

Cold Hardy Grape Research Grant Awarded to MSU Extension Flathead County

The MSU Flathead Extension office has been awarded \$45,000 from the Montana Department of Agriculture to conduct cold hardy wine grape trials around Western Montana. Sites include Kalispell, Yellow Bay, Missoula and Plains. Cold hardy wine grapes have been developed at Minnesota and at Cornell University. These grapes are the *grandchildren* of the more widely known European viniferas like Merlot, Malbec and Cabernet Sauvignon, that require many more heat units. The European viniferas have been crossed with the native American grapes from both the east and the west coast of the United States. These hybrids are more cold, insect and disease resistant than their European counterparts. Ten wine grapes and two table grapes are in the trial. A dozen of each will be planted on each site totaling 144 per trial. A list of the grapes being used is available at the extension office.



Minnesota Cold Hardy Grapes

More people could be encouraged to grow fruit in their back yards with proper cultivar identification. Western Montana produces fine apples, pears, pie cherries and grapes in most areas. Customers at local farmers markets are requesting more fruit. Growing grapes could be a potential market crop that would meet this demand.



Minnesota Vineyard

This grant allows the Extension office to support a part time office assistant, Linda Watters. Linda is a third level master gardener and assists Pat McGlynn by covering the office when she is in field trials. Last year, Linda also helped at the fair with the hog show, organized the trophies, answered phones for shooting sports, signed up young people for summer camp, and compiled 4-H enrollment packets.

Cherry Varieties Research Grant Update

The cherry research grant for \$55,000 was awarded to the Flathead Extension office in 2009. The goal of this research is to identify new varieties of sweet cherries that will harvest both earlier and later than the traditional Lambert and Lapins now grown on Flathead Lake. The research plots were planted in 2010 and have proved extremely valuable to the Flathead Cherry Industry. Six new varieties are being tested at seven sites for a total of 336 trees on existing orchards. Extended harvest timing can mean that the growers will be able to enter new markets in eastern Montana and the Dakotas while decreasing competition with Washington State cherries. Winter hardiness, vigor, and timing are all being analyzed.



Tom Colyer and Louise Swanberg plant cherry trees for the research project.



Master Gardener Registration Open

Master Gardener registration is open. Classes will be Wednesday nights from 6:00-8:00 pm in Kalispell and on Thursday afternoons from 3:00-5:00 pm in Columbia Falls. Kalispell classes will begin February 15 and Columbia Falls classes will begin February 16; both will be for 8 weeks. Topics include lawn care, tree maintenance, small fruits, vegetables, plant physiology and soil fertility. A volunteer commitment of 20 hours of community service is required for certification. Come join our fun group as we help our neighbors establish community and school gardens to allow everyone to eat healthier foods. Many master gardeners from the 2011 class completed their hours answering the phone and helping in the Extension office. Others answered questions at the Columbia Falls farmers market, transplanted native plants for Glacier National Park and planted trees on Arbor Day at a new Kalispell fishing pond. Call the Extension office for more details.



Leah Manzari at the Whitefish Community Garden.

We're Having a Party and We'd Like You to Join Us!

The MSU Flathead County Extension Office is hosting an Open House on Friday, February 24th from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Earl Bennett Building located at 1035 1st Avenue West, Kalispell. We will be gathering in Conference Room A on the 2nd floor. This is a great opportunity to meet our Agents, Pat McGlynn and Tammy Walker, as well as the rest of our staff: Nancy Roberts, Linda Watters and Shelley Struck. Information on all Extension programming will be available, as well as tours of our temporary office space. Pat will also be holding a seminar on Master Gardener Programs for potential and previous participants from 4:00-5:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided. Please mark your calendars and plan on stopping by!



Interstate Exchange Spaghetti Dinner and Dessert Auction Held on March 9th!



Homemade Desserts

Please join us for our annual Interstate Exchange program fundraiser on Friday, March 9th at the Christian Center, located at 255 Summit Ridge Drive in Kalispell. We will begin serving a fabulous spaghetti dinner at 5:00 pm and will continue to dish up food throughout the evening. Entertainment will be provided and delicious homemade desserts will be auctioned off all night long. Cost to attend is only \$6 per person or \$20 per family. Advanced tickets are available through the Extension Office or you can pay at the door. All funds raised will go toward expenses of the Interstate Exchange program. In previous years our members have been able to take part in an exchange with Texas, Kansas and Pennsylvania.



Flathead Pennsylvania Exchange Group

Meet Our New Agent at a 4-H Leader's Training

Tammy Walker, our new 4-H and Youth Development Agent will be hosting several training opportunities for Flathead County 4-H Leaders. These trainings will take place at the Earl Bennett Building located at 1035 1st Avenue West in Kalispell, on Saturday February 25th from 9:00-11:30 am, Tuesday, February 28th from 5:30-8:00 pm and Friday, March 2nd from 4:30-7:00 pm.



Topics will include:

- Getting Off On The Right Foot- Using the Planning Process
 - Tools for Leadership
 - Effective Committees

All classes will cover the same materials so you only need to attend the one that works best for you. Please call the Extension office to pre-register at 758-5553. We can't wait to see you there!!

Spotlighting a Special Flathead County Club

We are proud to highlight clubs in the valley who take part in community service events. The Country Cousins 4-H Club, headed by Marjorie Olsen and Dana Higgins, continues to be active in our community. The club participated in the following community service projects:

- * Created goodie bags which included the club's signature popcorn balls for Trumble Creek area home-bound and elderly residents.
- * Adopted a family for the Christmas season.
- * Held an annual bingo event at the Veteran's home in Columbia Falls, MT.

For more information regarding the Country Cousins 4-H Club, please call Dana Higgins at 752-3502. For more information about other 4-H programs, please call the Extension Office at 758-5553.

Flathead 4-H Foods Fair

We would like to thank the following adult volunteers for making the Foods Fair a major success this year. Thanks to your efforts, Flathead 4-H continues to "Make the Best Better"!!!

*Andrea Beachner
Kristi Davis
Michelle Hicks
Casey Jensen
Tony Palmer
Judy Sommers*

*Randy and Marcia Burns
Tom Hereford
Dana Higgins
Wendy Morris
AJ Schnetter*



Upcoming 4-H Meetings and Special Events

Special Events

4-H Leader Training: See page three of this newsletter for details.

Interstate Exchange Planning Meeting: Thursday, February 16th at 7:00 pm in the EBB 2nd Floor Conference Room. Please contact Wendy Morris at 862-0801 for more details.

4-H Exchange Program Spaghetti Dinner and Dessert Auction Fundraiser: Friday, March 9th, starting at 5:00 pm at the Christian Center. To purchase tickets in advance or for more information, please call the Extension Office.



Camp Counselor and County 4-H Ambassador Applications are now available on the website and in the Extension Office. For more information regarding either of these programs, please call the Extension Office at 758-5553.

EBB is the Earl Bennett Building, located at 1035 1st Avenue West, Kalispell. Also commonly known as the City County Health Department.

Forums, Committees & Councils

For more information or to add an agenda item, please contact the individuals listed below.

Teen Council: Friday, February 10th at 6:30 pm at the Agape House. Agape House is located at 40 Appleway Drive, Kalispell, MT. Members plan on going bowling at Pick's following the meeting. Contact-Samantha Lake, our 4-H Senior Ambassador, at 253-7771.

Small Livestock: Tuesday, February 21st at 6:30 pm at the EBB 3rd Floor Conference room. Contact-Lori Franke at 755-6262.

Large Livestock: Thursday, March 1st at 5:30 pm at the 4-H Building on the Fairgrounds. Contact- Marian McAllister at 837-0119.

Foundation Forum: Thursday March 1st at 6:30 pm at the 4-H Building on the Fairgrounds. Contact- Wendy Morris at 862-0801.

Horse: Tuesday, March 20th at 5:45 pm at the EBB 2nd Floor Conference Room. Contact- Marleen Probert at 257-5735.

Member Project Meetings

LQA #3: Wednesday, February 8th at 6:30 pm at the Country Fair Kitchen Building located on the Fairgrounds. This is the last opportunity for large livestock 4-H members to meet qualifications for participation at the NWMT Fair. For more information, please call the Extension office.

Robotics: Saturday, February 11th at 10:30 am at the 4-H Building on the Fairgrounds. The 4-H Robotics program is headed up by Gil Parsons and will take place every Saturday for eight weeks. Pre-registration is required. The class is currently full and wait listed names are being accepted for future sessions.

Horse Clinic #2: Sunday, February 26th at 1:00 pm at the Little Creek Ranch. Little Creek Ranch is located at 310 Batavia Lane, Kalispell. Please **do not** bring your horse to this clinic. For more information, please contact Linda Tutvedt at 257-9732.

Muzzleloading: Sunday, March 11th, from 1:00-4:00 pm at Lapp's Shooting Range. The shooting range is located on Columbia Falls Stage Road. For directions and for more information, please contact Shooting Sports Leader, Randy Burns at 755-1262. Equipment is provided.

Horse Clinic #3: Saturday, March 24th at 9:00 am at the Mooring Road Arena. Please **do not** bring your horse to this event. For more information and directions to the arena, please call Codi Sorensen at 250-6865.



Special Edition Flathead County 4-H Heritage Families

Three Generations of Dutton 4-Her's

Our family must really enjoy doing 4-H because we have been doing it for three generations and 56 years.

My father Dean Dutton was the first generation who started participating in 4-H in Powell County in 1955. During his 10 years as a member he was part of two 4-H clubs: the Golden Nugget, in which he did his sheep projects and the Powell Champs, in which he did his beef projects. His sister Shirley Thomas continued on with 4-H and became the leader of the Golden Nugget 4-H Club.

My brother, Cory Dutton and I couldn't wait until we were old enough to do 4-H. We would look forward to getting to go to town for almost a week to participate in the Tri-County Fair in Deer Lodge. We were raised on a ranch in Gold Creek, so going to town was a treat. Cory and I started 4-H in 1978 and belonged to the Clark Fork 4-H Club for six years. When I quit doing 4-H he changed clubs and was a member for another four years with the Gold Nugget 4-H Club. I mainly showed sheep and horses, and did cooking and sewing projects. My brother really enjoyed showing sheep and beef.

Cory's son David started doing 4-H in 2001 and was a member for a total of nine years. In those years he was a member of two clubs the Clark Fork and the Ridge Riders 4-H Clubs in Powell County. He showed sheep and beef just like his father and also did some leather projects. He was a very avid showman and spent much time helping other 4-H members with show preparation.

My daughter Natasha started 4-H in 2005 in Lewis and Clark County and was a member with the Sweet Clovers 4-H Club for two years before we moved to Kalispell. She has now been part of the Country Cousins 4-H Club for the last four years. She has always enjoyed showing her dog Maggie Lou and the last four years started showing rabbits. It took her a year, but she finally convinced me to be a leader and this year will be my 4th year and I love it.



Dutton Family at the NWMT Fair dog show.

After watching their step-sister do 4-H for a year, Emma and Kate Trunkle couldn't wait to get started. For the last three years they also have shown dog and rabbit. Emma really likes competing at the Foods Fair and has done quite well the last couple of years. Probably Kate's favorite thing would be showing her rabbit, 'Lightning', who is a whole different rabbit when he is at the Fair.

I hope for generations to come that 4-H is still part of my family and other families in Montana. So I encourage you to keep 4-H alive with generations to come.

We'd like to thank DeAnn Dutton, 4-H Leader with Country Cousins 4-H Club, for submitting this article regarding her family's 4-H heritage. If your family has three or more generations that have been involved in 4-H, nationally, within Montana, or within Flathead County, please contact us. We'd love to hear your story. For more information on the Montana 4-H Centennial or about Flathead County's 4-H program please call us at 758-5553 or email us at extension@flathead.mt.gov



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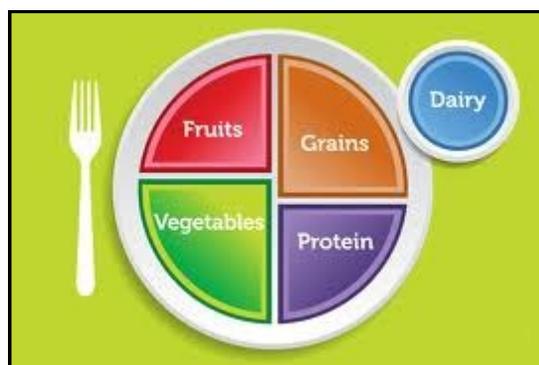
State Web Sites:
www.msuextension.org
www.montana4h.org

SNAP Education Curriculum Available to Valley Residents



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education is provided by the Flathead County Extension office through an affiliation with

Montana State University, via Federal grant funding. SNAP ED enables young families, single recipients and seniors to learn how to best use their food stamp dollars in providing healthy nutrition for themselves and their families. Nancy Roberts, a nutrition educator for Flathead County, teaches a 6 week course involving the new food icon called MyPlate. It is a fun course about learning the basic concepts of good nutrition and students also get to try their hand at basic “scratch cooking”. The only requirements to join in the classes are: that a person is receiving WIC assistance; either receiving food stamps or are eligible to receive them; or are getting commodity foods. Please call Nancy at the Flathead County Extension office at 758-2448 to sign-up for classes.



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