



MSU Extension Education & Research Improving the Quality of Life

In Glacier County

Agriculture and Horticulture - Agriculture and Horticulture have been a main focus of Extension in Glacier County since the program started. The MSU-Extension office responded to over 300 calls on horticulture and garden crops and nearly 200 calls for agricultural crops. Farmers and homeowners look to the Extension office for pesticide education and for recommendations on how to safely and effectively manage pests. For many farmers, pesticides have become the largest annual production expense; so proper pesticide use and calibration are essential to maintaining a profitable operation. Through education on proper rates, timing and chemical combinations MSU-Extension is providing farmers with the tools necessary to produce high quality crops for the lowest possible cost.

Weed Education - MSU-Extension and the Marias River Basin Weed Control Association sponsored a golf tournament to educate local residents of potential weed problems. Nearly 80 people attended and learned of potential dangers of noxious weeds. Herbicides, biological controls and other cultural methods of weed control were discussed, along with a session on maintaining healthy, weed-resistant rangelands. Some lucky participants were able to take home biological control insects and put them to work on their own land.

Fourth graders at Anna Jeffries Elementary School in Cut Bank participate annually in a bumper-sticker contest with a noxious weed theme. MSU-Extension in Glacier County educates the students and teachers about what noxious weeds are and why they are an important problem for our native plant communities. The bumper stickers are a great way to evaluate what the students have learned, and parents of the students often will ask for more information because of what the students brought home from school.

Technology - Extension in Glacier County has become a resource for businesses and other county offices to learn more about technology and using several computer programs. Extension sponsored classes on PowerPoint, Excel, word processing and using multimedia projectors. These classes enabled offices to better share resources and to be more effective in their efforts.

Glacier County recently purchased an interactive television system and had high-speed lines installed in the courthouse. Local businesses and organizations were not comfortable with the new technology and were reluctant to use it. The Extension Office offered a class on how to use the new system to save time and travel costs for meetings and communication. A hands-on demonstration of the system's capabilities eased some of the worries about using the new technology. Several businesses have reported significant reductions in travel costs because they learned to use the new system.

Glacier County Extension Office is located in the Courthouse Annex in Cut Bank Phone: 406-873-2239



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.

Community Visioning - Residents of Cut Bank attended three community-visioning sessions to develop a plan for Main Street and the downtown area. Main Street in Cut Bank has many empty buildings and lacks a unified look. Local community development organizations and the Extension Office worked with the MSU College of Architecture to help the community find a direction for creating a more attractive appearance that still represented the area. Architecture students attended an initial meeting to learn more about the community and develop an initial vision of what the community wanted.

After the initial meeting, the students returned with drawings and plans for the residents to review. A facilitated session helped determine the preferred drawings and ideas and brought out a more detailed picture of the community's desires. At the final meeting, the students presented plans for renovating Main Street in Cut Bank and creating a more welcoming atmosphere in the town.

Signage and beautification plans are underway, and many other ideas will be utilized as budgets and time permit. This process was very helpful to the city and to local business owners, giving them a more unified vision of the future of Main Street.

Make-a-Splash Day - Area fifth graders had the opportunity to learn about wetlands and water cycles at the second annual Make-a-Splash Day. Area schools made the trip to Lake Frances for the event, spending a full day learning about groundwater, surface water, wetlands, and conservation. Children are the keys to change, so it is very important to get them the truth and make sure they understand how their actions can affect others and their environment.

Glacier County 4-H - 4-H in Glacier County has been an important part of the community and an essential part of Extension for decades. As one of the country's top youth development organizations, the 4-H Program teaches life skills and helps youth learn to be a productive member of a community through community service and confidence building activities.

The four-county Marias Fair is held in Shelby each year and provides 4-H members an opportunity to display the work they have done throughout the year. This year, there was a large increase in interest in the market animal projects. Members learned how to feed and care for their animals and learn about the livestock industry. We had a record 4-H livestock sale this year with gross receipts totaling over \$250,000.

Teen members in Glacier County showed tremendous initiative and leadership in the past year. They have organized food drives, served the weekly soup and bread at the Senior Center and been a tremendous help in promoting the 4-H program in the Glacier County. This year, we have 33 new youth and 16 new leaders enrolled in 4-H. There are a total of 17 new families participating for 2005. This increase is an indicator of the quality work being done by Glacier County 4-H youth and leaders.