

Fallon-Carter Counties



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The landscape in Fallon-Carter Counties.

Fallon and Carter Counties are in the Southeastern corner of Montana bordering North and South Dakota to the East and Wyoming to the South. Fallon County has a little less than three thousand residents and Carter County has just over one thousand. Both counties are full of acres of grass and farmland. Ranching and farming are a major source of income for those who live here, as well as the oil industry. The educational programs provided by Fallon-Carter Counties MSU Extension provide valuable information to our clientele on weed control, livestock production, pasture management, and many other topics.

This year we were faced with the COVID-19 pandemic and it has brought new and unforeseen challenges to every facet of our lives. Fallon-Carter Counties MSU Extension has not been exempt from those challenges, however, despite them, we have been able to find success through adaptability and a will to persevere.

Success with Succulents

While searching for beneficial programming for our community, it was suggested that we put on a succulent workshop. The succulent workshop ended up being the most popular workshop that we offered this year. Between both Carter

and Fallon counties, we had over 50 people sign up and held four separate workshops in Baker and two in Ekalaka to stay within the group size requirements for COVID-19. As a result of holding the workshop, 59 attendees learned information on succulent care, and participants have had much better success in growing succulents at home.

Triumph Through Challenges - Fallon and Carter County 4-H Programs

Adaptation - The 4-H program in Fallon-Carter Counties has had to be very flexible and adapt to the new environment that we all find ourselves in. The 4-H Program in Carter and Fallon Counties have faced those challenges and have had some great success. MSU Extension staff, 4-H leaders, and 4-H members have embraced the use of technology to accomplish several workshops, quarterly council meetings, and networking with other counties.

Growth - The past three years, the MSU Extension staff and 4-H leaders have invested time into making sure that our communities understand what the 4-H Program is and what life skills youth, as well as adults, can gain from participating in the program. We are pleased to see the hard work has paid

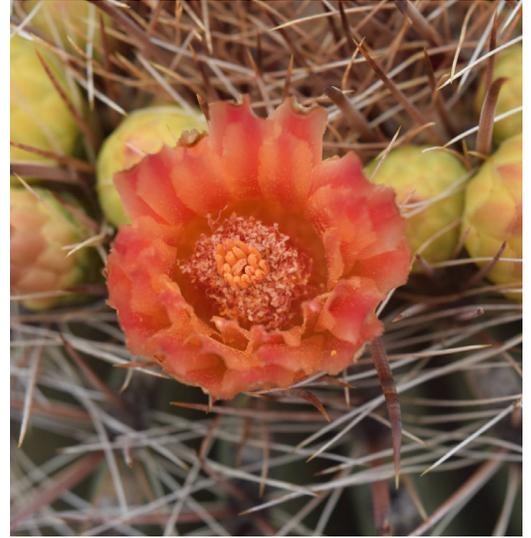
off. Carter County has seen an increase of five percent in its leaders and a twenty-two percent increase in enrollment. Fallon County has also seen a twelve percent increase in their enrollments. The Cloverbud program has proven to be a great asset to both counties as it prepares our future members for 4-H and highlights 4-H programs in a fun and interactive way.

Networking - This year has also brought many opportunities to network with other agencies to provide educational opportunities in our community. One of the more notable opportunities was the Youth Agriculture Symposium that was held in conjunction with the Little Beaver Conservation District and local Natural Resources Conservation Service. We were able to reach over 100 youth from six different counties with education on projects that are available through the 4-H program that can provide skills to help in their efforts of conserving our natural resources. Fallon-Carter Counties MSU Extension also worked with Austin Buzanowski, Ag-Pro Solutions, and Shaylynn Huelle, Spring Creek Supplies, to put on a livestock workshop covering topics that included: nutrition, developing a feeding plan, fitting, and showmanship.

Leadership - We have seen firsthand, and are proud to share, how the 4-H program provides many opportunities for youth to develop life skills and leadership, and the effects that those programs have on our local youth as they grow and moved into adulthood. This year Carter County saw a twenty-two percent increase in the ambassador program and Fallon County saw an amazing increase of fifty-two percent. The Ambassador program is vital to any 4-H program, as these members are the role models for our younger members. The 4-H Ambassadors practice leadership skills that have an amazing effect on all our members as well as our community. We are very lucky to have such competent youth in our community.

Sharpening skills for knife-making

Another great workshop held by Fallon-Carter Counties MSU Extension was a Knife Making workshop. Thirteen participants attend this workshop, and it was a great learning experience for both the participants and MSU Extension. Participants were able to use their own resources (horn or wood) to create a one-of-a-kind knife handle. Through instructor assessments and one-on-one conversations, it was evident how much the participants enjoyed the workshop and the knives they were able to make. Since the class was a new offering, it also became evident that one set of tools was not enough for a group of 13, and adjustments will be made for future classes.



Top: Succulents Workshop, by Michael Millward;
Bottom: Kodie Olsen races at a 4H carnival with Madison Butori, by Zoie Rost

Fallon-Carter Counties Staff



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

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