

Wibaux Health Fair “Hops into Health” Once Again

28th Annual Health Fair reaches over 525 Youth and Adults

Just a few days before Easter, the Wibaux Health Fair opened its doors to a crowd of over 525 youth and adults. The theme of the fair, “Hop into Health,” matched the enthusiasm of the Health Fair Committee, volunteers, and attendees.



Lauren Murphree, of the Dawson County Tobacco Prevention Control Program, speaks to a Wibaux resident while the Dawson County Domestic Violence representative mans her booth. The long line of attendees waiting to get their blood drawn is also visible.

The Wibaux Health Fair is a social event as well. Farmers, ranchers, and retirees welcome the opportunity to visit with friends while enjoying a complimentary continental breakfast sponsored by donations from local individuals and businesses. Youth enjoy visiting the hands-on booths and picking up a snack or a free pencil. In its 28th year, the Wibaux Health Fair was held March 23.

With an emphasis on prevention and healthy lifestyles, the Wibaux Health Fair is sponsored by MSU Extension in Wibaux County. The fair has grown to serve more than 500 people with typically over 25 providers exhibiting their health-related services.

With the cooperation of many volunteers and the Wibaux County High School, which serves as the location for the fair, this is one of Wibaux’s most anticipated annual events.

Healthcare in Wibaux consists of a county-owned clinic building staffed two days a week by Glendive Medical Center, and two days a week by Fallon Medical Complex.

Nutrition and health education are essential components needed to emphasize the importance of developing healthy lifestyles. Routine medical examinations also play an important role in prevention, as well as early detection.

The Wibaux Health Fair offers complete blood profiles and a PSA screening for men, at reduced costs. In addition to the blood work offered, the exhibitor services provide blood sugar testing, blood pressures, free hearing evaluations, and a wide variety of services for all ages.

The Health Fair Committee consists of Danielle Harper, County Extension Agent; Patti Goroski, Administrative/ Program Assistant; and Barb Maus, County Health Nurse.

The Health Fair has proven year after year to save members of Wibaux and its surrounding communities thousands of dollars in health care costs. It has also saved the lives of those who have been referred to their primary care physician due to an abnormal blood profile or other screening tests provided at the Health Fair.

Because of the information presented, participants are aware that increased physical activity and improved dietary habits are a necessity to prolong their lives. Offering the blood profile and the PSA screening at a reduced cost encourages people to complete their blood work in a timely and cost-effective manner. Incorporating a variety of informative/ hands-on booths provides supplemental information to those attending.



Frank Datta, Editor of the Wibaux Pioneer-Gazette, visits with representatives from the Wibaux County Nursing Home.

Youth and Enthusiasm Leading the Way in Wibaux County

New County Agent begins her own traditions

Diving into Extension in Wibaux County, Montana, was not at all what I expected. My name is Danielle Harper and in January 2016, I accepted the job as the Wibaux County Extension Agent. My husband, Austin, and I then moved from Dickinson, North Dakota to Wibaux, Montana. I met my husband at Dickinson State University, where we both belonged to the golf team. As recent graduates of DSU, we thought our life adventures would settle down after graduation, but we were wrong. Accepting the job as the Extension Agent in Wibaux County has been the best adventure so far.

We love living in Wibaux and have felt a heartwarming welcome from the whole community. Our first year in Wibaux has been a wild adventure thanks to the opportunity that Extension has given us. I have learned more than I could imagine about topics I had not realized were included in my new job, from running nitrate tests on livestock feeds, to testing drinking water, and numerous weed ID questions. There is always something new happening in Extension. A year has never gone by so fast. "Time flies when you are having fun," and fun it has been.

A few highlights include the thrill of working with our 4-H youth, especially the horse program members. My passion in 4-H was showing my horses

and I feel very fortunate to be able to work with the horse project members in Wibaux County and help strengthen the program by hosting weekly horse clinics.

I have enjoyed hosting a variety of different craft workshops in Wibaux and surrounding communities. Crafting brings community members together for a fun bonding experience and sharing ideas.

Through my position in Extension, I am also tasked with the title of fair manager. The Wibaux County Fair is very important to the community and has always been a huge success thanks to overwhelming volunteer support and resources. Due to incredible community support, my first year as a county Extension agent has been a success. I will never be able to fully thank all the incredible individuals in Extension that have helped me through my first year as an Extension Agent.



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