



# MSU Extension Education & Research Improving the Quality of Life

## In Mineral County

**4-H and Youth** Sixty-five 4-H members and 21 leaders participated in 25 different projects. Five members and 2 leaders attended 4-H Congress. Three members attended 4-H youth camps. Shooting Sports Project competed and won at State and national events (NRA, National Guard, 4-H, ROTC). Mineral County community support is at an all time high, fundraisers earned \$10,000+. The money is used to foster increased opportunity for youth and leaders.

**Economic Development** MSU Extension, Mineral County is the Economic Development Office for the county. The Office assists new and existing businesses with startup and expansion efforts, business plans, finance packages, grant writing and administration. The office also manages the county's revolving loan fund (RLF). The RLF is a product of three successful Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications. The money paid back from the loans is then revolved back to loans to other businesses. The MSU Extension, Mineral County this past year secured \$47,000 in grants for local business and a \$240,000 CDBG for a local business. All of the activity of this effort saved 11 full time positions and created 7 new positions. These efforts were all accomplished in cooperation with the Montana Department of Commerce, USFS, and local financial institutions. Through the efforts of MSU Extension, Mineral County is represented through the Bitter Root RC&D, Bitter Root Economic Development District (EDA), Western Regional Development Corporation (a coalition of Sanders, Lake, Lincoln and Mineral Counties economic development functions), and the Montana Economic Development Association (MEDA).

**Agriculture and Natural Resources** As of August 1, 2004, Dave Brink, the Mineral County Weed Supervisor took on a half time appointment as county extension agent. His duties primarily involve weed education, pasture and vegetation management, natural resource education and 4-H and youth. As the county changes demographically, new small landowners move in from other parts of the country. There is an ever-increasing demand for knowledge in the area of small acreage management. This half-time FTE greatly assists the Extension effort in Mineral County. Through this increased presence in the County, MSU Extension Mineral County has seen a 17% increase in contacts in these subject areas since August.

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Mineral County Extension Office is located at 301 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave East in Superior Phone: 406-822-3454



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.