



Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program

Fort Peck Reservation-Poplar, MT

The purpose of the federally recognized tribes extension program (FRTEP) is to support Extension Agents who establish Extension education programs on the Indian Reservation and Tribal jurisdictions of Federally-Recognized Tribes. This was enacted in 1990 by the “Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act” known more commonly as the Farm Bill.

The mission is to empower individuals and communities to increase economic opportunities and quality of life, improve nutrition and health, and to protect and enhance natural resources and the environment.

The FRTEP presence has been with the Poplar-based office since 2000. This is a collaborative effort with the Montana

State University-county-based Extension offices, the Fort Peck Community College Tribal Extension Program, and the Fort Peck Tribes. Agriculture, Natural Resources and 4-H Youth Development are what our programs strive to strengthen for our residents.

The Fort Peck Reservation Extension Program aims to address the needs for sustainment of traditional Assiniboine and Sioux values and practices. It also works to teach much needed life skills via 4-H programs to Fort Peck Reservation youth and families. This is needed to create healthy communities, schools, and families across the Fort Peck Reservation where poverty, suicide and school drop-out rates continue to plague Native American families. The program strives to address the need for positive leadership across the reservation.



Cattle winter feeding near Brockton, horses North of Poplar



Welcome to the Fort Peck Reservation

The Fort Peck Reservation is located in the extreme north-east corner of Montana, on the north side of the Missouri River. Poplar is the home to the Tribal Council headquarters. The Fort Peck Reservation is home to two separate Indian nations known as the Assiniboine and Sioux. The reservation is isolated from Montana’s populated areas as well as manufacturing centers, but does border the oil and gas developments. The main economic driver is agriculture. The area is made up of farmers and ranchers, both Native American and non-Native American and the land is rich in natural resources and most recently, oil and gas development. Communities included on the Fort Peck Reservation

are Fort Kipp, Brockton, Riverside, Poplar, Wolf Point, Oswego, and Frazer.



4-H and Youth Development

Fort Peck Youth and Family Development Activities-non traditional 4-H



The Fort Peck Youth and Family Activities Development committee has been re-charged and housed in the Fort Peck Housing Youth division. It

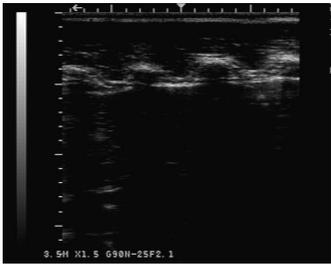


Hunts, Wild West Days activities, Wolf Point Stampede parade, Red ribbon run and the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day. Other 4-H programs involved the Fort Peck Reservation Extension Pumpkin Patch, 4-H camp, teachers training, 4-H fairs judging and ultrasound technology that



is made up of youth serving entities wishing to engage in youth development. The activities serve the seven communities across the Reservation. These can be communi-

ty events or school events. Our activities this year included making the Halloween shooting sports, Christmas making crafts, Valentine nights, Easter Egg



Pictures clockwise: PTO Halloween night, Christmas craft making, Wild West Days parade, ultrasound image of carcass quality grade, Christmas activities.

Tribal Extension Garden and Pumpkin Patch

The Fort Peck Tribes gave the Fort Peck Reservation Extension office use of 99 acres for educational purposes. On it we have grown numerous vegetables, pumpkins, and potatoes. The State Seed lab had potato seed for purchase and we put in 75 lbs of seed potatoes. Other seed was dis-

tributed through the Tribal Elderly Program and to community members. We were able to raise 1000 pounds of potatoes and distribute them to the local Food Bank. In addition, the regular garden produced an additional 500 pounds of food and 250 pumpkins to use for the Kindergarten Pumpkin Patch and all produce raised was given to the Tribal Elderly Program and community members who weren't able to raise a garden or had something damage their existing garden.



Agriculture and Community Programs

Farm Bill Decision Tools

Montana State University (MSU) Extension in partnership with USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) held several series of agricultural producer meetings during the winter of 2015. These were to cover the new facets of the programs authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill). The 2014 Farm Bill authorizes three FSA program election options. Producers were able to make a one-time decision to retain or reallocate crop acreage bases, to retain



or update program payment yields, and elect the type of coverage (price protection, county revenue protection, and/or individual revenue protection) for the 2014-18 crop years. Much producer education was needed to aid producers, so MSU partnered

with FSA to develop a decision tool. This tool was used to input each individual producers information to obtain the best scenario for their operation. Three producer meetings were held in the area, but on the Fort Peck Reservation we also held 4 individual one-on-one help sessions. We were also given a notebook computer to help set up additional training stations. Appointments were also set up individually during office time if needed. This program was very beneficial for answering questions and helping producers become more aware of decisions affecting their future.



Orange Wheat Blossom Midge

Last year, the Fort Peck Reservation Extension Office helped the pest state-wide monitoring project: Orange Wheat Blossom Midge (OWBM). The midge has



been around this area since the 1980's, but was never monitored. It has become a devastating crop pest in the western part of Montana, however in the eastern part of Montana, we don't know how much it affects crop



losses. The midge are caught in traps and number counts are taken every few days during the mid summer months. This year we expanded our collection to



count parasitoids, which are the natural enemy of OWBM. We used a sweep net to collect the insects. Midge were found on all five locations being monitored, even wheat that was damaged from hail.



Some of the counts that were close in location had different degrees of number counts, but research is ongoing for how it affects our areas differently. The midge will continue to be



monitored to see the economic damage that it is causing.

Pumpkin Patch Award National Search For Excellence Award



At the National Association of County Agriculture Agents 100th anniversary meeting, the Fort Peck Reservation Extension Office was awarded a national finalist in the Search For Excellence Program in horticulture. The program included the last few years



of programming from the Tribal Extension Garden, the Kindergarten Pumpkin Patch, the "Trowel and Error" horticulture tours, and rain barrel workshops. Many of the projects were



funded by the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grants.





Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

Becoming safer students and members of the Agriculture community and the Fort Peck Reservation



The Progressive Agriculture Safety Day celebrated its 20th Anniversary to date, serving over 1.4 million children and adults in its service to become safer in our rural landscape. It is a day for fun combining education with 100% hand-on activities.

The Fort Peck Reservation and surrounding area is very rural and students can be as far as three plus generations removed from agriculture. Programs like



this are vital to remind our younger generations to play it safe around farm operations. The safety day was held in this year in Poplar elementary school. Over 400 students and 60 volunteers participated. The school chose programs that in Grain Safety, Chemical Safety, Fire Safety Alone



Students learning how to use everyday items to save a drowning victim in Water safety, learning how to put out a fire using a fire extinguisher and learning distance in Fire safety, students pulling an object to safety in Grain entrapment, chemical look-a-likes and proper pesticide equipment in Chemical safety. Bottom pictures are students K-1 and 2-4.

Safety, First Aid, Water Safety, and Bike Safety. These programs come from the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day Curriculum that also sponsor the t-shirts and insurance to hold a Safety Day. Participants were all given t-shirts to wear, and bags filled with donated safety materials from Tribal departments, local businesses, the Fort Peck Reservation Extension Office, Fort Peck Housing youth activities, and many more.



items such as first aid kits, pencils, sunscreen, reflective arm bands, dust masks, hats, ear protection, latex gloves, insect repellent, stickers, and pens. Participants were fitted with bicycle helmets at the end of the day.

Contact Us



EXTENSION

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