



MSU Extension Education & Research Improving the Quality of Life

In Sheridan County

Crop Management – This program area focuses on small grain crop varieties, soil fertility, crop rotations and specialty crops. Off-station research plots are established on both dryland and irrigated sites. Sheridan County leads the state in rotational crops including dry peas, lentils, canola, flax and mustard. In addition, Sheridan County is the top durum wheat producing county. Approximately 80% of cropland acres are annual cropped.

Weed Management – Because of the intensive crop production in Sheridan County, producers have intensive weed management programs that include cultural and chemical control. Crop rotations play an important role in managing weed populations. Broadleaf crops have allowed rotation of herbicides to reduce potential weed resistance. Perennial weeds are an important factor for farm managers, and management programs include considerations for long-term strategies for control efforts.

Farm Management – Production costs are rapidly reducing net farm income. This program area focuses on the importance of keeping financial records, determining crop budgets and cost of production information. These are all included in a marketing program to determine breakeven costs and returns associated with the various enterprises.

Beef Production – Sheridan County has an active Stockmens Association. Livestock workshops focus on meeting beef cattle nutritional needs, balancing least-cost rations and the importance of having hay and feed supplies analyzed. The 4-H Carcass Evaluation is held each year in conjunction with the fair, and allows youth and adults to review their feeding and breeding programs.

Noxious Weeds/Pesticide Training – Sheridan County has a full-time weed supervisor that coordinates the noxious weed program. Educational programs are incorporated into pesticide training in order to inform growers of management programs for perennial weeds. There are approximately 130 private applicator license holders who are recertified every five years. The Extension Service coordinates recertification training for these individuals.

Grandparents Day Camp - Sheridan County 4-H, through an innovative program grant has been funding day camps for Grandchildren and their Grandparents or other adult who plays a significant role in their lives. The involvement of a reliable, caring adult helps children develop skills and builds self-esteem and confidence. Through a series of workshops and activities aimed at working together and communicating, participants in the day camps were able to reach a deeper understanding of the other generation and hopefully begin to build a stronger bond of love and friendship.

Sheridan County Extension Office is located in the Courthouse in Plentywood

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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.

Summer Programming for Teachers.(Daniels, Sheridan, and Roosevelt Counties) - For the past 5 years, local educators in grades K-12 have been given the opportunity to attend continuing education classes that focus on curriculum that can be used in their classroom. Approved for continuing education credits this course enables teachers to keep their teaching certification current without having to leave their communities. This cooperative effort among three Extension offices allows teachers to gain needed credits without incurring the expense of traveling great distances.

Youth Coalition – Meth Issues - The Extension Service in Sheridan County has a strong presence on the **Youth Action Council** which has as their mission statement, *"to promote healthy lifestyle choices for the youth of Sheridan County"*. In existence for seven years, the Youth Action Council is comprised of a broad-based group of community interests. The programming emphasis of this group is the prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among the youth of the county. Extension assists in a variety of programming efforts including an after-school program, public seminars, school seminars, "safe night" activities, parent education, meth amphetamine education, and other efforts that are designed to help youth make informed choices about substance use and abuse.

Value-Added Ag Conference – The Northeast Montana Agriculture Conference is a cooperative effort between the Extension Service and the Great Northern Development Corporation. Extension agents (both FCS and AG) are involved in the planning of the program and many are used as speakers for the conference. Participants receive information on traditional Ag and marketing as well as value added Ag and marketing. The main emphasis of the program is showing producers how they can add value to the products they are already producing.