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Ravalli County Fair

September 2-5, 2026



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RAVALLI COUNTY FAIR

The 2026 Ravalli County Fair with a nod to celebrating America 250, "I'll See You at the Ravalli County Fair," will take place Sept. 2-5, in Hamilton.

Fairgrounds Manager Melissa Seville said planning starts a year in advance and this year the Fair has quality and variety with a parade, Sensory Day, Lunch at Fair, carnival, rodeo, exhibits, competitions, bike giveaways, vendors and a live band to close the festivities.

"It is going to be a great fair and rodeo this year," Seville said. "The community comes together and we have a really good experience."

By the number, the 2025 Fair had over 39,000 attendees.

"It is a lot more than we had imagined," Seville said. "Fair is our biggest fundraiser, but we continue to run in the red," Seville said. "Our facility costs a million dollars to run year-round. We do



PHOTO BY DOUG MCCONNAHA

"We Want You" to come to the Ravalli County Fair and enjoy it, said Melissa Saville, Leisa Lewis, Theresa Dunca, and Grant Cox in their "Gunny" the rooster t-shirts that show a goal of celebrating America 250.






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rentals but we are still a drain on Ravalli County.”

The 2026 Ravalli County Fair gate entry tickets can be purchased online, anytime, or at the gate.

“[Online] has been super-helpful for us to plan ahead,” Saville said. “There has been a large learning curve for our volunteers, they had to learn the scanners. It’s been interesting. We can be convenient.”

North Star Amusements
Carnival tickets can be purchased online or at the Fair, discounted tickets are available before Fair begins. 4H and FFA youth earned their entry to the Fair this year. (See additional article in this tab.)

There are maps of the 2026 Ravalli County Fair, sponsored by Pepsi.

“This year it is two pages because it includes market vendors who sign up

by the second week in January,” Seville said.

The Ravalli County Fair kicks off with the traditional parade downtown Hamilton, 10 a.m. to noon, on Wednesday, Sept. 2.

“It is being hosted by the Health Department,” Seville said. “We were just having trouble finding volunteers to coordinated and they want it to be a lot safer this year. They asked if they could



4-H & FFA Livestock of Ravalli County



4-H & FFA Livestock Sale at Ravalli County Fair

Starting at 8:00 am on Saturday, September 5th, 2026, in Hornung Arena

Complimentary Buyers' Breakfast 6:30-7:45 a.m.

Enter through the North gate and register at the sale table

SOLE PURCHASE

Buyer is responsible for the purchase of the animal as well as the processing, cutting and wrapping cost of the meat.

SHARED PURCHASE

You may share in the purchase where the meat and costs are divided amongst buyers.

PROXY BUYERS

If you are unable to attend the livestock sale, but would like to put in a bid, contact the Ravalli County Extension Office at (406) 375-6611 to fill out a Proxy Buyer Form.

RESALE / SUPPORT

Buyer may consign their purchase back to support for resale. The buyer will be billed the difference between the buyer's bid and the resale/support price. Resale/support prices will be announced at the sale.

ADD-ONS

Add-Ons area flat fee of any amount added on top of the sale price. Add-Ons can be submitted before, during, or after the sale, and payment received no later than September 30, 2026. If any animal(s) you pay for do not sell in the livestock sale, your payment for that animal will be returned to you.

BUYERS' BREAKFAST

Please join us at the **Buyers' Breakfast, 6:30 - 7:45 a.m., outside the Hornung Arena** and get in on the auction excitement! Sale Committee and volunteers will be available to assist you.

BUYERS' RECOGNITION

Buyers will be acknowledged with a rosette, a certificate with a photo of the member and the animal purchased, advertisement in the newspaper, and an appreciation breakfast prior to the sale. We very much appreciate the support of our Buyers in this community who make this livestock sale such a success for our 4-H & FFA youth!

BUYERS' PARTICIPATION

All buyers must register by mail or at the registration table prior to bidding at the sale. All buyers will be **assigned a bidding number**

Buyers must have this number when bidding. Number can be picked up at the registration table. Your name and number will be announced when awarded the bid.

If you do not receive a Buyers' Packet in the mail or directly from a 4-H/FFA youth member, contact the Ravalli County Extension Office at (406) 375-6611 to get the appropriate forms.

Thank you to the Buyers of the 2025 Grand Champions



Grand Champion Market Goat
Owner: Alexandra Thornness
Buyer: Pigman Builders



Grand Champion Beef
Owner: Heath Ralston
Buyer: Valley Irrigaon



Grand Champion Swine
Owner: Elijah Hendrickson
Buyer: Donaldson Bros Ready Mix



Grand Champion Dairy
Owner: Lauren Campbell
Buyer: Lanser Family Ranch



Grand Champion Sheep
Owner: Kealie Hixson
Buyer: Alpine Oral & Facial Surgery

take it over.” (See additional article in this tab.)

Sensory Day, 10 a.m. to noon, Thursday, Sept. 3, is when North Star Amusements operate their rides with no music or lights for people with noise and light sensitivity. Rides are free and Ravalli County Fair provides free gate entry for every person and chaperone wearing a special wristband. Get the wristband at the fair office, there are a limited number available.

The 2026 Fair Family of the Year is Lee and Lorena Erickson.

Lorena has worked in the Fair premium office since 1996, and for many of those years everything was written by hand. (See additional article in this tab.)

Lunch at Fair will be available again this year, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday - Sept. 2, 3, 4. How it works is that if you pay cash only and enter through the North or South gates between the listed hours you can enjoy the Fair, vendors, food and exhibits. If you leave through the same gate



before 2 p.m. you get your cash back.

“We’ve actually had a lot of our public reach out to us and say, ‘I just want to eat Fair food,’” Saville said. “We’ve had requests for a drive-through for Fair food, too. That would be super-fun, but that’s not exactly realistic.”

Many food vendors have been at the Fair before but there will be new food vendors also.

The 2026 Ravalli County Fair and Ravalli County Public Health will



continue with the Bike Giveaway for children younger than age 12, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Visit the Bitterroot Health booth to get a raffle ticket for the possibility of winning a bike, scooter or skateboard. Each night, drawings



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MONTANA PROPERTIES

will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Community Stage, just west of the women's bathrooms.

"Bitterroot Health hosts it for us, so that someone is in the tent with all the bikes," Saville said.

The Caricature Act will be at the Fair again this year for people to get a humorous and exaggerated drawing of themselves or their group.

The Wild West Fun Park will be available from noon to 8 p.m. every day by the goat barn. The attraction is geared to children ages 6 and under. It is an interactive family play area with shade, water misters and Wild West laser fast draw.

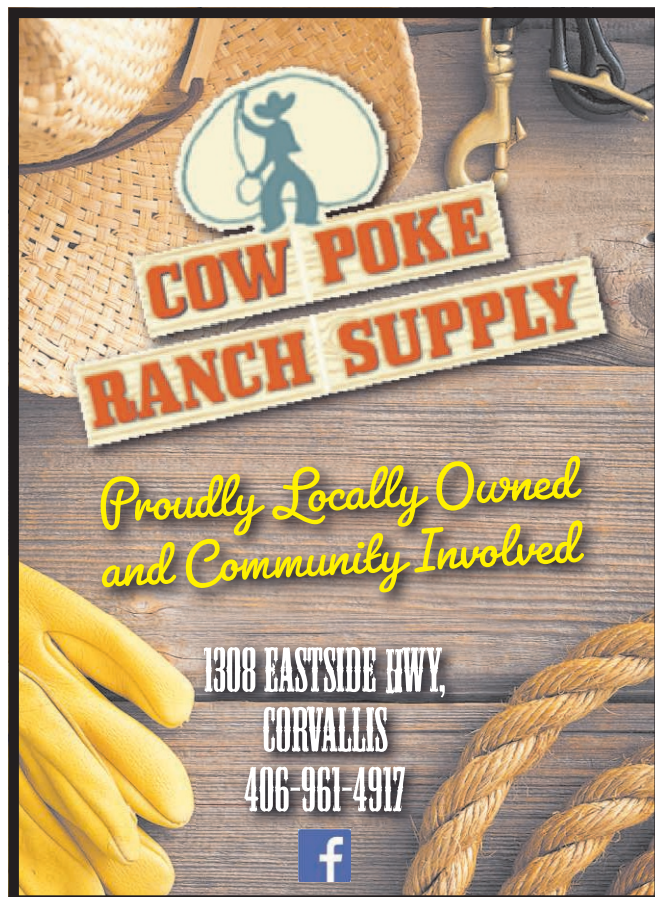
"We have the carnival for tweens and teens, and we needed something for the littles, so we brought them back," Saville said. "It is JC McDowell; they used to own the brewery in Darby."



Each department has its own schedule of presentations and demonstrations. (See the schedule in the Fair book.)

"It's as current as we could make it back in February," Seville said. "So, check with each department."

Every night of the Fair, stay for the Rockin' RC Rodeo, which is free with Fair gate admission this year, seating in the grandstand is not reserved (except



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for the Fair Family). In addition to terrific stock and competitions, there will be Kids Rule races of Mutton Bustin, Mini Buckerz and Boot Scramble.

Danger Dave - Dave Whitmore of Dave and Buck's Eggs - will perform during the rodeo Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

"He is an NRA, PBR award-winning rodeo clown and bull fighter," Saville said. "He is sponsored again this year. He is pretty action packed - high energy with slapstick comedy. A rodeo clown used to just provide a little extra entertainment, but he is way more than



that for us."

Saturday night, after the rodeo, the 406 Band will perform in the main arena.

"We've tried for years to have musical entertainment, and it never seems to take off on Tuesday," Seville said. "This year the 406 Band - they have done our Cowboy Ball for us for years - they will be our ending.

On Saturday night, after the rodeo, they will pull in on a flatbed trailer and jam out for two hours. They will play music, I hope everyone has a good time. They will end our evening."

She said people can dance in the grandstands and down in front.

"I'm sure they will be heard for quite a ways since they will be plugged into the speakers," Seville said. "They are Montana-grown, hot rockin' country"

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RC Family of the Year - Lee and Lorena Erickson



The Ravalli County Fair is set for Sept. 2-5, in Hamilton, and the 2026 Fair Family of the Year is Lee and Lorena Erickson.

Lorena worked in the Fair premium office since 1996, and she retired from that role two years ago.

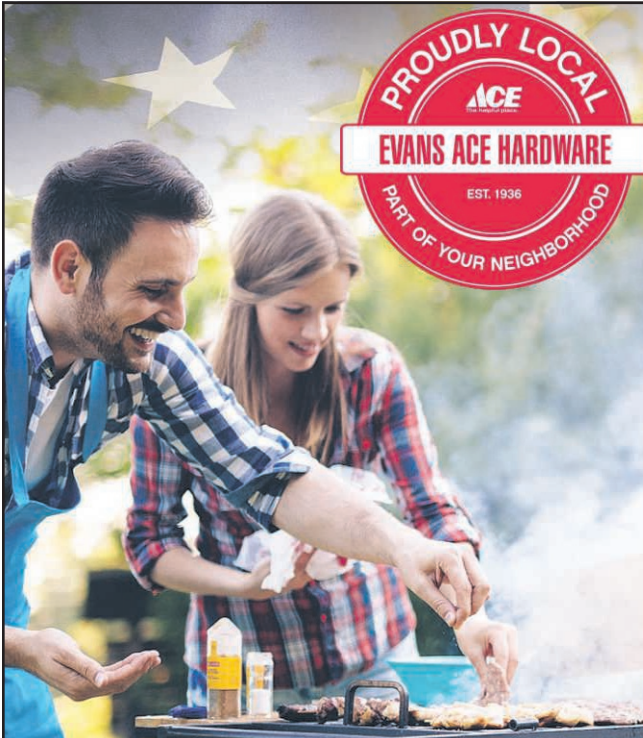
"It's been 30 years since I started working at the Fair," Lorena said. "I was quite surprised when I was told we were chosen [as 2026 Fair Family of the Year] but the timing is perfect as Lee has had a stroke, he's not walking very well, and he appreciates the recognition now."

Lee and Lorena Erickson have been on their land just North of Corvallis for 56 years, since 1970. They built their house in 1982.

They raised two boys (Kevin and Chad), many cows, sheep, sugar beets, hay, and grain.

Lorena and Lee Erickson, Ravalli County 2026 Fair Family of the Year, stand in front of their big red barn and recollect years of ranching, farming, and the Fair. "Everything changes, but I want the Fair to remain our hometown country fair," Lorena said.

PHOTO BY DOUG MCCONNAHA

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"We've always farmed," Lorena said.

While Lee worked the ranch, they belonged to the Farm Bureau. She was secretary, then president of the Sheep Association. She was also the president of Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance. The family was highly involved in 4H and the Ravalli County Fair for all their years.

In 1996, Lorena's friend, Gayle Tintzman, got Lorena involved in working at the Premium Office.

"I was with Gayle, Maggie Baurer, Nilda Lewis, and now I've outlived them all," she said. "It was a great group and we always had fun. When I first started it was all done by hand. I used to kid that we had so much to write that I got carpal tunnel."

She laughed.

"It was a big job," Lorena said. "We had one lady who brought over 100 entries - gardening, canning and sewing. She had over 100 tags - that was work."

Then the Premium Office changed to using computers.

"At first it was hit and miss and learning the programs," Lorena said. "One of the funny memories happened the first year. We always hand out premium money to the kids at the Fair and had to have pay-out sheets."

She said the computers quit the morning of payout.

"Gayle ran down to the sale barn and got Dan and Tom Wolsky because she knew that they knew computers," Lorena said. "They finally figured it out. We normally started paying out at noon, but we were still printing pay sheets. I went out to tell the kids, gathered and waiting for their money, that it would be another hour."

She said she expected the kids would complain in protest.

"I thought that they would come and throw water balloons at me or something, but they didn't move," Lorena said. "I thought, 'Wow, do I have that much authority?' but when I turned around and looked there was this great big deputy standing behind me. No one was going to mess with him. We finally got the window open and got the kids paid so they could go on the carnival rides and get fair food."

She noted that the Premium Offices moved to several different buildings throughout the years.

"We moved from the little building to the Art building where we didn't have air conditioning," Lorena said. "I would take my fan, but we couldn't let it rotate because of all the paperwork. Then we got new buildings and the events center - wow, that was great too."

Over the years when she reflects on the community, farmer friends, the efforts of exhibitors and the tractor pull she is warmed with happiness.

"I still haven't seen it [the tractor pull], Lee has," Lorena said. "I was always too busy in the Premium Office. It was always fun to hand out ribbons to the kids."

She has hopes for the future of the Ravalli County Fair.

"I'm glad it remains the country fair we have always had," Lorena said. "I hope it stays that way. I like the people that come to the Fair, the Fair Board and Melissa [Seville - Fairgrounds Manager] and Leisa [Lewis] in the Premium Office. Everything changes, but I want the Fair to remain our hometown country fair."

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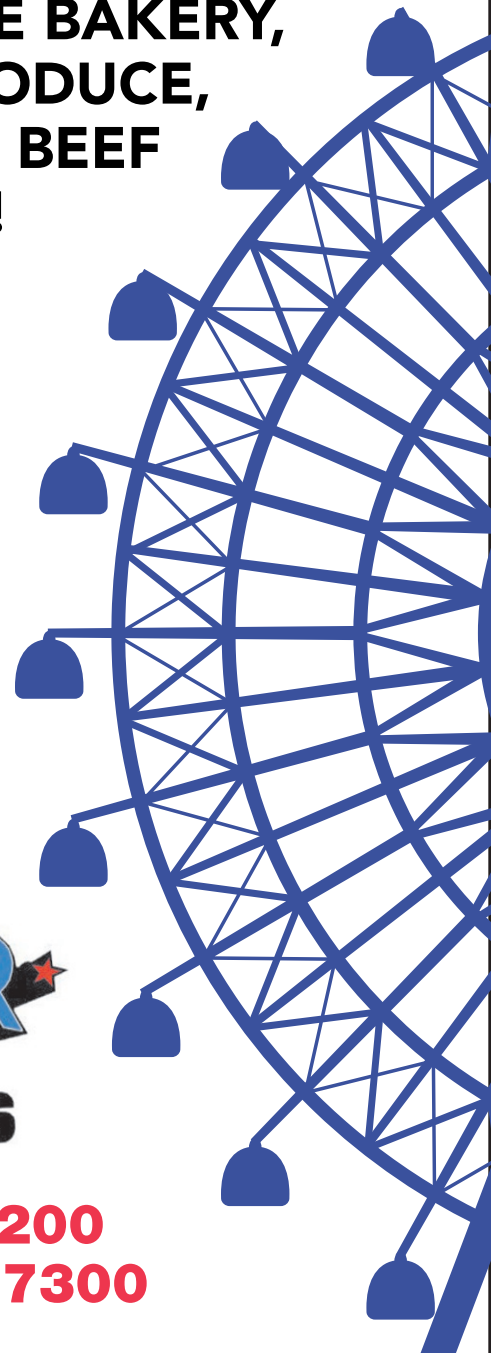
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The Ravalli County Fair Parade



The Ravalli County Fair Parade will be at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, Sept. 2, on Main Street, in Hamilton. This year the parade is being organized by Ravalli County Public Health.

Tiffany Webber, Director of RCPH, said her goal is for the parade to be fun and safe.

"They were going to cancel it, that was the discussion," Webber said. "It was said that if they didn't find a parade superintendent to organizing it, then it would be dropped."

She said at first she was appalled and indignant, after all the parade was an institution that she'd enjoyed since she was little.

"I went and talked to my commissioners and they said, 'well, why don't you do it?'" Webber said. "I thought about it for a week or so and thought if I had my team that I worked with through the pandemic – we could do anything."

She said she is pulling in many of her previous volunteers and partners, including Jeff Rodrick, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and Eric Hoover, Director of Emergency Management.

"The main focus is the safety piece of it," Webber said. "I'm always worried about the children who run out to get the candy. I think this will be a good opportunity for us to be

involved and make recommendations for safety."

Webber said she has been mentored by the Bitterroot Valley Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jodi Mitchell as the BVCC organized the parade for many years. Then Webber met with recent fair parade organizers and volunteered at other valley parades for the experience.

The 2026 parade theme is "Rooted in Tradition."

"I've tested it out a few groups and some were really excited but others not so much, they said it was a boring theme," Webber said.

Webber said she attended the parade and was in the parade since she was little.

"I really feel a sense of community and pride in the community," Webber said. "I really wanted a theme that says we're coming together to celebrate our uniqueness as Ravalli County. We're trying to find something that spoke to that and our traditions of who we are."

She said a popular TV show has brought people into Ravalli County who don't yet know our traditions.

"This is an opportunity to include them," Webber said. "This is a 'Welcome to the Bitterroot!'"

Webber said she has received negative feedback about the increase of fees to participate in the parade. Previously the \$10 entry fee allowed participants to have multiple entries.



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PHOTO BY DOUG MCCONNAHA

With safety as the biggest concern, Jeff Rodrick - Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Tiffany Webber - Director of Ravalli County Public Health and Eric Hoover - Director of the office of Emergency Management, are organizing the Ravalli County Fair Parade this year.

"But with taking the reigns there was no budget that came with this," Webber said. "I had to borrow county money to get us started. The registration fees help us with the cost. I don't think people realize the expenses."

Costs include a \$500 permit, porta potties, printing, advertising, barriers, walkie-talkies, safety vests, caution tape, county insurance, and more. Webber said she is trying to cut deals and find additional partners but said there are cash expenses that must be paid. The parade committee must gather all the entries, design the script, complete the line up and decide where entries will park.

"It is really difficult to plan," Webber said. "We know some people will wait until the day of the parade. We're not telling people they can't, but the fee will increase. So, up to August 7 it cost \$30, [after August 7 the registration cost is \$50], but if you show up the day of the parade and you insist that you are going to be in the parade, it is a \$100 entry fee."

The parade rules state that all vehicles must

have a licensed driver, working lights, and brakes.

"We want people to be in the parade, please get your entries in," Webber said. "We're not changing anything [but the registration fee]. The parade route will stay the same, the start time will stay the same, 10 a.m. It is the kickoff to the fair. When I was growing up it was on Thursday but now it is on Wednesday."

Entry forms are available at the BVCC office, Fairground office, Public Health Office, or by scanning the QU code on the fliers posted around the valley.

The Fair Family will be in the parade - Lee and Lorena Erickson.

Webber is considering fan favorite voting of all the entries, next year.

"Safety is our biggest concern," she said. "We hope people will be deterred from running out in the street to get candy. We're trying to figure out the safest way possible. We're asking parade entrants to have walkers to hand it out, not throw it out. We want kids to get candy but be safe."





PHOTOS BY SOPHIE COLB, RAVALLI COUNTY
4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT

Youth Workday volunteer Braxton Bugli cleans a horse stall at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds as part of volunteering to earn his entry tickets for 2026.

Youth Workday

Increased expenses and a tighter county budget resulted in a 6-hour workday so 4-H and FFA youth could earn their Ravalli County Fair tickets for 2026.

Fairground Director Melissa Saville said there has always been a charge for youth to attend the fair.

"Some clubs pay, some fundraise or for some of the kids just pay for themselves," Saville said. "This year they had the opportunity to earn their pass."

Sophie Colb, Ravalli County 4-H & Youth Development Agent, said the day was designed out of necessity and resulted in strong citizenship.

"This past year has had its ups and downs but one of the big topics has always been gate entry and youth paying to get into the fair," Colb said. "There were a lot of comments from the community wanting an opportunity for 4-H and FFA kids that show their animals at Fair to get in for free. Understanding the financial side of things - that is not possible. The Fair doesn't really make the county money; it costs a lot of money to put on."



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PHOTOS BY SOPHIE COLB, RAVALLI COUNTY 4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT

Above: Youth Workday volunteer Delilah Frausto pulls a large weed at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds as part of volunteering to earn her entry tickets for 2026. **Below:** Youth Workday volunteer Brandon Gertner is painting the side of the poultry barn at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds as part of volunteering to earn his entry tickets for 2026.

This spring, Colb proposed an option. County Commissioners, the Fair Commission, 4-H and FFA leaders and concerned parents agreed on insurance and the plan.

"The Fairgrounds has a volunteer policy that says, 'anyone can come in, fill out paperwork, volunteer for four hours and earn a day pass,'" Colb said.

Her proposal created a one-day, six-hour workday where the youth could earn their week pass.

One hundred and one youth volunteers signed up through the online 4H platform and on the workday 120 youth and parents volunteered to work at the fairgrounds.

Colb contacted Fairground Director Melissa Saville, the county maintenance department, fairgrounds maintenance director Brian Culbertson and all the Fair superintendents to find projects everyone needed completed.

On the Youth Workday, volunteers checked in then were divided into teams.

Projects included the livestock barns, benches for everywhere, food row, rodeo grounds, horse stalls, memorial garden and the main entrance.



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PHOTOS BY SOPHIE COLB, RAVALLI COUNTY 4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENT

Above: Various 4-H youth and volunteers helped to get the rabbit barn set up at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds as part of volunteering to earn their entry tickets for 2026. **Below:** Nora Freeman and Jethro Backes painted benches at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds as part of volunteering to earn their entry tickets for 2026.

"On that day, there were people everywhere volunteering," Saville said.

Colb listed some specifics.

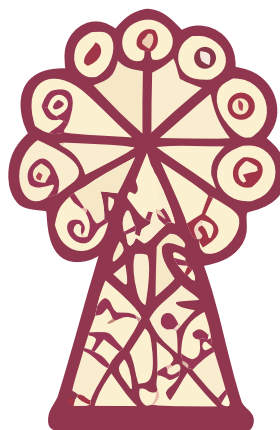
"For the goat barn there was some touch up painting, in the Applebury Arena wood was attached to all of the pens, so the gates in the goat barn are secure, setting up the sheep barn, painting in the swine barn, the rabbit barn was cleaned and kind of set up," Colb said. "For the poultry barn there was assembling cage liners as well as redoing cage numbers and doing pick up from having the barn sitting empty for about a year."

In the dog arena the volunteers fixed fences, scraped and painted bleachers. There were also projects not central to 4H.

"We went to the Rodeo grounds and cleaned stalls, picked up rocks and did weed eating in the shoots," Colb said. "We power washed food row. Our biggest project was scraping and painting benches that the fairgrounds sets around during fair. They have a lot of benches. Our group worked on this all day and a few of them didn't get done. We put up a wood barrier between the dairy and the poultry since they share a barn."

Colb said the Youth Workday was great.

"It was a long day," she said. "It ended in some rain and a thunderstorm, but truly it was a great event and time for our kids to earn a gate pass through some volunteer work and really help better the grounds before fair."





2026 Fair Schedule



RAVALLI COUNTY FAIR & RODEO / 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026

4-H/FFA ENTRY FORMS DEADLINE

5 pm 4-H/FFA Entry Forms due in the Fair Office no later than 5 pm - NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2026

OPEN DIVISION ENTRY FORM DEADLINES

5 pm Open Division Entry Forms due online or in the Fair Office no later than 5 pm - NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED

5 pm Dept. 23 **POETRY POEMS & COVER SHEETS MUST** be in Fair Office no later than 5 pm - NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED



THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026

5 pm 4-H/FFA Dog Show - Obedience & Showmanship - Dog Arena

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

8 pm 4-H/FFA Horse Show and Interviews - Main Arena

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026

12 pm - 6 pm 4-H Interview Judging (Non-perishable) under the Grandstands

2:30 pm - 6:30 pm 4-H/FFA Beef, Dairy, Goat, Poultry, Sheep & Swine Interviews

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026

8:30am - 12:30 pm 4-H/FFA Beef, Dairy, Goat, Poultry, Sheep & Swine Interviews

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026

11 am - 6 pm All Open Division Still Exhibits Due **EXCEPT FLORAL** - See **Monday, August 31 for Floral deadlines**

12 pm Goats arrive in afternoon

1 pm - 6 pm 4-H Interview Judging (Perishable) in 4-H Indoor Barn

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026

8 am - 8 pm 4-H/FFA & Open Division Poultry Check-in at Poultry Barn

9 am Open Division Dairy Goat Show in Applebury Arena

9 am Judging begins in Event Center & Agriculture Barn for Open Division Exhibits - CLOSED JUDGING



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RAVALLI COUNTY FAIR & RODEO / 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



1 pm	Open Division Market Goat Show in Applebury Arena	8 pm	4-H/FFA Mandatory Meeting for Sheep in Hornung Arena	4 pm - 7 pm	4-H/FFA Welcome BBQ - Hornung Arena
2 pm - 7 pm	4-H/FFA & Open Division Rabbit Check-in at Rabbit Barn	TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026		8 pm	All Livestock Exhibits must be in the barns.
3 pm - 7 pm	Open Division Floral Exhibits due in Floral Barn	ALL DAY	Main Arena is closed to any public use or practice (EVENTS ONLY)	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026	
4 pm - 6:20 pm	4-H/FFA Market Goat Weigh-in	8 am - 6 pm	4-H/FFA Beef Weigh-in & Beef Animals Check-in	ALL DAY	Spinning demonstration in the Natural Fiber Arts Department - Event Center
4 pm - 7 pm	4-H/FFA Market Sheep Weigh-in	8 am - 5 pm	4-H/FFA Swine Weigh-in	ALL DAY	BINGO! At the Lions Bingo Booth
6 pm	4-H/FFA Mandatory Meeting in Poultry Barn	9 am	4-H/FFA Dairy Goat Show & Showmanship in Applebury Arena	8 am	4-H/FFA Poultry Breeding Project Interviews in Poultry Barn
6:30 pm	4-H/FFA Mandatory Meeting in Beef Barn	9 am - 5 pm	LAST CHANCE to purchase Pre-sale Carnival Tickets in Fair Office or online before 5 pm	8 am	4-H/FFA Market Swine Show in Iman Arena
6:30 pm	4-H/FFA Mandatory Meeting in Goat Barn	11am - 7 pm	4-H/FFA Dairy Cow Check-in	10 am	RAVALLI COUNTY FAIR PARADE - Main Street, Hamilton
7 pm	4-H/FFA Mandatory Meeting in Rabbit Barn	1 pm	4-H/FFA Poultry Showmanship followed by 4-H/FFA & Open Division Poultry Cage Judging - Poultry Barn	10 am	Exhibit Buildings and Barns Open
7 pm	4-H/FFA Mandatory Meeting in Dairy Barn	4 pm - 6 pm	4-H/FFA Breeding Sheep Check-in	10 am	4-H/FFA Sheep Market Lamb & Feeder Lamb in Hornung Arena
7:30 pm	4-H/FFA Mandatory Meeting for Swine in Hornung Arena				

RAVALLI COUNTY FAIR & RODEO / 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

11 am - 2 pm	Come in for lunch between 11am-2pm and get a refund on gate fee - SOUTH & NORTH GATES ONLY	4 pm - 6 pm	Barrel Race - Wing Barrel Productions in Main Arena	8 am	4-H/FFA Swine Showmanship followed by Kiddie Swine Show in Iman Arena
12 pm	4-H/FFA Pack Goat & Pack Goat Showmanship	5:30 pm	Kiddie Beef followed by 4-H/FFA Market Beef & Miniature Market Beef Show in Hornung Arena	9 am	Kiddie Poultry show in Poultry Barn
12 pm - 8 pm	Wild West Fun Park & Laser Fast Draw - on the lawn by the tractors	6:35 pm	Bitterroot Mountettes in Main Arena	9:30 am	4-H/FFA Rabbit Show in Rabbit Barn
2 pm	CARNIVAL OPENS	6:45 pm	Grand Entry, Prayer & National Anthem in Main Arena	10 am	Exhibit Buildings and Barns Open
2 pm	4-H/FFA Dairy Cow Show in Hornung Arena	7 pm	Ranch Rodeo in Main Arena	10 am	4-H/FFA Dog Rally Obedience Demonstration in 4-H Dog Arena
2 pm - 8 pm	The Caricature Entertainment providing free drawings sponsored by Ravalli County Fair	10 pm	Exhibit Buildings & Barns close	10am	4-H/FFA Sheep Showmanship followed by Sheep Breeding followed by Sheep Costume Contest in Hornung Arena
3 pm	Kiddie Goat in Applebury Arena followed by 4-H Market Goat, Showmanship & Non-Dairy Shows	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026			10 am - 12 pm SENSORY CARNIVAL EVENT
5 pm - 6 pm	Poetry Contest Reading & Awards on Community Stage	ALL DAY	Spinning demonstration in the Natural Fiber Arts Department - Event Center	10 am - 12 pm	Horse, Mule & Donkey Competition in Warm-up Arena
		ALL DAY	BINGO! At the Lions Bingo Booth	10am - 3 pm	Double R Productions Summer Series - Penning Finals Qualifier - Main Arena
		8 am - 10 am	Main Arena open for practice		



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Monday thru Friday 8am – 5pm

RAVALLI COUNTY FAIR & RODEO / 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10 am - 4 pm	4-H Horse at the Fair	1 pm	CARNIVAL OPENS	6:45 pm	Grand Entry, Prayer & National Anthem in Main Arena
11 am	Working Scent Detection Dog Demonstration in the 4-H Dog Arena	1:30 pm	Presentation by Hillary Sargent from Two Poppies Apothecary-Herbs to Grow in your garden & how to use them at the Floral Barn	7 pm	Bulls, Broncs & Barrels in Main Arena
11 am	Cupcake/Cake Decorating Demonstration by Liisa McDivitt owner of Expressions of Sugar in Baked Goods Dept. - Event Center	1 pm - 3 pm	Horse, Mule & Donkey Competition in Warm-up Arena	9 pm	Double R Productions - Summer Series Penning Finals - Main Arena
11 am	Presentation by Aimee Miklovic from Full Bushel Farms on Perennials - Floral Barn	2 pm	4-H Dog Freestyle Demonstration in the 4-H Dog Arena	10 pm	Exhibit Buildings and Barns close
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026					
		2 pm	Threshing Demonstration on Antique Machinery Lawn	ALL DAY	Spinning demonstration in the Natural Fiber Arts Department - Event Center
11 am - 2 pm	Come in for lunch between 11am-2pm and get a refund on gate fee - SOUTH & NORTH GATES ONLY	2 pm - 8 pm	The Caricature Entertainment providing free drawings sponsored by Ravalli County Fair	ALL DAY	BINGO! At the Lions Bingo Booth
12 pm	Dog Powered Sports Demonstration at the 4-H Dog Arena	3 pm	4-H/FFA Beef Showmanship, followed by Breeding Beef in Hornung Arena	9 am	Kiddie Rabbit Show in Rabbit Barn
12 pm - 8 pm	Wild West Fun Park & Laser Fast Draw on the lawn by the tractors	5 pm - 6 pm	Bike Giveaway - on the Community Stage	9:15 am	Open Division Rabbit Show in Rabbit Barn
		6:30 pm	Bitterroot Mountettes in Main Arena	10 am	Exhibit Buildings & Barns Open
				10 am	4-H/FFA Large Animal Round Robin Showmanship Contest in Hornung Arena



RAVALLI COUNTY FAIR & RODEO / 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10 am - 12 pm	Horse, Mule & Donkey Competition in Warm-up Arena	12 pm - 8 pm	Wild West Fun Park & Laser Fast Draw on the lawn by tractors	1 pm - 2 pm	Demonstration: Needles & Thread - Quilting Department - Event Center
10 am - 3pm	Mounted Shooters Clinic in Main Arena	12:30 pm	4-H/FFA Small Animal Round Robin Showmanship Contest in Hornung Arena	1 pm - 3 pm	Horse, Mule & Donkey Competition in Warm-up Arena
10 am	4-H Dog Agility Demonstration in the 4-H Dog Arena	1 pm	CARNIVAL OPEN	2 pm	Adult Tractor Pull in Antique Machinery Arena
11 am	Herb presentation by Jean Israel in the Ag Barn	1 pm	Herb presentation by Jean Israel in the Ag Barn	2 pm	Open Sheep Show; Kiddie Lamb Jackpot Breeding
11 am	Cookie Decorating Demonstration by Jessica Lee owner of Bitterroot Cookie Cutter - Baked Goods Dept - Event Center	1 pm	Machine Maintenance Demonstration in Quilting Department, sponsored by A Clean Stitch - Event Center	2 pm - 8 pm	The Caricature Entertainment providing free drawings sponsored by Ravalli County Fair
11am	Herding Dog Demonstration in the 4-H Dog Arena				
11 am - 2 pm	Come in for lunch between 11am-2pm and get a refund on gate fee - SOUTH & NORTH GATES ONLY				
12 pm - 2pm	Youth Tractor Pull in Antique Machinery Arena				





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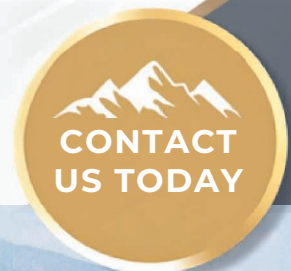
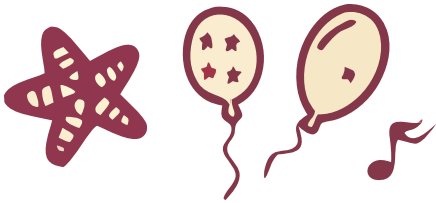
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RAVALLI COUNTY FAIR & RODEO / 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

4:30 pm	KID'S HOUR! Mutton Bustin', Mini Buckerz and Boot Scramble in Main Arena	ALL DAY	Spinning demonstration in the Natural Fiber Arts Department - Event Center	12 pm - 8 pm	Premium Office open for pay-outs
5:30 pm	Parade of Champions in Main Arena	ALL DAY	BINGO! At the Lions Bingo Booth	12 on - 8 pm	Wild West Fun Park & Laser Fast Draw on the lawn by tractors
5 pm - 6 pm	Bike Giveaway on the Community Stage	6:30 am	4-H/FFA Livestock Sale Buyers Breakfast in Hornung Arena	1 pm	CARNIVAL OPENS
6:30 pm	Bitterroot Mountettes in Main Arena	8 am	4-H/FFA Livestock Sale in Hornung Arena. Sale Order: Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Swine & Market Goat	1:30 pm	Presentation by Hillary Sargent of Two Poppies Apothecary - Foraging the Bitterroot at the Floral Barn
6:40 pm	Grand Entry, Prayer & National Anthem in Main Arena	9 am - 1 pm	NRA Rodeo Slack in Main Arena	2 pm	Adult Tractor Pull in Antique Machinery Arena
7 pm	NRA Rodeo in Main Arena	10 am	Exhibit Buildings & Barns Open	2 pm - 5 pm	Bitterroot Gymkhana in Main Arena
7 pm	4-H/FFA Battle of the Barns in Hornung Arena	11:30 am	Barn Hunt Demonstration in 4-h Dog Arena	2 pm - 8 pm	The Caricature Entertainment providing free drawings sponsored by Ravalli County Fair
10 pm	Exhibit Buildings & Barns close	12 pm - 2 pm	Youth Tractor Pull in Antique Machinery Arena	3 pm	4-H/FFA Small Animal Auction in Hornung Arena



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RAVALLI COUNTY FAIR & RODEO / 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

4 pm Presentation by Chris Richards of Allegiant Irrigation - Turf Management at the Floral Barn

4 pm - 8 pm 4-H/FFA Auction Poultry Release - WALK OUT ONLY

5 pm KID'S HOUR! Mutton Bustin', Mini Buckerz & Boot Scramble in Main Arena

5 pm - 6 pm Bike Giveaway on the Community Stage

6 pm Fair Family escorted in the Main Arena

6 pm 4-H/FFA Awards Ceremony in the Hornung Arena

6:30 pm Bitterroot Mountettes in Main Arena

6:40 pm Grand Entry, Prayer & National Anthem in Main Arena

7 pm NRA Rodeo in Main Arena

AFTER RODEO LIVE MUSIC in the Main Arena with 406 PRODUCTIONS

8 pm - 10 pm 4-H/FFA & Open Division Rabbit Release - WALK OUT ONLY

8 pm - 10 pm 4-H/FFA & Open Division Poultry Release - WALK OUT ONLY

8:30 pm - 10 pm 4-H/FFA Non-Market Goat & Sheep Release - WALK OUT ONLY

10 pm Exhibit Buildings & Barns close

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

***ALL Livestock removal times contingent upon processor availability and market animal removal**

7 am - 12 pm Goat Release

8 am - 12 pm Rabbit Release

9 am - 12 pm Poultry Release

9 am - 12 pm Beef Release

9 am - 1 pm Dairy Cow Release

9 am - 1 pm Sheep Release

12 pm - 4 pm OPEN DIVISION EXHIBIT PICK-UP - NO EARLY BIRDS

***Exhibits not picked-up within 7 business days of fair closing become the property of the Ravalli County Fairgrounds and/or disposed of.**

12 pm - 4 pm Premium Office open for pay-outs

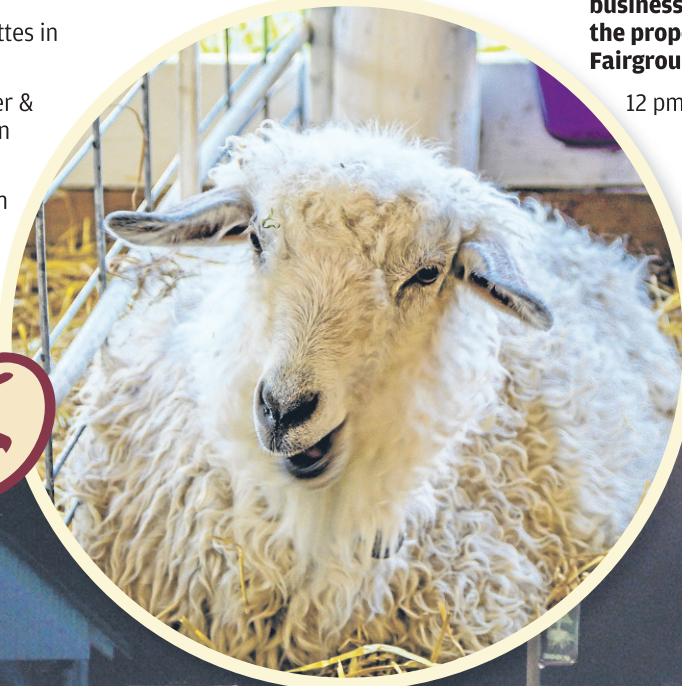




PHOTO BY DOUG MCCONNAHA

Ravalli County Fair Staff Melissa Saville, Leisa Lewis, Theresa Duncan and Grant Cox are eager for the 2026 Fair with a goal of celebrating America 250.

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