



MSU Extension Education & Research Improving the Quality of Life

In Broadwater County

Townsend Bud and Weed Program: Students and teachers at Broadwater High School are learning a lot more about noxious weeds and are becoming future stewards by creating awareness and teaching others (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) about these nasty invaders. The Broadwater County Extension Office and the County Weed District joined together with BHS to develop a K-12 weed curriculum. Besides weed identification and biology, students also learn and use GPS/GIS technology. In addition to the opportunity to utilize cutting edge technology, students also learn valuable business and life skills. For the past two summers, students have assisted the County in mapping weed infestations along the highways and in special project areas, such as the Crow Creek Weed Management Area.

Toston-Maudlow Fire Weed Control Project: Making landowners aware of the noxious weed issue is just the start of noxious weed education. Having landowners take this knowledge and put it to use is the real success of weed management. After the wildfires of 2000, landowners and local government joined together to create the Toston-Maudlow Cooperative Weed Control project. This group of landowners, county extension and county weed district personnel used \$80,069 in matching funds to leverage \$81,914 in federal and state funds to control noxious weeds and apply revegetation efforts in the area. Landowners moved from awareness and individual efforts to a concerted effort controlling noxious weeds on 17,640 acres. With the help of Broadwater County Extension, the Weed District and the Montana Department of Agriculture, landowners are continuing to work on noxious weeds from Deep Creek Canyon to the Sixmile area.

Montana Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Program (NWSFF): Broadwater County Extension is administratively responsible for the county's Montana Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Program. Certified forage is required in some areas on state and federal land because noxious weeds displace native plant species, reduce biological diversity, increase soil erosion, and decrease wildlife habitat. NWSFF program allows producers to take action and grow NWSFF hay for sale. Extension works with growers to develop management plans that focus on weed-seed free hay and inspects the fields for certification. Since 2002, Broadwater County Extension has inspected 2,256 acres and certified 2,068 acres. Participating growers are providing a product that meets the requirements of niche market and helps limit the spread of noxious weeds on public and private lands.

Community Resource Team Assessment – The Extension agent played the lead role in coordinating and organizing the Resource Team Assessment. MEDA (Montana Economic Developers Association) provided a five-member team of expert individuals who evaluated the county's assets and liabilities and developed suggestions for improving the environment, social and economic future of the area. The Resource Team endured 18 listening sessions where citizens voiced their opinions about the strengths and weaknesses of the county.

Broadwater County Extension Office is located at the Courthouse in Townsend Phone: 406-266-9242



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.

The resource team assessment wrote up their report which included the following main topics: 1) Economy, 2) Natural Resources, 3) Infrastructure, 4) Planning and Land Use, 5) Health and Human Services, 6) Community Capacity, 7) Youth, 8) Education and 9) Public Safety. After the team did their work, it was up to the community to take action by prioritizing, setting goals and objectives to address the issues. Nine active committees were created and they are addressing the issues of highest priority at this time. This will be an on-going process as each of the committees tackles one issue at a time. Community appearance and beautification received the highest priority and economic development came in a close second.

Economic Development: The Extension Agent serves as the lead contact for economic development projects in the county and as chairman of the Broadwater County Development Corporation which focuses on business development through creation and expansion.

Ranch Biosecurity: Agricultural producers are unknowingly prime targets for bioterrorism agents. Biosecurity has become increasingly important with outbreaks in Europe of Foot and Mouth Disease and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Europe and Canada. In June 2004, ten ag producers participated in a beef cattle seminar to learn the truth about BSE (a.k.a. mad cow disease), foot and mouth disease, animal identification and ranch biosecurity. Producers gained knowledge on specific disease symptoms, who to contact if they suspect anything unusual, and biosecurity guidelines to follow on their ranching operations.

Natural Resources: The Elkhorn Mountains, on the west side of Broadwater County, are unique in that this mountain range is the only designated wildlife management unit in the United States. Because of this designation, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks manage the area for trophy elk harvests. The impact, both economically and physically, of big game damage on private land frustrated landowners. The Extension Service facilitated meetings between landowners, public land managers and MT FWP. From this, the Elkhorn Working Group was established to find a workable solution involving all interested parties. MSU and Broadwater County Extension has served in the capacity as technical advisor to the Elkhorn Working Group over the past three years.

Youth Development: Broadwater County Extension Agent has taught classes upon invitation in the Broadwater School system. Topics have included Food Safety, Rangeland Health and Conservation, and Careers in Extension.

Broadwater County 4-H at a Glance

Traditional membership enrollment	85
Volunteer enrollment	20
4-H Clubs in Broadwater County	6
4-H projects in Broadwater County	67

Top 10 4-H Projects

Swine	32
Beef	20
Horse	24
Teen Leadership	20
Shooting Sports	18
Sewing & Needlecraft	16
Food & Nutrition	16
Dog Obedience and Agility	15
Woodworking	8
Rabbit	7
Sheep	7