



MSU Extension Education & Research Improving the Quality of Life

In Lewis and Clark County

War On Weeds: The fight on noxious weeds starts with education and awareness followed by prevention and management. Extension plays a major role in education and promotion of the War On Noxious Weeds.

Montana Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage: Sixteen producers on 932 acres in the county take part in a program initiated by the Extension Service and local weed district. The program's goal is to sell agricultural products on a state and regional basis to reduce weed seed distribution.

Dollars At Work: The County agent assists, provides coordination and education to 10 active grants from Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund. Over \$822,454.00 annually supports rural areas of the county to manage noxious weeds. Projects cover the Rocky Mountain Front, watersheds of Ten Mile and Little Prickly Pear Creeks, Spokane Creek area (Bucksnot "After the Fire"), snowmobile trails in the Lincoln area, biological projects with Augusta High School Insectary, reclamations and road upgrade in the Marysville area, and education promotion through a "Discovery" billboard, which can be seen on Highway 12 West.

Private Assistants: Public education and training programs support the "restricted and non-restricted use" of herbicides to 270 applicators. Information and resource materials are distributed through workshops and one-on-one contacts by the Extension Service. Education is the key to safe use of chemical and protection of the environment.

Next Generations: 4-H and other youth make a difference in Lewis and Clark County and in the success of our future. The Extension Service spearheads a force of 388 youth and 104 leaders. Forty different activities create and develop leadership through education and experience. Youth programming reaches beyond the 4-H club setting to schools and other youth organizations through the development of life skills in projects such as livestock, nutrition, farm safety, and leadership. School activities provide a variety of hands on experiences that supplement students' classroom activities.

Second Time Around: Grandparent support groups have been developed to work with grandparents that have taken on the raising of their second family. Society has put on our seniors a new task and responsibility. The Extension Service helps to bring in professionals and programs to assist seniors in reaching youth needs.

Know Your Watershed: A Cooperative program was developed for the Prickly Pear Watershed for education on management of a natural resource. Landowners, general public and youth became involved in fishery, water quality, noxious weeds, land management of riparian areas, balancing resources and residential use.

Bite -N- Scratch: A countywide program reached out to residents to familiarize them with mosquito management and the West Nile Virus and the effects on domestic animals. To raise awareness, public sessions and publications were developed as a resource to reduce concerns of local citizens.

Lewis and Clark County Extension Office is located in the City County Building, Room 207 in Helena Phone: 406-447-8346



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.

Destination-Community United: Business representatives, private citizens, and community professionals meet regularly to develop strategies that will promote tourist interests and determine community needs. These are requirements of a program called Community Tourism Assessment Program (CTAP). Resource assessment and a public survey of perspectives provided knowledge to direct and support the Helena area's community involvement. The goal is to bring people to town for business, fun, recreation, and to entice the historical appetite of in and out-of-state travelers. Being a destination is much greater than being on a transportation corridor between national and international attractions.

"After the Fire" – Bucksnot: This project evolved from the fire in 2001 and has initiated community involvement to reclaim damaged areas caused by and after the disaster. The five-year project covers 38,791 acres owned and managed by over 700 landowners.

Presently the major effort by the Extension Service is to coordinate, monitor and educate residents of the area with basic management and renovation practices. Management of area resources include grass and tree plantings, herbicide, bio-control and grazing programs with sheep/goats.

Agri-security: Homeland security reaches into the rural areas of our county. Extension Service had the opportunity to represent agriculture and to develop strategies and educational awareness programs to manage emergency and security issues through cooperative efforts with local, county, state and federal agencies.