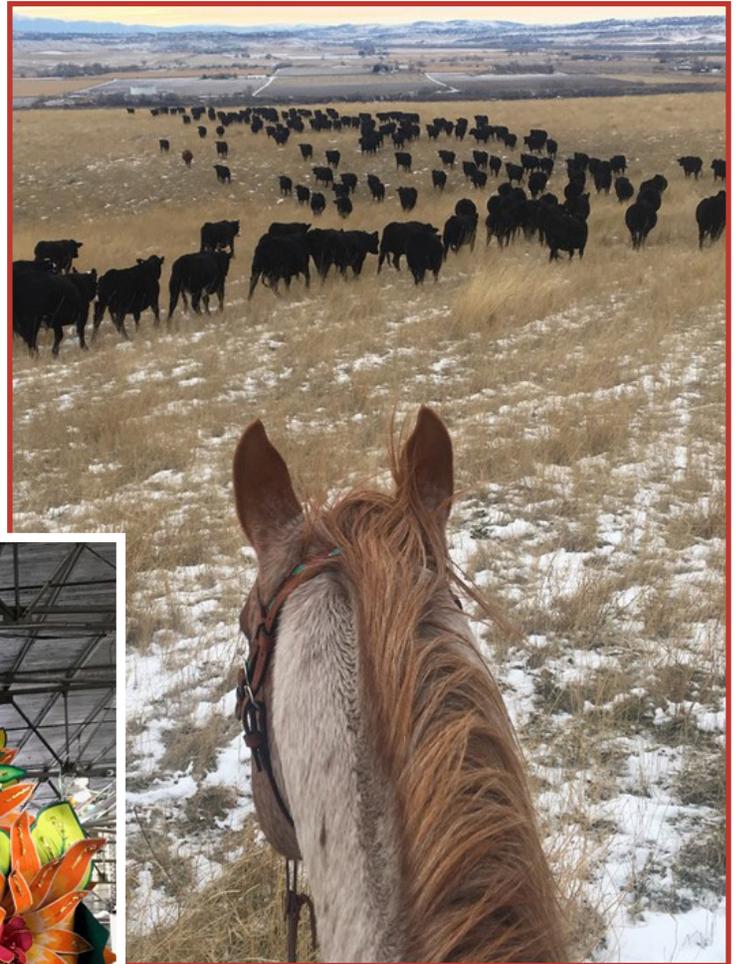




Welcome to Carbon County

The Carbon County MSU Extension Office is located in Joliet and is staffed by Extension Agent Nikki Bailey and Administrative Assistant Sheri Hatten. Assisted by support from Carbon County and its commissioners, MSU Extension has met the needs of clientele across the county including a robust 4-H program with more than 300 members, traditional agricultural producers, and new small-acre landowners. One of the exciting aspects of working in Carbon County is the opportunity to create programming that extends over many different areas of emphasis and groups of people.



ABOVE: Views from Carbon County. LEFT: Nikki Bailey and Sheri Hatten from Carbon County MSU Extension exploring Mardi Gras World in New Orleans with the 4-H Exchange group.

Extension Programs Benefit the Public in a Variety of Ways

Carbon County 4-H Exchange Experiences Louisiana History & Culture

Every year, MSU Extension in Carbon County strives to provide new leadership experiences for the teens within the 4-H program. This past year, the Carbon County 4-H Exchange group traveled to Louisiana to experience the culture, history, citizenship, and unique agriculture in that area of the country. Carbon County teens had the opportunity to visit a crawfish farm, learn about the swamp ecosystem on a swamp tour, explore the National World War II Museum, and experience the culture and history of New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Carbon County 4-H Exchange members reported that, “I learned so much about the history and culture of Louisiana; it is so much different than what we are used to.” Teens gained an appreciation for different cultures and ways of life. Instead of just learning about our nation’s history and diversity in books, they experienced it! A parent leader reported, “Trips like this truly prepare our kids for the future. It not only builds their leadership skills and independence; it also teaches them tolerance and respect for others.”

Through museum tours, interactions with local teens and leaders, boat tours, living history at historic plantations, Cajun food trials, and

so much more, the 4-H teens were truly immersed in the culture and history of Louisiana. Programs such as this build leadership and cultural awareness skills that will serve each of the teens well into their future.

Meeting Producer Needs with New and Longstanding Agriculture Programs

In 2018, the MSU Forest Stewardship Program took root in Carbon County. This four-day program was held in Red Lodge for the first time and involved a combination of hands-on field classes and lecture in the classroom. Carbon County MSU Extension assisted with the implementation and teaching of the class. Participants learned how to gauge the health of their forest, explored different ways to manage their forested land, and built a management plan for their forest. They gained knowledge on aging trees, grazing in the forest, erosion management, and much more. This class was beneficial to both large-scale ranches and small-acreage landowners.

Throughout the year, a constant program of nitrate testing services and recommendations for agriculture producers was offered through Carbon County MSU Extension. Nitrates are a plant-produced compound that can be very detrimental to livestock causing abortion and in severe cases, death, when high amounts are consumed. Hay and forage producers worked with MSU Extension to test and then harvest their hay crop at the most opportune time for decreased nitrate

levels. Several producers in the county approached MSU Extension with concerns about nitrates in cover crops and for recommendations on grazing these alternative crops. MSU Extension tested the crops for nitrates and also provided further information



4-H Exchange members experience a crawfish boil after a farm tour.



on best practices for grazing within this new system. Services and programs such as nitrate testing saved producers thousands of dollars in 2018 and decreased the likelihood of a nitrate poisoning event in livestock in the area.

Learning how to measure the age of trees with a tree core at MSU Forest Stewardship.



Leadership & Communication Programs

From teens to adults, there has been a need in Carbon County and the state to build leadership capacity within communities. Carbon County MSU Extension has been working to address this need with programs for 4-H teens, leaders, and community members. Presentations have ranged from temperament assessments to generational communication discussions. Carbon County MSU Extension has developed a generational communication presentation that provides leaders with the knowledge and skills to understand and work with different generations. This presentation has assisted agricultural families, 4-H leaders, caregivers, and leaders across the region. When individuals understand how generational differences affect communication and decision making, it improves leadership skills and dialog within the group or family. Carbon County MSU Extension also recognized the need for a temperament training for 4-H leaders and taught a REAL Colors program for 4-H leaders, which will be expanded to 4-H parents and new leaders within the county next year. This program teaches a personal understanding of conflict and communication styles and allows for more emotionally intelligent conversations within the 4-H program. Leadership and communication programs within the county have begun to make an impact in many areas. Looking into the future, Carbon County MSU Extension plans to implement more leadership programs to increase the scope and depth of leadership capacity in local communities.



Carbon County 4-H Ambassadors practice leadership at the Carbon County Fair.

contact us:



EXTENSION

Carbon County

PO Box 230
202 State Street
Joliet, MT 59041
(406) 962-3522
carbon@montana.edu
<http://carbon.msuextension.org>



Nikki Bailey
Extension Agent



Sheri Hatten
Administrative Support