



MSU Extension Education & Research Improving the Quality of Life

In Richland County

Richland County Nutrition Coalition (RCNC) was formed in 1995 to identify food and nutrition needs and promote health education countywide. It has involved several hundred children and adults each year in healthy activities, increased community collaborations, utilized small grants and been recognized twice by the Montana Council on Food and Nutrition for taking leadership in nutrition education.

Jump\$tart Coalition formed last year, coordinated countywide financial education for National Teach Children to Save Month. Eight coalition members involved 16 teachers and increased opportunities for 1368 children and parents to participate in financial educational opportunities.

WALK Northwest North Dakota, a pedometer program developed by North Dakota Extension, has been offered twice in Richland and Roosevelt Counties through an across-the-border partnership. The first program showed 59% of 73 participants walked over 12,500 miles and 95% plan to continue walking to reap health benefits from physical activity.

ServSafe, a food safety workshop presented to fair concessionaires resulted in a 38% knowledge increase regarding food safety practices, increased hand washing and proper storage of foods during the county fair, reducing risks of food borne illnesses.

Winter Series: Every year, the extension offices of the six north east counties of Montana collaborate to host an educational workshop series. This workshop is designed to give updates on pertinent research based agronomic information specific to the crops grown in each county. In addition, speakers from the local Ag industry are invited to speak on relevant topics during the workshop. Extension agents use input from constituents to plan and design these programs.

Mon Dak Ag Days Trade Show: The county extension office partners with local Ag business and producer groups to host this program which focuses on successes while educating both the agriculture community and those outside of agriculture. Past speakers have covered such important topics as changes in DOT rules that apply to farm trucks, country of origin labeling, and West Nile virus. The program also features a trade show, Ag in the Classroom programs and a livestock judging contest.

Ag Risk Management Series: Seven northeastern Montana counties collaborated to host this educational effort this past fall. The three week series focused on important financial decisions that face today's agriculture community. County Extension Agents and Specialists worked together to educate producers about estate planning, financial management, and risk management.

4-H Program: Through many different programs, youth have an opportunity not only to learn from their projects, but to learn what it takes to be a leader, speaker, teacher, and a better citizen. A unique program to Richland County is the Wick Dairy Calf Giveaway. Through this program, a junior 4-H member will have the opportunity to raise a dairy cow and learn about the dairy industry by shadowing a local dairyman.

Richland County Extension Office is located at 123 West Main in Sidney Phone: 406-433-1206



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.

BQA Training – Through the Beef Quality Assurance program offered by the local extension office, local producers have the opportunity to certify feeder cattle through the Montana Beef Network and learn the importance of producing a quality product. Studies have shown that BQA certified feeder cattle are worth \$3 to \$5 more per cwt. at sale time.

Nitrate Testing – Nitrate testing of annual forages is offered by the local Extension Office. Producers learn of the potential problems associated with high nitrate forages and also methods to mitigate high nitrate levels. When considering the potential losses from nitrate poisoning, this program has a high positive economic impact.

New Agents – Two new agents were hired this year for Richland County. Ben Larson will focus on crops and horticulture issues while Wade Whiteman works on livestock and 4-H issues.