Welcome to Roosevelt County

All universities engage in research and teaching, but land-grant universities like Montana State University have a third critical mission – Extension. Extension means reaching out and “extending” resources, solving public needs with university resources through non-formal, non-credit programs.

Montana State University Extension is an educational resource dedicated to improving the quality of people’s lives by providing research-based knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of families, communities, and agricultural enterprises. MSU Extension offers university resources for all Montanans to explore, even if they never set foot on campus. We provide access to useful information and expert knowledge via workshops, demonstrations, community meetings, publications, videos, the Internet and other learning opportunities. Extension links a network of MSU faculty, topic specialists on the MSU-Bozeman campus and our Roosevelt County Extension agents to the people.

The Roosevelt County MSU Extension staff is proud to provide services in the following areas:

- 4-H Youth Development
- Agriculture and Horticulture
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Community and Economic Development

Roosevelt County was founded in 1919. It encompasses 2,385 square miles of Montana’s land and has a population of approximately 11,305. The county seat is Wolf Point, and other incorporated cities include: Bainville, Brockton, Culbertson, Froid and Poplar.
A Year for Tours across Roosevelt County

2018 Roosevelt County Range Tour

Range land is an important, but finite resource for cattle and sheep production. Maintaining and improving range health is vital to the economic and environmental health of the local area. To help address a need for range health education, the Roosevelt County Range Tour was created. Fifteen people attended this first year. In addition to the invited speakers, three local producers’ efforts to improve range health were featured in this year’s tour. These producers’ efforts included bio-control for the noxious weed leafy spurge, use of bale grazing, and installation of solar-powered wells to provide drinking water for livestock. Attendees found this aspect of the tour especially useful, as they were able to hear firsthand about the successes and difficulties producers have had when implementing these projects. For example, one attendee has had a pasture with difficulty in maintaining adequate grass coverage. After the tour, the attendee stated “I have to do something with that pasture, I think bale grazing may be the way to go.” In fact, 83% of attendees planned on implementing in their own operation something they had learned on the tour.

37th Swank Variety Tour

The Swank Variety Tour is a joint program of MSU Extension in Roosevelt County and MSU’s Eastern Agricultural Research Center. The variety tour allows local producers to view different varieties of spring wheat and durum under local farm conditions. Area producers have often voiced the importance of the variety tour when they are making seed-purchasing decisions. The tour also featured talks about local weed issues, including control of Narrowleaf Hawksbeard. Education continues to be an ongoing need due to the relative novelty of this weed and the difficulty in controlling it, especially in pulse crops.

Additionally, the tour has become important to the area as a long-standing tradition, with over 100 people attending this year.

Annual MSU Bus Tour Visits Northeastern Montana

Montana State University deans, faculty, administrators, and student leaders visited the northeastern part of the state during the seventh annual MSU Bus Tour on June 19-21. The bus tour featured Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, Petroleum, Garfield and McCone counties and the Fort Peck Reservation. Tour stops included Fort Peck, Froid, Glasgow, Jordan, Lewistown, Malta, Plentywood, Poplar, Sand Springs, and Scobey.
Bozeman and the rural areas of northeastern Montana are neither close on the state’s map nor in population, but Montana State University in Bozeman is making a commitment to support Montana’s smaller schools and communities. In Froid, Principal Janessa Parenteau addressed the educational challenges in smaller communities. Parenteau noted the Froid community was settled in 1910 and some of the current students represent the fourth generation of families that have walked through the school’s hallways. “We’re just not a school, we’re a family,” Parenteau explained to MSU officials. Jayne Downey, director of MSU’s Center for Research on Rural Education, told the group the areas of focus for the Center for Research on Rural Education include: preparing new teachers and leaders for rural contexts, developing resources for Montana’s rural teachers and leaders, and supporting Montana’s communities.

Following the discussion of rural education, Joni Sherman, Manager, and Heather Robertson, Project Service Manager for Dry Prairie Rural Water joined the bus tour for the short ride to Culbertson. They explained how Dry Prairie has provided clean, safe drinking water to thousands of northeastern Montanans.

A Taste of the Past: Gathering Montana’s Food Heritage

Montana State University’s Center for Western Lands and Peoples and the Montana Historical Society gathered documents and artifacts related to northeastern Montana’s food history and customs at “A Taste of the Past: Gathering Montana’s Food Heritage” event in Sidney this past September. MSU Extension agents in Richland and Roosevelt Counties collaborated with project directors and invited area residents to bring traditional recipes, community cookbooks, historical photographs, menus, records of home demonstration clubs, and artifacts related to food preparation and preservation to the event. While the historians collected the stories, the students scanned and gathered information about the documents and artifacts.

Area residents brought in items ranging from cookbooks and recipe cards to bread rising bowls and krumkake bakers. The Roosevelt County MSU Extension agent brought in her family’s set of three krumkake bakers, dating from the early twentieth century to the present, which showed continuity in area food traditions. Debra Rasmussen of Culbertson brought in a group of items including a large wooden bowl, paddle, and mold that illustrated how butter was packed into one-pound blocks for use. All of these items were made around 1900. These and many other recipes and artifacts that were documented speak broadly to the history of the region’s local food customs.

The digital images and information collected will be used to study Montana’s food heritage and history. Additionally, the historians will return to Sidney in 2019 for a public program based on the stories and information gathered.

County Tri-funded Support

A legal partnership among federal, state, and county governments cooperatively fund MSU Extension programs. This unique funding structure provides research-based education and programming. Quality MSU Extension programming in Roosevelt County is successful due to local financial support from the Roosevelt County Commissioners and community involvement.
Roosevelt County Day of Service Held in Culbertson

Over two dozen community groups in Roosevelt County and beyond collaborated to offer a Roosevelt County Day of Service in Culbertson. The event provided a free meal for over 200 residents in addition to many services. The meal was prepared by Communities in Action, AmeriCorps, and Richland Federal Credit Union; Blue Rock Distributing and Sheridan Electric were sponsors.

One service that people utilized was the shredding truck, sponsored by Action for Eastern Montana. An additional receptacle was obtained due to demand for shedding documents. Roosevelt Medical Center and the County Health Department provided hearing, vision, blood pressure and glucose checks and offered medication disposal bags. Additionally, the Richland County Department of Health and AmeriCorps provided information on skin cancer and chronic diseases. The Roosevelt County DUI Task Force and the mobile veterans’ truck offered their services to the public. Those attending received smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and reusable shopping bags sponsored by (LIEAP) Low Income Energy Assistance Program.

Resources specifically for seniors were available from the Roosevelt County Sheriff’s Office, Richland County Federal Credit Union and Aging Services. These entities provided information on fraud, state health insurances assistance programs and Medicare.

The Missouri River Rats 4-H Club and Culbertson FFA clubs provided tire and antifreeze checks on over a dozen vehicles. Youth activities included painting projects, books, and drawings for small door prizes. Taste-testing and education on healthy foods for youth was provided by Montana No Kid Hungry and AmeriCorps VISTA.

Montana State University Extension is an ADA/EO/AA Veteran’s Preference Employer and provider of educational outreach.