiser, dues, or participation in the County Phone-a-thon or Pig Raffle), but clubs are expected to contribute.

## Deadlines

- If you have a situation arise that will cause you to be late for (or miss) something important (i.e. Fair Interviews), call or have someone call for you. Make some documentable attempt to contact prior to the deadline. Better to be late than to not show up.
- No later than August 15<sup>th</sup>, nominees are required to declare their intent to run for a seat on the 4-H Council by providing a brief written summary of their qualifications and explaining why they want to be on the Board of Directors.
- Teen Leadership Project Plan of Action must be completed by any teen (13 and above by October 1<sup>st</sup>) who wishes to complete the Teen Leadership Project. Deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Plans must be submitted for approval for Self-Determined and for Independent Study Projects by February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Horse Independent Study must be submitted and approved by the April Horse Committee meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) in order to proceed.
- December 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for re-enrollment of current 4-H Members and Volunteers.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for all 4-H Members to add/drop 4-H Projects.
- May 1st is the deadline for new Members to enroll in 4-H.

## Records

- "...at the end of the 4-H year, you are required to turn in these [project] records to your club leader. All records will be checked for completeness at the county level. For completing your records, you can earn recognition and if your journal is not complete, you'll be given a second chance to bring it up to the standards of completeness." (from Publication #5277 *For the Record: A 4-H Member's Guide for Completing 4-H Records*, page 10)
- 4-H Clubs, through the Club Treasurer, should complete the Annual Summary Financial Report and turn in a copy to the Extension Office. An audit of club financial records should be conducted annually. (For details and instructions, refer to the Publication #5242 *So, you are Treasurer of your 4-H Club....*) ***The Missoula County 4-H Council has determined that sending a copy of the Club's September bank statement to the Extension Office will satisfy this requirement until further notice.***

## Horse Project

- The following 4-H Horse Project Members are required to attend the Mandatory Spring Horse Clinic, held the first Saturday in May: *Per Horse Committee vote May 14, 2008*
  - a) All Horsemanship Level 1, Colt to Maturity Level 1 and Green Horse Level 1 Project Members
  - b) Any 4-H Horse Project Member who is new to Missoula County 4-H
  - c) Any 4-H Horse Project Member interested in skipping a level (i.e. moving from Horsemanship Level 2 to Level 4).
  - d) Any 4-H Horse Project Member who has a new Project Horse since the previous year's May Clinic.
- All 4-H Horse Project Members are required to wear approved riding helmets while mounted at any Missoula County 4-H Horse activity (Project level, Club level and County level).
- All 4-H Horse Project Members are required to complete the *Horse Member Participation* form prior to any 4-H Horse-related activity where live horses are used (whether mounted or unmounted). *Me & My Horse* forms are to be completed and turned in no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Other Rules

- Some Clubs have member agreements that outline expectations and rules beyond the ones that are county-wide rules. If you're not sure, ask your Org. Leader if your club has one. Once you and your child agree and sign, the Extension Office will back the clubs on enforcement.
- If no other County project rules or guidelines are written, rules/guidelines printed in The Clover are the official rules/guidelines.
- Must have a trained/certified 4-H Shooting Sports instructor in the area (pistol, archery, muzzle loading, rifle, shotgun, hunting) before a 4-H member can enroll in that project area. Members must be 9 by October 1<sup>st</sup> to participate in Shooting Sports projects.
- The Shooting Sports Project fee is the same, regardless of the number of disciplines you enroll in.
- 4-H Members can stay in the same project book or level for up to 3 years (*exception – Horse: No more than 2 years per project level*).
- Anyone can nominate 4-Hers for County Awards, but nomination forms must be signed by the Club Organizational Leader.
- All 4-H Members are required to do a Demonstration (or Speech or Illustrated Talk) every year at either the Club or the County level.