



Montana's Short Grass Country

Fallon and Carter Counties are in the farthest-most Southeast corner of Montana. These counties encompass 4,960 square miles of short grass prairies and are home to a population of 4,037. Agriculture is a valued part of the community and history of the area. Deer, elk, and antelope hunting bring visitors from across the country to the area.

MSU Extension services are shared between Fallon and Carter Counties and staff strive to provide quality information and resources on topics ranging from livestock and crop production, home and gardening, to family living to enhance the lives of residents in Montana's short grass country.

Providing unbiased, research-based information to assist land owners and managers

Fallon/Carter County MSU Extension is dedicated to providing land owners and managers with timely information and resources to ensure that land and operations are productive and profitable for years to come.

Educational workshops were held throughout the year focusing on topics that included weed identification and integrated management options, control of invasive plants, water quality for livestock, grazing management, soil properties and more. Furthermore, many producers take advantage of the services MSU Extension provides. Producers can trust bringing samples to the Fallon/Carter County MSU Extension office for testing and identification. Each year numerous forage nitrate tests and livestock water quality tests help producers make management decisions. New plants are brought in for identification and management recommendations. Additionally, producers can get one-on-one assistance when they are faced with



Carter County, Montana

challenging situations on their operations. This year brought a number of challenges with the long, cold winter, leading to a difficult calving season and a limited feed supply. The previous year's drought followed by the harsh winter also caused a change in plant communities in pastures, and producers had questions and sought information from MSU Extension. Additionally, Fallon/Carter County MSU Extension participated in statewide pest monitoring projects to help farmers and ranchers be prepared to manage insect pests. This year, alfalfa weevil and orange blossom wheat midge were monitored and mapped on Montana's Pestweb.



Carter County Range Tour participants learn about how plants recover after being grazed.

4-H Grows in Fallon and Carter Counties

4-H Promotion for Program Growth

MSU Extension in Fallon/Carter Counties and the 4-H Councils from Carter and Fallon Counties have been working to promote 4-H to grow membership and increase knowledge of the diverse project areas 4-H offers. Leaders and 4-H county ambassadors worked with MSU Extension to host 4-H Discover Days in the Baker, Ekalaka, and Plevna Schools for youth in third through sixth grade. Students participated in hands-on activities from non-traditional 4-H projects including: robotics, neuroscience, leathercraft, cake decorating, horse, dairy, sewing, electricity, dog, and water quality. Additionally, 4-H members and their peers were invited to explore new project areas through workshops including dairy, dog, sewing, art, and leathercraft. Beef cattle, rabbit and market swine Animal Quality Assurance workshops were also held to help youth livestock producers raise a wholesome, safe food product. All Fallon and Carter County 4-H and FFA youth enrolled in market animal projects have completed the Quality Assurance requirements for showing and selling at the fair. These interactive programs have provided youth the opportunity to explore interests and learn by doing. Youth have become more competent in their projects and learn more about the vast number opportunities offered through 4-H.



Youth promote 4-H by participating in a 4-H Hay Bale Decorating Contest during National 4-H Week. Fallon and Carter County 4-H Clubs decorated hay bales using the theme "Dive in to 4-H."



At a sausage-making workshop in Ekalaka, participants learn how to make links.

MSU Extension Sausage Making Workshops

Making sausage at home can be a fun way to explore new seasonings and flavors in the convenience of home, and it's a great activity to do with family. You also know exactly what is in your homemade sausage. Multiple MSU Extension Sausage Making workshops were held in southeast Montana. During these hands-on workshops, attendees learned the basic types of sausage and the advantages to making sausage at home. Sausage-making equipment, ingredients and food safety were discussed so that participants could learn by doing in the second part of the workshop. They worked in groups, picked a recipe and made their own sausage. Local meat was used when it was possible. Equipment and supplies for these workshops were purchased through the Montana Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Mini-Grant program.

These workshops will continue to be held for both youth and adults in southeast Montana. Partnering MSU Extension locations include Custer County, Powder River County, Dawson County and Prairie County. Partnering with multiple county MSU Extension locations allows for a greater reach and impact when it comes to food safety.



Participants work together to test out their newly acquired sausage-making skills.

Products of the Prairie Summer Markets Grow

There's nothing more satisfying than the crisp snap of a homegrown carrot, the 'pop' of a jar of jam opening, or that first sweet bite of a homemade pie. Folks could find all of those things, and more, during the Products of the Prairie Summer Markets held in Baker and Ekalaka. For the first time since the market's creation in 2016, it was held as a series of markets instead of just one day.

Products of the Prairie strives to create a family-friendly community event that strengthens the local economy, brings people together and inspires small, locally-owned businesses. This year's markets featured kids and adult activities, educational booths and workshops, and local vendors offered high-quality, locally-grown and handmade items. The event encourages a strong sense of community. People enjoy supporting their neighbors and fellowship with their community at local events.

The planning committee is working on plans to continue to grow and improve the markets for 2019.

A crowd gathers to watch and cheer on Veggie Car Races at the Products of the Prairie Market. Fifth and seventh grade youth used local produce and engineering skills to build the cars.



4-H ADVENTURE PROVIDES GROWTH

MSU Extension in Fallon/Carter County and in Wibaux County teamed up this year to plan the Southeastern Montana 'OREO' trip. The 'OREO' trip is designed for 4-H members in seventh and eighth grade (providing a travel learning opportunity before 4-H members start attending state 4-H events) from Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud/Treasure, and Wibaux Counties. Local youth helped plan the trip location and activities. Fifty-five youth and 11 adults participated in the adventure-packed trip, which included white water rafting, geocaching, team building, and a lot of fun. With each activity, youth gained communication and leadership skills and were encouraged to challenge themselves.

4-H youth and leaders from Fallon and Carter Counties at the entrance to Yellowstone National Park.



contact us:



EXTENSION

Fallon/Carter Counties

10 W. Fallon (Courthouse)
P.O. Box 850

Baker, MT 59313

Baker Tel: (406) 778-7110

Ekalaka Tel: (406) 775-8721

falloncarter1@montana.edu

<http://falloncarter.msueextension.org>



Elin Kittelmann
Extension Agent



Kodie Olsen
4-H Youth Development
Support

Maggie Bainter
Administrative Support