



Extension Strengthens Gallatin County **by extending research-based resources**

The Gallatin County Extension office is 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. The Gallatin County Extension office plays a pivotal role by connecting researchers and educators on the MSU campus to the people of Gallatin County. We work with local county government and citizens, other county MSU Extension agents and campus-based specialists to collaborate and to develop educational programs and partnerships that make a positive difference in people's daily lives. The result is a dynamic cycle of timely and relevant knowledge, resources and support to help the people of Gallatin County meet new challenges, make informed decisions and take action to improve their own quality of life.

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. Our 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.

Forestry and Wildfire Protection Programs

Changing forests and the continued development of homes in and near the forest has created a hazardous situation for communities and fire professionals.

The need to create a safer and healthier forest environment led Gallatin County Extension and the Northern Rocky Mountain Resource Conservation & Development (NRM-RC&D) to assist landowners in the creation of survivable space around their homes. The program is funded through a DNRC Wildland Urban Interface Grant. The program provides technical assistance for landowners to develop and implement a hazardous fuels mitigation plan or a forest stewardship plan and provides cost share assistance to landowners who implement a their plan. The program's cost share includes assisting with paying for fuels reduction and forest health work, including vegetation clearing, thinning, and trimming.



Thinned trees along an important access road allowing improved access in the event of a wildfire.

Over the last several years the program has reached over 300 landowners and created a safer and healthier forest on more than a thousand acres.

Year	Acres Treated	# Landowners Assisted	Federal Grant Dollars
2008	155	58	\$98,290.00
2009	175	46	\$97,630.00
2010	218	55	\$113,700.00
2011	312	31	\$140,800.00
2012	275	90	\$116,000.00
2013	49	67	\$26,000.00
TOTAL	1,184	347	\$592,420.00

During the summer of 2013 we said farewell to long time Natural Resource Agent, Crystal Beckman and welcomed new Natural Resource Agent Brad Bauer. Bauer will continue the goals of the Forestry and Wildfire Protection Programs by providing direct technical assistance to guide landowners. Areas of work include the South Bozeman Watershed, Paradise Valley, Bridger Canyon, Big Sky, and Meagher County.

Additionally, Bauer is developing funding opportunities to provide programming in additional natural resource topics including noxious weeds, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

Youth Development — 4-H Programs

Youth in 4-H Programs Gain Life Skills

Investing in positive youth development programs such as 4-H is a wise investment into the future well-being of a community because youth learn life skills such as responsibility, goal-setting, record-keeping, budgeting, marketing, team work, conflict resolution, accepting differences, and public speaking, which enable them to become productive citizens and engaged leaders.



From as early as the age of six, 4-H members such as Audrey (pictured here with her runner duck) have the opportunity to learn skills in more than 100 project areas, give back to their community through service learning projects, build self-confidence and hone their public speaking skills. Audrey was the Round Robin Junior Grand Champion Showmanship Winner at the county fair this year.



Shooting Sports is currently the largest 4-H project in Gallatin County. In addition to archery, 4-Hers can compete in air rifle, air pistol, shotgun, muzzle loading, small bore pistol, small bore rifle, hunting and wildlife project, and the Cowboy Action shooting/Western Heritage project. Youth in these programs learn patience, safety, respect, goal-setting, and record-keeping in addition to improving their shooting sports skills.

Currently, the 4-H program is seeking a larger facility to permanently house the shooting sports program in order to be able to accommodate more youth. Gallatin County 4-H hosts the MT 4-H State Shoot each year in March and partners with other youth shooting programs.



4-H offers a variety of programs in addition to project workshops and club meetings. These include a popular 4-H Summer Camp (with ropes course pictured here), the Junior Master Gardener Summer Program, Cloverbud Day Camp, Teen Retreats, Congress, Recreation Lab, Demonstration Day, and Fair. Youth have the opportunity to travel and take on leadership roles at the club, county, and state level.

Top 20 Projects in Gallatin County:

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| 1 - Shooting Sports | 11 - Art |
| 2 - Swine | 12 - Robotics |
| 3 - Dog | 13 - Teen Leaders |
| 4 - Horse | 14 - Vet Science |
| 5 - Photography | 15 - Goat |
| 6 - Food | 16 - Poultry |
| 7 - Cloverbuds | 17 - Jr. Master Gardeners |
| 8 - Beef | 18 - Rabbit |
| 9 - Sheep | 19 - Outdoor Recreation |
| 10 - Sewing | 20 - Woodworking |

The 4-H Youth Program by the Numbers in Gallatin County:

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| 537 | Enrollment of youth ages 6-19 in traditional 4-H clubs and projects |
| 740 | Youth ages 6-19 involved in 4-H activities through Greater Gallatin United Way's kidsLINK afterschool programs, and other mentoring partnership programs such as Big Brothers Big Sisters |
| 1277 | Total number of youth involved in 4-H |
| 130 | Volunteer Leaders working with traditional 4-H clubs and projects |
| 143 | Volunteers working with 4-H in kidsLINK afterschool and other mentoring partnership programs |
| 1,479 | Total educational 4-H projects taken |
| 2.75 | Average # of projects taken per youth |
| 25 | 4-H Clubs |
| 23 | 4-H Project Groups |



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BY
DOING**

Agriculture and Horticulture Programs

Supporting Agriculture

The agriculture program of Gallatin County Extension works with farmers and ranchers to solve real world issues and provides current research-based advice to help producers maintain production and profitability. Agriculture Agent Emily

Lockard joined MSU

Extension in Gallatin County in January 2013. She came to MSU

Extension after working with Extension in Colorado. She

works with farmers and ranchers to help solve production issues, to address questions and to make sure they have the most current information related to their enterprise.

Agriculture is a large part of Gallatin County's economy with cash receipts from livestock of \$38.6 million and cash receipts from crops of \$75.8 million in 2012.

The Gallatin County Agriculture Extension program offers workshops for classroom-style learning opportunities, one-on-one site visits to focus on individual producers needs, phone and email consultations.

General Agriculture services provided are

- Rangeland and pasture forage management
- Weed control and management
- Beef cow/calf production, nutrition and basic management
- Forage management for alfalfa, grasses and small grains
- General forage production
- Farm management and planning
- Grass and forage identification and recommendations for seeding of grass and forages
- Plant identification
- Plant disease diagnostics



Rangeland in northwestern Gallatin County receiving much needed rain Sept. 2013.

As the population of Gallatin County increases, more people are purchasing smaller parcels of land and are eager to learn best management practices. Lockard works with these small acreage landowners focusing on issues such as plant identification, weed control, grazing management, forage production and pasture seeding recommendations.

Horticulture Programs

Gallatin County Extension and MSU Extension Horticulture State Specialists

partner to provide Master Gardener classes in Gallatin County. In 2013, 105 participants attended Level I in Bozeman, 13 participants attended Level 1 in Big Sky and 30

participants attended Level II classes in Bozeman. A total of 507 participants have participated in the

Gallatin County Master Gardener Program since 2010. To pass each level participants must take a test and complete community volunteer hours. By volunteering, participants are able to share the knowledge they gained from the class with their community.

The demand for yearly Master Gardener classes continues as interest in horticulture topics increases in Gallatin County.

Gallatin County Extension participated in the initial year of Extension offices across the state selling Montana Certified

Seed Potatoes to home gardeners. This was a great opportunity for gardeners to purchase a variety of Montana Certified Seed Potatoes as well as an opportunity to educate the public about the importance of growing Montana Certified Seed Potatoes to reduce the spread of potato diseases. This is especially important in Gallatin County as we are the number one seed potato producing county in Montana.



Gallatin County Master Gardeners volunteer at a Farmers Market Booth answering horticulture questions and handing out MontGuides to the public.



Fields of wheat in Gallatin County with views of the Bridger Mountains in the distance.

Montana 4-H Mentoring YFP Program

Reach out to youth in Gallatin county

Gallatin County Extension, through grant funding, provides programming activities for mentoring organizations and programs that make a difference in the lives of youth and the mentoring adult or teenager. The activities use research-based curriculum to reach new audiences and strengthen the 4-H influence in underserved areas of Gallatin county. The programs used different educational 4-H project books to create hands-on learning and personal skill development. The mentoring program works with United Way Afterschool Kids LINK, Big Brother Big Sister, Cap/Thrive, MSU, Gallatin County Food Bank, and Gallatin County 4-H Teens and 4-H program. In 2013 the program reached 896 youth in Gallatin County using educational programs in the following programs:

Big Brother Big Sister Monthly 4-H Activity included 79 youth and 98 volunteer mentors, Gallatin County 4-H Teens, and specialists to produce 11 family nights out and activities in the following program areas; Astronomy, Wild Birds, Gardening, Fishing, Aerospace, Rodeo, 4-Health, and Shooting sports.

Bozeman Afterschool Enrichment had 638 youth participants and 63 MSU volunteer students producing a weekly 4-H activity on information about Entomology and Aerospace.

MSU Agriculture Educators, Hyalite Afterschool program, and United Way worked to produce “Keep the Lights On” afterschool program for 62 youth and their families. The event included activities for youth and families making healthy snacks; exercise stations; putting together the pieces—team building; giving to others in need – service learning project; cooking; and a family dinner.

The Gallatin County Food Bank summer youth lunch program provided youth a lunch and 4-H provided a weekly activity for 117 youth. The youth learned about: dairy production and made ice cream; aerospace paper airplanes and helicopters; growing sunflowers; ice-breaker games; color wheel and painting; and note-holders for communicating with family members.



Hyalite Afterschool Program activities directed by MSU volunteer students.

Contact Us



EXTENSION

Gallatin County

www.msueextension.org

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

Emily Lockard

Agriculture Extension Agent; Department Head

Brad Bauer

Natural Resource Agent

Danica Jamison

4-H Extension Agent; Youth Development

Christina McRae-Holland

Mentoring Partnership Program Coordinator

JaNaie' Veca

Administrative Assistant

Gallatin County Extension

201 W. Madison Ave., Suite 300, Belgrade MT, 59714

Phone (406) 388-3213

E-mail gallatin@montana.edu

Web www.gallatinextension.com