



Welcome to Powell County

Hi, my name is Jodi Pauley and I am your MSU Extension agent in Powell County. I am here to provide research-based knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of families, communities, and agricultural enterprises! MSU Extension provides outreach for Montana State University and we are committed to the overall university goals of integrating learning, discovery and engagement.

Clientele benefit from MSU Extension in Powell County in the areas of agriculture, horticulture, 4-H/youth development, community development, and more. The office provides newspaper articles, free publications, and works

with individuals one-on-one in several capacities, provides workshops in numerous program areas, and works with school children and 4-H youth across the county.



Certifying hay on Kleinschmidt Flats near Ovando, Montana.

Gardening with MSU Extension around Powell County

Inmates have opportunity to complete Master Gardener education

Powell County is the home of Montana State Prison and Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE). MCE provides daily training to over 500 inmates in the areas of vocational, agriculture and industry programs. While working with MCE in the summer of 2017, Pauley realized that there was a need for a Master Gardener class for inmates. Several of the inmates had asked Extension agent Jodi Pauley for horticulture information, MontGuide factsheets, and any types of literature related to gardening and horticulture. Pauley approached the MCE Ag director about holding a class and he was open to the idea, and in January of 2018, the first Master Gardener class was held at MCE.



Toby Day, MSU Horticulture specialist talking tree health.

There were six inmates allowed to take the class, all with an interest in gardening and the horticulture industry. The inmates interacted with instructors, did exceptionally well on the test, and all of them completed their

volunteer hours. For their volunteer hours,

they built six handicap-accessible raised gardening beds for the Community Garden in Deer Lodge and grew and planted all the flowers for the Powell County Museum and Old Prison Complex.

Comments from the inmates included: “thank you for this wonderful class, your wealth of knowledge and expert guidance added yet another tool to the toolbox. This was invaluable information I will use the rest of my life and I cannot wait for the next level.” Another inmate commented that he had two potential future employers and they were delighted to hear about his new knowledge through the Master Gardener program.

Pauley felt it was a new challenge to work with the inmates through her Extension work and enjoyed giving them skills that they can apply in their everyday life as well as having additional skill sets once they are released from prison.

Harvesting the Garden

Powell County MSU Extension Agent Jodi Pauley and Master Gardener Sheila Gill teamed up to spend six weeks teaching fourth grade students of Deer Lodge the fundamentals of gardening. Students learned about soils, seed growth, planting, herbs, and edible plants, and visited the community garden where they planted sunflowers and beans.

Studies show that children who are familiar with growing their own food tend to eat more fruits and vegetables and are more inclined to continue healthy eating habits through adulthood. Utilizing this research, Master Gardener Sheila Gill expanded the program and included a harvest day in September so that all the fourth graders who were now fifth graders could fully understand the components of garden harvesting. Gill incorporated the high school nutrition classes to harvest and cook fresh produce as well. Thirty students harvested produce out of Gill’s garden and then were tasked to find recipes in which they could use the garden produce. They made soups, salsa, salad and desserts incorporating the produce.

On harvest day, fifth grade students and high school nutrition students came together to harvest and learn about the vegetables and fruits of the garden. Pauley developed educational materials for various stations and the high school students



Gizelle Beck, fourth grade student, opening her ragdoll to study seed germination.

Volunteer delivering donated manure to the garden in spring of 2018.



facilitated the learning at each station. Afterwards, the high school students played garden jeopardy with the fifth grade students. The day ended with a lunch made completely from the garden, which the high school students served and everyone loved.

Gill volunteered over 50 hours towards this educational project plus over \$500 dollars of produce and supplies throughout the project. High school students and their teacher volunteered over 170 hours in preparation and facilitation of the harvest day. Nutrition instructor Mrs. Perkins reported from her evaluations of the 2017-18 nutrition class that her students said the thing they liked best and learned the most from was Harvest Day.

Deer Lodge Community Garden

The community garden had another successful year in 2018. Volunteers spent over 300 hours in service to the garden by planting flowers and vegetables. They also did maintenance to the high tunnel, the grounds, and upkeep of items such as hoses and

tools needed for the garden. Other volunteers took on early planting of flowers in the high tunnel and then transplanted them to containers to beautify the local library, City Hall, and main street bridge. Some volunteers planned the annual garden tour which incorporates the community garden. Three volunteers spent seven weeks in August running the community garden Farmers Market. Volunteers planted 11 boxes at the garden and the market is designed as a pick-your-own produce stand. Sales generated \$481 in donations for the community garden, which help to pay the insurance and maintenance of the high tunnel, boxes and grounds around the garden. The garden also donated several pounds of tomatoes and onions to high school nutrition classes. The garden itself continues to support a thriving community of gardeners from all walks of life who share ideas and produce. A 4x8-foot box produces on average 72 pounds of produce, and 4x4-foot boxes in the greenhouse typically produce over 50 pounds of tomatoes.

The community garden project was started in 2012 and has proven its sustainability. Extension agent Jodi Pauley feels this is one of the most positive community development projects that Deer Lodge has embraced.

Powell County MSU Extension table at the Career Fair at Powell County High School.



CAREER FAIR

Approximately 350 high-school-aged children from Philipsburg, Drummond and Deer Lodge were introduced to Powell County MSU Extension at the second annual career fair. Jodi Pauley, Extension agent for Powell County, displayed items about Extension ranging from 4-H to Agriculture. Students played Jenga and answered questions that were correlated on the pieces about Powell County, and state and national agriculture. Other questions were about MSU Extension in Montana and the 4-H program in Powell County. Most did not realize that agriculture brings in \$34 million dollars annually to Powell County, cows outnumber people 5 to 1, and that currently there are 60,000 national job openings in the field of agriculture and only 35,000 graduates coming out of college with agricultural degrees.

4-H Highlights

MSU Extension agent Jodi Pauley visited with all seven county 4-H clubs and introduced members to effective Parliamentary Procedure with a lesson in making trail mix. Each member had to make motions and go through the steps to build the trail mix. It was reported that some members who did not participate at meetings before Parliamentary Procedure training now had better confidence in making motions and participating in discussion.



Animal Quality Assurance training in Helmville, club members learning how to give shots by using fruit.



Pauley taught two sessions of Animal Quality Assurance for 4-H members. Many of the older members have reported that by doing hands-on exercises such as reading vaccine labels and giving shots in fruit gives them a better understanding of animal health needs.

4-H Show camp was held in June and gives large animal project members who are in their first to third year of the project a chance to learn how to fit and show their animals. Many of the past participants now help teach the camp. 4-H teen leaders taught the participants how to get their animals ready for show and taught them the skills needed to get ready for fair and other shows. The peer-to-peer teaching went well, giving the teen leaders new skills in teaching and communication, and the younger kids the ability to work in-depth with their animals. Many of the members participated in the local jackpot show the day after camp, using the skills they had just learned.

All photos by Jodi Pauley.

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EXTENSION

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