



THE COMMUNITY PAGE

Bonneville County 4-H: An Awesome Program!

The 4-H program has a tremendous impact on hundreds of young people in Bonneville County. Each year untold volunteers work behind the scenes to help our youth reap the benefits of this outstanding program. It would not be a success without them!

4-H is an educational program for youth (boys and girls) from ages 9 to 19. The program is designed to teach skills in agriculture, home economics, civic responsibility, community leadership, and fosters international understanding. 4-H was founded in 1905 to enable youth to "learn by doing." The program is run by the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with the aid of state land-grants, colleges and universities. Local groups are guided by Extension Service workers and volunteer leaders. Each group elects its officers and plans its activities and programs. There are more than 5.5 million 4-H members in the United States.

The leaders and volunteers that work behind the scenes to make 4-H such a rewarding and character-building experience for our youth understand that these youth will be the leaders of tomorrow. Their selfless sacrifice of time and resources is a valuable contribution to our nation's future as well as to the personal growth and well-being of each young person.

With continued urban sprawl, 4-H continues to develop new projects for its members to study beyond agriculture and animal husbandry, including photography, conservation, cooking, public speaking, history, art, and other pursuits. The culmination of the year's activities is often displayed at county fairs. While having embraced many new fields of endeavor over the years, 4-H retains a real connection to its roots in agriculture and the associated values of thrift, invention, education, compassion, conservation, encouragement, service, and general happiness and well-being.

People, especially parents, in the community are grateful for the support of the many businesses that support 4-H youth. One local business leader and Bonneville county resident said, "It's great to see local businesses support our youth! I try to support them in return. For example I always shop first at Broadway Ford or Wackerli Auto because they support our kids. Their support means a lot to me!"

Dr. Barbara Nelson, an Idaho Falls native, has supported the 4-H program for the past seven years. She first was introduced to 4-H by Loy Oltmanns, a colleague, whose son Spencer had a 4-H steer. Loy later passed away and Dr. Nelson stepped in to help Spencer with the steer. "I wanted to show Spencer how much Loy meant to us," says Dr. Nelson. "The 4-H program really teaches these kids hard work and responsibility." Dr. Nelson is both happy and sad to see this generation of 4-H youth that she has come to know move on to other things, however, she is looking forward to establishing relationships with a new group of young kids.

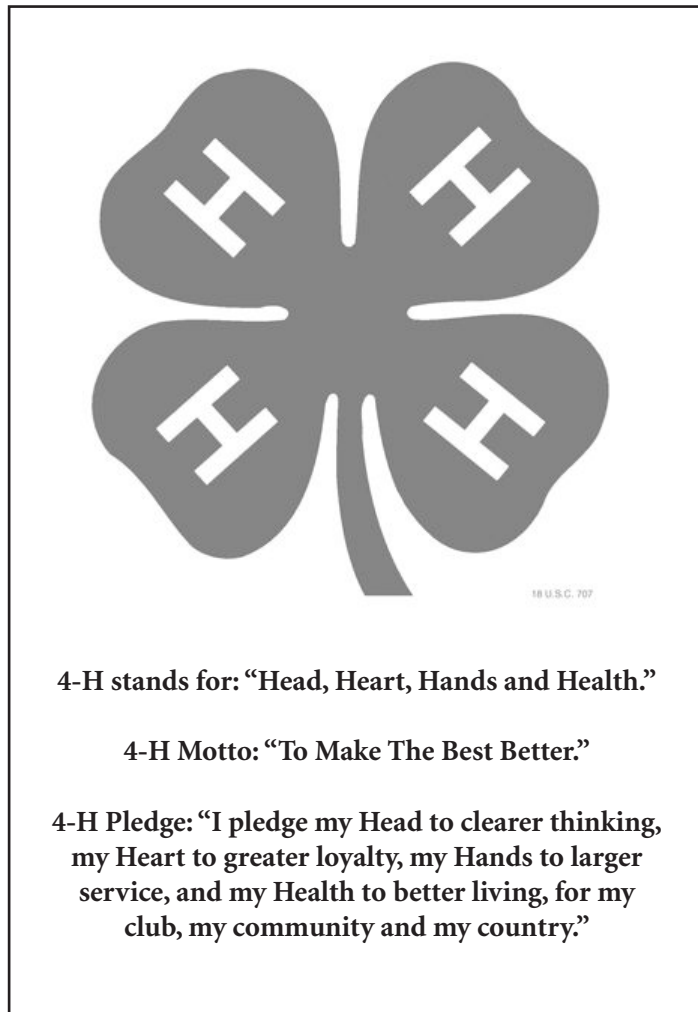
"4-H builds character in young people and teaches them the rewards of responsibility and hard work. In today's environment, our kids spend far too much time on video games, television, or just goofing off. Time spent by a young person on a 4-H project is a hundred times more valuable than time spent on these other activities! Except for the Boy Scouts of America, it's hard to imagine a youth program that has had a more valuable impact on the youth of our community than the 4-H program."
—Frank L. VanderSloot, Melaleuca & Riverbend Ranch

"I see the kids accomplishments and am thrilled for them. I see them smile through defeat, knowing they did their best—win or lose. I have seen older kids helping younger kids shear a lamb or practice showing their animals. There is a spirit of belonging that youth feel. They never cease to amaze me."
—DaNell Perkins, 4-H Program Coordinator

"We take an active interest in the 4-H program because it's an outstanding opportunity for the kids in our community. It teaches responsibility, confidence, leadership skills, and knowledge that benefit the kids throughout their lives... all this while having a great time! We are proud to be dedicated supporters of the 4-H program."
—Steve Rierison, Broadway Ford

"4-H is a great program. It gives the youth of our area an opportunity to try their hand at business, while developing the life skills necessary to take them on to greater things."
—Melissa Judy, Foothill Properties

"The young people of the 4-H program are the community leaders of tomorrow. 4-H teaches principles like hard work and dedication. The young people learn to plan, organize, and follow-up to see the end results of their hard work. I am grateful for the opportunity we have to help support them in their efforts."
—Curtice Matthews, Premier Insurance



4-H stands for: "Head, Heart, Hands and Health."

4-H Motto: "To Make The Best Better."

4-H Pledge: "I pledge my Head to clearer thinking, my Heart to greater loyalty, my Hands to larger service, and my Health to better living, for my club, my community and my country."

How you can become a 4-H leader

4-H offers learning opportunities in cooking, finance, gardening, technology, sewing, agriculture, welding, data processing, mechanics, electronics, home economics, citizenship, art, health, nutrition, forestry, and child development. If you have skills that lend themselves to youth leadership you can apply to be a 4-H leader by calling your local county 4-H office. In Bonneville County contact DaNell Perkins at 529-1390. The application process involves a written application, interviews with county officials, and an extensive background check. Once an individual is cleared to be a 4-H leader, they have the choice of working with only their own children, with a small select group such as a group of neighborhood kids, or they can open their door to new 4-H members who have been referred by the County 4-H Office.

As more supporters show up at the market sale each year, sales proceeds continue to grow! These proceeds go directly to the youth who raised the animals. Many of the kids put their earnings away for their college education. It is a great reward for a job well done!

YEAR AUCTION PROCEEDS

YEAR	AUCTION PROCEEDS
2001	\$50,000.00
2002	\$54,400.00
2003	\$61,685.00
2004	\$75,000.00
2005	\$76,625.00

Each year dozens of 4-H supporters show up at the Bonneville County 4-H Market Livestock Auction. This year's sales proceeds set a new all-time record of \$76,625.

2005 Showmanship Champions

BEEF SHOW

Grand Champion Showman: Whitney Lusk
Reserve Champion Showman: Jared Stoller

DAIRY CATTLE

Grand Champion Showman: Jared Stoller
Reserve Champion Showman: Caden Fuhriman

MARKET SWINE

Grand Champion Showman: Brett Seely
Reserve Champion Showman: Melissa Cook

SHEEP SHOW

Grand Champion Showman: Brett Seely
Reserve Champion Showman: Jo Seely

MARKET GOAT

Grand Champion Showman: Hannah Shainholtz
Reserve Champion Showman: Meghan Wescoat

DAIRY GOAT

Grand Champion Showman: Jessica Gammon
Reserve Champion Showman: Tina Hyndman

2005 Market Champions

BEEF

Grand Champion: Whitney Lusk
Reserve Champion: Thomas Elkington

SWINE

Grand Champion: Caden Fuhriman
Reserve Champion: Whitney Lusk

SHEEP

Grand Champion: Jo Seely
Reserve Champion: Brett Seely

GOATS

Grand Champion: Reina Shainholtz
Reserve Champion: Jessica Gardner

This year's 4-H Auction Supporters:

4-H Supporter	# of Animals Purchased	Total Purchase Price
Melaleuca	15	\$10,075.00
Broadway Ford	6	\$6,575.00
Premier Insurance	6	\$6,250.00
B.A. Wackerli	5	\$5,850.00
C-A-L Ranch Stores	8	\$4,675.00
Johnson's Livestock	4	\$3,350.00
Key Bank	2	\$3,300.00
Riverbend Ranch	2	\$2,950.00
Barbara J. Nelson, M.D.	3	\$2,800.00
Idaho Livestock Auction	3	\$2,625.00
Bank of Commerce	1	\$2,200.00
W. Hal Buster	1	\$2,000.00
Jack Thomas	2	\$1,900.00
Les Schwab Tire-C Street	4	\$1,800.00
The Mental Wellness Center	2	\$1,750.00
Pioneer Equipment	3	\$1,600.00
Peak Therapy Service	1	\$1,500.00
Foothill Properties	2	\$1,450.00
High Country Potato	1	\$1,400.00
Daniel Hinckley, M.D. PA	3	\$1,375.00
Les Schwab Tires-17th Street	3	\$1,175.00
Scott & Carol Van Lente	2	\$1,000.00
Eagle Rock Dental Care	2	\$975.00
Golden West Irrigation	2	\$900.00
Photographix	2	\$800.00
Refugio Cervantes	1	\$700.00
Pacific Steel & Recycling	2	\$650.00
Jack Thomas Grain	1	\$550.00
Dixon Farms	1	\$525.00
First Street Welding	1	\$500.00
Volm Bag Company	1	\$500.00
Bonneville County Implement	1	\$450.00
Conrad & Bischoff	1	\$450.00
Reed's Dairy	1	\$450.00
Farm Credit Services	1	\$425.00
McCowin Orthopedics	1	\$425.00
Blue Wave	1	\$400.00
Bill Dixon Family Farm	1	\$325.00



Whitney Lusk—Grand Champion Steer Purchased by Riverbend Ranch for \$2500.00



Caden Fuhriman—Grand Champion Swine Purchased by Foothill Properties for \$950.00



Jo Seely—Grand Champion Lamb Purchased by Broadway Ford for \$1150.00



Reina Shainholtz—Grand Champion Goat Purchased by Pioneer Equipment for \$375.00



Thomas Elkington—Reserve Champion Steer Purchased by Melaleuca for \$1800.00



Whitney Lusk—Reserve Champion Swine Purchased by Coco Cervantes for \$700.00



Brett Seely—Reserve Champion Lamb Purchased by Johnson's Livestock for \$550.00



Jessica Gardner—Reserve Champion Goat Purchased by Melaleuca for \$350.00