



New Agent to Expand Classroom Outreach

MSU Agent Mat Walter hopes to expand classroom presence county-wide

Mat Walter joined the Montana State University Extension office in Roundup, in October, and has some bright plans for the future in classroom presence in Musselshell and Golden Valley Counties. Mat brings experiences learned while working as the Variety Trial Manger at Southern Agriculture Research Center in Huntley, and most recently as the Education Specialist and Crew Foreperson for the Yellowstone County Weed District in Billings.

He attributes his skills in agronomy and crop science to what he learned from the agronomists at SARC, two of the very best in the state if not the region. While managing noxious weeds on public lands in Yellowstone County he developed a particular skill set in making herbicide recommendations for range and pasture, something he knows will come in handy in the cattle and sheep country of the Musselshell Valley. Managing variety trials in Huntley has given Mat experience with a wide range of crops and cropping systems. He has worked with small grains, row crop, oilseeds and forages in dryland and irrigated settings.

Mat has a broad classroom experience, having worked with students K-12 as well as adult students. The differences are not so wide ranging as one might think as he applies some of the same teaching skills and methods across the board looking for what catches the attention of his classroom, no matter the age group.

Mat's goal is to provide several acreage classes for landowners in the Musselshell Valley, whether they live on three acres or a hundred. The same methods and management solutions can be applied with the goal of having a healthy homestead.



Mat Walter and his wife Lindsay



We would also like to welcome Candace Stamp our new Administrative Assistant. Candace comes to us from South Dakota with plenty of farming ranching and 4-H experience to make her an outstanding addition to the team!

The Musselshell Valley: Fighting Fire and Flood

The Valley has certainly had its fair share of troubles over the last decade. Musselshell and Golden Valley have both stood through fires, floods, bugs and drought. Landowners have done an amazing job of recovering from each. But with fires and floods comes the onset of invasive plants, and unique opportunities for agriculture agents.

Spring of 2016 will see the first of a bi-annual landowners class. The class will span a six week period where topics will include reclamation and restoration of range, pasture and cropland. The classes will each focus on differing aspects of management; soil health, plant diversity, plant selection and rotation; other classes will take hands on approaches to soil sampling and sprayer calibration.

The topics are broad but will be headlined by real struggles of area land owners. Whether with invasive species, poor soils or how to revitalize over-grazing, these topics will help narrow the lessons from broad topics to applicable skills. This allows landowners to always walk away having learned something new, even if the same focus topics are presented each year.

And coming soon will be new web pages and a social media presence from the office! The website will host gal-

eries, newsletters, upcoming research topics and a calendar promoting regional training and seminar opportunities.



Contact Us



EXTENSION

**Musselshell & Golden
Valley Counties**

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