

## Welcome to Daniels County

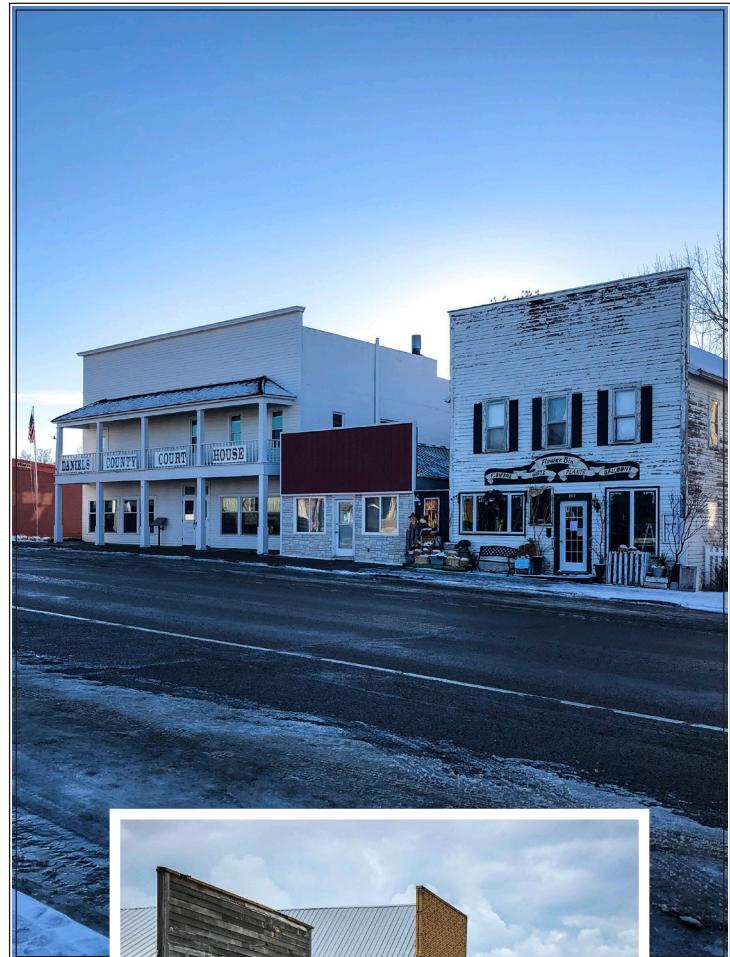
Daniels County MSU Extension is a non-formal educational program designed to help people use research-based knowledge to improve their lives. Since 1922, MSU Extension has successfully provided a service to the citizens of Daniels County in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, family and consumer science, community development, and youth development, including 4-H.

The current population in Daniels County is estimated to be 1,737; there is one K-12 school serving the county. With agriculture being the main industry, Daniels County was considered the most rural county in the continental United States as measured by the Index of Relative Rurality in 2000. Geographically, the county lies south of the Canada-U.S. border with Saskatchewan.

Established in 1920, Daniels County boasts a variety of small-town community events including Lutefisk dinners, snowmobile races, ranch rodeos, and a county fair. Daniels County is also home to its annual Pioneer Days, a weekend-long celebration in June; at the center of the celebration is the historic "Dirty Shame Show," a variety show composed of local talent. Pioneer Days takes place at Pioneer Town, a 20-acre plot just west of Scobey, which houses 35 buildings that have been restored to depict turn of the century homes and businesses.

ABOVE: Daniels County Courthouse and the Flower Bin.

BETWEEN: Local community member, Jim Buer, pulling the "train" at Pioneer Days.



All photos by Inga Hawbaker unless otherwise noted.

# County residents can rely on MSU Extension

## County residents contact MSU Extension with horticultural and agricultural concerns

Starting the first week of June, Daniels County MSU Extension agent Inga Hawbaker was promptly met with an influx of questions regarding gardening, tree health, plant and weed identification, and management decisions that would continue throughout the summer. With the county still showing effects from the 2017 drought, Hawbaker completed many site visits, both in town and rural, to look at various horticultural-related issues such as diseased and pest-afflicted trees, shrubs, garden plants, and lawns. Examples of the cases that Hawbaker encountered this summer included branch die-back, leafcurl ash aphids on Green Ash trees, leaf spot diseases on cottonwood species, cedar rust on serviceberries, and bronze birch borer infestations in birch trees. Hawbaker worked in conjunction

with the MSU Schutter Diagnostic Lab to provide management options to the property owners.

In addition, Hawbaker provided educational resources so that property owners gained a better understanding of the environmental factors that led to the condition of their tree or shrub.

In addition to site visits and seeing walk-in clients, Daniels County MSU Extension offers other services such as nitrate testing and water test kits. The Nitrate QuikTest provides a quick, qualitative analysis regarding the nitrate levels present in forage samples. Several Nitrate QuikTests were conducted for producers this summer in order to help determine a safe cutting window for small grain forages. Forages with high nitrates can be fatal to livestock if consumed. Conducting these tests provided an opportunity for Hawbaker to meet producers within the community and to gain insight into future programming needs.

## Weed and Pesticide Education in Daniels County

Daniels County MSU Extension works closely with the Daniels County Weed District to provide education within the community regarding weed control. Some of the weeds that are considered priority in the county include Canada thistle, field bindweed, narrowleaf hawksbeard, and baby's breath. MSU Extension partners with the Weed District on grants through the Montana



**Leaf curl ash aphid damage.** Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org



Daniels County resident Monica Holland with native Phragmites south of Peerless, MT.



Recycling bin site for empty pesticide containers in Four Buttes, MT.

Department of Agriculture (MDA), which in turn helps alleviate some of the costs associated with annual weed control for the Weed District and provides cost sharing for producers in designated grant areas.

Another area where MSU Extension and the County Weed District partner is the Pesticide Container Recycling Program, also through the MDA. The third partner in the project is Daniels County Solid Waste. The county has four recycling bin sites located in Peerless, Four Buttes, Scobey, and Flaxville. Started in 2009, the focus of the program is to keep HDPE #2 pesticide plastic out of Montana landfills. Over the course of the summer, approximately 11,000 pounds of container plastic was collected by the MDA in Daniels County.

Hawbaker provided a public update on pounds of plastic collected and rejected at the sites in her MSU Extension weekly column in the local newspaper in hopes to generate more awareness and commitment to the project. The update included a reminder to individuals utilizing the sites to triple rinse containers, and remove all lids, foil liners, and pesticide booklets. The products created from the recycled plastic include lawn edging, speed bumps, field drain pipes and pallets; these products were highlighted in the piece to illustrate the resourceful nature of the project to readers.

## Transition in Daniels County

2018 was a period of transition for Daniels County MSU Extension and 4-H. Long-time agent Bobbie Roos embarked on her well-deserved retirement the end of May and Inga Hawbaker was hired at the beginning of June.

Roos was honored for her service by colleagues, faculty and MSU President Waded Cruzado during the President's Tour in Fort Peck in late June. An annual trip, this year the MSU administration's bus tour made a three-day loop through northeast Montana, making stops in Glasgow, Fort Peck, Scobey, Plentywood, Froid, and Wolf Point, before journeying back to Bozeman. The tour titled "Follow the People and Places of Northeast Montana" focused on just that. It included activities such as presentations by area crop producers and agricultural businesses. The portion of the program that took place in

Daniels County included a pulse plot tour, and a rendition of the county's historic Dirty Shame Show-complete with can-can dancers and big band music! The program in Daniels County concluded with a luncheon hosted by community members and local 4-H members. The President's Tour allowed new agent Inga Hawbaker to meet fellow Extension faculty.

Inga Hawbaker, a Miles City native, graduated in spring 2015 from Dickinson State University, in Dickinson, ND, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Studies with an option in Agricultural Marketing. Having moved to the community of Scobey a few years prior, Hawbaker was excited for the opportunity to get back to her agricultural roots and serve the community through MSU Extension.

L to R: MSU President Waded Cruzado, Betty Luckett, Bobbie Roos, and Ronda Cromwell.



Poplar Valley 4-H members and Ronda Cromwell cleaning up after the President's Tour.

**contact us:**



## **EXTENSION**

### **Daniels County**

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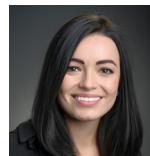
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