



Montana State University Ravalli County Extension provides educational services and non-biased research information to all citizens of Ravalli County. The breadth of Extension is diverse including agriculture, natural resources,

horticulture, family and consumer sciences and community development. In partnership with local organizations and the through the educational resources provided, we improve quality of life for Ravalli County citizens.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Services provided through our office include plant and pest management, forage testing for nitrates, soil and forage test interpretation, personalized weed and grazing management plans and educational workshops. This year the Ravalli County Extension office provided over 2850 one-on-one consultations and several workshops covering pasture and forage management for animal nutrition, Integrated Pest Management for greenhouses and high tunnels, an initial course for private applicators and classes for small animal owners. In addition, Extension provides oversight to Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage and Master Gardener program.



The Montana 4-H Week of Service occurred in April 2015. The Ravalli County 4-H Teen Council, Ravalli County Master Gardeners and Bitterroot Ecological Awareness Resources partnered on a service project to clean The Patch garden beds at the Daly Mansion. Over 40 youth and adults worked together on the project.

Community Development

Local committees, organizations, businesses and non-profits receive support from Extension through leadership training, grant assistance, and partnerships and projects at the community, county and state level. Extension Agents provide support to committees such as Bitterroot Resource Conservation & Development, Ravalli County Nonprofit Partnership, Right to Farm and Ranch, Ravalli Head Start Policy Board and Ravalli County 4-H Advisory Council and committees.

Family and Consumer Science

The services offered through the Family and Consumer Science program support a healthy society with a mission to empower individuals, families and community to make informed decisions impacting life, health and finances in the home and community. Family finance and nutrition programs were offered in the community with topics including Estate Planning, Creating a Family Budget, Knife Skills: Preparing Foods in the Kitchen, Pressure Canning and more.

4-H Youth Development

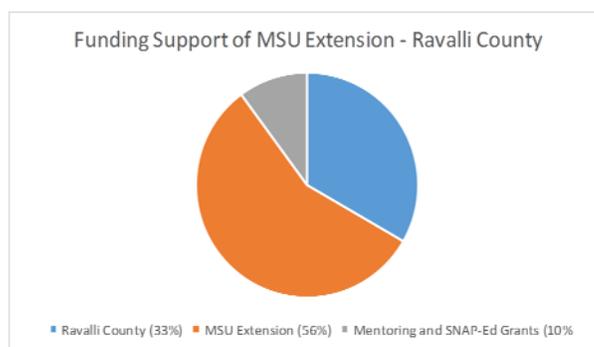
Montana's 4-H Youth Development program in Ravalli County offers experiences for youth to learn, discover and engage, with an emphasis on teaching life skills, responsibility and the value of citizenship. In the 2014-2015 4-H year, the Extension office served nearly 450 youth in 23 community clubs through the assistance of 160 registered volunteer leaders, and reached over 2000 youth through school enrichment, afterschool programming, and the Montana 4-H Mentoring program. Experiential learning occurs through the year with their enrolled projects, ranging from photography to livestock, as well at county-wide opportunities such as the annual junior and teen camping programs.

Every year, Extension continues to build trust, enable better decision-making skills, foster prosperity, instill stewardship and help improve the overall quality of life for Montanans.

County Tri-funded Support

The educational service provided to the citizens of Ravalli County by Extension is the product of a unique financial partnership between Ravalli County Commissioners, Montana Legislature and the land grant university, Montana State University.

For every dollar Ravalli County provides to support the MSU Extension Office in the county, Montana State University Extension's budget provides \$1.99 as direct and indirect support for the county Extension office. Direct support involves cost of agent's salary and benefits. The Indirect Support provides the county office with resources such as publications, plant and pest diagnostic facilities, University Specialist support, and professional development trainings.



Ravalli County and MSU Extension Funding Support. This chart indicates the financial support of MSU Extension in Ravalli County based on Fiscal Year 2014. This partnership is vital to the existence of MSU Extension in every county in Montana.

Supporting Future Leaders

Leadership development. Problem solving skills. Learning by doing.

The Patch

This spring the Ravalli County Master Gardeners took on a new project: The Patch—a youth garden at the Daly Mansion. The garden had been maintained by a long-time volunteer, but when she moved on, the mansion wasn't sure they could keep it up. It had become a treasured destination for many families around the valley. Extension agents Katelyn Andersen and Katrina Mendrey saw it as an opportunity to team up and reach young families with education on growing food and eating healthy.

In keeping with previous management practices the garden is being maintained organically. Visitors to the garden learn about weed control and identification, growing their own food, soil health and conservation, the importance of pollinators and biodiversity in a healthy landscape and how to eat healthy from your own garden.



A Master Gardener helps a young gardener plant spring bulbs as part of the Daly Mansion's harvest party fundraiser hosted at the Patch. Other activities included seed collecting, cider pressing and pumpkin decorating. Over 200 youth attended the event this fall.

The Patch includes several rows of vegetables and fruits, a pollinator garden, herbs, a pumpkin patch and a compost pile. In July and August, Extension hosts classes for children and their families to come learn about gardening and healthy eating through hands on activities. The garden is also used to host an annual fundraiser for the mansion, a cornerstone of our community's heritage. In addition, food grown in the garden is donated to Bitterroot Youth Homes and Haven House. This year, more than 200 pounds of potatoes, onions, tomatoes, squash, beets, carrots and greens were harvested.

Leading Partnerships

Guiding leadership and fostering community partnerships are two facets of the Extension program. This past year, many partnerships were fostered to provide service and education to the community.

This past spring, Montana 4-H advocated for a state-wide Week of



Through participation in community service projects, youth have an opportunity to make positive connections with their peers, the greater community, and the natural landscape of the Bitterroot Valley. The connection created through service often inspires youth to give back to their community in the future.

Service where youth throughout Montana lead a service project. Local teens were inspired to make a difference and join with others to make it happen. In April 2015, the Ravalli County 4-H Teen Council met with the local youth mentoring organization B.E.A.R., Bitterroot Ecological Awareness Resources, to decide a service project that would benefit the community. Youth were empowered to share their own ideas about how they could serve and celebrate Earth Day. They voted to prepare The Patch at the Daly Mansion.

The Bitterroot Cares for Kids Network (BCKN) is another partnership where organizations and Extension partner to support the community. BCKN offered its third annual Find Your Future Fair, where seventh graders in the valley visit over 30 booths educating the students about potential career paths, ranging from wildlife biologist to mechanics. Local school counselors and presenters appreciate the partnership to bring all the students together in one location.

Partnerships abound in almost every Extension program. Usually the partnerships start through a casual conversation discussing a need in the community with individuals who share a common passion and together create a vision of what could happen by helping one another.

Building Healthy Communities

Developing relationships and skills through active learning opportunities.

Montana 4-H Mentoring Program

The Ravalli County 4-H Mentoring Partnership is a partnership between 4-H and the afterschool programs in Darby, Hamilton, and Corvallis. It's a preventative program funded by a grant from the OJJDP (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) and is intended to reach and support underserved youth ages 10-14.



4-H Mentors taught students how to make Red Lentil Curried Dahl in the Global Gourmet cooking club on India, Thursday. "I love this workshop because I enjoy cooking," said Delanie Callaghan, age 12. "It is one of my favorite things to do."

The mentors who participate in the partnership are community members and 4-H volunteers who give freely of at least one hour a week during the school year to help our valley's youth become successful, responsible citizens. They work with afterschool staff and the 4-H Mentoring Site Manager to meet the creative, academic, and social needs of youth by providing homework help, helping out with clubs, serving as 4-H project leaders, and participating in Family Night Out events. When school is not in session, the mentors present workshops using 4-H curriculum. They also provide enrichment activities such as art, cooking, and letterboxing. Throughout the entire year, the mentors listen to the youth, share their knowledge and wisdom, and serve as friends and role models. "I really enjoy this program and spending time with the kids," said one mentor. "I feel as though I'm offering these kids something they need that they might not receive otherwise."

The Ravalli County 4-H Mentoring Partnership is now in its sixth year and makes a difference in the lives of nearly 60 youth a year. It'll soon be expanding to serve even more youth by adding afterschool sites in Florence, Stevensville, and Victor. It's a valuable program and our youth and community are fortunate to have it.

Nutrition Education

With all the information out there on nutrition, how does one decide what to eat? MSU Extension's SNAP-Education Program is one resource. Educators use evidence-based curriculums, pared them down to an easy, colorful and fun series of classes that inspire us all to make healthier choices in the foods we eat. These series are free and offered to income eligible adults as well as first, third & fifth grade students in Ravalli County's Title 1 schools.

SNAP-Ed has seen a big transformation this past year. We are teaching our Eating Smart Being Active series in Stevensville at The North Valley Library, SAFE, HeadStart and our own meeting room at the county building. We are on Facebook and Pinterest too. Just search for Buy Eat Live Better.

Youth classes have grown remarkably at Title 1 schools with a bounce in fifth grade numbers. The children are excited to participate:

'A Stevi youth in a third grade class presented me with a gift of purple potatoes at the end. The entire class was so excited about this gift as their classmate's parents grew the potatoes and they were purple.'

'The Darby third grade class loved the session. They were excited every week to participate. Their teacher rocks! She invited them to draw a thank you card to me using their favorite food group. It was hard to read all these cards and thank them without tears in my eyes.'

Looking forward to the year ahead, we plan to establish improved wellness programs in schools and our community. We will continue to help people improve their overall well-being.



Building healthy communities starts at home. Through our SNAP-ED program, food fact sheets and active learning projects, we provide clients with the skills and resources needed to live healthy lifestyles.

In addition to distributing food fact sheets our office supports nutrition education through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education (SNAP-Ed). This program offers free cooking and nutrition classes to income eligible adults and elementary students in the first, third and fifth grades. A school's eligibility is based on participation in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Overall, the classes focus on helping participants gain skills and learn practical information to help make healthy lifestyle decisions.

Codling Moth

Working with a diverse clientele, MSU Extension has the opportunity to create a bridge of communication between backyard growers and producers. Educating the general public in about pest management, weeds, and insects is important to reducing the potential threat of these pests to producers. Extension has the ability to enhance the quality of life for the individuals and the success of agriculture in our community.

This year Extension managed an education program to increase the public's awareness of integrated pest management through an interactive codling moth monitoring project. Codling moth is one of the primary pests threatening apple crops in Montana. Pressure from wild and unmanaged trees can be detrimental to producers.

As part of the project, eighteen novice orchardists and apple producers from Darby to Florence were given pheromone traps and weather sensors. In turn, the participants reported weekly on the number of moths caught in traps through the growing season. Participants were also instructed on best management practices for controlling codling moth using cultural, mechanical and chemical controls.

Multiple articles were published in the Ravalli Republic about the project and discussing IPM of codling moth. Spray dates calculated based on monitoring results were posted in the paper and over 200 apple tree owners were called or emailed. Nurseries and landscaping suppliers were given Extension resources to help inform customers purchasing chemical control products of proper use and timing.

Participants were surveyed at the start of the monitoring effort and at the end of the season. Seventy percent reported their knowledge of managing codling moth and IPM increased through participation in the project. Several also noted reduced codling moth damage to fruit from previous years.

Ravalli County MSU Extension will continue offering projects partnering the general public with producers to address pest management issues around the valley.



Codling moth development is dependent on temperature. In order to best time spray applications, monitoring for adults is essential to calculating targeted spray times for larva. This strategy involves calculating degree days after the first adults are observed and is used in the monitoring and control of several insect pests.

Contact Us



Katelyn Andersen
Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development
Family & Consumer Sciences



Katrina Mendrey
Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources



Jocelyn Snider
Administrative Assistant



Ravalli County
215 S 4th Street, Suite G
Hamilton, MT 59840

Phone (406) 375-6611

E-mail ravalli@montana.edu

Web www.msuxextension.org/ravalli



Verna Massey
4-H Mentoring Site Manager



Laura Henderson
SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator