



# MSU Extension Education & Research Improving the Quality of Life

## In Musselshell-Golden Valley Counties

### **Musselshell County Weed District**

Landowners cooperated to develop a joint plan between themselves and BLM to keep their agricultural lands free of noxious weed invasion. The Weed District area gives the landowners the tools to prevent weed invasion and educate recreationists and others about the dangers of noxious weeds. This program was made possible by a grant from the Noxious Weed Trust Fund.

### **GPS/GIS Programs**

Numerous GPS training classes were offered in Musselshell/Golden Valley Counties and surrounding counties to landowners and county officials involved in Disaster Emergency Services and Law Enforcement. The programs included how to use GPS units and how to incorporate the data gathered into a map and data set for future use. Many who have used the skills learned to improve farm and ranch management and noxious weed invasion through mapping the weeds and other important locations, such as water wells and land borders.

### **Drought Mitigation**

Drought continues to affect ag production in Musselshell/Golden Valley Counties. The ag agent worked with producers to find ways to deal with the ongoing drought. The agent helped producers analyze livestock forage strategies, ration balancing, forage nitrate levels, and livestock drinking water quality. The agent also has several moisture probes set up around the county that measure the soil moisture at many different depths to graph the constantly changing moisture levels with hopes of anticipating drought conditions.

### **Animal Quality Assurance Training**

All 4-H members are required to attend an Animal Quality Assurance (AQA) class with a parent or guardian prior to attending the county fair. Adult involvement in youth projects is beneficial, but youth exhibitors still need to do a majority of the work. 4-H members learn the methods of raising their animals in a safe and ethical manner.

### **FSNE**

The Montana Food Stamp Nutrition Education (FSNE) Program provides educational programs for food stamp households. Our nutrition assistant provides a series of lessons or single demonstrations with practical information and skill-building tips for choosing better foods, food handling, food storage and food safety practices. FSNE partners with numerous community agencies and organizations to optimize effective programming and to make participants job ready and healthy. Adult and youth groups have been reached, as well as developmentally disabled adults.

### **Private Pesticide Applicator Training**

The Musselshell/Golden Valley County Extension Agent teamed up with Rosebud/Treasure County Office to educate licensed private pesticide applicators. Through this program, producers learn to use pesticides safely, economically, and efficiently.

**Equine Safety** - Musselshell/Golden Valley Counties 4-Her's are now required to participate in a series of programs developed to teach youth the safe methods of handling and riding horses. These programs go over equipment use for riding, such as a certified riding helmet, as well as ground practices to keep themselves safe from accidental injury.

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Musselshell-Golden Valley Extension Office is located at 32 Main Street in Roundup

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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.