

Judith Basin County Extension - *Education, Research, and Outreach*

Judith Basin Extension strives to impact people's everyday lives through research-based education. The knowledge obtained through Extension strengthens the social, economic, and environmental well-being of families, communities and agricultural enterprises. Extension is truly immersed in the community; through the building of personal relationships we are able to transform everyday lives. Personal relationships allow us to assess needs on a real world level, and provide timely, relevant information to the community. The Extension service is a partnership of Judith Basin County, Montana State University and the United States Department of Agriculture. This partnership provides funding for educational programs in 4-H, Agriculture, and Natural Resources. The following report highlights how the Judith Basin County Extension Office is achieving its mission.



MSU Extension Provides Estate Planning Resources

Everyone knows that they “should” have plans for their property in case of death, but estate planning is a topic that is usually avoided until it is too late. Over half of all Americans die without a will, leaving state and federal laws to determine the distribution of their property. It is a common misconception that only the “old” and “rich” need to worry about estate planning.

In today's society, everyone can benefit from overall financial and estate planning, from farmers and ranchers to business owners to one- or two-income families. To assist Judith Basin County residents with this process, the MSU Extension Office offered an Estate Planning workshop in the county in late fall. Presenter Marsha Goetting, MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist, discussed components of an estate plan and current tax laws that may impact planning decisions.

Who receives your property if you pass away without a written will? Visit www.montana.edu/dyingwithoutawill/property.html to learn more.

Keep in mind Montana Intestate Succession statutes do not control the distribution of payable upon death (POD) deposits, transfer on death (TOD) designations, or joint tenancy with right of survivorship contracts or other contracts in which you have a designated beneficiary such as a life insurance policy, annuities or individual retirement accounts (IRAs).

However, if you have named your estate as the beneficiary or if your designated beneficiaries have predeceased you and an alternative beneficiary is not named, then Montana Intestate Succession statutes apply.



For more information visit the MSU Extension website at www.montana.edu/extensionecon/familyeconomics or by contacting the Judith Basin County Extension Office



Judith Basin County 4-H

Character Grows Here.



Livestock Quality Assurance in Geyser

Montana 4-H Quality Assurance training is a program that is required of animal project members once as a junior member ages 9-13, and once as a senior member ages 14 and up. The purpose of the program is to raise awareness with the members and their families about ethical treatment of animals in day-to-day dealings. Also to teach proper injection site location and how to make sure the market animal product is safe for consumption.



4-H members got a chance to inject oranges and then peel them open to see where the dye went.

This class was available three times in early summer. Each class was approximately one hour long.

es” to “Outdoor Adventure.” And there were dances: every camper came home knowing how to two-step, jitterbug, and line dance, along with learning the words to fun camp songs. Many friends, memories, and treasures were made. Fun was had by all, and for most campers, next year can’t come fast enough.



The Judith Basin County members that attended 4-H Camp this year.

4-H Camp at Camp Rotary

Monday June 8 saw the set up and final planning of the Multi County 4-H Camp for 2015. The camp counselors and Extension personnel met at Camp Rotary to put the finishing touches on the schedule and programming for the week. The counselors played some ice breaker games and got to know each other before the campers came. With final preparations made, the campers arrived Tuesday afternoon and stayed through Friday morning. Camp Rotary has had a lot of upgrades and work done in the last few years. The main lodge and bathhouse are big perks for all who attend. No cold showers! The weather also cooperated for the outdoor activities, which is a rare occurrence in Montana in June. There was sunshine all week, no mud or soggy shoes. Even the water fight felt good!



There were activities that ranged from “The Science of Matter” to “Zentangle” to “Building Treasure Box-

Judith Basin County Fair 2015

The Judith Basin County Fair is the culminating point in a 4-H’ers year. The three-day event takes place every August. The members are able to bring their completed projects to town and present them to the judges for evaluation and recognition. The interviews for each project encourage development of public speaking skills, organization, and record keeping. The life long lessons these members learn in the process of completing their projects will serve them well in the future.





Agriculture and Community Development

Pasture Management Education

This workshop focused on hands-on learning activities, including a pasture walk to evaluate grazing management, plant management, and methods of improving pasture production.

Topics covered included: species selection for dryland and irrigated pastures, defoliation responses of plants, pasture establishment and interseeding, weed management, principles of grazing management and prevention of overgrazing, as well as how to monitor pasture performance. This workshop focused on introduced pasture forage species versus native range pastures, as there are major differences in management of both types of pasture forages. Additionally, Dr. Megan Van Emon, Extension Beef Specialist and Assistant Professor in Miles City, spoke on supplementing animals while on pasture, and how differences in pasture composition and performance may impact supplementation strategies. We are working to develop this workshop into a series that moves around the state and encompasses many different areas and grazing systems.



Bertie Brown supervises participants in the fall Dutch Oven Cooking workshop outside City Hall in Stanford, MT.

Judith River Watershed Nitrogen Project

The two year study that began with the 2013 crop year and continued through the 2014 crop year showed interesting results. The study found that the shale layer present in most of the county is only responsible for 2%-7% of the nitrates in the Moccasin Terrace. Based on soil pit samples, native range is not an important source either. The most important sources were found to be mineralizing organic matter, and fertilizer. When organic matter is mineralized over the fallow period, and then combined with spring fertilization, it can create a pool of nutrients that is susceptible to leaching with a large rain event. In order to counteract a leaching event and use the nitrogen that is in the soil, a continuous crop rotation that includes a legume can diminish the possibility of a major leaching event. Legume crops can be used strictly as a cover crop in between cereals, or as a cash crop sold to a local market. The study conducted found that in the two years measured, the pea-winter wheat rotation produced \$35/ac more net revenue than fallow-winter wheat in the 2014 crop year.

Something to take into account is the nitrate in the ground water has come from a large area over a long time. It will take a collective effort over time to counteract. There is no one source that is at fault, and the project members and producers are working to find a long term solution for all involved.



Attendees enjoy the pasture walk and plant identification section of the workshop.

Dutch Oven Cooking

Dutch oven cooking is one of the oldest and remains one of the most popular methods of outdoor cooking. Back in the days when most every meal was fixed over an open hearth, one tool that was indispensable for quality cooking was the Dutch Oven. Lewis and Clark listed it as their most essential piece of equipment during their great Northwestern trek in the early 1800's. It's fun for the whole family, and community too! Extension offered this class in the fall of 2015.

New Extension Agent Comes Home to Judith Basin County

In January, Katie Hatlelid made a move from Clyde Park to Stanford, and back home to Judith Basin County. A local that majored in Agricultural Education with the Extension Option at MSU Bozeman got to put that degree to use. Since the first blustery week of work, she's been helping to plan,



implement and evaluate programs, workshops and events. Learning along the way, Hatlelid is thrilled to be back home and serving the ranchers, farmers, and 4-H members in the county. Katie is looking forward to the next year of Extension work, and getting to work with the members of the community more closely.

Contact Us



Judith Basin County

www.msuextension.org

Montana State University Extension is an ADA/EO/AA Veteran's Preference Employer and provider of educational outreach.

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