

## Welcome to Meagher County

**M**eeting goals with success at Meagher County MSU Extension in 2018

In 2018, MSU Extension agent Bob Sager set goals to work with beef cattle producers to lower feed costs and help with specific, custom nutrition programs that would provide required nutritional requirements and lower costs of production. Feed costs on most Montana beef cattle ranches are often more than 60% of total costs of a year's production. Two specific programs and workshops were offered in January and September to show producers advantages of winter feeding custom cake and specific, customized mineral programs using "leftover malt barley straw" for lowering winter feed costs. Use of malt barley straw with supplementation has the potential of cost savings of greater than \$56 per cow during the winter feeding period. This can increase profit per cow by as much as 30% in most units. Some ranchers in Meagher County have saved as much as \$45,000 during the year using alternative feed. Montana State University Extension shares current information and the newest research with beef cattle producers to help with decisions that can make production more efficient and profitable. The custom feed and minerals

workshops have gained interest and more ranchers will be involved for 2019.

A new 4-H barn was completed in the past year that benefits the Meagher County 4-H program.

The new metal structure was used for indoor fair projects, the livestock show and sale during the county fair, and for 4-H members training and workshops throughout the year. This structure can be used for community events and other activities in the future and has been a pride for the community, as private donations covered over 50% of the total construction costs.

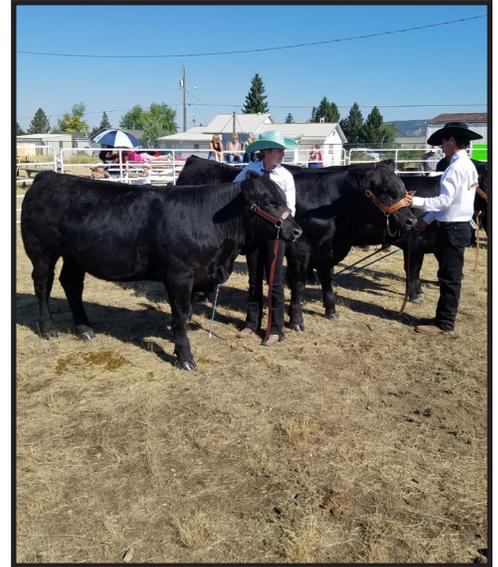
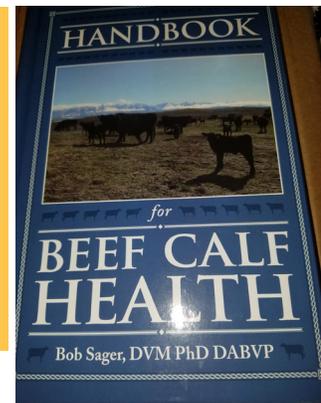


Photo by Bob Sager

MSU Extension agent Bob Sager published a book in August for Montana beef cattle producers to use in production. "Handbook for Beef Calf Health" is a reference book for students, Extension agents, and new beef cattle producers to help inform them of new technology and recommended programs to support improved performance, increased health in beef calves, and increased profit for producers. This book was a completion of a Master's project during Sager's degree work at Montana State University several years ago.



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