

CONVERSE COUNTY 4-H

September Newsletter



A Note From the Educator

As we head into September, remember that this is the last month of the 2025-2026 4-H Year. Starting on October 1st, all members and volunteers who would like to participate in the 2026-2027 4-H Year will need to re-enroll on ZSuite! The last month of the 4-H Year also means a lot of deadlines are coming up.

Record Books are due for judging on September 15th. A printed copy must be turned in to the Extension Office to be judged.

Achievement Award voting opens on September 2nd and will close on September 15th. Market Sale requirements are due on September 30th for those of you who sold a 4-H animal. This includes submitting a Record Book on ZSuite and emailing me proof of a buyer thank you.

If you have checked out keys, supplies, or curriculum, those also need to be returned to our office by September 30th so we can start the new year with all of our inventory.

Have a great month!

IMPORTANT DATES

September 2: Achievement Award voting opens

September 7: Extension Office closed

September 15: Record Books due for judging

September 15: Achievement Award voting closes

September 21: October Newsletter updates/ info due

September 30: Market Sale check requirements due

September 30: All checked out Extension Office materials due

September 30: Last day of 2025-2026 4-H Year

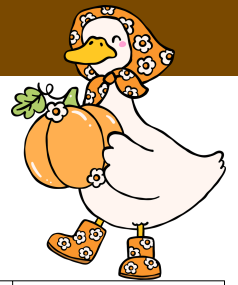
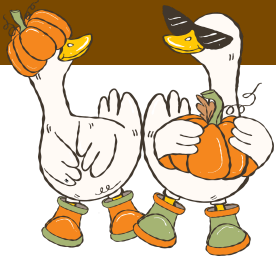


September 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2 Achievement Award Voting Opens	3	4	5
6	7 Office Closed	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Record Books due for judging Achievement Award Voting Closes	16 Walker Creek 5:30 pm	17	18	19
20	21 October Newsletter Club/Project Updates & Info Due	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Market Sale check requirements due Member Showcase Sale requirements due All checked out Extension Office property due Last day of 2025- 2026 4-H Year	1	2	3

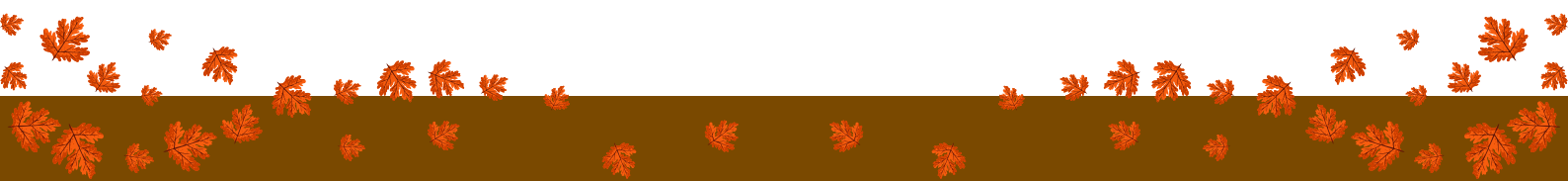
- All dates and times are subject to change



October 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1 New 4-H Year Starts (all members and volunteers must re-enroll)	2	3
4 National 4-H Week	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Achievement Program and Family Social 2-4 p.m.
18	19 November Newsletter Club/Project Updates & Info Due	20	21 Walker Creek 5:30 pm	22	23	24
25	26 Kellynne out of office- NAE4-HYDP Conference	27	28	29	30	31

- All dates and times are subject to change



Club Updates

Deer Creek

Dry Creek Willing Workers

Future Stars

LaBonte Sagebrush

Club Updates

Magic Chefs

Sand Creek

Walker Creek

Wild Bunch



Photo/Art Submissions



Submit your photography or art for the 2026-2027 4-H Newsletter cover page pictures!

We are looking for photographs or artwork from our 4-H community to use on our monthly newsletter cover pages. If you have a great photo or artwork that you'd like to be considered, please send it to us!

Submissions can come from members, volunteers, or parents!

Requirements:

- Photos and art should be 4-H appropriate and not contain discernible faces
- Must be landscape-orientation
- Seasonal photos or art are preferred (flowers, snowy landscapes, autumn trees, etc)
- Art and photos made without the use of artificial intelligence are preferred - we want to see your talent!

To submit a photo or artwork:

Email the photo or a high-quality picture of your artwork to converse@uwyo.edu with the subject line "Newsletter Submission". Jamie and Kellynne will review submissions and choose which one will be used for the next newsletter.

Submissions are due by the prior month's newsletter deadline.

Wyoming 4-H



APPLY NOW FOR THE 2027 STATE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Applications Open — Deadline: September 7th at 11:59 PM
Must be 16-18 years old by January 1st, 2027
Apply here: tinyurl.com/2027SLT

Selected Team Members Will Get To:

- Attend a leadership retreat in Laramie October 16-18th
- Represent Wyoming 4-H at public and statewide events
- Lead activities for fellow 4-H members at events
- Develop and strengthen public-speaking skills at awards ceremonies
- Receive a \$900 scholarship toward a National 4-H trip of your choice
- Meet with legislators at the Wyoming State Capitol
- Receive a \$1,000 educational scholarship upon graduation and successful completion of Leadership Team service



REMINDER

*Record Books are due for judging
September 15th by 4:30 p.m.*

*A printed copy must be turned
in to the Extension Office to be
judged.*



2026-2027 4-H YEAR

**Enrollment opens on
October 1st! You must
re-enroll to participate
in the new 4-H year.**



**ENROLL ONLINE AT
[4H.ZSUITE.ORG](https://4h.zsuite.org)**



REMINDER

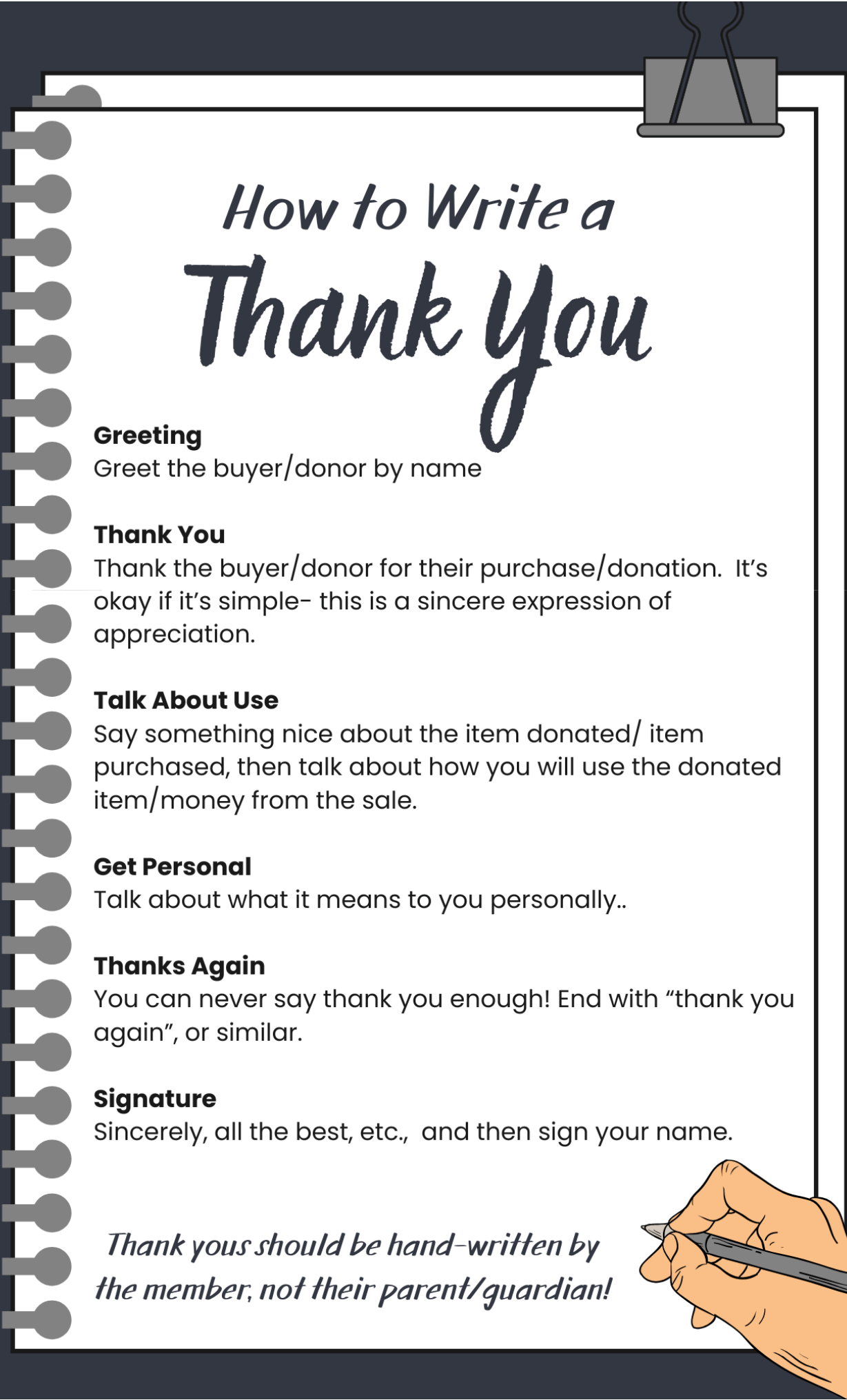
All checked out Extension Office property must be turned in by September 30th so we can complete year-end inventory. This includes: 4-H curriculum books, ownership binders, office keys, and any other materials/equipment that belong to the Extension Office or 4-H.



**IMPORTANT
REMINDER!**

**MARKET SALE
REQUIREMENTS
ARE DUE ON
SEPTEMBER
30TH!**

**You must submit a Record Book on
ZSuite (or a printed copy for
judging) and proof of a buyer
thank you to kdoyle6@uwyo.edu to
receive your check!**



How to Write a Thank You

Greeting

Greet the buyer/donor by name

Thank You

Thank the buyer/donor for their purchase/donation. It's okay if it's simple- this is a sincere expression of appreciation.

Talk About Use

Say something nice about the item donated/ item purchased, then talk about how you will use the donated item/money from the sale.

Get Personal

Talk about what it means to you personally..

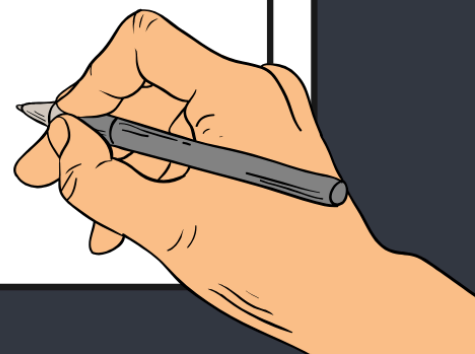
Thanks Again

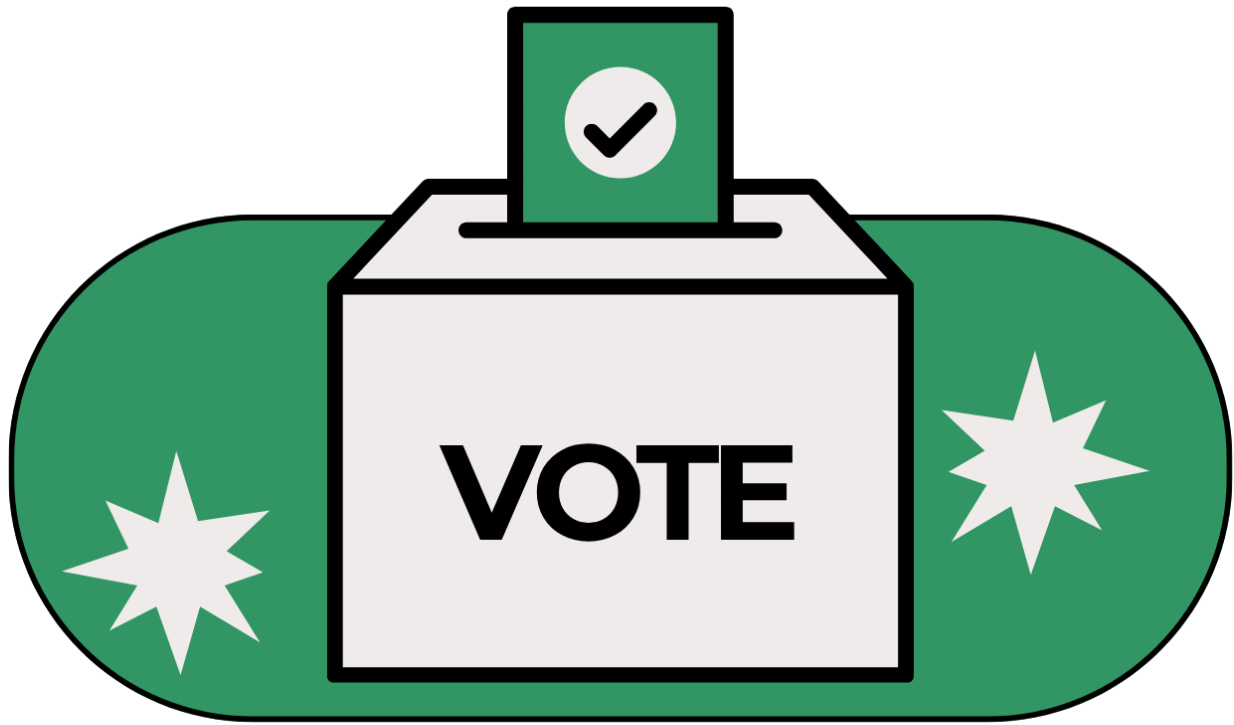
You can never say thank you enough! End with "thank you again", or similar.

Signature

Sincerely, all the best, etc., and then sign your name.

*Thank yous should be hand-written by
the member, not their parent/guardian!*





2026 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

It's time to pick the winners of our annual Achievement Awards! Be sure to cast your vote by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://forms.gle/TjfKYctvhdnhdKc9>.



Voting is open September 2nd – September 15th



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for adult volunteers to help judge 4-H Record Books! If you're interested, please reach out to us or stop by the Extension Office.

Want to help out, but can't judge them during our office hours? You can check out some Record Books and take them home to judge in your free time!

Name:

How old were you on January 1st of this year?

Age Division: 8-10 (Junior) 11-13 (Intermediate) 14-18 (Senior)



ZSUITE RECORD BOOK

1 Project Report

2 4-H Involvement

Wyoming 4-H



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EXTENSION





ZSUITE RECORD BOOK



Why should you complete a record book?

- Learn to set goals, make plans to achieve those goals, learn to adapt to challenges and obstacles.
- Get practice keeping records.
- Track your activities, events, skill development, expenses, profits, and much more.
- Measure your achievements and growth.
- Use it for scholarships, resumes, or job applications.
- Help earn points towards Honors Club.
- Reflect on how far you've come over the years!



DON'T WAIT!



You can add record books in ZSuite at the beginning of the year. Working on your record book during the year helps you remember what happened and makes it less work at the last minute!

What's In Your Book?

1

PROJECT REPORT

Goals
Project Plan
Supplies, Expenses & Income
Exhibits & Summary
Project Pictures and Clippings

Complete for EACH project

Check ZSuite under "Clubs" tab to see what you're signed up for.

(Market Swine, Breeding Sheep,
Archery, Photography, Outdoor
Recreation, etc.)

2

4-H INVOLVEMENT

4-H Awards & Recognition
4-H Leadership
4-H Community Service
4-H Participation

Ongoing - Add to it each year

4-H Story
4-H Year Pictures & Clippings
Other Participation

Complete for current year



Your First ZSUITE RECORD BOOK

1 Project Report



- Log in to ZSuite
 - Choose a member's profile
- Then select "Record Books" from the menu in the left sidebar
- Start by choosing the "Add Record Book" button from the bottom of the list
- The Project Name is how the Record Book will appear in your list.
 - Name it something that helps you stay organized (Archery - 2nd Year, Dog 2023, etc.). You will have a Project Report for every project for every year.
 - You need one Project Report record book for every project (market swine, archery, photography, etc) not separate ones for every animal or exhibit you make.
- Fill in the rest of the information from the drop down menus.
 - Project Year and Project End Year will be the same.
 - The dates are when you started and ended the project or the 4-H year (like October 1st to when you turn in your record book)
- Once you save, the Project Report book will appear in the list in the Record Book tab. Use the blue edit pencil to change the Project Name or Dates. Click on the orange title to select it, then choose the "Project Information" button on the left.
- Start with the tabs on the left early in the year! Set goals first, take an inventory, put in expenses and income or even pictures as they happen! Then finish off your book by filling in your summary at the end of the year.



Your First ZSUITE RECORD BOOK

2^{4-H} Involvement



- You also need to add a Record Book for your 4-H Year Involvement.
 - Go to "Add a Record Book" and select "My 4-H Year" in the drop down menu with the Project Report options.
 - Fill in the details for the year you are reporting, then save this record book section.
- You will build on the Involvement Report over the years so you can use the same one every year (or transfer the old information to a new one every year).
- Go through each tab of the report to complete each section.
 - Remember that you will have all your 4-H years in these sections (except the story and pictures). Make sure to add your dates so you can tell what years the activities were from as you add more to them!
 - Fill in community service, 4-H activities etc. as they happen so you don't forget!
- If you don't know what kinds of activities you should include in each section don't hesitate to ask your leaders or the Extension Office for examples!



You should set SMART goals at the BEGINNING of your 4-H year! You can start by adding record books for each project you will be doing during your 4-H year. These will be your Project Reports. Start working on your record book early! Think about what you've already learned in your projects, and about the things you'd still like to learn. Your goals should GROW with YOU!

Let's make it...

S
Specific

Choose one thing you want to improve or one skill you want to learn.

M
Measurable

What will you have at the end to know you reached your goal? Try to make it a number.

A
Attainable

Think about what you can get done with your 4-H year! Make it reasonable and challenging!

R
Relevant

Make sure your goal is related to your 4-H project. As you spend more years in a project, make your goals more challenging.

T
Time-Bound

Give yourself a timeline. You can have a short-term goal you finish in a couple weeks or months. Or a long-term goal that takes you all year.

Let's try it!

Practice writing a SMART goal...

Then make a Plan...

Some things to consider:

- Going to 2 practices a week.
- Watching videos online.
- Asking a leader, parent, sibling, or friend for help (especially for Juniors).
- Marking days on your calendar so you don't forget to keep working on the goal.
- Finding a friend with the same goal to help keep you going.
- THE LIST GOES ON!
- Going to monthly project meetings.
- Attending a clinic or a camp.

Talk about specific things you want to do to help you reach each of your goals! As the year goes on think about how your plan has gone. Whether it went well you needed to make changes.





GOALS

SUPPLIES

EXPENSES/INCOME



At the beginning of the year:

- What do you already have? Things you use for your project every year, such as:
 - Archery - your bow, arrows, gloves, quivers things you keep for years
 - Livestock - feed buckets, blowers, stands, breeding animals you keep
 - Visual Arts - paint brushes, markers, household items you use that you already have on hand
- If it's your first year in a project, you might not have much on hand already. If you've done the project before, look at what you had on hand or bought in previous years. Do you still have those things? They should be listed under your equipment.

SUPPLIES

EXPENSES/INCOME

SUMMARY



Throughout the year:

- What do you still need? Things you needed to buy during the year, such as:
 - Archery - New fletching for arrows, new quivers, if you bought a bow
 - Livestock - Feed, fitting supplies, new show sticks, any market or new breeding animals you got this year
 - Visual Arts - canvases, new paints, poster boards
- Expenses can also include any classes, clinics, or camps you paid to attend for your project.

Throughout or at the end of the year:

- Income is where you'll put anything you sold, gave away or kept for yourself.
 - Did you sell an animal? This could be a market animal or through your breeding program.
 - Did you sell any crafts? At a craft fair, to friends or family, etc.
 - Did you give away any supplies to someone else? If it's your last year in a project or you replaced old supplies you can put if you gave away or donated old supplies.
 - Did you keep anything for yourself? Include if you kept a market animal for your family, made a piece of art or piece of equipment that you kept or will use for yourself.



EXPENSES/INCOME

SUMMARY

PICTURES



What did you learn this year?

- Go back to the goals you set for yourself at the beginning of the year.
 - What specific things did you do to help you accomplish your goals?
 - What challenges did you have?
 - Did your goals change during the year?
 - Did you create more goals throughout the year?
 - What skills did you learn?
 - Who helped you?
 - Where did you find information?
- What activities did you do for the project?
 - How many practices/project meetings did you attend?
 - Did you do any workshops, clinics, jackpots, shows, competitions, or fairs for the project?
- Explain the skills or knowledge you gained from participating in this project this year.
 - I learned how to...
 - compare cost of different brands of ingredients.
 - control my breathing to improve my shooting accuracy.
 - use acrylic paints on ceramic.
 - ...etc.
- How will you apply what you learned to other areas or to future years in the project?



Exhibit

Not all sharing experiences will have a placing/award.

What did you exhibit or share for your project?

- These will include:
 - indoor/static exhibits during fair
 - showing your animals
 - giving presentations on your project
- You should put a ribbon or placing if you got one, but other awards you got for your exhibits should go in the awards section (if you got a ribbon for your class and were an overall champion, just the class ribbon goes here)..





The Involvement Report will be added to every year
(All your 4-H years should be in one Involvement Report).

You can use the same Involvement Report every year or add previous years.

Annual Achievement Points (Gold, Silver, or Green).



- Usually you receive Achievement Points based on your Record Book. For the current year, you can select "None" from the list. You can edit this after you receive your Achievement Level.



- The year is the calendar year you are turning in your record book or receiving the Achievement Level.



- The Involvement Report can be added to every year, so once you get your Level, you can add it to your book so you don't forget for next year.

4-H Awards and Recognition

- Project placing ribbons (Purple, Blue, First, Second, etc.) should go in the Project Report they go with. Only list additional awards like Overall Champion, Best of Show, Outstanding Overall Exhibit, etc.
- Other awards that could go here:
 - Cash Awards, Scholarships
 - Seals, Certificates
 - Plaques, Trophies, Belt Buckles
 - Trip Awards



***Don't leave blanks, put "N/A" if needed



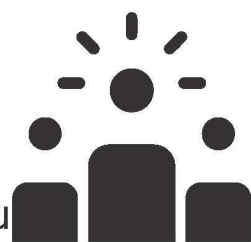


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Leadership comes in many forms!

For younger members it can be as simple as leading a pledge, or seconding a motion.

Make sure your leadership responsibilities GROW with you



Leadership Types



- **Volunteer:** These are things you have signed up for or asked to do. Giving presentations, making motions, public speaking, helping with workshops or programs, judging events, or fairs.



- **Appointed:** Things you've been asked to do, like if you're asked to lead a pledge, or join a committee.



- **Elected:** Responsibilities people voted for. Usually this is holding a 4-H office like club secretary, president, etc. You can include just being nominated or running for an office (especially if it's your first time) as an appointed leadership role.

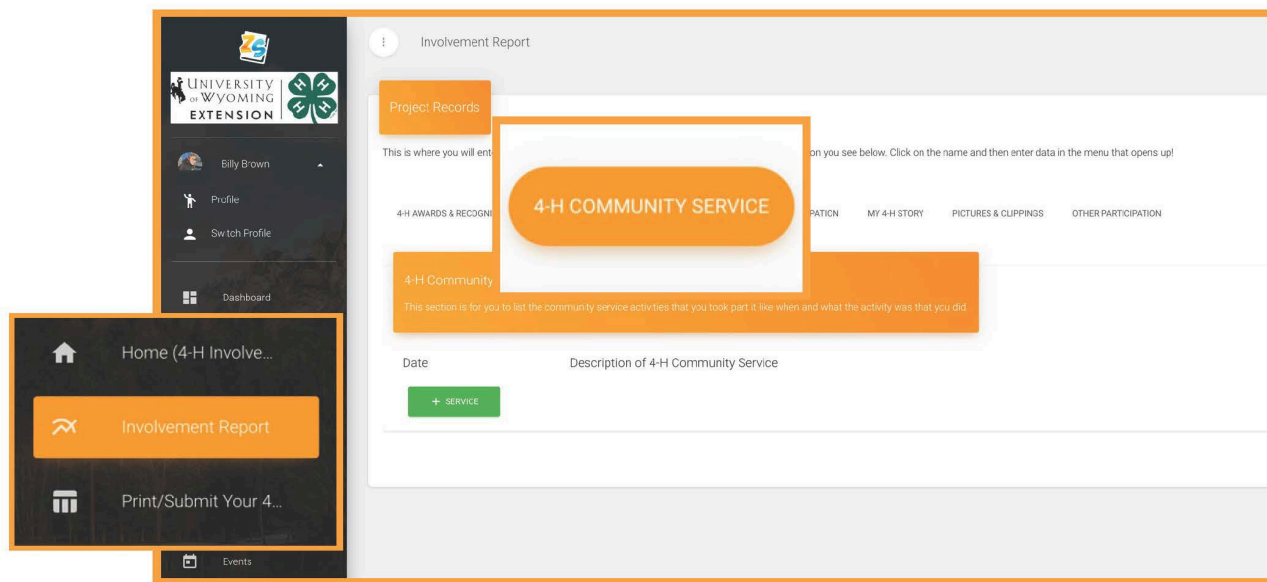
Don't just put a general activity, explain how the role applies to leadership. Don't forget dates to show your progress over the years!

***Don't leave blanks, put "N/A" if needed





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Using your "hands for larger service"

- These are all the things you did during the year to help others out, without getting anything in return.
 - These can be things you do with your club, as a county, or on your own. Make sure you describe what you did, how much was collected, how many people helped or how many people received help! You might do some of the same activities every year so don't forget to put dates on your activities.



Some ideas:

- Donate to or volunteer at a soup kitchen, food pantry, animal shelter, disaster relief efforts, or other donation based charities
- See if you can make cards or spend time at a senior center or hospital
- Help with a road side clean up, or park or fairgrounds clean-up
- Adopt a family during the holidays (Make/donate meals, Angel Trees, Valentines, Easter Baskets, May Day, etc.).

***Don't leave blanks, put "N/A" if needed





The Involvement Report will be added to every year
(All your 4-H years should be in one Involvement Report).
You can use the same Involvement Report every year or add previous years.



Show what you've done this year!

- List all the activities you've done at the club, county, state, or national level.

Club Activities:

- Attending club meetings (save space and put how many you attended in one line), Club holiday parties, Club fundraisers

County Activities (activities with multiple clubs in your county) :

- Helping or participating in a 4-H carnival, County Fair, County Contest, Achievement Programs, County Project Meetings, Workshops, Classes or Clinics.

State Activities (activities with multiple counties):

- State Contests like Showcase Showdown, State Fair, State Shoot/Raton, Judging Contests, etc. WYLE, State Leaders Conference or other State events

National Activities (activities with multiple states participating):

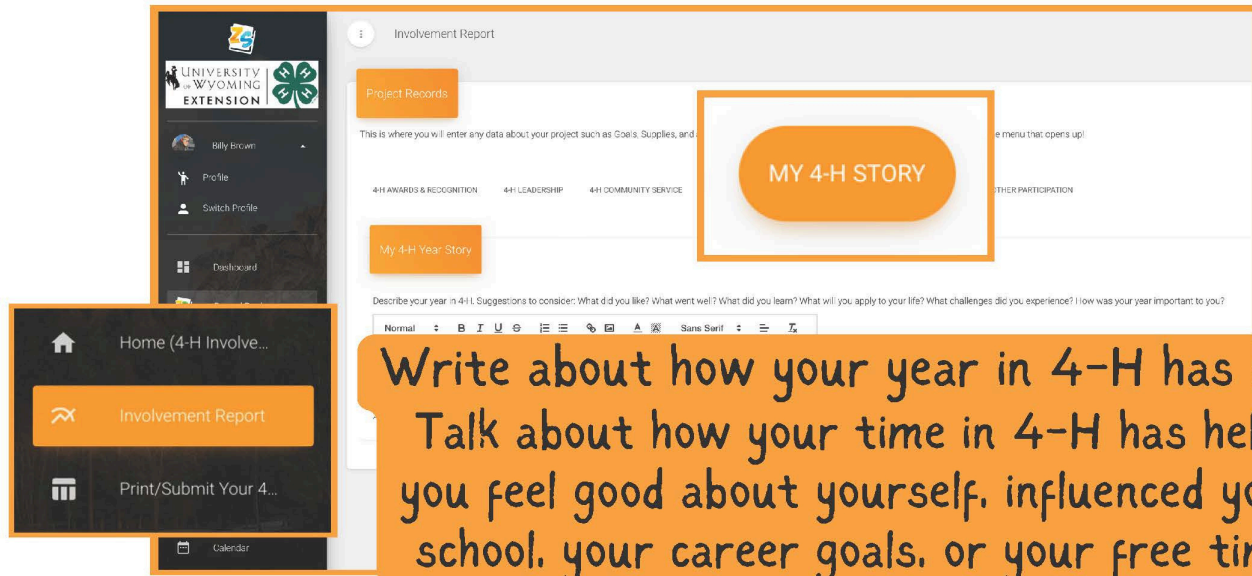
- Citizenship or Leadership Washington Focus, National 4-H Congress, Western National Roundup, NILE, etc.

***Don't leave blanks, put "N/A" if needed



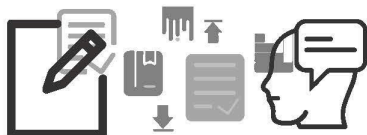


You should write a new story each year. It could follow the same general outline, but make sure you tell this year's story, and it's not the same story every year. This is a story, don't just write one or two lines. Show your growth!



Some things you can include in your story:

- Introduce yourself:
 - Your name, what grade you're in, how many years you've been in 4-H.
- Highlights from your 4-H projects and activities (what did you enjoy, what didn't go like you thought it would, what might you do differently next year?)
- What did you enjoy most about your 4-H year?
- What was the most successful part of your 4-H year?
- What did you learn in 4-H this year (that you maybe haven't talked about as part of your projects)?
- Did you have any challenges? What happened? What did you do?
- What leadership or community service or other activities did you learn the most from?
- Did you use the things you learned in 4-H in other parts of your life?
- How was this year important to you?
- What are your future plans in 4-H? What are your future plans for school or for a career?





Extension
Converse County

Office Location

1839 Madora Ave
Douglas, WY 82633

Contact Information

(307) 358-2417

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Kellynne (4-H Educator):

kdoyle6@uwyo.edu

Jamie (Administrative Assistant):

converse@uwyo.edu



Converse County 4-H Website

<https://www.wyoming4h.org/converse4h/>



Converse County 4-H Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Converse4H>

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