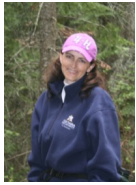




Flathead Reservation Extension Newsletter

The MSU Flathead Reservation Extension Office (FREO) has Moved!

Formerly located in the old Char Koosta Building, FREO moved in mid-January to the CSKT Senior Citizens Center located in Polson. FREO has a beautiful office area in the basement of the Center. Please stop by and meet our team!



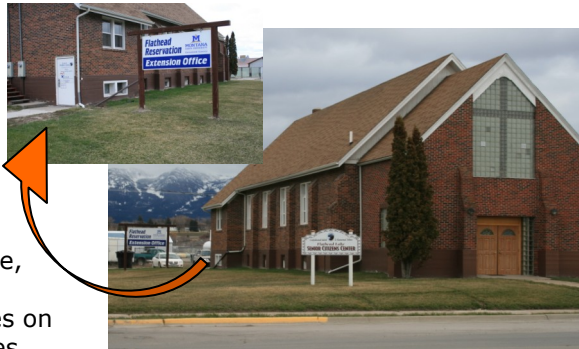
Rene provides extension education in ag & natural resources, youth, food safety, and food preservation.



Ginger teaches nutrition education under the Buy, Live, Eat *Better* Program through MSU. This curriculum focuses on youth and low income families.



Brenda joined the extension office in a temporary position the summer of 2009 and as permanent Program Assistant last fall. Brenda helps ensure extension programs and the office run smoothly.



Your Opinion is Important!

FREO and CSKT are in the process of developing a strategic plan to help guide Extension in the next 3-5 years. This plan will be used to help us better address the educational needs of local citizens. To help guide our future programming, please complete and return the enclosed survey. If you will complete the slip below and return it to our office with your survey, you're name will be entered in a drawing. We will draw two names on April 15th. Please select in which drawing you would like to be entered. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please choose one drawing for your entry:

Weed Publications (value \$50) Food Preservation Publications (value \$50)
Including Weeds of the West



Contact Us

MSU Extension
Flathead Reservation
701-B 1st Street East
Polson, MT 59860
(406) 275-2756 Phone
(406) 883-1491 Fax
[www.extn.msu.montana.edu/
counties/FlatheadRes](http://www.extn.msu.montana.edu/counties/FlatheadRes)

T. Rene Kittle
Extension Agent
(406) 675-2700 Ext. 7375
rkittle@montana.edu

Brenda Richey
Program Assistant
(406) 675-2700 Ext. 7378
flatheadreservation@montana.edu

Ginger Pitts
Buy Eat Live *Better* Program
(406) 675-2700 Ext. 7377
gpitts@montana.edu

- ### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
1. FREO Changes Locations & Your Opinion Matters!
 2. USDA Organic Pastures & Calf Scours
 3. Calf Scours cont...& Pesticide Poisoning Concern
 4. Updated Spray Drift Language & Is Your Number Up?
 5. Is Your Number Up? cont... & Gardening Montguides
 6. Chance to Win Free Books!

USDA organic program sets pasture requirement for cattle

For years, livestock ranchers and organic activists have bickered about how much time dairy and beef cattle should spend in pastures to be certified organic. On Friday, February 12th, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program finally answered that question, in the first major decision to come out of the program since Miles McEvoy left Washington state last fall to run it. "It's been a long time coming," he said in a telephone news conference after the new rule was released. "It's been a very divisive issue within the organic community, and we're happy to put clarity around this issue." The new rule, which becomes effective in mid-June 2010, requires that for organic certification, dairy and beef cattle must spend at least 120 days a year in pastures. There is no acre-per-cow requirement, but the pasture must have enough grass that the animals receive at least 30 percent of their dry matter intake from the pasture during the grazing season. "You can meet this threshold whether you're in Vermont or Arizona," said USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan.

Most organic livestock operations already meet these requirements, she said. Some will have to change the way they operate or give up organic certification, but Merrigan declined to name them. "Businesses have had more than a subtle hint that this was the direction we were going in, and hopefully they have made appropriate plans to change and upgrade their operations," she said. The organic program is requesting public comment on one aspect of the new rule that was not thoroughly addressed by more than 26,000 public comments it received in response to the proposed pasture rule. That involves the "finish feeding" period. Under the new rule, livestock being taken to slaughter - in contrast to dairy cows - are exempt from the 30 percent pasture requirement during the last four months of their lives, known as the "finish feeding" period. They still must have access to pasture.

Public comments on that aspect of the new rule will be taken through April 19 at the National Organic Program's Web site. For a copy of this article go to: <http://license.icopyright.net/user/viewFreeUse.act?fluid=NzExNTQ1NQ%3D%3D>.

[viewFreeUse.act?fluid=NzExNTQ1NQ%3D%3D](http://license.icopyright.net/user/viewFreeUse.act?fluid=NzExNTQ1NQ%3D%3D).

Calf Scours: Causes, Prevention and Treatment

Calf scours or calf diarrhea causes more financial loss to cow-calf producers than



any other disease-related problem they encounter. Calf scours is not a disease—it is a clinical sign of a disease which can have many causes. In diarrheas, the intestine fails to absorb fluids and/or secretion into the intestine is increased. A calf is approximately 70 percent water at birth. Loss of body fluids through diarrhea can produce rapid dehydration. Dehydration and the loss of certain body salts (electrolytes) produce a change in body chemistry and severe depression in the calf. Although infectious agents may be the cause of primary damage to the intestine, death from scours is usually due to loss of electrolytes, changes in body chemistry, dehydration, and change in acid-base balance rather than by invasion of an infectious agent. The infectious agent that causes scours is important, however, from the standpoint of prevention.

The age of the calf when scours begins is an important consideration in its survival. The younger the calf, the greater the chance of death. Recent research has indicated that many scour cases can be directly related to colostrum intake by the newborn calf. A calf that is well mothered and consumes 1 to 2 quarts of colostrum in the first few hours after birth absorbs a higher level of antibodies. This calf is far less susceptible to scours and other calf hood diseases. Treatment for scours is very similar regardless of the cause. It should be directed toward correcting the dehydration, acidosis, and electrolyte loss.



Antibiotic treatment can be given simultaneously with the treatment for dehydration. Dehydration can be overcome with simple fluids given by mouth early in the course of the disease. If dehydration is allowed to continue, intravenous fluid treatment becomes necessary. The clinical signs of dehydration first occur when the fluid loss reaches 5 to 6 percent of the body weight. Ten percent loss of fluid results in depression, sunken eyes, dry skin, and the calf will probably be unable to stand. A 15 percent loss of fluids usually results in death. Oral fluids used early in the scouring process have been quite successful. Consult your veterinarian for electrolytes to be given orally. There are dry electrolyte powders available that can be mixed with water for oral administration.

If electrolyte powders are not available, there are three solutions for oral administration that can be prepared on the ranch:

- Combine 1 can beef consommé, 1 package fruit pectin (Sure-Jell or Pen-Jel), 2 teaspoons low sodium salt (Morton Lite Salt), 2 teaspoons baking soda, and add enough warm water to total 2 quarts.
- Combine 1 can beef consommé, 3 cans warm water, and 1 heaping tablespoon baking soda.



- Combine 1 tablespoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon salt, and 250 cc (8 ounces) 50% dextrose or 8 ounces light Karo syrup, and add enough warm water to total 1 gallon.

Do not overfeed! Administer up to 1 quart of any of these three solutions every 3 to 4 hours, depending upon the degree of dehydration and fluid loss. These solutions can be used as the only source of nutrients for a period of 24 to 48 hours. Do not use milk or milk replacers during this period, as milk in the intestinal tract makes an ideal medium for bacteria such as E. coli to grow. Return the calf to the cow, which has been previously milked out, as soon as the calf is able to follow its mother.

Giving electrolytes orally is always a problem unless the calf will nurse from a bottle. There is an esophageal probe available which works very well for administering oral fluids to calves. This device, or a stomach tube, should be used when giving calves large amounts of fluids. If using a stomach tube, do not go into the stomach with the tube as this puts the material in the nondeveloped rumen rather than into the true stomach where it should be administered. To avoid the rumen, insert only 18 inches of the stomach tube into the calf's mouth. Antibiotics should be used both orally and by injection whenever treating calves for diarrhea. In acute salmonellosis outbreaks, antibiotics may cause the release of excess endotoxins; therefore, consideration should be given to using fluid therapy only. *****It is important to properly diagnose the specific type of scours. Scours can be caused by viral and bacterial infections, nutritional issues or even by parasites. Your local veterinarian can help you diagnose and recommend a specific treatment and future prevention strategy for your herd.**

Ear tag treated calves for identification and keep a daily record on the treatment administered. This aids in evaluating the treatment and utilizing follow-up treatments as necessary. Valuable information can be obtained by having the cows identified and identifying each calf at birth. If an outbreak of scours occurs, persistent treatment and records are essential for doing a good job.

Scour problems are an ever-existing threat to baby calves. A good program of adequate nutrition, sanitation, management and a good herd health program are necessary to minimize the incidence and losses. Early diagnosis and treatment will reduce the threat of a herd outbreak. The correct diagnosis is also very important when considering vaccinations and other procedures for the cow herd the next calving season.



by Don Hudson, D.V.M., R. Gene White, D.V.M., University of Nebraska. For a complete copy of this article go to: <http://www.mtbeefnetwork.org/article/health/scours.html>

Pesticide Updates



Agribusiness, Applicators & Homeowners. Suspected pesticide poisonings raise concern over individuals not reading and following the pesticide product label.

Applicators and homeowners not aware of pesticide product label requirements may be placing themselves, others or the environment at risk. Many pesticide products have low mammalian toxicity which may lead to a false assumption that there is little need to 'read and follow the pesticide product label'. In recent months, the death of 2 children in Utah stresses the importance of following the pesticide product label requirements in all circumstances.

Earlier this month, Rebecca Toone, 4, and her 15 month old sister died after apparently inhaling aluminum phosphide applied commercially near their home to manage rodent populations (Utah Pesticide Poisoning News Story). It seems this fumigant was applied near the residence of the girls, and the commercial applicator *may* have neglected to read and follow the pesticide product label requirements which clearly describe a minimal distance which must be maintained.

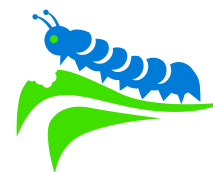
This is not the first time this fumigant has been connected to deaths across the U.S. This fumigant also killed one South Dakota girl in 2000, while sickening a family and killing their 2 year old girl in Lubbock, Texas in 2007 (Lubbock, Texas News Video). All of these incidents are through apparent misuse of fumigants by not reading and following the product label requirements. DO NOT contract anyone to apply fumigants in or near your home if they are not licensed in the category of 'Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health-Related Pest Control'. Applicators and homeowners who are in proximity to aluminum phosphide should be aware of the symptoms of pesticide poisoning:

Mild Poisoning. Mild inhalation causes feelings of sickness, ringing of ears, fatigue, nausea, and pressure in chest.

Moderate Poisonings: Weakness, vomiting, pain above stomach, chest pain, diarrhea, and difficulty breathing.

Severe Poisonings: Severe poisonings include fluid in the lungs, blue or purple skin color, unconsciousness, and death.

Other: In sufficient quantity, phosphide affects liver, kidneys, lungs, nervous system, and circulatory system. Call 911 or an ambulance if the person has difficulty breathing. Always call a doctor or poison control center



Attention All Private Pesticide Applicators

There is a new National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual available. Please make sure you have the most up to date materials when studying for exams and continuing education credits.

for further advice, even if symptoms are mild. Contact 1-800-308-4856 for assistance with human or medical emergencies.

Surveys conducted in 2009 by the MSU Pesticide Education program indicate 1 in 10 certified applicators do not read the entire product label prior to conducting a pesticide application. In addition, 1 in 3 certified pesticide applicators indicated they have been at least mildly poisoned by a pesticide at some point in their career. Either statistic indicates the need for more vigilance following the product label requirements prior to applying pesticide applications. The pesticide product label will indicate how to safely apply your pesticide product without risking the welfare of yourself, your family or others. You may download free pesticide product labels online (www.greenbook.net) or contact your local chemical distributor.

Contact Cecil Tharp, MSU Pesticide Education Specialist regarding this article at 406-994-5067, or send an email to csharp@montana.edu.



◆ Buffer Zone for Non-ULV Aerial Application

Do not apply within 150 feet of aquatic habitats (such as, but not limited to, lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, marshes, ponds, estuaries, and commercial fish ponds). Always be aware of proper wind speed, wind direction, nozzle droplet size and inversions when applying these products. Wind speeds should never exceed 15 mph, never spray into a temperature inversion and use only medium or coarser spray nozzles (for ground and non-ULV aerial applications) for ASAE definition of standard nozzles. See additional details under attachment 2 of this online document (www.greenbook.net). Always read and follow the product label prior to use. Product labels can be obtained at www.greenbook.net.

For more information regarding this pesticide news release, products impacted by this 2008 update, or specific product language see the 'EPA letter on changing drift language' (<http://www.pesticides.montana.edu/News/Miscellaneous/epapyrethroidletter.pdf>) or call Cecil Tharp, MSU Pesticide Education Specialist, (406)994-5067 or send an email to csharp@montana.edu.

Updated Spray Drift Language for Pyrethroid Agricultural Use Products.

Applicators and growers should be aware of changes in the product label language regarding drift when applying pyrethroid pesticides near water. In 2008, product label drift language of many pyrethroid pesticides changed as a result of action taken by the Environmental Protection Agency to further protect human health and the environment (<http://www.pesticides.montana.edu/News/Miscellaneous/epapyrethroidletter.pdf>). Pesticide applicators should pay special attention to drift near water when using the following pesticide active ingredients:

- ◆ Bifenthrin
- ◆ Fenpropathrin
- ◆ Zeta-cypermethrin
- ◆ Deltamethrin
- ◆ Lambda cyhalothrin
- ◆ Cyfluthrin
- ◆ Tralomethrin
- ◆ Esfenvalerate
- ◆ Beta-cyfluthrin
- ◆ Gamma-Cyhalothrin
- ◆ Tefluthrin

When spraying pyrethroid pesticides applicators should always maintain a 10 foot wide vegetation filter strip between field edge and any aquatic habitat. In addition, applicators should maintain a buffer zone:

◆ Buffer Zone for Ground Application (groundboom, overhead chemigation, or airblast)

Do not apply within 25 feet of aquatic habitats (such as, but not limited to, lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, marshes, ponds, estuaries, and commercial fish ponds).

◆ Buffer Zone for ULV Aerial Application

Do not apply within 450 feet of aquatic habitats (such as, but not limited to, lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, marshes, ponds, estuaries, and commercial fish ponds).



Community Corners



Is Your Number Up?

Can emergency services find you? In the event you call 911 can fire protection, law enforcement and medical aid services easily find your home? Emergency personnel know the streets and neighborhoods as well as they can, but rely upon you to clearly display your home address so that it may be seen from your street or driveway. Is your address in a location where the five digit number can be seen day or night?

Many home numbers in the Flathead Reservation/Lake County area have not been updated to the five digit number and still display a three digit number. Other numbers may be obscured by trees, bushes or vines or may have been painted over. Many numbers are simply not visible from the street. Some numbers are displayed but have been neglected and are no longer providing identification for their house. It is important that people understand that address numbers play a key role in their safety. Displaying your house number won't help you in an emergency if the number cannot be seen by emergency personnel.

Put yourself in the place of an emergency vehicle by taking a walk through your neighborhood and identify problem "numbers." Start at the boundaries of your neighborhood. Check all intersections leading to your street. Are your street signs up? Check to see if they can be clearly read from each intersection. Become familiar with your neighborhood. Move down the block toward your house, paying attention to each of your neighbor's homes as you pass. Note the progression of numbers from house to house. Are the homes numbered by 2's? by 4's? or by 6's? Now, move to your own



home. As you look at your own address number, looks for these keys to visibility:



- ◆ **Line of sight:** An emergency vehicle will be moving. As you walk, watch how numbers that are visible from directly in front of the house can become hidden by such things as trees, light poles and recessed doorways. There are better places to put your numbers than others. It's your job to find the best place.
- ◆ **Foliage:** Landscaping can hide address numbers. Address numbers must be kept clear of branches and vines. If this is not possible, you should move the numbers to a better location, and closer to the road on a light pole, mailbox, fence or some other location with a direct line-of-sight to the road.
- ◆ **Contrast:** Do the numbers separate clearly from their background? If not, they may be difficult to see. Poor lighting or bad weather may also reduce visibility and contrast.
- ◆ **Legible Type:** Are the numbers easy to read? Are they in good repair? Are all five digits visible?
- ◆ **Night Visibility:** Are the numbers near a light? Many emergencies occur at night. **Ask yourself this simple question:** Would I be able to locate my address in an emergency?



When installing your house numbers look for the ideal spot on your house, taking these main points into account: **Line of Sight, Foliage, Contrast, Legible Type, and Night Visibility.** Place your address numbers on the most conspicuous spot on your house. Your address numbers should be bold and easy to read. A good guide is 4" high by 1" wide against a contrasting background. Make sure to trim any vines or branches away from the numbers. Always keep your numbers well maintained!

In an emergency, the person placing the call is under stress and can sometimes give the wrong address. Here are some helpful hints when calling 911.

- ◆ Identification stickers should be placed on or near your telephone listing your name, address and phone number. The 911 caller will simply need to read the sticker.
- ◆ Give the 911 operator the color of the house and/or a description of any vehicles outside. If you call 911 at night turn on all the lights in the house. If you have to place the call during the day, turn on the porch light. Let the 911 operator know you have done this so the house "stands-out" for emergency responders.



- ◆ If possible have someone standing on the curb to guide emergency vehicles to the emergency. This is the most effective way to direct emergency services.
- ◆ Multi-unit apartment buildings and condominium complexes can present a big challenge to emergency services. Make sure the layout of the complex is clear at the entrance. A map with the numbering scheme is ideal.

This information has been brought to you by the Flathead Reservation Extension Office and by Jolene Jacobson, DES Coordinator. For more information please contact us at 701-B 1st St East or call 406-275-2756. You may also send an email to flatheadreservation@montana.edu.

Gardening Guide

The 2010 Garden season is upon us! People are planning their gardens and eagerly awaiting the opportunity to get out and dig in the dirt. Still others are busy pruning their trees and surrounding bushes. To help guide our local "home producers" along the way, FREO would like to provide several web-links to Montguides that may help answer a variety of questions. If further help is needed please feel free to contact FREO at any time.



Garden Guide—Home Page

<http://gardenguide.montana.edu/>

Home Garden Soil Testing & Fertilizer Guidelines

<http://msuextension.org/publications/yardandgarden/MT200705AG.pdf>

Can I Grow That Here?

<http://msuextension.org/publications/YardandGarden/MT199308AG.pdf>

Planting a Successful Home Vegetable Garden

http://gardenguide.montana.edu/pdf/veg_garden.pdf

Growing Annual Flowers

<http://msuextension.org/publications/YardandGarden/MT199501AG.pdf>

Choosing Biennials & Perennials for MT Gardens

<http://msuextension.org/publications/YardandGarden/MT199903AG.pdf>

Pruning Deciduous Trees

<http://msuextension.org/publications/YardandGarden/MT199304AG.pdf>

Pruning Fruit Trees in Montana

<http://msuextension.org/publications/YardandGarden/MT199215AG.pdf>

Home Composting

http://www.msuextension.org/ruralliving/Dream/PDF/Manure/Home_compost.pdf

Strawberries in the Home Garden

<http://msuextension.org/publications/YardandGarden/MT199320AG.pdf>

Growing Raspberries in the Home Garden

<http://msuextension.org/publications/yardandgarden/MT199804AG.pdf>

Growing Tomatoes in Montana

<http://msuextension.org/publications/YardandGarden/MT199217AG.pdf>



Flathead Reservation Extension Office

701-B 1st St East
Polson, MT 59860

Making a Difference on the Flathead Indian Reservation

MSU Extension is an equal opportunity/affirmative action provider of educational outreach.



**Complete the
Enclosed Survey
For a Chance to
Receive a Free
Set of Books**

**Two Names Will
be Drawn on
Wednesday,
April 14th, 2010**

See Inside for Details

