

Beef Producer meetings help maximize growth, health and profit

Three MSU Extension beef producer meetings were presented in fall on beef calf marketing, nutrition, and backgrounding weaned calves, and fetal programming affected by winter nutrition of beef cows. Featured speaker Dr. Eric Belasco, Montana State University Agriculture Economics associate professor, discussed current cow-calf marketing cycles. Bob Sager, Meagher County MSU Extension agent and Veterinarian, presented a program on retained ownership, post-weaning health and nutrition toward potential of increasing profit by holding calves for 60 days post-weaning.

Another program explained supplementation of protein during specific gestation periods to increase muscle fiber mass and potentially increase weaning weights for maximum profit. These programs teach basic understanding of specific nutritional programs to return more profit with little input cost post-weaning. This type of Extension education supports increased production and profit for local ranchers.

Meagher County MSU Extension worked with beef cattle producers to formulate custom mineral programs for ranchers, which included both summer and winter mineral formulations specific for beef cow (nursing, breeding, and gestational requirements) and heifer replacement needs. Custom mineral programs aid production goals and often reduce costs. Extension offers ongoing instruction with demonstrations to help area producers analyze forage and water samples.



Local Angus-Simmental bulls on a custom cake and mineral program to promote foot health and increased spermatogenesis for spring sale.



Meagher County cows on a custom cake to promote increased weaning weights and increased reproduction in replacement heifers.

4-H and Youth Development

Extension agent Bob Sager assisted in the local high school animal science classes to dissect and study pigs. Meagher County MSU Extension looks for opportunities to support local youth development through school and community programs as well as through 4-H.

The 2016 Meagher County Fair saw a record number of entries in equine, and a record 4-H and FFA market sale (12% increase from 2015).

4-H is coordinating a fund drive with the 4-H Council to build a new outdoor covered arena for the 4-H and FFA county fair livestock show and sale. Donations and grant writing are being coordinated to achieve our goal for a new structure for 2017.

Bethany Steinken has more than nine years experience in working with 4-H and has increased student involvement the past few years. We are offering three new programs this next year to help accommodate increased enrollment.





Extension programs are offered throughout the year on a variety of topics

- Several pesticide training programs will recertify both commercial and rancher/ farmer operator licenses.
- Marsha Goetting, Extension Family Economics Specialist, presents estate planning programs.
- A crop rotation and pulse crop workshop will highlight new alternative crops.
- Fall forage samples (24) were tested for nitrate for local producers after increased moisture caused regrowth on cereal grains.

Find local Extension information in twice-monthly news articles in Meagher County News, on topics of lawn and garden winterizing, mole and rodent prevention, fungal spruce tree damage, and other concerns.

Contact Us



Meagher County

Meagher County Extension
15 Main Street
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645

Phone (406) 547-3042

(406) 223-2080

E-mail meagher@montana.edu

Bob Sager, DVM PhD

Agriculture Extension Agent
robert.sager2@montana.edu

Bethany Steinkin

Program Assistant; 4-H Youth Development
meagher@montana.edu

We are both here to serve your needs.

<http://msuextension.org>

Montana State University Extension is an ADA/EO/AA Veteran's Preference Employer and provider of educational outreach.