

Roosevelt County Extension

Making a Difference

All universities engage in research and teaching, but land-grant universities like Montana State University have a third critical mission – Extension. Extension means reaching out and “extending” resources, solving public needs with university resources through non-formal, non-credit programs.



Missouri Breaks—Culbertson, Montana
Photo courtesy of Genny Nordmeyer

Montana State University Extension is an educational resource dedicated to improving the quality of people’s lives by providing research-based knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of families, communities, and agricultural enterprises. MSU Extension offers university resources for all Montanans to explore, even if they never set foot on campus. We provide access to useful information and expert knowledge via workshops, demonstrations, community meetings, publications, videos and the Web. Extension links a network of MSU faculty, topic specialists on the MSU-Bozeman campus and our Roosevelt County agents, to the people.

The Roosevelt County Extension staff is proud to provide services in the following areas:

4-H Youth Development

Agriculture and Horticulture

Family and Consumer Sciences

Community Development

Welcome to Roosevelt County

Roosevelt County encompasses 2,385 square miles of Montana's land, has a population of approximately 11,125 and averages 4 people per square mile. The county seat is Wolf Point and was founded in 1919. Other incorporated cities include: Bainville, Brockton, Culbertson, Froid and Poplar. The Fort Peck Community College is located in Poplar.



County Tri-funded Support

Programs of the Extension Service are funded cooperatively through a legal partnership among federal, state, and county governments. Research-based education and programming that integrates learning, discovery and engagement to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of individuals, families, and communities would not be possible without this unique funding structure. Quality Extension programming in Roosevelt County is successful due to local financial support from the Roosevelt County Commissioners and community involvement and support. Community input and advisory councils provide ways to identify major issues and plan programs for the residents of Roosevelt County.

4-H: Making the Best Better in Roosevelt County

4-H Members Learn Basic Sewing Skills

The 13th annual tri-county sewing day-camp was held on June 24, with 17 4-H members and leaders from Roosevelt, Richland, and Sheridan Counties learning new sewing skills and techniques.

By participating in learn-by-doing projects and service learning, life skills such as decision making and concern for community were also developed.



Young sewers learn basic sewing skills with their mother's guidance.

Each member constructed a pot holder from recycled jeans to donate to their community. They also made a reversible apron, microwave bowl pot holder, and a table runner.

Comments from the participants were very positive. One said: "I learned how to use a rotary cutter and mat to cut." Another participant said, "I now have four sewing projects completed to enter into the county fair."



Northeast Area 4-H Camp

4-H camps provide positive youth development in an outdoor setting. Programming offers campers a greater chance to learn, develop life skills and form attitudes that will help them to become self-directing and productive members of society. Roosevelt County 4-H members have the opportunity to participate in a multi-county 4-H camp that includes Daniels, Richland, Sheridan, and Valley Counties.

Teen counselors are selected and as a group determine the camp program. They also play an important role at 4-H camp being responsible for leading groups of campers and serving as cabin leaders. During the camp, agents and adult volunteer leaders serve in support roles to the teen leaders and fill in as needed to provide educational programs.



Flag raising ceremony at 4-H Camp

This year's camp included hands-on learning workshops in leathercraft, tin can pencil holders adorned with rope, ATV safety, outdoor cooking, camp photo craft and outdoors activities such as rock wall climbing, swimming, and basketball for 30 campers. The eight counselors and 11 adult volunteers were able to practice a wide variety of skills including leadership, communication, conflict resolution, problem solving, decision making, teamwork, and concern for others during the three-day camp.

4-H camps give 4-H members the opportunity to learn and have fun in a safe environment while surrounded by caring adults. Camp participation helps youth make new friends, develop new skills and become more independent and able to take care of themselves. After camp, 4-H members are better able to make decisions for themselves and take responsibility for their own actions.

Community Development

Community Foundation Awards Grants

The Culbertson Area Community Foundation was able to grant \$4,000 to organizations who completed applications and met the criteria. The two recipients from the Culbertson area include the Culbertson Saddle Club, who will use the money to help purchase round tables, chairs, and folding chair racks.

The Culbertson Museum will use the grant money to upgrade the security and fire system at the museum.



Culbertson Saddle Club "Paint the Barn Red" celebration utilizing the CACF donation.

The Culbertson Area Community Foundation was founded in 2008 with seed money from the community's involvement in an 18-month Horizons Community Leadership Program, funded by the Northwest Area Foundation and delivered by Montana State University Extension. Since that time, the foundation has awarded over \$13,000 in grant funding to community organizations.

The CACF is a tax exempt, public charity. When a contribution is made to the CACF, it is held permanently in an account by the state organization, which manages it along with foundation funds from across the state. The foundation will be providing the resources to address community needs...now and forever.



Representatives from the Culbertson Saddle Club and the Culbertson Museum receive their grant money from the Culbertson Area Community Foundation.

The CACF Board Receives Grant

The Culbertson Area Community Foundation board completed the final requirement for a \$1,000 incentive grant by holding an intergenerational transfer of wealth event on April 29. This award is from the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI), the partnership of MSU Extension, Montana Community Foundation and the USDA.



Amy Sullivan speaking at the CACF intergenerational transfer of wealth event in Culbertson.

Over a dozen community and board members were in attendance to listen to the featured guest speaker, Amy Sullivan, Director of the Montana Office of Gift Planning. The recent Transfer of Wealth Study, sponsored by the Montana Community Foundation, anticipates that by 2020, \$12 billion will pass from one generation to the next in Montana. The study showed that \$61 million will transfer in Roosevelt County. The question is whether any of that wealth will stay behind to better the community that helped build it.

Besides hosting an intergenerational transfer of wealth and legacy giving event, the board members completed 100 hours of training and developed a comprehensive three-year strategic plan. Board members and individuals from the community learned about planned giving, legacy programs, cultivating donors, grant making, leadership, and board recruitment and development.

34th Annual Swank Variety Tour

The Swank family farm north of Poplar was once again the site for an annual field tour, where over 80 producers and their families learned about the benefits of the different yields, test weight, milling, protein and other valued qualities of the different wheat and durum varieties planted in the test plots.

After 28 years, Joyce Eckhoff, Eastern Agricultural Experiment Station interim superintendent and professor of agronomy retired and turned the research and data over to Dr. Chengci Chen, superintendent of the Eastern Agricultural Research Center in Sidney. The data that Chen compiles from the test plots after harvest helps area producers choose which varieties will be most economical for their operation.



Area farmers, businessmen and students view the test plots on the Annual Swank Tour.



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EXTENSION

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