



## Meet the Gallatin County Agriculture Agent

**H**ello everyone! My name is Josh Bilbao and I am the new Agriculture Extension Agent for Gallatin County. I am very excited to be back in Montana working with MSU Extension and share my agricultural expertise in Gallatin County.

I was born and raised in Livingston. I attended college here at MSU where I obtained my BS in Wildlife Management and my MS in Range Management. I also worked at the university in a research capacity for three years, where we worked with topics such as prescriptive grazing, weed management and wildlife habitat improvements.

I moved to Colorado after I completed graduate school, where I spent eight years working for both Boulder County Parks and Open Space and

the City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks. My main areas of focus were in water resource management, plant ecology, wildlife habitat, education, IPM and agricultural lease management. I managed ag leases that ranged from large scale cow/calf operations to small acreage organic vegetable farms, and just about everything in between! Much like the vision of MSU Extension, our goal with the ag lease program was to be a trusted source of unbiased information to improve the quality of the agricultural operations on the City's property.

I look forward to working with all of you to grow and develop the agriculture and horticulture programs in Gallatin County.



# Gallatin County 4-H teaches youth life skills

## Gallatin County 4-H Goes Viral

The internet is full of videos that can help you fix your car, do a craft project, or just make you laugh. Gallatin County 4-H has started creating videos to help members and families in 4-H. The enrollment process through 4-H Online and then selecting a club and project can be overwhelming for families new to 4-H. Now there is a short five minute video that walks families through the enrollment process. This has helped families understand the enrollment process as well as clarifies and reduces questions for the Extension office during enrollment.

Each year, the first week in October is National 4-H week. Members and volunteers are encouraged to show their support and raise awareness of 4-H in their community. A video was created to give volunteers and members ideas and resources they could use when planning their event during National 4-H Week. Gallatin County 4-H is excited to start offering more videos as a method of communicating with stakeholders. The 4-H staff is exploring other needs and opportunities to use short videos as a way to communicate.



Photo by JaNaie' Veca

## 4-H educates adults as well as youth

The Gallatin County 4-H program takes pride in teaching youth life skills they will need to succeed in life, but there is also a focus on continuing education for adult volunteers. In 2017, Gallatin County 4-H held six youth and adult workshops, along with three combined workshops for both adults and youth. By hosting a workshop for both adults and youth on the same night, attendance has increased as entire families can participate in workshops. The youth workshops are led by one of our 4-H Gallatin County Ambassadors, with a focus around citizenship. Youth have done community service projects, learned about the legislative process in Montana, and how they can better serve their community through 4-H.

At adult volunteer workshops, guest presenters have taught workshops on a broad range of topics, which are chosen from input provided by the Gallatin County 4-H Unlimited Leaders Council. Topics have included: Using Technology in Your Club, Teaching Life skills, Sportsmanship, and Building Communities. The benefits received from attending trainings are the education from the workshop along with networking and building relationships with other volunteers within 4-H. It is vital to the success of 4-H that volunteers continue to learn and grow, just like the youth in the 4-H program.



Photo by Dani Jensen

## Community Compass Newsletter

The Gallatin County MSU Extension office started a community newsletter called 'Community Compass' in the spring of 2017. The newsletter is quarterly, and follows the seasons. The Community Compass features articles from the three program areas within Gallatin County MSU Extension. The Gallatin County Weed

District has served as a guest contributor for the newsletter as well. There is also an "Ask the Agent" section where agents answer a common question they receive during that part of the year.

The mission behind the newsletter is to display the wide breadth of programming offered by Gallatin County MSU Extension. Many of our current clients and partners participate in only one of the program areas offered in Gallatin County. The newsletter educates current and potential clientele about additional opportunities from MSU Extension, as well as season-specific education on topics from 4-H Youth Development and Agriculture and Natural Resources.



Photo by JaNaie' Veca

### contact us:



## EXTENSION

### Gallatin County

903 North Black Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 582-3280  
gallatin@montana.edu  
www.msueextension.org/gallatin



**Josh Bilbao**  
Agriculture  
Extension Agent



**Kelton Jensen**  
4-H Youth Development  
Extension Agent

**Dominique Woodham**  
Natural Resources  
Extension Agent



**Danielle Jones**  
Weed Program  
Coordinator

**JaNaie' Veca**  
Administrative Support