



# MSU Extension Education & Research Improving the Quality of Life

## In Valley County

### Ag Research & Extension

The twenty-third annual Valley County Plot Tour was held on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-five producers traveled 120 miles stopping at 8 locations across the county to see the latest in crop production. A notable result of the crop tours was the tremendous wheat yields last summer – surely a result of the variety improvement made through these research and demonstration plots.

### Horticulture

The “Community Garden” in Glasgow was tilled and prepared for planting on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Ten low-income families utilize the garden. A “hands on” tree pruning and planting workshop was conducted in Hinsdale for the Vo-Ag classes on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Each student pruned a tree branch and planted a tree. Collaborated with Dave Pippin, County Commissioner to plant 200 lilacs on May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Valley County Fairgrounds. Six members of the Glasgow Garden Club were recruited to help with the project.

### Forage Production

Several alfalfa growers participated in the Alfalfa Growers Workshop held on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Sue Blodgett, guest speaker provided producers with a “hands on” approach to the I.D. and control of alfalfa insects. As a service to producers, a “Hay for Sale” list is maintained in the Extension Office, which features approximately 4,000 to 4,500 tons of forage each year. Approximately Thirty percent of that total is tested for nitrates using the “quick test” each year.

### Weed Control

Eighty producers and businessmen attended the Valley County Weed Tour. The tour was focused on the identification and control of salt cedar. Pesticide applicator recertification points were awarded to private and commercial license holders. One-on-one weed ID at the office provided by Ag Agent helps producers identify noxious weeds.

### 4-H

Fourteen 4-Her's participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Horse Camp that was held at the Valley County Fairgrounds where assessments for the various horse projects were conducted. Seventy-five youth are certified in MAQA (Market Animal Quality Assurance). This educational activity provides youth the opportunity to learn more about their market livestock projects. The 2004 top 4-H Market Lamb Carcass in Montana was raised by Chelsie Pattison (MAQA Certified) of the Highlander 4-H Club.

### Ag Risk Management Series

As the result of an agent training in Miles City on Ag Risk Management, the ag agent organized a series of three educational workshops that was held in seven northeastern Montana counties. A team approach by Ag Agents FCS Agents, Regional Department Head & Extension Specialists provided a comprehensive risk management program for agriculture families.

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Valley County Extension Office is located at 501 Court Square in Glasgow Phone 406-228-6241



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.

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### **GPS/GIS Camp**

As the result of a grant obtained by the Valley County Extension Office, Valley County youth learned about GPS/GIS technology at a two day camp. The campers used their skills to map the local Boy Scout camp and to teach their parents about the technology. The county Tech Wizards club has instructed 60 youth how to use a GPS unit and how to locate a "geocache" in the county.

### **Teens in Tourism**

This program has given local teens the needed skills to succeed in the service industry. Taught by a variety of local resources teens have learned job skills and have developed a better understanding of the tourism industry in Montana. Local business owners have commented positively about the improved skill level and proficiency of program graduates that they have hired.

### **Montana 4-H Ambassador Program**

Over 200 Montana teens are members of the Montana 4-H Ambassador Program. This program encourages teens to teach, lead, and mentor in a variety of ways. Not only do the actions of these teen leaders improve our society, but the confidence and self-significance they gain because of their work in this program helps develop them into productive citizens. Debbie Donovan is the key contact for this program in Montana.

### **Community Assessment**

Valley County Extension partnered with the local Economic Development Council to assess communities in Valley County for needs, strengths, and possibilities for economic development in a wide variety of areas. As a result of this program, residents of the town of Opheim came together to address community issues and were able to locate funding to keep the local café open.