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## Facilitating Youth Sparks

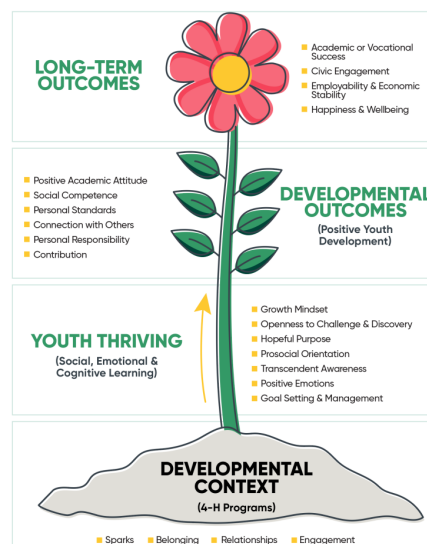
Youth sparks are an essential ingredient of thriving. Having a spark or sparks gives a young person a sense of direction and encourages goal setting. Sparks are different from mere leisure activity in that:

1. **Sparks create actions** that not only contribute to the benefit of the young person, but also society at large;
2. **Sparks provide the intrinsic fuel** for a young person’s growth in knowledge and skill;
3. **Sparks enhance a young person’s networks** as he or she encounters others with similar sparks, particularly adults with expertise who can facilitate learning and opportunities for engagement.

Furthermore, sparks appear to be a protective factor for young people, helping to keep them on a positive track because of the young person’s intense focus on the source of their spark. Sparks, in turn, motivate youth to succeed in other areas of their lives, such as personal, social, and academic.

Every young person has the potential to have a spark, and 4-H plays an important role in helping young people discover and pursue their sparks. In some cases, it is a matter of helping youth recognize their spark when the spark has already found them!

Because of its emphasis on learning that is driven by a young person’s interest, 4-H programs provide a rich context for youth to identify, explore, and sustain their personal interests, often resulting in the development of a young person’s sparks. High quality youth program contexts, like those provided in 4-H are key for facilitating youth sparks. When sparks are facilitated through positive 4-H programs, youth are supported to grow and encouraged to overcome obstacles to reach their goals. Youth are also encouraged to share their spark with others and in this way, youth are empowered to develop their sparks and to use them to make the world a better place for all.



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## Idaho 4-H Livestock Skill-a-thon

The Idaho 4-H Livestock Skill-a-thon will be taking place in the Jerome County Fairgrounds Messersmith building on January 20. The contest will focus on market animals - beef, swine, goat, and sheep with individual and team (3-4 members) parts. Registration for this event closes January 5th. More details can be found at <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/programs/contests>.



## Kids in the Kitchen

If you're looking for a fun way to spend family night, Kids in the Kitchen Virtual Cooking Club is a great idea! This cooking club is free and open to all ages. It takes place once a month and prior to the class you will be sent the ingredients needed for the evening. Each class features different healthy, delicious, and easy to make meals. The class is joined virtually so you can learn, cook, and enjoy these meals from the comfort of your own home. If you have any questions about upcoming classes, contact Siew Guan Lee at the Twin Falls County Extension Office at (208)734-9590 or [siewguanl@uidaho.edu](mailto:siewguanl@uidaho.edu)

## IGNITING YOUR SPARK ACTIVITIES!

**ASTRO DAY CAMP**

GRADES: 1-5

ONLY \$10

JANUARY 19 5-7 PM

JOIN US TO EXPLORE SPACE, HAVE FUN AND USE STEM LEARNING!

630 ADDISON AVE W. SUITE 1600 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301

CALL TO REGISTER: (208) 734-9590

**ACTIVITIES:** TAKE A LOOK INTO REAL ASTRONAUTS' LIVES, DESIGN YOUR ROCKET, LEARN ABOUT NASA, EXPLORE ASTEROIDS AND PLANETS AND MUCH MORE!

CONTACT TYRA AT [tcoates@uidaho.edu](mailto:tcoates@uidaho.edu) FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**INTERESTED IN HANDS ON STEM ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 5-13? GET ON OUR EMAIL LIST TO BE INFORMED ABOUT CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES BY SCANNING THE QR**

**CODE BELOW!**





## 2023-2024 LEADERS COUNCIL OFFICERS

Scott Claiborn, **President**

Jaysa Fillmore, **Secretary**

Karrie Ricketts, **Vice President**

Michele Coleman, **Treasurer**

## 2023-2024 SPECIE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

### **Beef**

Randy Hunsaker, **Chair**

Jeanette Fuller, **V. Chair**

Melinda Hammond, **Secretary**

### **Dairy**

Alvina Kral, **Chair**

Deb Easterday Reeves, **V. Chair**

TBA, **Secretary**

### **Sheep & Friends**

Cindy Spencer, **Chair**

Mark Brady, **V. Chair**

Katie Shewmaker, **Secretary**

### **Small Animals**

Audrey Swayze, **Chair**

Heidi Gardner, **V. Chair**

TBA, **Secretary**

### **Swine**

Samantha Doty, **Chair**

Mike Eckert, **V. Chair**

Ashley Yates, **Secretary**

### **Horse**

Corrie Christophersen, **Chair**

Jamie Thompsen, **V. Chair**

Heaven Smith, **Secretary**

Jessica Hansen, **Treasurer Liason**

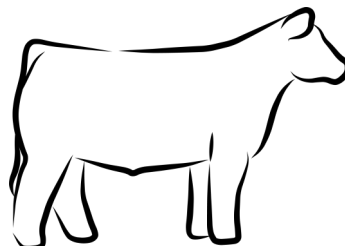
### **General Projects**

Gavin Smith, **Chair**

Deb Easterday-Reeves, **V. Chair**

## **MARKET BEEF PROJECTS**

A reminder that **ALL** Twin Falls County 4-H Market Beef projects **MUST** be enrolled and paid by **March 1** to participate in the 2024 4-H year.



## **All Animals**

ALL 4-H animals which would include market, breeding, horse, and pet being taken as a project must be entered in the "Animals" field in ZSuites.

This should help when FairEntry opens and that information (in theory) will transfer over into the fair program.

As always, contact Tina or Jamie for any questions or guidance.



## **Scholarship Opportunities**

**Application Deadline is April 1**

Contact our office for applications for 4-H members and 4-H Volunteers for the following programs:

- TFC 4-H Leaders Council
- TFC 4-H Horse Project
- TFC 4-H Swine Project
- Catarina Carle Memorial Scholarship



## Camp Opportunities

Minidoka County will be holding a couple of camps this Spring! There will be a Poultry Camp held April 12th & 13th (this will be an overnight camp) and a Dog Camp held May 4th (this will not be an overnight camp). Keep an eye out for a flyer and more information to come on ZSuite! For more information contact Jeni Bywater at [jbywater@uidaho.edu](mailto:jbywater@uidaho.edu) or 208-436-7184.



## 4-H Policies & Procedures

Regular 4-H Clubs must meet the following requirements:

- Must have five members from no fewer than three families
- Must be organized with youth officers
- Must meet six or more times per year
- Must be supervised by one or more certified 4-H volunteers
- Must participate in at least 1 club service learning project

## CAMP COUNSELOR OPPORTUNITY

A graphic designed to look like a spiral-bound notebook page. At the top left is the University of Idaho Extension logo. At the top right is the 4-H clover logo. Two wooden signs are pinned to the page: the top one says 'SUMMER' and the one below it says 'CAMP'. Below the signs, the text reads 'June &amp; July' next to a drawing of three green trees. A cartoon counselor wearing a cap and vest is shown peeking from behind a paper. The main heading is 'Counselors Needed' with a note 'Ages 13-18 (as of Jan. 1, 2024)'. Underneath, a list of activities includes 'Leading classes, arts &amp; crafts, outdoor games, flag ceremonies, hiking, campfire songs, and more!' accompanied by a drawing of a campfire and a tent. At the bottom, two more cartoon counselors are shown, one holding a flag. The text says 'Central Idaho 4-H Camp Ketchum Idaho' and 'Application deadline: February 9, 2024'. At the very bottom, a small disclaimer reads: 'To enrich education through diversity the University of Idaho is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and education institution. University of Idaho and U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information or reasonable accommodations need to contact their local Extension Office by February 9, 2024.'

If you are interested in becoming a summer camp counselor this year you can find the application in ZSuite under the "Shared Files" section. Contact the Twin Falls County Extension at 208-734-9590 with any questions.

## CHOBANI SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Chobani Scholars program is a \$20,000, multi-year scholarship offered to students who have a financial need, are incoming freshman or transfer students to University of Idaho and are pursuing a degree in CALS related to agriculture. Students must apply to the University of Idaho and submit a video application. First consideration will be given to those who apply by **January 31, 2024**. More information can be found at [www.uidaho.edu/cals/chobani](http://www.uidaho.edu/cals/chobani) or by contacting 208-885-7984 or [cals-advising@uidaho.edu](mailto:cals-advising@uidaho.edu).

# SHOOTING SPORTS TRAINING

Date and Time TBA | Central District  
Archery, Hunting, Rifle, and Shotgun

Check out this link for information: <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/4h/programs/shooting-sports/instructor/certify>

February 24-25, 2024 | Caldwell/Nampa/Boise, ID  
Archery, Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun.

February 10, 2024 | Rupert, ID  
Archery

February 17, 2024 | Jerome, ID  
Shotgun

Volunteer training and certification will support the State 4-H policy regarding the 4-H Shooting Sports instructors in Idaho. The policy states that Idaho 4-H Shooting Sports instructors on the county level must meet the following requirements:

- Be at least 21 years of age (18 years for assistant instructors).
- Be screened, trained and appointed as a current 4-H Volunteer through their local County Extension Office.
- Successfully complete instructor discipline training administered/sanctioned through University of Idaho 4-H Youth Development Office.
- Be trained and certified in any discipline(s) that they are teaching at the club/county level.
- Participants must attend the entire training and successfully complete all aspects to receive their respective discipline certificate.



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## ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

Species, General Projects, and Leaders Council meetings are a vital part of our 4-H program's success. **ALL VOLUNTEERS** for Twin Falls County should be attending **at least** the Leaders Council meetings where every volunteer has a vote. If the volunteer is a leader of general projects or a specific species, the general project or species meetings should also be attended. Please encourage your teen 4-H members to attend as well!

## Farm Service Agency Youth Loans

Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes loans to individual rural youth ages 10 through 20 to establish and operate income-producing projects of modest size in connection with their participation in 4-H Clubs, FFA, and similar organizations. Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. These loans may be used to finance nearly any kind of income-producing project. Some common projects include livestock and crop production, lawn and garden services, repair shops, and roadside stands.

To see if you qualify for a loan, go to the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov> or call their office at 208-436-4777.



## KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT

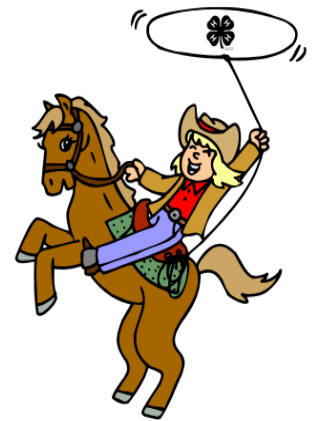
Registration for the 2024 Know Your Government Conference is now open until January 8th. Know Your Government will be held February 17-19, 2024. This program is a great opportunity for 8th and 9th grade teens to learn more about their state legislative and judicial systems. Youth and volunteers interested will need to be enrolled in the current 4-H year with fees paid and an “active” status in ZSuite. Volunteers will have needed to complete minor protection training and background screen as well. Once enrolled in ZSuite, participants can register for KYG through ZSuite. For more information contact Mike Knutz at (208)736-3608 or [mknutz@uidaho.edu](mailto:mknutz@uidaho.edu).



## 4-H HORSIN' AROUND CAMP

The 2024 4-H Horsin' Around Camp is an indoor overnight event taking place at the Rupert Fairgrounds on February 2-3. This camp is for youth ages 8-18 (as of January 1, 2024) and youth do not need to be a current 4-H member to attend. The pre-registration deadline is January 26th and pre-registration is required to attend. The cost is \$30 for the first youth in a family and \$20 per additional youth; adults are \$10. Teens are encouraged to apply for counselor positions and that deadline is Friday, January 19.

**For more information contact Jeni Bywater | 208-436-7184 | [jbywater@uidaho.edu](mailto:jbywater@uidaho.edu)**



# JANUARY

## DATES TO REMEMBER












Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Pig	9 Cow	10 Rabbit	11 Horse	12	13
14	15 Handshake	16	17	18 LC	19	20 Cows
21	22 Cows	23	24 Sheep	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 8 Swine Meeting 6pm
- 9 Longhorn Meeting 6:30pm
- 10 Small Animal Meeting 6pm  
Horse Meeting 7pm
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day,  
office is closed
- 18 Leaders Council Meeting 7pm
- 20 4-H Livestock Management  
Skill-a-thon Contest - Jerome
- 22 Beef Meeting 7pm
- 24 Sheep & Friends Meeting 7pm

# FEBRUARY



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5	6 	7 	8	9	10 
11	12 	13	14 	15 	16	17 
18 	19 	20	21	22	23	24 
25 	26	27	28	29		









- 6 Longhorn Meeting 6:30pm
- 10 Archery Shooting Sports Training
- 12 Dairy Meeting 6pm
- 14 Small Animal Meeting 6pm  
Horse Meeting 7pm
- 15 Leaders Council Meeting 7pm
- 17 Shotgun Shooting Sports Training
- 17-19 Know Your Government
- 19 Presidents Day - Twin Falls  
County Extension closed
- 24-25 Archery/Pistol/Rifle/Shotgun  
Shooting Sports Training



# MARCH



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 	2
3	4 	5	6	7	8	9
10 	11	12 	13 	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 	22	23 
24 31	25	26	27 	28	29	30

- 1 Beef Enrollments & Fees Due
- 1 All returning members fees to be paid!
- 4 Swine Meeting 6pm  
Beef Meeting 7pm
- 10 Daylight Savings
- 12 Longhorn Meeting 6:30pm
- 13 Small Animal Meeting 6pm  
Horse Meeting 7pm
- 21 Leaders Council Meeting 7pm
- 23 Beef Weigh In
- 27 Sheep & Goat Meeting 7pm

## University of Idaho Extension

Twin Falls County 4-H  
630 Addison Avenue West  
Suite 1600  
Twin Falls, ID 83301

Phone: (208) 734-9590

## HELPFUL LINKS



[twinfalls4h](#)

[www.uidaho.edu/](http://www.uidaho.edu/)



## Extension Office Staff

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**Andy West**  
Extension Educator/  
Horticulture

**Siew Guan Lee**  
Extension Educator/Nutrition,  
Health & Food Safety

**Brian Utt**  
Administrative Coordinator

**Cammie Jayo**  
Eat Smart Idaho Coordinator



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