

“I see our Extension Service as the portal through which the public can access the many resources of knowledge and expertise the University offers.” - MSU president Geoffrey Gamble, July 2002

Long before we had networking technology like the world-wide-web, Extension programs forged ambitious grassroots networking efforts that all came together with a simple goal: to help people who lived far from big cities and traditional support systems survive and thrive.

Even as Montana's economy and lifestyle evolve, our circumstances still present challenges and our rural communities are still vital. Some of the issues that affect us remain the same: Montana's harsh climate and remote location challenge our livelihoods, we want our families to grow up in happy and healthy homes, we need help when disasters like wildfire and drought strike.

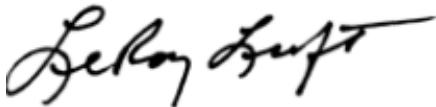
But new challenges face us, too. How can our businesses compete in global markets? How can our small towns survive economically? How can we sustain the health of our air, soil and water? How can we take advantage of new ideas and retain the values that make Montana special?

Solutions to these and many other modern challenges are addressed each day by the staff of the Montana State University Extension Service, who continue as they have for nearly a century to address the needs of Montana's citizens with research-based information that improves our quality of life.

Partnerships are essential particularly in a state as large and remote as ours and this document contains many outstanding examples of Extension's collaborations with private companies, nonprofit organizations, government agencies and other sectors of Montana's University System. Included, too, are reports on Extension's growing leadership role within the Montana University System, such as developing the new “Montana Invests” database for all units, which provides accountability data to all citizens via the Internet.

Finally, this report reveals our continued emphasis on “outcome-based” programming and our continual quest to refine how we address pertinent issues, seek out and serve the underrepresented, and constructively critique our own efforts.

Extension is a crucial component of the land-grant system, recognized by citizens and university administrators alike for its ability to serve the practical needs of Montanans. This report provides the description of our service to the state in 2002.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LeRoy Luft". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. LeRoy Luft

Interim Vice Provost and Director of Extension

# **GOAL 1**

## **AN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM THAT IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY**

### **Overview:**

Montana Farms and Ranches will sustain profitability and maintain land stewardship at a level that provides continued production and a desirable quality of life. To address this concern, the Extension Service in Montana has implemented programs under the following Key Themes; Animal Health, Invasive Species, and Ag Profitability which includes a section on Drought, Ag Policy and Adding Value to Ag Products.

2,156 field faculty days were devoted to developing, implementing and evaluating these programs. Eight FTE of Specialist time was devoted to this goal. Faculty are on a combination of Federal Smith/Lever 3b&c, State and County funding sources. A total of 32,285 people completed the programs, and 17,628 actually adopted practices. Of those completing the programs, 1,003 were American Indian, 170 were Hispanic ethnicity, and 89 were of other minority races. This number does not include the numbers of American Indians participating in Extension Programs served by our five EIRP agents on five of the seven Reservations in Montana. When we include those numbers, we are over parity of participation on Goal 1 programs.

### **Selected Impacts/Outcomes:**

One producer stated AI was able to sell my barley hay for \$5 per ton more because I had a nitrate test in hand.@

Over 75% of the oat hay, wheat hay, and barley hay samples tested in just one county indicated a potential Nitrate Hazard.

Based on these findings, we can say that the 7,000 calves that were sold in 2002 as BQA certified calves returned an additional \$84,000 to Montana producers.

The economic impact of elimination of 256 new weed infestation sites is estimated to be \$132, 000 dollars in herbicide, treatment and labor costs over the next five years if a seed bank had been established prior to the first treatment.

The environmental benefits are huge when you consider the need for repeated herbicide treatments on sites that have established noxious weed infestations.

Several miles of river front salt cedar infestations were treated and thousands of salt cedar plants were eradicated. This greatly reduced the seed source for future infestations. Specific instances include one producer saving \$8,000 and another saving \$5,000 in winter feed costs.

Three instances alone, which were direct results of the tax news releases, resulted in preferential tax treatment of over \$2,250,000.

The Conservation Reserve Program payments alone, for just one county will provide producers nearly \$9,000,000 annually.

Comparative statistics show an increase of revenue of 10-22% for producers participating in this program compared to similar wool sales.

One county reported in 2002, that two inspectors certified 2943 acres of hay and straw for 23 producers. Weed Seed Free Forage has an added value of \$10 to \$20 per ton increasing producer income by over \$60,000.

Nine producers were able to determine that their stand's highest value was as hay rather than grain, increasing their gross per acre return by an average of \$35. On 2,500 acres, that would yield a net return of \$87,500 for the nine producers.

With a quick response from the MSU disease lab, we could tell that it was salt problems and not disease pressure that was damaging crops, saving \$12,000 in fungicide applications that had been planned.

One producer reported saving over \$15,000 in inputs on 2400 acres of winter wheat in the fall of 2002 by learning to estimate grasshopper populations and timing seeding to avoid early stage damage to the crop.

#### **Source of funding:**

Smith Lever 3b & c, State and Local

#### **Scope of Impact:**

Statewide

#### **Key Theme: Animal Health/Nitrates**

#### **Brief Description:**

Many of Montana's annual forage crops (cereals, millet, sudangrass) tend to accumulate toxic levels of nitrate, particularly when grown under stress conditions (drought). During the past three dry years, the acreage of annual forages have risen dramatically, and with widespread droughty conditions, the incidence of high nitrate accumulation has risen. Our "Nitrate QuikTest" is a rapid test for field detection of high nitrate levels. Kits and training are provided by the specialist, and since 2000, we have certified 53 individuals (76% of the agriculture agents) to use the test. Since 2000, agents have monitored over 1000 samples annually by the Nitrate QuikTest. Each fall, the immediate goal of the

program is to identify potentially toxic hay so that it is not fed to bred livestock. If lab analyses are obtained, agents assist producers with dilution of the hay if appropriate.

### **Impact/Accomplishments:**

Many producers have been able to "survive" winter with minimal disruption due to high nitrate levels.

The use of the Nitrate QuikTest has been the avoidance of potentially millions of dollars in losses due to livestock abortions.

Many more producers are now aware of nitrate accumulation in forages, the nitrate problem has encouraged more use of lab analyses before feeding hay, and several research projects have now begun due to our involvement. We have certified one agent in an adjoining Wyoming county.

Hay marketing strategies were also based on the nitrate content of the harvested forage. One producer stated, AI was able to sell my barley hay for \$5 per ton more because I had a nitrate test in hand.@

Over 75% of the oat hay, wheat hay, and barley hay samples tested in just one county indicated a potential Nitrate Hazard. Qualitative analysis was performed and controlled feeding recommendations were followed.

### **Source of Funding:**

Smith Lever 3b & c  
State  
Local

### **Key Theme: Animal Health/Beef Quality Assurance**

### **Brief Description:**

The Montana Beef Network has three primary objectives; 1) educational programs aimed at meeting beef quality assurance (BQA) standards, production and marketing goals and providing additional educational programs through interactive-video conferencing; 2) certification of feeder calves that have met defined health management protocols; and 3) information feedback from the feedlot and packing plant to the cow-calf producer showing if the feeder calves met industry requirements for quality, consistency, safety and red meat yield.

### **Impact/Accomplishments:**

The Beef Quality assurance program certified 580 producers with 52,000 calves being sold as certified calves since 1999

Just over 7,000 certified calves were sold during 2002

Preliminary data suggests that BQA-certified calves received an additional \$12.00 per head compared to non-BQA-certified calves.

Based on these findings, we can say that the 7,000 calves that were sold in 2002 as certified calves returned an additional \$84,000 to Montana producers.

A survey of Montana Feeder Cattle revealed that when compared to feeder cattle from 5 surrounding states, Montana calves gained faster and had a higher percentage of choice carcasses. This resulted in \$34/head more in carcass value.

### **Source of Funding:**

Smith Lever 3b&c  
State  
Local  
Grant

### **Scope:**

Statewide

### **Key Theme: Invasive Species**

### **Brief Description:**

A Stop Weeds after Wildfires@ is an Extension project that addresses the problem of invasive plant invasion and expansion in wildfire-affected areas of Montana. This project facilitates the development of wildfire affected weed management areas (WMA). These WMAs are guided by ecologically based integrated weed management plans that are based on the needs and preferences of participants and local weed leaders. This project also provides technical support in the application of weed management funds. Since 2001, A Stop Weeds after Wildfires@ has facilitated the development of WMAs on over 442,000 wildfire-affected acres in Montana where effective, integrated weed management is implemented. As participants implement WMA-specific weed management plans, they attain a deep understanding of integrated weed management and aim to ensure the long-term success of the WMA. This project has worked to secure over \$655,400 for over 760 private landowners throughout Montana to implement the WMA-specific integrated weed management plans. As private landowners implement these plans, an in depth knowledge of effective, integrated weed management is attained. As a result, weed invasion and expansion is mitigated within and near burned areas and local economies that depend on strong agricultural outcomes and sportsmen-based expenditures are safeguarded.

Extension works with producers in all areas of the state to develop strategies to both prevent the infestation of noxious weeds and manage the areas where infestation has occurred. This work is carried out through the county weed districts, through one-on-one work with individual producers and through more organized efforts with the Montana Weed Control Association and departments of state and federal agencies.

Following the Kraft Spring Fire in Carter County in the fall of 2002, local landowners and permittees became concerned about the potential for the spread of noxious weeds in the area. The Fallon/Carter County Extension Office partnered with the Extension Noxious Weed Specialist, Carter County Weed District, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management to develop a long-range weed management plan for the area of the Kraft Spring Fire. This plan includes the total, long-term elimination of spotted knapweed, salt cedar, and houndstongue from the 120,000-acre management area.

The Lower Yellowstone Salt Cedar Task Force was successful in informing agency and private individuals on how to identify and control one of Montana's newest noxious weeds. The Task Force was also successful in procuring a \$30,000 grant from the Noxious Weed Trust Fund to combat this invasive weed in Treasure, Rosebud, Custer, Prairie, Dawson, and Richland Counties. Salt cedar has the potential to become one of the biggest ecological and economical disasters the Yellowstone River drainage has ever seen.

Broadwater County is a frontier of its own being located on the eastern edge of Western Montana's weed problem. The county has an opportunity to take aggressive action against the increasing noxious weed population before it gets out of hand. In 2002, a local task force was organized by the Extension Agent to address the weed issues in the county and to develop a comprehensive county weed management plan. Under the guidance of Roger Sheley, MSU Extension Weed Specialist and Extension Agent Virginia Knerr, the task force has completed a draft weed management plan and are focusing on educating the citizens about weed control and the need for a mill levy increase to fund the new weed plan. This program is just in the beginning stages of a three to five year plan.

Development of an enhanced weed program for relatively weed-free Blaine County has been a priority for Mike Schuldt this year. With the Weed Board, Marko Manoukian, Roger Sheley and various others, he is working to reorganize the weed program as well as participate in the effort to establish a long-term, comprehensive and systematic noxious weed prevention program in the region.

### **Impacts/Accomplishments:**

125 land managers realized that stopping new weed infestation is much easier and successful and less expensive than treating a well-established infestation.

36 land managers have developed a proactive weed management plan for preventing and eliminating new infestations.

112 land managers learned new techniques to control invasive species that will prevent 10,345 non-infested acres from invasion from noxious weeds. The economic impact of elimination of 256 new weed infestation sites is estimated to be \$132,000 dollars in herbicide, treatment and labor costs over the next five years if a seed bank had been established prior to the first treatment. The economic and environmental benefits are huge when you consider the value of the forage protected from displacement and the need for repeated and costly herbicide treatments on sites that have established noxious weed infestations.

Local farmers and ranchers became more aware of the threat of salt cedar. The majority participated in spraying programs to help eradicate the weed. Several miles of river front salt cedar infestations were treated and thousands of salt cedar plants were eradicated. This greatly reduced the seed source for future infestations.

Subcommittees have formed to take on responsibilities of educating the public and promoting the new comprehensive weed plan. Participants have gained communication skills as a result of developing the plan and presenting the information to their neighbors and community organizations. As a result of the weed task force, participants have gained experience in developing budgets and an understanding of cost and purpose of different weed control methods.

Region-wide implementation throughout 15 key eastern Montana counties will greatly reduce spread and diminish regional weed threats, sustaining current agricultural economies estimated at \$750 million annually.

Across the state of Montana 8,178 youth and land managers have completed programs and 3,315 have adopted recommended practices related to identification and management of noxious weeds. For more details on these programs and outcomes you can visit the Extension reporting web site:  
[http://extn.msu.montana.edu/riodata/RIO\\_Results\\_Tableview.asp](http://extn.msu.montana.edu/riodata/RIO_Results_Tableview.asp)

### **Source of Funding:**

Smith Lever 3b&c  
State  
Local

### **Scope:**

Statewide

### **Key Theme: Agricultural Profitability**

### **Brief Description:**

Montana has a number of varied programs that focus on Ag Profitability. These programs are addressed below by broad category.

### **Drought:**

Drought has plagued Montana for several years. Lack of winter and summer forage for livestock has caused severe hardship for many producers. Lack of forage combined with high hay prices has forced livestock producers to look for alternative forms of fall and winter feed or sell their livestock. Specialists and Agents have conducted 20 workshops addressing cost effective ration formulations with existing and alternative feeds. Many producers were helped on a one-to-one basis.

A CD was produced and distributed to over 200 producers that contained all aspects of drought management. Broad topic areas included were considerations for range land use, alternative forages and nutrition.

In the last two years, over 75 workshops attended by over 2,000 producers were held to address annual cereals as alternative livestock forages.

Information on the tax treatment of drought sales of livestock was provided to livestock producers in a statewide news release and one-on-one producers requesting assistance.

The largest impact of continued drought may be on range land. Ninety-four programs attended by over 5000 people were held to address range land management under drought conditions.

### **Impact/Accomplishment:**

Limited feedback from these workshops indicates that producers saved thousands of dollars by rebalancing rations using available feeds. Specific instances include one producer saving \$8000 and another saving \$5000 in winter feed costs.

Education about tax preparation and tax treatment options of income from involuntary conversions, i.e., drought sales of livestock made it possible for three operators to receive preferential tax treatment of over \$2,250,000.

### **Agricultural Policy & Government Programs**

New Farm Legislation was passed in 2002. Extension specialists held 39 separate programs attended by over 950 producers in Montana and surrounding states. Crop insurance is being offered as a replacement for previous government programs that addressed disasters in agricultural production. Seven separate programs, attended by over 175 people provided educational material on how to best use new crop insurance options to reduce risk.

### **Impact/Accomplishment:**



The Conservation Reserve Program payments alone, for just one county will provide producers nearly \$9,000,000 annually. The new conservation programs and counter cyclical payments could add several million dollars more to producers in just one county.

### **Adding Value to Montana Commodities**

The Eastern Montana Consolidated Wool Pool Market was formed with four main goals; 1) Improve grower knowledge of wool quality and on farm processing, 2) Increase total volume of wool for sale for all pools, 3) Separate wool into individual lines based on quality, and 4) Increase returns for individual producers. The Eastern Montana Consolidated Wool Pool Market was made of seven pools; including Hi Line (Rudyard to Glasgow), Plentywood, Lower Yellowstone (Sidney), Glendive, Wibaux-Beach, Circle, and Jordan. Combined, the pools delivered 207,130 lbs of wool into a storage facility in Jordan from 139 producers. Collectively, this represented 6.25% of the annual wool marketed in Montana (2001 Montana Agricultural Statistics). Extension developed and offered the certification for the weed seed free forage program in over 30 counties.

### **Impact/Accomplishment:**

Comparative statistics show an increase of revenue of 10-22% for producers participating in the Eastern Montana Consolidated Wool Pool Market program compared to similar wool sales.

One county reported in 2002, that two inspectors certified 2943 acres of hay and straw for 23 producers. Weed Seed Free Forage has an added value of \$10 to \$20 per ton increasing producer income by over \$60,000.

### **Other Impact/Accomplishments**

An example of the impact in just one of our 56 Counties follows: On nine farms (2,500 total acres), analysis included calculating and comparing the value of the wheat and barley stand as grain versus hay. All nine producers were able to determine that their stand's highest value was as hay rather than grain, increasing their gross per acre return by an average of \$35. On the 2,500 acres, that would yield a net return of \$87,500 for the nine producers.

Examples of one-on-one assistance in just one of our counties follows:

One producer north of Cut Bank saved 800 acres of wheat from being devoured by pale western cutworms because he called the Extension office and learned how and when to scout fields. An early warning system being developed by Montana State University, along with pesticide recommendations enabled him to combine treatments to cut costs on application and save his crop.

A local Hutterite colony depended on the Extension office to help determine what was killing its vegetable crops. With a quick response from the MSU disease lab, they could

tell that it was salt problems and not disease pressure that was damaging crops, saving \$12,000 in fungicide applications that had been planned.

One producer reported saving over \$15,000 in inputs on 2400 acres of winter wheat in the fall of 2002 by learning to estimate grasshopper populations and timing seeding to avoid early stage damage to the crop.

A producer was able to salvage 300 tons of hay with high nitrate levels because of our nitrate testing program and the feeding recommendations provided to him by the Extension office.

A total of 6,078 producers were reported as completing educational programs related to Agricultural Profitability with 3,547 producers adopting recommended practices. For more details on programs and outcomes, visit the reporting web site at;  
[http://extn.msu.montana.edu/riodata/RIO\\_Results\\_Tableview.asp](http://extn.msu.montana.edu/riodata/RIO_Results_Tableview.asp)

**Scope:**

Statewide

**Source of Funding:**

Smith Lever 3b&c

State

Local

Grant

## **GOAL 2**

### **A SAFE AND SECURE FOOD AND FIBER SYSTEM**

#### **Overview**

The Montana State University Extension's approved Plan of Work has three Performance Goals which ensure Montanans have an adequate food and fiber supply and food safety through improved science-based detection, surveillance, prevention and education.

#### **1. Limited resource Montanans, most likely to be food insecure, will develop new skills and learn behaviors leading to improved nutritional well-being and economic independence.**

In the Key Theme of Food Resource Management, three programming efforts are highlighted. Montana's EFNEP (3d funds) in four counties encompassing parts of three reservations has taught a series of lessons to over 400 adult family members and 1400 youth. With the focus of modifying food intake behavior for improved health, more than 89% of the adult EFNEP graduates improved their diets, notably with an increase in intake of both fruits and vegetables. EFNEP federal funds paid salaries, benefits and operations for 1.2 FTE Professionals, and 5.1 FTE Paraprofessionals. 417 EFNEP volunteers, however, contributed 1.3 FTE in the adult and youth programs.

Montana's FSNEP, funded by Food Stamp Program nutrition education funds (\$513,437) and matched by Montana State University and community organization in-kind (\$519,870), provides educational programs for food stamp households and those eligible in 30 counties of Montana. Over 18,400 Montanans were directly contacted with lessons focused on improving food skills and modifying food choices. The Food Stamp Program funds paid salaries and benefits for 9.95 FTE paraprofessionals, 1.95 FTE professionals, and .75 classified staff. In-kind match for FTE from MSU Extension was 4.385 FTE professionals and 2.0 classified staff.

Other programming efforts in Food Resource Management for Montanans varied in content and audience. However, all content focus was planning, preparation and safe storage of foods in a cost effective, tasty and healthy manner. County faculty reported that 1082 of the 1289 Montanans participating (84%) actually adopted practices.

#### **2. Montanans will improve their knowledge and practice of safe food handling.**

In the Key Themes of Food Safety, Food Handling, and Food borne Illness the primary programming effort was the Food Safety Works basic food safety classes. Middle school and high school students are receiving this training as part of Family and Consumer Science classes, workforce preparation classes, and other youth groups. This program has been incredibly successful due to the cooperation among high school students, teachers, MSU Extension, youth groups, and industry. Approximately 8 counties participated with 1,440 youth trained by .15 statewide FTE Extension professionals. In addition, the

Montana Beef Council provided \$1,500 for purchase of ServSafe Employee Guides. Impacts include the awareness of the importance of food safety and opportunities to practice food safety skills.

Other programming efforts in the Key Themes of Food Safety, Food Handling, and Food borne Illness included a variety of education to the public and consumers via groups, school programs, and media. For example, food safety programs in schools, radio ad campaigns, and community groups were provided in 9 counties with 22,231 receiving education with a total of .3 FTE statewide Extension personnel involved. Impacts included awareness of food safety knowledge and skills and the prevention of food borne illness.

### **3. Montana's commercial and public food industry will improve their knowledge and practice of safe food production and handling.**

In the Key Themes of Food Safety, Food Handling, Food borne Illness, and HACCP major programming areas included 1) Avenue to Revenue: Food Safety Videoconference where industry professionals learned how food safety standards could positively impact their bottom line, 2) Development of Starting a Food Business Video: Knowing What Questions to Ask and Where to Find the Answers, 3) Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) training, and 4) Serv Safe training for food service workers. ServSafe training can provide a National Certification for Food Service Managers or Food Service Employee Participation recognition. At least 40 counties were involved with 1500 participants and a statewide total of 1 FTE Extension personnel involved. Grant money provided by Food Safety and Quality Initiative, USDA/CSREES and Tribal College Food Safety Outreach Grant, FSIS contributed \$7,500 of program funding. Impacts include prevention of food borne illnesses and better management of food service operations through safe food handling skills.

### **4. Top Notch Food Safety (Tribal College Food Safety Outreach Project)**

The goal of this project is to provide expertise at Tribal Colleges and within tribal communities in controlling food safety hazards. All seven tribal colleges and reservations were involved along with 10 counties with 150 participants and a statewide total of 1 FTE Extension personnel involved. Grant money provided by Tribal College Food Safety Outreach Grant, FSIS. Impacts include awareness of the importance of food safety, youth development and workforce **preparation opportunities, and safe food operations for tourism and trade.**

### **Key Theme: Food Resource Management**

#### **Brief Description FSNEP:**

The Montana Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program provides educational programs for food stamp households and those eligible. In 30 counties, paraprofessionals (nutrition assistants) provide a series of lessons or single demonstrations with practical information

and skill-building tips for choosing better foods, food handling, food storage and food safety practices. FSNEP partners with numerous community agencies and organizations to optimize effective programming and to make participants job ready and healthy.

## **Impact**

Over 18,400 Montanans (adults, senior citizens, and youth) were directly contacted by FSNEP in FY02. Some participants completed a series of lessons, while some participated in one or more lessons or demonstrations focused on improving food skills. An additional 27,300 indirect contacts were made by the program, offering Montanans information through newsletters and displays. Adults who completed the lesson series reported that they improved one or more food resource management practices, improved nutrition practices, as well as food safety practices. 94% of youth who participated improved their practices in food preparation and food safety.

FSNEP continues to help families stretch their food dollars and feed their families in a nutritious manner. While the short term impacts show immediate behavior change, participants have noted that these small changes have given them more confidence in managing their resources and planning and preparing nutritious low-cost meals on an ongoing basis.

Regional and national studies with Extension Nutrition Education Programs (EFNEP and FSNEP) have shown that for every dollar invested in nutrition education with limited resource families, at least \$8.00 in benefits from reduced health care costs is realized.

People Intend/Adopt Practices: 19,200  
People Actually Adopted Practices: 14,336  
People completing program: 19,200  
Number of males: 5,860  
Number of females: 13,348  
White/Caucasian: 15,708  
Black/African Americans: 66  
American Indian/Alaskan Native 3,020  
Hispanic/Latino: 377  
Asian/Pacific Islander 37

## **Funding Sources:**

Federal Food Stamp Program nutrition education funds are made available through a contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. MSU, MSU Extension and other county and state organizations provide in-kind support to match the federal funds.

## **Brief Description EFNEP:**

In the last year, Montana Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) in four counties encompassing parts of three reservations has taught a series of lessons to over 400 adult family members to help them stretch their food dollars to feed their families in a nutritious manner. EFNEP professionals and paraprofessionals have also reached over 1400 low income youth between the ages of 5 and 17 with lessons about healthier, low cost food choices. In addition, over 400 volunteers aided EFNEP staff in providing lessons to adults and children. EFNEP staff has worked closely with many community organizations to reach and teach those most in need of self sufficiency skills.

### **Impact:**

Both the adult participants of EFNEP and the youth participants show consistent positive behavior changes in choosing more nutritionally sound diets and managing food budgets. More than 89% of the EFNEP graduates improved their diets, notably with an increase in intake of both fruit and vegetables. Participants made strides in food resource management; 72% of participants made positive changes in their resource management practices. 29% of participants ran out of food less often before the end of the month. An EFNEP cost/benefit study in 6 states, including Montana, found that for every dollar invested in EFNEP programming, \$8.82 in future health care savings resulted. These savings are a huge positive impact for Montana.

Adults, Youth respectively

People Intend/Adopt Practices: 405 1491  
People Actually Adopted Practices: 360 1416  
People completing program: 405 1491  
Number of males: 31 762  
Number of females; 374 729  
White/Caucasian: 236 942  
Black/African Americans: 3 21  
American Indian/Alaskan Native: 147 470  
Hispanic/Latino: 19 36  
Asian/Pacific Islander: 0 22

### **Funding source:**

EFNEP 3d Extension funds

### **Brief Description of Other Food Resource Management Programs:**

Extension educators in Montana respond to the diverse needs and interests of adults and children through implementing a variety of programs for Food Resource Management in a variety of settings. Individual program titles focus on food preparation or strategies, but content includes the planning, preparation and safe storage of foods in a cost effective, tasty and healthy manner. Titles include Once-A-Month Cooking, Dutch Oven Cooking, Gifts from the Kitchen, Cooking with Mixes, and Cooking for One.

**Impact:**

For those programs reported, 1293 Montanans received information or gained skills through these programs in Food Resource Management. They often learned new recipes and techniques to use while balancing food needs with other life priorities. However, the real impact was the long lasting motivation to plan and prepare healthier foods in a cost effective way. Children learned the importance of food safety while enjoying the enhanced skills of outdoor cooking. Families reported working together and saving money. Participants noted that they felt more confidence cooking at home, rather than eating out routinely.

People Intend/Adopt Practices: 1289

People Actually Adopted Practices: 1082

People completing program: 1293

Males: 405

Females: 887

White/Caucasian: 1256

Black/African American: 5

American Indian/Alaskan Native: 12

Hispanic/Latino: 10

Asian/Pacific Islander: 9

**Funding source:**

Smith-Lever 3b & c, state and Local

**Scope of Impact:**

Statewide

**Key Theme: Food Safety****Brief Description:**

Concern about food safety throughout the food system has reached an all-time high. Financial costs of food-borne illnesses for Montanans, especially those at high risk, are tremendous as scarce public tax money covers lost wages, health care, and investigative costs. These losses have wide spread implications in Montana's health care costs, productivity, and the health and economic well-being of children, families and communities

Top Notch Food Safety (Tribal College Food Safety Outreach Project) The goal of this project is to provide expertise at Tribal Colleges and within tribal communities to improve the ability of food service workers to make informed, responsible decisions related to controlling food safety hazards, especially those hazards associated with meat and/or poultry. A safe food supply is essential for the economic development in a

community, especially communities with tourism as a major economic contributor. A food vendor not practicing safe food handling skills may cause a food borne illness and may be closed through regulatory action. These financial and social losses can put enormous strain on reservation communities as scarce public tax money covers lost wages, health care, and investigative costs.

Serv Safe training is a food safety educational training program for food service workers. Through the leadership of MSU Extension Service, ServSafe has been offered to many food service workers throughout the state. The purpose of this project is to increase safe food handling behaviors thereby preventing food borne illnesses. These courses teach the basics of Safe Food Handling, focusing on four key principles - controlling time and temperature when handling food, ensuring proper personal hygiene, preventing cross-contamination, and proper cleaning and sanitizing. Recommended participants include employees and volunteers at food service operations: restaurants, cafeterias, schools, senior centers, pow wows, vendors, food banks, day cares, and middle and high school students. This training can provide a National Certification for Food Service Managers as well as a train-the-trainer program and skills.

### **Impacts/Accomplishments:**

One County reported: 425 participants gained an awareness of the responsibility of preparing and serving safe food. Some managers indicated that they didn't realize some of the procedures used in their establishments were potentially dangerous. All participants in the 4 and 8-hour classes must pass a final examination to receive credit for taking the course. All the 4-H youth, leaders and parents are evaluated on the food handling procedures taught in the one hour workshops while working their shifts in the Sanders County Fair Dining Hall.

Restaurants, schools, agencies and other businesses that provide food to the public are continually asking for more classes to be provided. Some restaurants are seeing the value of the classes and requiring all of their employees to complete the ServSafe course. High school students are finding it easier to get a job in the food service businesses in this country, if they have taken ServSafe. The County Sanitarian's office is receiving fewer complaints about the county restaurants and other food businesses.

Six producers are producing safe food products in the Mission Mountain Market kitchen facility. Facility manager requires producers to complete the safe food handling course prior to production for test marketing or sales. Producing quality and safe food products insures the economic investment in the business is beneficial to the entrepreneur and the reputation of the food production facility. The county sanitarian inspects the productions and all have successfully passed the evaluation.

Seventeen local establishments have food safety plans in place with certified employees handling food prep safely. Certified employees are encouraging other employees to become certified as well, which should yield increased food safety in those establishments. The awareness of the importance of food safety and programs like the



ServSafe certification course increased with local certified food service workers sharing their knowledge with fellow workers

Number of Counties Participating in Food Safety Education and Training: 25 counties

Total Number of People Completing Food Safety and Education and training Programs: 25,194

Total Number of Women: 11,408

Total Number of Males; 13,785

Total Number of American Indian/ Alaska Native: 5,211

Total Number of Asian American/ Pacific Islander: 32

Total Number of Black/ African American: 31

Total Number of Hispanic/ Latino: 98

Total Number of White/ Caucasian: 19,525

Total People Intending to Adopt Practices: 20,036

Total People Actually Adopting Practices: 12,573

**Funding source:**

Smith-Lever 3b & c, State and Local

**Scope of Impact:**

Statewide

# GOAL 3

## A HEALTHY, WELL-NOURISHED POPULATION

### Overview

Currently in Montana, the following food and nutrition areas are addressed:

1) prevention of chronic disease through healthy food choices, 2) prevention of eating disorders and disorders eating, 3) providing leadership for community nutrition groups, 4) promoting local food projects, and 5) promoting integrated nutrition services for the elderly. The Montana State University Extension's approved Plan of Work has three Performance Goals which ensure health promotion and disease prevention through improved science-based detection, surveillance, prevention and education.

#### **1. Montanans will adopt healthy lifestyles and reduce risk behaviors by taking responsibility for their decisions and make healthier food choices by applying dietary guidelines and Food Guide Pyramid recommendations in selecting and preparing food.**

In the Key Themes of Human Nutrition, Health, and Medicinal Plants, the following programming efforts are highlighted. "Hips, Hearts, and Hormones" program was provided for updated information regarding women's health issues and a mini-health fair for bone density screening, blood pressure screening, and blood chemistry screens. Many of these programs are developed in partnership with other agencies, such as the Richland County Nutrition Coalition which was initiated 6 years ago and is coordinated by the county FCS Agent. Overall, 15 counties offered programming with 7,300 participants and .5 statewide FTE Extension personnel involved. Impacts include gain in knowledge and skills needed to adopt healthy nutrition-related lifestyles and development of effective nutrition-related behavior change techniques.

#### **2. Montana children and adolescents will learn to make healthy food choices through community activities that are coordinated with nutrition messages being taught in school programs.**

Under the Key Themes of Human Nutrition and Health, a one-credit "Nutrition Education for Teachers" was provided to teachers in central Montana. In addition, agents provided programs for students in the topics of Food Guide Pyramid, healthy snacks, breakfast, 5 a Day, portion sizes, and food preparation. At least 8 counties offered programming with 1,791 youth participating with .15 statewide FTE Extension personnel involved. Impacts include the improved ability of teachers to integrate nutrition topics into their curriculum and children's improved ability to make healthy food choices.

#### **3. Older adults in Montana will implement nutrition practices that will enable them to maintain and/or improve their health.**

In the Key Themes of Human Nutrition and Health, strategies included: 1) A grocery store coupon project; 2) Card snacks using fruits and vegetables; and 3) An intergenerational teen/4-H and older adult approach to increasing intake of fruits and vegetables. Also, annual Health Fair for Seniors was another example for providing opportunity to improve nutrition among seniors and to create an awareness of how seniors can supplement their diet with products made from high-protein grains grown in Montana. There were 7 counties involved with 9,900 participants with statewide .4 FTE Extension personnel involved . Impacts include increased availability of educational resources to elderly and professionals serving elderly.

### **Brief Description**

In Montana, many health problems are both directly and indirectly related to unhealthy nutrition and food choices. It is the goal of Montana State University Extension Food & Nutrition to provide food and nutrition information, programs and leadership to identify primary health issues related to food and nutrition.

Currently in Montana, the following food and nutrition programs are being conducted:

- Prevention of Chronic Disease Through Healthy Food Choices and Activity
- Eating Disorders and Disordered Eating
- Leadership for Community Nutrition Groups
- Unsafe Weight Loss Practice in Adults
- Combating Nutrition Misinformation
- Promoting Local Food Projects: Locally Grown Food, Community Gardens, Community Kitchens
- Promoting Integrated Nutrition Services for the Elderly
- Nutrition for Women
- Nutrition Education for Teachers, Caregivers and Other Educators

### **Impact /Accomplishments:**

**Following are impact/outcome statements from individual county reports:**

- Sheridan County Health Fair: Seventy five people received flu shots.
- Eighty three people received blood pressure screenings.
- Eighty-five of the participants gained knowledge in basic human nutrition, how to prepare nutritious meals for family members, financial management for food, and food safety. Participants also now know better food choices to make in order to insure a healthy lifestyle.
- Seventy-five of the participants have shown changed behavior in human nutrition. The “Cooking for One” class, which consists of senior citizens, are making healthy food choices in meal preparation. They are also either freezing leftovers or making smaller recipe sizes. This changed behavior helps enhance food safety

as they are no longer keeping leftovers in the refrigerator for extended lengths of time. The “Once a Month Cooking” class and the “Cooking with Mixes” class are utilizing food financial management.

- All seventy of the participants have learned a lifelong skill of basic human nutrition, financial management of their food, and food safety.
- 56% or 562 coupons were redeemed by seniors for fruits and vegetables.
- Assisted living residents enjoyed fresh tomatoes from their garden and provided some with a sense of usefulness in caring for the garden.
- Retirement home residents improved their nutrition by having an additional meal provided to them on the weekend.
- There were increased fruits and vegetables at senior center potlucks and other activities. Table conversation on healthy eating increased and ideas were shared.
- NSI survey showed 31% of seniors weren’t eating enough fruits and vegetables but were eating adequate levels at the end of the program.
- Garden projects are planned to be continued, increasing the amount of fresh vegetable intake in retirement facilities. Residents helping with the garden keep physically active and have an increased sense of usefulness.
- Twelve people reported that they are using the Food Guide Pyramid and the Dietary Guidelines more often as an overall guide for making healthy food and activity choices.
- Eight people reported that they have successfully made an effort to increase their intake of calcium.
- Sixteen people reported that they have increased the frequency of doing moderate activity.
- Students attending after-school programs were able to tell the teacher the next day what a healthy breakfast was and most had received a serving of calcium before coming to school.
- Seniors increased knowledge of current calcium recommendations and how it affects their health, increased calcium intake for that day through the snack and many stated they were going to buy yogurt for added calcium at home.
- Evaluation showed all participants increased knowledge and were motivated to initiate changes for bone health as a result of the Calcium Counts program.
- 95% of Calcium Counts participants increased calcium intake and physical activity.

### **Number of Counties Participating in Food Safety Education and Training: 19 Counties.**

Total Number of People Completing Food Safety and Education and training Programs:  
18,884

Total Number of Women: 12,124

Total Number of Males: 6,770

Total Number of American Indian/ Alaska Native: 841

Total Number of Asian American/ Pacific Islander: 61

Total Number of Black/ African American: 38

Total Number of Hispanic/ Latino: 123

Total Number of White/ Caucasian: 17,742  
Total People Intending to Adopt Practices: 17,049  
Total People Actually Adopting Practices: 11,509

**Sources of Funding:**

Smith-Lever 3b & c, state and local

WIN Rockies grant

**Scope of Impact:**

Statewide

## **GOAL 4**

# **AN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM THAT PROTECTS NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

### **Overview:**

Montana producers are noted for their concern for the environment. Most of our agricultural programs include environmental awareness and protection. A statewide survey revealed that the public is concerned with environmental issues including water, air, soils, range lands, forests, wildlife, and the multiple use of public lands. This report will highlight programs under two of the Goal 4 key themes: Environmental Management Systems and Integrated Pest Management. In all programs reported under Goal 4, there were 688 man days of field faculty time devoted to programs that are concerned with agricultural systems that protect natural resources and the environment. 2.5 FTE of specialists time was devoted to this goal. Faculty are on a combination of Federal 3b&c, state and county funding sources. 18,121 people completed programs and 14,215 of those adopted practices. Of those completing programs, 510 were American Indian and 113 were of Spanish ethnicity. These numbers put us above parity of participation for American Indian and Spanish ethnicity in the target audience.

### **Selected Impacts/Outcomes are:**

Thirty-two Environmental Management Assessment projects were implemented and achieved results in four pilot counties. The programs will be expanded to a statewide effort.

One ranch operation has completed construction of physical barriers and filter strips to limit the run-off from an animal feeding area and filter any run-off, if it occurs, before draining into natural stream drainage.

Off-stream water developments have been put in place on three operations.

Fifteen producers attended a calibration clinic and learned about accurate calibration of spray equipment. Those 15 participants went home and calibrated their sprayers and mailed back a card confirming their equipment was calibrated and the total number of acres they manage. As a result of the training, 15,000 acres are now sprayed with calibrated equipment.

This program saved growers on the average 1.6 sprays @ \$20.00/spray on 77,000 acres of sugar beets or \$2.46 million in input costs.

Forty-eight fields were planted with seed treatment effective for *Aphanomyces* and 37 were shown not to need this seed treatment. Based on average field size, these tests increased income by \$288,000 and saved inputs of \$17,760.

Growers of approximately 17,000 acres in western North Dakota have used this program as have some growers in northern Wyoming .

### **Key Theme: Environmental Management systems Key Theme: Environmental Management systems**

#### **Brief Description:**

The Partnerships for Livestock Environmental Management Assessments Systems Project organizes a support system for livestock producers to positively address environmental and community health concerns through partnerships between state universities, commodity organizations, state and federal agencies (EPA, NRCS, etc), and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The project goal is to develop, pilot test and evaluate environmental assessment and decision-support aids with which livestock producers can address local priority water and air quality issues while sustaining their operations' economic viability.

#### **Impact/Accomplishments:**

One project was designed to show the distribution of groundwater resources and the quality of these resources in the northern half of Stillwater County. Maps indicate the best locations and depths to drill water wells, areas with potentially poor quality water resources, and evaluation of the water quality so the cattle producers include water chemistry in developing optimum nutrition programs for their livestock. In addition, the project assesses impacts of CRP and farming practice changes on formerly salinized areas.

A second project was designed to search for locations where wells capable of supporting regional supplies of livestock-potable water can be constructed.

An agent reported that three livestock producers are rebuilding livestock working facilities directly utilizing environmental management principles learned.

Nine producers have improved the method used to winter feed their cattle and several of those nine have initiated vegetative filter strip management to mitigate any impacts of run-off from their operations.

An agent reported that all 18 participants have gained insight and knowledge about environmental management relative to livestock operations. Two ranch operations have already begun management changes that will limit livestock access to creeks and streams that flow through cattle handling, winter feeding and calving areas. One ranch operation has completed construction of physical barriers and filter strips to limit the run-off from

an animal feeding area and filter any run-off, if it occurs, before draining into natural stream drainage. Off-stream water developments have been put in place on three operations.

198 producers completed programs and 192 adopted and implemented practices in a four county area. More detailed information is available at our reporting web site:  
[http://extn.msu.montana.edu/riodata/RIO\\_Results\\_Tableview.asp](http://extn.msu.montana.edu/riodata/RIO_Results_Tableview.asp)

### **Scope of Impact;**

This program is currently being pilot tested in four counties but will expand to a statewide program over the next two years.

### **Source of funding:**

Smith Lever 3b&c, state, local grants and partnerships

### **Key Theme: Integrated Pest Management Key Theme: Integrated Pest Management**

### **Brief Description:**

Sugarbeet producers face complex decisions in managing diseases. Five diseases (Cercospora leaf spot, Sugarbeet cyst nematode, Rhizoctonia crown and root rot, Powdery mildew and Aphanomyces root rot) require management decisions involving variety, rotation and fungicide application decisions. We have conducted workshops for sugarbeet field men and growers on how to monitor environmental conditions and run computer predictive models and have run predictive soil samples for growers to indicate the need for rotation of specific varieties of fungicides.

### **Impact/ Accomplishments:**

One county reported 15 producers attended the calibration clinic and learned about accurate calibration of spray equipment. Then those 15 participants went home and calibrated their sprayers and mailed back a card confirming their equipment was calibrated and the total number of acres they manage. As a result of the training, 15,000 acres are now sprayed with calibrated equipment. Now farmers will be applying recommended rates and therefore minimize any adverse contamination to groundwater.

In this last year, 226 people attended 12 Cercospora workshops and all 180 contract growers used the predictive model saving 1-2 sprays and all utilized effective spray programs that minimized fungicide resistance/performance problems. A total of 98 soil samples were processed for prediction of cyst nematode/ Aphanomyces root rot loss potential and 145 growers attended variety selection/disease management meetings. This program saved growers on the average 1.6 sprays @ \$20.00/spray on 77,000 acres of sugar beets or \$2.46 million in input costs. Fifteen growers decided to utilize another year



of rotation rather than use soil fumigants and all were confident that they could plant without fumigants. Forty-eight fields were planted with seed treatment effective for Aphanomyces and 37 were shown not to need this seed treatment. Based on average field size, these tests increased income by \$288,000 and saved inputs of \$17,760. Growers of approximately 17,000 acres in western North Dakota have used this program as have some growers in northern Wyoming.

8,178 producers completed the programs under Goal 4 and 3,315 adopted and implemented practices across the state. More details are available at:  
[http://extn.msu.montana.edu/riodata/RIO\\_Results\\_Tableview.asp](http://extn.msu.montana.edu/riodata/RIO_Results_Tableview.asp)

### **Source of Funding:**

Smith Lever 3b&c, state, local

### **Scope of Impact**

Generally state wide. Sugar Beets are grown along the Yellowstone, Bighorn and Missouri River Valleys where irrigation water is available.

## **Goal 5**

# **ENHANCED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY and QUALITY of LIFE for AMERICANS**

### **Overview Statement**

Because of its commitment to strong families and healthy communities, Montana Extension traditionally has a large program effort related to Goal #5, Enhanced Economic Opportunity and Quality of Life for Americans. This year's annual report will highlight programs that contribute to the achievement of the goal. Key themes include community development, promoting business, jobs and employment, tourism, leadership, housing, home safety, family resource management, estate planning, parenting, children youth and families at risk, child care, conflict management, workforce preparation, and life skill education.

Examples of outcomes related to this goal include:

- Parents hiring baby sitters report their children are getting better care and that the parents are asked important questions by the baby sitters before they leave.
- Through the efforts of the EDEN project, live activation of enhanced 911 service has been achieved for 5970 families.
- Pollution prevention programs have resulted in small businesses implementing waste minimization and resource conservation systems above the requirements.
- As a result of a high school financial management program, students had improved their spending habits and savings habits.
- 4-H youth are more likely than other youth to succeed in school, get more A's and be more involved in their school activities than non 4-H peers.
- More detailed information is available in the complete reports in Goal #5.

### **Brief Description:**

To enhance the economic opportunity and quality of life for Montana families, the Montana Extension Housing Program offers programs to consumers and professionals throughout the State. During the past year housing programs have been offered to Public and Indian Housing Authorities on all seven of Montana's Native American Reservations, home inspectors, and the Montana Board of Realty Regulations. For the Montana building industry, a training and certification program consisting of 24 6-hour courses was offered. For the Montana low-income weatherization program, a training and certification program has also been established and expanded to 12 western states. During the past year a new 3-state project was established to find long-term housing for persons with AIDS/HIV. For Montana consumers, educational programs were offered dealing with topics such as water quality and treatment, septic system operation, home maintenance and energy conservation.

### **Impact /Accomplishments:**

As result of these programs, 360 real estate agents have integrated Extension housing information dealing with household molds into home inspections and buy-sell contracts. Also, 64 real estate companies incorporated home-based methamphetamine lab disclosure information into buy-sell contracts. Following educational programs conducted by the Montana Extension Service, 389 homeowners have adopted management plans for their private wells and septic systems. County Extension agents also report 187 consumers participating in home-buyer education programs. Serving low-income families with energy management and weatherization assistance programs, efforts offered by the Montana Extension Service have resulted in 2480 Montana families with energy management plans and installed energy conservation measures. Through Native American housing programs conducted by the Montana Extension Service, 163 Indian families have reported that as a result of Extension education they have benefitted by lower utility costs, being warmer and more comfortable, living in safer and healthier homes, and learning self-improvement home repair skills. Through the Montana Extension Certified Builder Program, 48 home builders have completed continuing education programs and are applying management skills to their work.

### **Sources of Funding:**

State funds, grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, grant from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Montana Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Scope of Impact:**

State impacts have been reported here. Montana Extension provides training and technical assistance to weatherization programs in these states: North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

### **Key Theme: Home Safety**

### **Brief Description:**

The Montana Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) is an all-hazard outreach effort that focuses on preparedness and recovery. MT EDEN is a statewide collaboration with the Montana Homeland Security Task force, Department of Disaster and Emergency Services, Department of Administration and Governor's office, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Red Cross, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, weather service and many other agencies. EDEN provides outreach, education and training throughout Montana and provides up-to-date all-hazard information specific to Montana through the comprehensive web site [www.montanahelp.edu](http://www.montanahelp.edu).

### **Impact/Accomplishments:**

Through the efforts of EDEN county agents reported these impacts:

- Live activation of “enhanced” 911 service serving 5970 families
- Interactive video training on using the EDEN program and web site to 80 county emergency service providers
- Over 400 county roads were named for emergency rapid response identification
- 834 new road signs were installed for emergency rapid response
- 3,754 household addresses were assigned for emergency rapid response
- 2,900 household phone company records were updated to enhance emergency rapid response.
- County agents and state specialists reported training program to enhance local response reached 665 emergency management professionals during 2002.

### **Sources of Funding:**

State funding as well as national EDEN collaborative funds provided by Michigan State University.

### **Scope of Impact:**

Montana

### **Brief Description:**

Since 1992, the Montana Extension Service has provided technical assistance to Montana small businesses through its pollution prevention program. The non-regulatory program provides direct assistance to businesses that generally pose a high risk to the environment and workers. Typical target businesses include printers, dry-cleaners, auto-repair and body shops, and wood finishing businesses. Through technical assistance and training, the pollution prevention program helps businesses reduce solid and hazardous wastes and their disposal costs.

### **Impact /Accomplishments:**

During this program year, 86 small businesses reported adopting Environmental Management Systems, 56 fleet (motor pool organizations) adopted pollution prevention practices and 239 successfully utilized the Montana Materials exchange to find markets for unused business related materials/products. Due to the success of this program, the efforts have been expanded and funded to serve six states in the U.S. EPA Region 8.

### **Sources of Funding:**

Federal - U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

### **Scope of Impact:**

Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming

## **Key Theme: Family Resource Management**

### **Brief Description:**

The Montana Medical Care Savings Accounts Act allows Montanans to save money for medical expenses and long-term health care and reduce their income taxes at the same time. The money that is placed in an MSA is not subject to Montana income taxation if left in the account or used for medical expenses for the account holder or his/her dependents. If an account holder gets through the year without needing to use any of the money in the MSA, it remains in the account and earns tax-free interest. MSU Extension collaborated with the Montana Department of Revenue agencies and professional organizations to create an awareness of the benefits of MSAs. The goal was to inform the public that they can save money for medical expenses and long-term health care and reduce state income taxes at the same time. As a result of seven newspapers publishing an article on MSAs, more than 2,000 copies of the MontGuide were distributed. In addition, 1,400 Montanans attended seminars in which information on MSAs was included.

### **Impacts/Accomplishments:**

In a typical audience only 1% had heard of Montana's MSAs before the meeting. After the meeting, typically 90% of the participants indicated they were going to establish MSAs.

### **Sources of Funding:**

State and Local

## **Key Theme: Family Resource Management**

### **High School Financial Management Program**

#### **Brief Description:**

The Montana State University Extension Service, in partnership with the National Endowment for Financial Education and Credit Union National Association, continues to provide the high school financial planning program. The need for the program is demonstrated by a nationwide survey that found only 50% of the teens surveyed could answer questions correctly on topics of taxes, retirement, insurance, credit use, inflation and budgeting.

#### **Impacts/Accomplishments:**

During 2002, 3,095 students in 50 schools participated in the program. As a result of participating in HSFP, 86% of the high school students demonstrated an increase in financial knowledge or behavior when dealing with money. And, it appears that the changes last over time. Three months later, 58% of the students said they had improved

their spending habits and 56% indicated their savings habits had also improved. When it comes to making financial decisions, 84% indicated they felt more confident.

### **Sources of Funding:**

State and Local

### **Scope of Impact:**

Montana is one of 50 states that are offering HSFPP.

### **Brief Description:**

The passage of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 necessitated a revision in the MSU Extension MontGuides on federal estate taxes and federal gift taxes. Although an increase in the applicable exclusion means that there are fewer estates subject to tax, that does not eliminate the need for estate planning. Research has indicated that seven out of ten Montanans die without writing a will. The revised tax publications are part of a 26 part self study packet on estate planning and intergenerational transfers. With the financial assistance from the Business, Estate, Trusts, Tax and Real Property Section of the State Bar of Montana, a World Wide Web site is updated monthly. The site contains all 26 estate planning fact sheets: Members of the State Bar, Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants, and Montana Credit Union Network were involved in the review of the materials developed.

In 2000, Montana was one of six states with a cremation rate above 50% (4,058 cremations out of 8,042 deaths). A MontGuide on Cremation was prepared in response to questions in this area. The Montana Board of Funeral Service, Montana Funeral Directors Association, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks were involved in the review of the MontGuide.

### **Impacts/Accomplishments:**

Approximately 3,820 Montanans participated in estate planning seminars in the state. An additional 705 were reached with the program "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate" which explores ways to distribute property that is not titled. Over 1,000 people who had purchased the estate planning study at home packets received the new MontGuides on federal gift and federal estate taxes. Past evaluations have revealed that as a result of learning about estate planning: 8% had written a will and 29% intended to do so; 28% reviewed the titles of their real and personal property with 13% finding changes were necessary in the way their property was titled; and 39% reviewed their insurance situation and 8% found changes were necessary. One participant indicated his parents saved \$140,000 in federal estate taxes by attending the seminar and then reading the MontGuides.

**Sources of funding:**

State Bar of Montana, Montana Funeral Directors Association

**Scope of Impact:**

The estate planning web site as been added as a link in the Financial Security in Later Life web site.

**Brief Description:**

MSU Extension faculty have been involved in a variety of parent education programs to assist parents in the challenges of parenting today's children. National curriculums such as RETHINK Anger Management, Common Sense Parenting, and PREP were used in some locations while programs developed by the Family and Human Development Specialist and field faculty were used in others. Programs were offered to incarcerated parents at a regional prison, court ordered parents, divorcing spouses, grandparents, and a general population of parents with children aged birth through adolescence. Topics ranged from child development to handling stress.

**Impact/Accomplishments:**

Across Montana, 3,628 parents took part in Extension parenting programs. This total includes 92 Native Americans, 13 African Americans, 10 Asian Americans, and 16 Hispanic Americans. All participating parents gained short-term outcomes of more information associated with the challenges of parenting. Sixty-five percent of new parents in one program requested a newsletter series. As a result of another program, four incarcerated parents made contact with their children with whom they had either lost contact or had never had contact to develop a relationship. Evaluations of the RETHINK class found 95% of the parents learned to acknowledge, understand, express and control their hostility and anger. Twelve social workers who had parents court ordered to attend classes reported that 87% of the class participants they referred to the Extension Service for assistance and classes decreased their use of physical violence, learned how to focus on the issues at hand and learned how to encourage children to express their anger appropriately. 93% of the parents in the parenting through divorce class made changes in parenting behavior and their emotional and verbal responses.

**Source of Funding:**

Community/local

Other grants

Collaborations with other agencies

**Scope of Impact:**

Statewide

**Description:**

Montana has a large population of limited resource families and families under stress due to the drought and low commodity prices. Several programs have been offered to Montana families at risk including parenting, youth development, and out-of-school-time programming. Children, youth and adults learn life skills in these programs to assist them in being contributing members of their communities. The largest of these programs are located on the Rocky Boy Reservation and in the communities of Miles City and Terry. These communities are the sites for the USDA funded New Communities program and are focusing primarily on assisting youth in learning to become competent, contributing, adults. MSU Extension is collaborating with Stone Child College to offer the New Communities program at Rocky Boy.

**Impacts/Accomplishments:**

During 2002, 6,167 children, youth, and adults were impacted by this programming. Nearly 11% (670) participants were Native American, 22 Hispanics, five African Americans, and five Asian Americans. A nearly nonexistent 4-H program on Rocky Boy has expanded to over 50 youths with 5 winning ribbons at their county fair. In Miles City, school age children now have an option for safe quality care during the summer months. In Terry, limited resource families can attend the after school program free of charge. Transportation from school to the after school program was provided. Adults were trained in the Experiential Learning course which was used to assist youth in learning life skills such as teamwork, decision making, and leadership.

**Source of Funding:**

Community/local

USDA CYFAR New Communities

**Scope of Impact:**

Statewide

Rocky Boy Reservation

Custer & Prairie Counties

**Description:**

Classes for youth were offered to help them learn proper care for children when they are hired to baby sit. Participants learn safety and first aid, how to make simple and nutritious meals and snacks, how to use discipline effectively and appropriately for different ages,



how to plan and organize a day and incorporate enrichment activities into their childcare situation.

**Impact/Accomplishments:**

Two childcare programs were held serving 45 youth. Youth gained knowledge in how to care for young children. At one location, parents hiring baby sitters report their children are getting better care and that the parents are asked important questions by the baby sitters before they leave.

**Source of funding:**

Community/local

**Scope of Impact:**

Teton County

Toole County

**Brief Description:**

Effective conflict management is a life skill necessary for youth and adults to effectively work with others. Coping with Economic Change is a program developed by a county faculty member based on the book, Who Moved My Cheese? “Put a Lid on It” is a program developed by three county agents focusing on the work and family struggle facing families. Ideas on fast and easy meals and budgeting were presented.

**Impact/Accomplishments:**

Extension faculty provided programming in this area for 213 individuals across the state. Attendees reported that they would try to be more flexible and think of alternative actions that can be taken when change occurs. Several women who attended the “Put a Lid on It” program shared later with the county agent that they planned to make inexpensive gifts this year due to the downturn in the economy.

**Source of funding:**

Community/local

**Scope of Impact:**

Stillwater County

Fergus County

Teton County

**Brief Description:**

In cooperation with the Workforce Investment Youth Board for Montana, youth qualifying under the Workforce Investment Act were invited to attend the annual 4-H Congress activity. A special track of study was developed that would focus on work skills and job skill training which both Workforce Investment Youth and 4-H Members attended.

**Impacts/Accomplishments:**

On the short term, youth found common ground that they could agree on such as skills needed for the work world - skills not currently being provided by schools. Because of the success of this cooperative effort, future plans are underway. The anticipated long term outcome is a better trained and work ready work force.

**Source of Funds:**

State and Federal

**Brief Description:**

YES is a youth entrepreneurial program that focuses on experiential learning and functioning in a society. Youth develop, operate, and manage businesses in their community. This program was a collaboration between Lake County Extension and the Flathead Reservation Extension office.

**Impacts/Accomplishments:**

Youth are able to apply and utilize economic concepts. Society members have the opportunity to interact and discuss concepts from entrepreneurship to economics to politics. Eleven youth including two Native Americans participated in the program.

**Source of funding:**

Community/local

**Scope of Impact:**

Lake County

Flathead Reservation

**Brief Description:**

Montana has the lowest average wage and the highest number of people working more than one job of any state in the country. Promoting business, jobs and employment programs are aimed at stimulating Montana's economy.

Work continued on the Regional Targeted Industries Project during 2002. The project is intended to produce computer matching of potential industries with compatible communities. A model program from Vermont is being adapted to the West. Hawaii joined Montana and Nevada in the project. Deer Lodge and Jefferson Counties continued to serve as pilot communities.

Extension joined with the Montana Ambassadors to conduct a fourth statewide Business Retention and Expansion Survey – this one probing difficulties in attracting qualified employees.

Agent led economic development efforts included business roundtables in Jefferson and Deer Lodge Counties, a business needs survey in Jefferson County, Business Retention and Expansion programming in Jefferson County, customized Strategy Team development in Jefferson County, weekly "Mind Your Own Business" newspaper columns in Jefferson County, regional economic strategy planning training for six counties, coordinated efforts with local economic development organizations in Sanders, Deer Lodge, Prairie, Mineral, Granite, Madison and Jefferson Counties, closure mitigation efforts in Jefferson County, "Sewing as a Business" workshops in Yellowstone and Cascade Counties, customer service training in Hill County, a cooperative development by the Dawson County Agent.

### **Impacts/Accomplishments:**

Economic development efforts resulted in: economic development plans in Jefferson, Deer Lodge, Prairie and Madison Counties, mitigation plans for mine closures in Jefferson County, retention of 155 jobs in Jefferson County, customized retail plans for five Jefferson County businesses, 16 jobs created and seven retained plus \$87,000 of business loans made in Lincoln County, customer training for 169 participants in Hill County, and retail co-ops formation in Colstrip and Anaconda.

### **Sources of funding:**

Farm Foundation, Federal 3b & 3c, state, and local.

### **Scope of Impact:**

Multistate and state specific.

### **Brief Description:**

Community Development programs during 2002 fell into roughly 3 categories: Community Visioning and Planning, Community Education, and Community Facilities

and Events Development. A full-blown Community Visioning Project was completed in Lockwood. A new Visioning Project was launched in Lincoln County. A community assessment program was undertaken in Glacier County. Follow up actions from previous Visioning Projects were completed in Anaconda and Wibaux. Strategic Plans were conducted with the Fort Belknap Reservation Welfare to Work program, Headstart, and Tribal Council. Agents coordinated Community Education Programs in Cascade, and Granite Counties. Agents facilitated Community Events and Facilities efforts in Teton, Deer Lodge, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark and Wibaux Counties.

### **Impact/Accomplishments:**

These efforts resulted in asset identification and improvements, strategic plans for Deer Lodge County, and the Fort Belknap Reservation; library, baseball field and nursing home facilities construction in Wibaux County; decisions on incorporation, and sewage treatment in Lockwood; signage and beautification projects in Lockwood and Anaconda; a fund raising concert in Choteau; long term recreation and garbage disposal plans in Choteau; a branch education center of the University of Montana in Granite County; and adult education resource awareness in Cascade County.

### **Sources of Funding:**

Federal 3b&3c, State and Local.

### **Scope of Impact:**

State Specific

### **Brief Description:**

The 4-H program provides a laboratory for youth and adults to learn and/or sharpen their leadership skills. The 4-H Ambassador program for teens and the Leadership College are two efforts under way to provide a comprehensive and sequential opportunity for participants to develop their capacity to be strong leaders. Approximately 3,800 adults and youth look to the Extension Youth program as an avenue to help them be more effective leaders. While many youth have similar skills, the five Ambassador Officers have exhibited outstanding leadership skills. They have conducted workshops for other youth on communications and team building. Leaders are just beginning to participate in the Leadership College that will give them a better grasp of working effectively with youth.

### **Impact/Accomplishments:**

Because of interactions with the Ambassador officers and other youth leaders, many of the Montana legislators are more keenly aware of the benefits youth gain through 4-H. One legislator stated that 4-H members are the results of the investments of our funding

and it is worth our investment. The Ambassadors have been trained through the 4-H program to express themselves with confidence.

### **Source of Funding:**

Private/State

### **Brief Description:**

Montana Extension has a long history of leadership development programming stretching back more than 30 years. Over 5,000 Montanans have participated in Extension Leadership workshops. While most of the leadership training is presented by the Community Development and 4-H and Youth Program areas all program areas and Extension offices contribute to leadership development in Montana.

Five Montana Agents completed the regional Western Extension Leadership Development program and five new agents were accepted into the program in 2002.

In addition, agents in Teton, Fergus, Deer Lodge Counties conducted specific topic leadership training workshops.

### **Impacts/Accomplishments:**

Strong leadership is extremely important to the vitality of small rural communities. Three hundred thirty-five local leaders improved their leadership abilities as a result of agent led leadership training programs. They gained understanding of their own leadership traits, techniques for handling conflict, dealing with stress, and communicating more effectively.

### **Sources of funding:**

Federal 3b & 3c, state and local

### **Scope of Impact:**

State specific

### **Brief Description:**

Tourism is Montana's second largest export base industry bringing \$1.7 billion to the state annually. For the last decade, Extension tourism education programs have helped communities, farmers and ranchers, and entrepreneurs consider and develop tourism projects. In 2002, the 26<sup>th</sup> community completed the Community Tourism Assessment Program. Three more entered the program.

Montana Extension took the lead in initiating an eight state Nature-Based Tourism Education Program in 2002. Work began on a regional video, a regional nature-based tourism business inventory, and a web-based treasure chest of nature-based tourism educational materials.

County agents participated in regional tourism “country” boards, and local Lewis and Clark Bicentennial promotion groups.

### **Impacts/Accomplishments:**

Glasgow completed construction of a kids fishing pond for local and tourists. Twelve Lewis and Clark murals were painted in downtown Whitehall. Dillon was approved as a host site for the Corps II mobile classroom and multimedia station. A local outdoor theater group is preparing for its third year in Whitehall. A Lewis and Clark interpretative site is under development in Liberty County. Three tourism art and culture corridors were initiated. Since inception, 33 community infrastructure projects have been implemented with \$376,000 of state funds plus local match as a result of participation in the Community Tourism Assessment Program.

### **Sources of funding:**

Federal 3b & 3c plus state and local.

### **Scope of Impact:**

State specific

### **Brief Description:**

In Montana, approximately 11,800 youth belong to 4-H clubs. The focus of these clubs is life skill development that will build up young people’s competence, confidence, caring, connections and contributions. To achieve this goal, 4-H Clubs are intentionally designed to include the eight critical elements necessary for positive youth development:

- Positive relationships with caring adults
- Opportunities for self-determination
- An accepting and inclusive environment
- Opportunities to contribute through community service
- A safe environment for learning and growing
- Engagement in learning
- Opportunities to be an active participant in life — now and in the future.

### **Impact/Accomplishments:**

Research has shown that in Montana, 4-H youth are more likely than other youth to succeed in school, getting more A’s than other youth on their work. They are also more

involved as leaders in their school and the community and they are looked up to as role models by other youth. Statistics supporting these statements reveal that 33.4% 4-H members compared to 19.6% other youth receive mostly A's on their school work; those receiving mostly B's are 9.7% 4-H members versus 9.1% others; and those receiving mostly C's are 2.0% 4-H members to 4.2% other youth. The trend continues to the D and below levels as well. Additionally, it was found that nearly 75% of all 4-H members are involved in up to four out-of-school activities. They are more likely to be involved in all types of after school programs than other youth. The statement can be made that Montana 4-H youth are busy making contributions to improve the quality of life in their families, neighborhoods and communities.

Research has also shown that 4-H youth are less likely than other youth to shoplift or steal, use illegal drugs of any kind to get high, ride in a car with someone who has been drinking, smoke cigarettes, damage property for the fun of it, skip school or cut classes without permission.

It is through the 4-H club environment and a positive relationship with an adult 4-H leader that youth make decisions and choices that will move them toward a positive future.

State and Federal (Smith Lever 3b & c)

### **Brief Description:**

Since Montana continues to have a large number of youth living in rural settings, learning to handle inevitable situations in a safe manner is important education. Needed instructions included tractor and implement safety, preventive maintenance checks, systems that are basic to a tractor - fuel, electrical, cooling, hydraulics, ballasting, centers of gravity and safe operating practices. Adults were also given the opportunity to learn extrication techniques that are essential when needed as a part of a rescue.

### **Impacts/Accomplishments:**

On the short term, participants gained the understanding of equipment and techniques to deal with safety situations. Over a longer term, several workshop participants were able to gain employment on a farm/ranch operation because of the certificate they received after completing the course. Additional participants have improved safety and operating procedures that are being displayed by those who are operating tractors and other equipment on home farms/ranches.

### **Source of Funding:**

Federal 3d

# STAKEHOLDER INPUT PROCESS

## Native American

Following the Sharing The Land Grant Vision Workshop of the 1862 and 1994 Tribal Land Grant Collaboration 2002 held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on February 6-7, 2002, tribal representatives from the seven tribes in Montana were asked what needs to be done in Montana to meet the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and USDA in Partnership Action Agenda items established in November 2002. The consensus was that they needed to come to MSU campus for training and information on collaborative effort possibilities.

Montana State University Extension Service organized the “Share The Resources” meeting on April 26, 2002 in Bozeman for the seven Tribal Reservation Agents, five Tribal College Agents and several of their identified stakeholders. A second conference “SPLICE” (Sharing, Planning, Learning, Inquiring, Collaborating and Exploring) was held on October 9-10, 2002 in Bozeman. Among other topics, they were asked to work with their communities to help draft the Tribal component of the strategic plan. Those attending were from the same group as listed above. The following items were identified as opportunities for MSU Extension facilitation:

- Develop an awareness for all participants of the issues identified in Albuquerque
- Assist participants in gaining knowledge of the issues and expressing their opinions
- Identify the aspirations of tribal participants of methods to continue collaboration with MSU
- Share information about current programs
- Share information about emerging issues that tribal stakeholders have identified
- Learn about resources at partnering institutions
- Inquire about and explore the potential for collaborations that would benefit partnering institutions, and
- Have different colleges and departments provide information on their programs and services available to tribal clientele

The Montana State University Extension Service participated in a grant, “Listening Circles”, for an assessment of technical assistance and training needs. This project was initiated to address the participation of Native American business owners in e-commerce. Research was conducted by holding learning circles at four reservations across the country; two of which were in Montana; Chief Dull Knife College hosted eight and there



were eleven at Little Big College. See <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/rdev/pubs/contents/185.htm>

### **Montana Extension Advisory Committee (MEAC)**

The Montana Extension Advisory Committee (MEAC), composed of 25 citizens across the State, at its annual meeting, identified several priorities for the Montana Extension Service. These included:

- Individual and family stress related to drought, unemployment, economics and low agricultural prices
- Meeting the needs of the elderly in Montana
- Safe food throughout the food system
- Rural health with emphasis on asthma
- Building community strengths
- Recruiting and training new leaders
- Estate planning for the elderly
- Information on genetically engineered crops
- Education for corrections treatment
- Value added information for Ag products
- Assistance to rural communities
- Expansion of 4-H enrichment programs in schools
- Strengthen and expand 4-H programs

### **4-H/Youth**

The Montana 4-H program traditionally involves clientele in determining program direction and emphasis. While a multiyear strategic plan provides the program blueprint, we work with individual groups annually to put the detail to programs. This past year, the Montana 4-H Leaders Council was asked to identify several goals they believe to be priorities for the state 4-H program. Committees have been formed to carry out the intent of the goals. The goals identified can be lumped into two categories:

- Curriculum: Training and/or revision of the Sport Fishing Project and the Fashion Revue division of Clothing/Textiles.
- Volunteer Leadership Development: The Volunteer Leadership College was planned with input from 4-H constituents and is now being implemented in 5 pilot counties. In addition, a Volunteer Excellence program is being continued and will showcase the work volunteers do in 4-H. Supporting youth leadership through the Ambassador program is also a priority.

The Montana Collaboration for Youth was asked if and how Montana State University could support the work they do as youth development professionals in the state. Among other things, there was a great deal of interest and enthusiasm for a youth development degree and/or certification program. People working in the profession continue to look for ways to build their capacities to do their work better. They see the University as a way to help them do this. The MSU 4-H Center for Youth Development (Extension) has joined with 9 other Universities in the nation to develop an on-line youth development masters degree. The degree is under construction at this time.

- Montana 4-H Council is made up of 16 volunteers who represent about 3900 people who serve in leadership roles in the 4-H program across the state.
- The Montana Collaboration for Youth is made up of representatives of statewide organizations whose mission is centered on youth development. Among this group are Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, Big Brother/Big Sisters, Girl Scouts, etc.

### **Community Development**

- The Montana Extension service partnered with the Montana Ambassadors, a group of Montana business and education leaders appointed by the Governor, to conduct statewide Business Retention and Expansion Programs in 1995, 1996 and 2001. The primary concern faced by Montana businesses reported in the 2001 project was "difficulty in finding qualified employees."

So in 2002, Extension again joined with the Ambassadors to survey the fastest growing, best paying industries in the state on their specific difficulties in finding qualified employees. The stakeholder task force guiding the study included the Chair of Board of Regents, State Agency Directors, a representative of the MSU President's Office plus Montana Ambassador members. The intent of the study was to provide guidance to Montana state agencies and the educational system to better prepare potential employees.

- In 1999, in response to a statewide survey conducted as part of Extension's strategic planning process, Montanans identified better paying jobs as their number one concern. Since that time, our community development program has worked with local economic development corporations in Deer Lodge and Jefferson County, as well as extension specialists throughout the country to develop a computer based, targeted industries program that can help local communities narrow the range of potential industrial

attraction prospects. To focus their efforts on high paying, fast growing industries compatible with the characteristics and preferences of the local community. 2/3 finished with development of program and have obtained guidance from local econ dev org at each step of the process. Through the years 6 similar regional efforts have brought important programs

- MSU Extension Service Community Development office has been requested by local leaders to help conduct a community visioning program. The first step is to establish an advisory council representing array of community interests to design a process specifically tailored to the concerns of Lockwood.

## **FCS**

The Family Consumer Science Program Area has received stakeholder input as follows:

- Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes Program - National Team of Advisors (Cornell, Rutgers, Alaska, North Dakota, Virginia)
- State and Regional Weatherization Effort - twelve state representation on Weatherization Technical Advisory Committee
- Certified Builder Program - Education Committee of the Montana Building Industry
- Regional Pollution Prevention Program - Advisory Committee consists of the Pollution Prevention Coordinator from each of six states
- State Pollution Prevention Program - Board of Advisors made up of state agencies, Montana Chamber of Commerce and Business & Trade Associations
- HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with Aids) - Tri-state program - advisory committees from North Dakota, South Dakota, Billings and Missoula areas
- MT EDEN (Extension Disaster Emergency Network) - advisory board from DES, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Montana Homeland Security Task Force and the Montana Department of Administration
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Project:
  - discussions with county agents
  - discussion with child care resource and referral network
  - discussion with Montana AARP which led to development of partner network: MSU Extension, AARP, Montana Office on Aging, Montana Head Start Collaboration, Tribal Partners, Montana Child Care Resource and Referral Network

- needs assessment disseminated through partnership to gather information from citizens about the needs of grandparents raising grandchildren

- CYFAR New Communities Project

- task force formed with Extension agents, specialist, Tribal partners, and administrators

- The two projects are community based - Rocky Boy and Miles City/Terry. The agents in these areas went back to their communities to solicit input on what their projects should look like. Both are youth focused based on community needs. Web site for project information is: [http://www.montana.edu/wwwhd/ncp\\_grant/index.htm](http://www.montana.edu/wwwhd/ncp_grant/index.htm)

- Surviving the Drought: Family Members Taking Action (with Marsha Goetting)

- this program came from a request from a citizen in Pondera County.

- Relationship Education - this is really happening in 2003 but I started in 2002.

- Stakeholder input from the Governors Council on Families which is composed of citizens across Montana. Membership is by appointment from the Governor.

## **Nutrition**

Montana FSNEP and EFNEP staff work closely with many community organizations to reach and teach those most in need of skills for food resource management. When revising the curriculum, stakeholder and participant input and review was sought. Field testing was done in fifteen counties with lessons to assure adequate input from staff and stakeholders.

### **Agricultural Issues**

Agricultural and Natural Resources stakeholder input was provided by:

- MT Watershed Coordination Council

- Technical Committee of MT Voluntary Water Quality Monitoring Program

- Proper Function Condition Training Cadre

- Governor's Range land Resource Advisory

- Small Acreage Landowner

- GLCI Steering- both state and regional

- WIRE Coordinating

- Missouri River Basin Consortium
- MT Natural Resources Youth Camp
- MT Riparian-Wetland Association
- MT Ag Lender's Range School
- Technical advisory committee of 2 watersheds
- American Society of Animal Science
- MT Nutrition Conference attendees
- MT Beef University
- Montana Stockgrowers
- The Wildlife Society - Animal Damage Control Working Group
- National Extension Wildlife Specialists - Conference Committee
- N.W. Section - The Wildlife Society
- Society for Range Management

# **PROGRAM MERIT REVIEW PROCESS**

## **Montana Cooperative Extension Service Reporting System**

I read numerous reports as submitted by Extension personnel conducting educational programs at the county level. These reports included a cross-section of Extension programs, various size counties, geographical diversity, and tenured/non tenured faculty.

### **General Comments**

I am sure it will date me but I viewed the reports with KASA in mind.

K---Knowledge

A---Attitude

S---Skill

A---Aspiration

As I reviewed the reports, I considered the KASA change in assessing the impacts. I was impressed with the detailed reports from agent's documenting positive changes resulting from their educational efforts. Most of the indicators were in the terms of money saved, increased economic activity, practices initiated, etc.

There were a number of reports that were long on educational activities but actual results were pretty shallow.

I am always impressed with the programs resulting from requests at the local level. I still believe Extension represents a true grassroots organization and must not forget those roots. (Compare Extension with the Forest Service in trying to get public involvement) The reports also reflect Extension's organizational and facilitator skills in their abilities to bring diverse publics together and address difficult issues. I was also impressed with the collaboration efforts in developing and implementing educational and problem solving programs.

I could not find strong evidence of working with minorities especially Hispanic or Latinos. I realize Extension has special programs for Native Americans however I am quite sure non-reservation county have ample numbers of minorities. (Extension is a classic organization that caters to middle class Americans)

Long-term impacts were also weaknesses in most of the reports that I reviewed.

There has always been an age-old argument that it is more difficult to measure impact in human resource programs than agriculture production but let me suggest that the use of testimonials can be a very effective tool in capturing high lights of educational endeavors.

Example: As a result of my involvement in leadership training, I was able to successfully solve a difficult problem with my son and daughter. (Name of participant)

Testimonials can be a most powerful tool in legislative hearings when defending budgets.

The use of both pre and post program surveys are additional tools that can be used effectively to capture changes

resulting from educational programs. Pre surveys can be used to determine how recipients were exposed to the program, what they anticipate, and why they want to attend. (Extension still has a mind set that one or two announcements will bring the folks a running) The more successful programs use multimedia tools to promote their educational programs.

Post surveys can capture the effectiveness of the program as well as the presenters. (What did they like most about the program, what did they like least, how effective was the presenter, are they going to apply the information in their situation, and if not, why) I would also recommend that surveys be considered to capture the long-term impacts. One year after a program was conducted the educator can go back and find out how effective the original program met the recipients needs.

Surveys are very effective tools for fine-tuning gaps in programs that can be addressed. I personally believe it would be prudent to stop long enough and look back several years to document the changes resulting from Extension Programming. I am not advocating every Extension program be surveyed but agents can select one or two important programs and try a survey. (Who knows, they may like the results)

I firmly believe the very best evaluation of programs can be found in the human nutrition programs, especially EFNEP. (They have a very good model)

If the reports are designed to reach the general public, I believe some of the acronyms will leave the readers scratching their heads.

I certainly like the Web page and the format and perhaps you can determine the number of hits you get. If not, perhaps you could include a counter on the main page.

In closing, I was impressed with the overall quality of the reports but do believe they could stand some fine-tuning. It was not my intention to criticize individuals but rather to summarize the aggregated reports I can give you specific examples from county reports however I would not like to embarrass any one individual.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me.

Jim DeBree

Original Merit Review Committee Chairman, July 28, 2000

## **MULTI-STATE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES**

Our Multistate programs were centered around two issues: youth life skills development and agricultural sustainability and profitability.

The Multistate Youth Life Skills Development programs involved several varied approaches including; Interstate exchanges with Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, New York, and Minnesota; Leadership Training with North Dakota; Western Regional Leaders Forum; a regional 4-H camp with North Dakota and South Dakota; and the Western 4-H Institute.

The Agricultural programs were focused around integrated work on research and demonstration trials, and other related educational programs and events related to crop nutrients, pests, varieties, management and profitability. These were conducted in collaboration with North Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. We collaborated with Wyoming on the WIRE (Western Integrated Ranch Education) program. We collaborated with Utah on our dairy program. We collaborate with North Dakota on Value Added Agriculture, and with Colorado on Marketing. These programs were supported by Smith Lever 3b&c funds in the amount of \$116,539, and a total of 2.57 FTE.

## **INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES**

The integrated programs that are reported were centered primarily around Goals 1, 4, and 5.

These programs are primarily in collaboration with researchers at our research centers and programs that are supported by Extension Specialists who have split appointments with research components. These programs included nitrate testing, field trials, integrated pest management, beef quality assurance, and noxious weed programs among others. They were supported by Smith Lever 3b&c funds in the amount of \$51,966 and a total of 1.27 FTE.

More details can be found at our reporting web-site.



# **Management Goals**

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

The need for information and the increase in technology has sparked major adjustments. These have included improvements to our existing web based online reporting system, major renovation of existing web resources including: creation of a “Montana Invests” web site, greater use of online data collection, upgrades to Publications “Materials Management System” including Online Audio Visual Catalog and Online Publications Catalog, Online Plans of Work, Online Time and Effort Reporting, Online Audio Visual Catalog and Online Publications Catalog.

### **IMPROVEMENTS TO MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

In an effort to better serve our staff and faculty with publications, we have instituted an online catalog for in-house use. It provides up to the minute quantities of publications on-hand. This allows for preplanning the order of publications. It also allows for customer feedback triggering needed reorders do to unforeseen high demand.

In 2001 Extension Publications implemented a new Materials Management System and an automated menu phone system. To ensure a more uniform, faster and efficient operation. With the help of these electronic systems we have the capability of serving our constituents’ needs more efficiently and accurately. These systems have proven to be both precise and friendly.

This year has seen positive changes and additions to this system.

These changes/improvements include:

- Addition of online orders with automated confirmation
- Detailed reports for publications staff and authors.
- Online quantity reports for authors (for reorder and tracking)
- Accurate billing
- Comparison reports from archived data with current year projections
- Better inventory control

These additions have alleviated:

- Low inventory numbers
- Better quantity management
- Communication with Extension authors
- Duplication of effort
- Personal follow-up of E-mail orders

## **WEB BASED ONLINE REPORTING REVISIONS and IMPROVEMENTS**

Reporting via the MSU Extension Service Intranet is in its 4<sup>th</sup> year for Montana. With the constant challenge of improving our existing reporting system we set to task by asking those that use it to provide constructive criticism. These are then looked at by the administration and the information technology staff to determine viability. Those changes that serve the good of the organization are implemented for the coming year.

The original system was a two part design. One for the specialists housed on campus and the other for our county employees. This past year the system was redesigned to include both campus and county faculty reports in one easy to use system. The addition of short, medium and long term impacts has increased the effectiveness of the data for program planning and also reporting to stakeholders.

Again, this year resulted in a 100% reporting percentage of county agents with 767 individual reports submitted for the year 2002. This was a decrease of 168 reports but the quality of these reports surpassed previous years' data.

The information is still processed for various means:

- Performance Appraisals
- Program Review
- Civil Rights Review
- Multistate and Integrated Data
- Stakeholder Input
- Legislative Session Impacts and Outcomes

## **MONTANA INVESTS WEB SITE**

This site provides accountability through the Impacts and Outcomes of the Montana University System and MSU Extension Service's "RIO" (Reporting Impacts and Outcomes) System.

These Web-based reporting systems offer detailed information of how the entire Montana University System is accountable to Montana taxpayers. The databases feature detailed information into the projects and programs developed and delivered to the citizens of Montana. They also include county-by-county data of the Montana University System, such as expenditures in host communities by faculty, staff and students; student loan volumes; education attainment levels achieved by Montana citizens; number of students currently attending Montana Universities; alumni residing in each county; and other demographic details.

The system provides a wide ranging search engine. This allows for county specific data to be viewed easily.

This new system developed by MSU Extension Service, through a cooperative effort of all the Universities, allows the general public to see exactly what the Montana University System does with their tax dollars and the benefits that are realized by the citizens and communities of Montana.

These "accountability" systems will be available 365 days a year.

This system has received great exposure through news and web articles. It was introduced to the State Legislature and to the General Public.

### **ONLINE PLANS OF WORK**

Specialist entries on this POW site are intended to replace the Draft Curriculum Plans that we have used in the past and . These Specialist entries are intended to promote programming opportunities for agent consideration. Agents will consider those suggested programs based on local advisory input in the identification of local priority issues.

**NOTE:** The process of Specialists using this site to promote programming for agent consideration may gradually diminish in the future as the issue based teams are formed and functioning.

### **ONLINE TIME AND EFFORT REPORTING**

This is an extremely easy system to use for our staff and faculty making it easier for everyone to report their monthly sick and annual leave time, as well as time and effort. The system is designed to output reports to only those authorized to view them. The employees receive a reminder every month to report from our HR staff.

## **ENHANCING CUSTOMER SERVICE and SATISFACTION**

### **MSU EXTENSION SERVICE ONLINE ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM**

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## **ONLINE PUBLICATIONS**

In an effort to better serve our clientele with publications, we have been posting all new, revised or reprinted Extension publications on the Internet. Currently, nearly 200 publications are on-line and the number grows weekly.

Although posting publications on-line has not decreased demand for our printed publications (as we suspected it might), we are quite sure the on-line publications have succeeded in introducing new clientele to the MSU Extension Service. Each publication contains an E-mail link for feedback, and we receive many positive comments, ranging from "This is the best article on septic tanks" to "We found your information extremely useful".

The publications site has received nearly 60,000 unique visitors in the nine month period from June 2002 to February 2003.

## **ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS "MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM"**

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- Better inventory control

These additions have alleviated:

- Low inventory numbers
- Better quantity management
- Communication with Extension authors

Duplication of effort  
Personal follow-up of E-mail orders

## **INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

Montana State University Extension Service has implemented two parts of the eight-point plan resulting from an review process that took place in 2001. These are the Annual Review Input Process for Extension Agents and Specialist and the Program Planning and Development Process. The organization was reviewed by a team of Extension administrators from Oklahoma State, Utah State and Mississippi State Universities and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, who met with MSU faculty, staff and administrators, as well as representatives of Extension's statewide constituencies.

Work continues on the following recommendations:

- A communications plan facilitating increased collaboration with MSU colleges and other key participants
- An ongoing Extension Service coordinating committee consisting of MSU deans and department heads and chaired by the Vice Provost and Director of Extension
- A university-wide 4-H Center for Youth Development providing a collaborative environment for programs related to youth development education
- Other recommendations concerned internal procedures, such as management and professional development

### **Montana Invests Accountability Web Site**

This site provides accountability through the Impacts and Outcomes of the Montana University System and MSU Extension Service's "RIO" (Reporting Impacts and Outcomes) System.

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