

New Beginnings with Extension in Gallatin County

Welcome to new staff and new programs

This year the Gallatin County Extension office welcomed a new 4-H Agent, Kelton Jensen. Jensen has eight years of experience with Extension in Idaho and brings a fresh face to Gallatin County. The office has seen lots of change in the past two years. With a full staff in place, we look forward to strengthening programs and relationships in Gallatin County.



The road ahead is full of exciting potential!. Just like this photo of Mount Baldy captured by Emily Lockard July 29, 2014. After inspecting a hay field, she thought the view looked inspiring.

As part of Montana State University and the land-grant university system, MSU Extension is a statewide educational outreach network that applies unbiased, research-based university resources to practical needs identified by the people of Montana in their home communities.

Work in agriculture, natural resources, horticulture and youth development is based on local community needs. Gallatin County Extension provides essential resources and expertise that help others reach their goals. The major function of Extension is to provide informal adult and youth education--to help people help themselves. It is action-directed education for helping people solve various day-to-day problems.

The work done by the Gallatin County Extension office could not be done without the support of MSU, but also the County government of Gallatin County. Their support of our office and personnel has allowed us to expand and improve programming throughout the county. We hope you will enjoy learning about what we have been able to do this past year and we look forward to our work in the next year.

Gallatin County 4-H Program

New 4-H Agent

Kelton Jensen took over the 4-H Agent position for Gallatin County on July 7, 2014. Kelton is from Boise, Idaho where he worked at the Ada County Extension Office for eight years in the 4-H program. Kelton comes from a strong 4-H background having been a 4-H member in Nevada as a youth for nine years. Kelton will focus on expanding the 4-H program through both traditional and nontraditional settings and volunteer development.

Volunteers Step Up to Help fill Vacancy

During the seven month vacancy of the 4-H Agent position the Gallatin County 4-H volunteers stepped up to help Emily Lockard the Gallatin County Agriculture agent, keep the 4-H program going strong. Volunteers are the backbone of the 4-H program and they took the lead on many activities and events.

- Volunteers Cyndi Suhr and Janell Barber put on the County Demonstration Day along with a fashion Revue

- Volunteer Lola Brogger helped Emily Lockard organize a hands on Animal Quality Assurance program for the youth in market animal projects. This event included stations run by teens and volunteers.
- The volunteer committees carried a heavy load during the 2014 Gallatin County Fair. The different committees helped organize and run the different shows and events.

The help the volunteers provided showed their dedication to enriching the lives of youth in the 4-H program.



The 4-H concession stand at the Gallatin County Fair is ran by volunteers and 4-H youth members

Gallatin County 4-H Program

Top 4-H Projects in Gallatin County

1. Shooting Sports
2. Swine
3. Dog
4. Horse
5. Cloverbuds
6. Poultry
7. Photography
8. Robotics
9. Sheep
10. Horseless Horse



2013 - 2014

Gallatin County 4-H Numbers

Total enrollment	989
Club enrollment	575
Total number of volunteers	266



4-H Volunteer teaching the Robotics program

4-H Mentoring Program

Christina McRae Holland is the coordinator of the 4-H Mentor program which allows one-to-one mentoring through Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) and 4-H club, and community activities. Gallatin County 4-H Mentor/non-formal programming is greatly enhanced through the collaboration and partnerships of BBBS, Greater Gallatin Food Bank summer programs, Montana State University college volunteers, and Greater Gallatin United Way Kids-LINK working together to strengthen youth development. Gallatin County 4-H has offered mentoring programming services with BBBS for the past 4 years. The summer Food Bank partnership provides a lunch for families, and 4-H implements an hour long activity that engages families. The Greater Gallatin United Way-KidsLINK program continues to work with afterschool and light-on events, with new , 4-Her for a day.

In addition to promoting 4-H community activities and providing quality youth programming, the mentoring coordinator supports family programming. Family programming includes project activities, six family meals during the year, free 4-H club access, and community 4-H events. The families experience 4-H learning first-hand and benefit from both mentoring and club elements.



Mentee, Larry, at cooking school.



Summer lunch program activity with the Gallatin County Food Bank.

- These programs allow over 375 youth to engage in learning, skill development, character building, and community engagement , free of cost. This year 29 youth enrolled into formal 4-H activities such as camps, speech and demonstration, community service, clubs, and the county fair.
- Surveys indicate that program participants increase their social competence skills through participation in the program and will continue to participate in program activities.
- Evaluations show all youth have an increase in self-confidence and an improved outlook on life. They make more positive choices after enrollment in the program.
- Studies show that the more assets young people have, the less likely they will engage in high-risk behavior (Foster, 2001).

Agriculture, Small Acreage and Horticulture

Agriculture Programs

Producers in Gallatin County had another good, but challenging, year. A cool spring started the season late and late summer rains hindered grain and hay harvest. Agriculture agent, Emily Lockard worked with a variety of clients to help them improve productivity on their operations. Programs such as the Beef Producers educational luncheon and the annual Crop School continue to be a well attended avenue to communicate timely information to producers.

Pesticide Safety Education

Safe and proper use of pesticides is an integral part of many agricultural operations. The agriculture program in Gallatin County continues to offer continuing education credits for private applicator at a variety of events.

New this year was a greenhouse pesticide and pest management workshop held on the MSU campus with a portion of the workshop held in the greenhouses on campus. This hands on workshop helped clients with greenhouses learn about management specific to greenhouses. David Baumbauer, Plant Growth Clinic Manager, had a hands on demonstration in the greenhouse on application techniques and Extension Specialists spoke about insect control and safe pesticide use. This workshop brought MSU Extension specialist and clients of the Gallatin Extension office together to learn about a growing industry and safety concerns of pesticide use in greenhouses.



David Baumbauer demonstrates pesticide application techniques at the Greenhouse Pest and Pesticide Management workshop held April 2014.

Weed Control

Emily Lockard worked with the Gallatin County Weed District to secure funding for a Noxious Weed Trust Fund grant. This grant allowed for cost sharing for weed control impacting multiple



Properly functioning rangeland free of noxious weeds is what the Gallatin Extension Office and the Gallatin County Weed District like to see.

landowners that together manage 26,000 acres. The main targets of the project were knapweed, leafy spurge and Canada thistle. This project helped improve the grazing productivity of multiple cattle operations and improve the health of rangeland. Coordination with the Gallatin County Weed District allowed for better insight and assistance to the landowners in this project.

Small Acreage Growth

Small acreage landowners are a growing demographic in Gallatin County. A common concern they have is weed control and pasture management. To work with this growing demographic the Gallatin County Extension office partnered with the Gallatin/ Big Sky Noxious Weed Coordinator, Jen Mohler, to teach a Small Acreage Management six week class. Participants learned about weeds, soils, forages, and grazing management and created management plans for their properties. Offering this class helped small acreage landowners learn useful tools and techniques for managing their property. This was a great way to supplement the one on one contact through the Gallatin Extension office to help this growing clientele manage their properties.

Plant Clinic was Horticultural Success

This was the first year of the Gallatin Extension Plant Clinic. To meet the needs of the community's horticulture questions agriculture agent, Emily Lockard, and Dara Palmer, assistant Master Gardener coordinator, worked to supervise Master Gardeners that volunteered their time to answer horticulture questions in the Gallatin County Extension office. Clients brought in questions by attending the weekly clinic. They also called and emailed questions. Master Gardeners used their training to answer questions, researched answers and referred to specialists at the Schutter Diagnostic Lab questions they couldn't answer. This great resource grew in popularity throughout the growing season. The Master Gardeners enjoyed visiting with clients and learning what issues were appearing in Gallatin County throughout the growing season. Two dedicated volunteers, Launa Romrell and Rick Sanders, put in 131 hours combined. Other Master Gardeners also volunteered, but Launa and Rick both made it to almost every Plant Clinic. They said it was something that made them feel the most impact as Master Gardeners because they could answer so many questions and they were able to visit with so many great gardeners. We look forward to continuing this program next growing season!



Natural Resource Program

The Natural Resource Program continues to grow

Seasons change, leaves change, and programs change. 2014 brought some challenges but mostly many new opportunities to the grant supported Natural Resource Program (Program). Historically, the Program focused on wildfire projection and worked in a successful partnership with the Northern Rocky Mountain Resource Conservation and Development (NRM-RC&D) in Gallatin, Meagher, and Park counties. Over the life of the Program hundreds of properties were left better protected from wildfire thanks in part to this successful effort. However, during 2014 the NRM-RC&D dissolved and the Program migrated completely to MSU Extension. This created an opportunity to increase the scope of the program by adding additional project focus areas.

Through grants and foundation support the program found success in expanding into new project focus areas. The existing funding for



Seeing the forest from the trees. The Natural Resource Program was able to expand its project focus areas beyond wildfire safety into a diversity of new focus areas.

wildfire protection project was expanded to include general

forest health outreach and education. Additionally, funding success developed new project focuses including aquatic invasive species, high elevation forest ecology, and wetland monitoring. The program is poised to continue a successful trajectory as a grant funded program that can serve the needs of the community.

Project Focus	Funding Source	Award
Aquatic Invasive Species	DNRC	\$5,000.00
Big Sky Whitebark Pine	Yellowstone 2 Yukon Foundation	\$3,000.00
Forest Health and Wildfire Protection	DNRC	\$485,000.00
General Funds	Anonymous Donor	\$4,800.00
General Funds	Gallatin County	\$4,800.00
Greater Yellowstone Whitebark Pine	American Forest	\$2,000.00
Technology	FM Global, Inc.	\$1,900.00
Wetlands	Environmental Protection Agency	\$127,000.00
Total		\$633,500.00

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