Wibaux County’s population has maintained around 1,000 residents in the 890 square miles that compose the county. The major industries include farming and ranching, and some oil production on the county borders. The average income for Wibaux residents is $40,833. Currently, 75 percent of Wibaux County acreage is certified farm and ranch production. Cover crops and pulse crops have been on the rise in production popularity in Wibaux County with a large majority of our producers being beef cow/calf operators as well.

With a small community, Wibaux has shown some big changes and continued success within the community. The fairgrounds showcased a new set of covered grandstands at the 2017 Wibaux County Fair. The project was headed by the Wibaux County Commissioners, with assistance from Wibaux County MSU Extension and the Wibaux County Fair Board.

The continued success of local wool producers has shown that the MonDak Wool Pool (wool producers in Eastern Montana and Western North Dakota) remains an important tool for wool production in Wibaux County. The MonDak Wool Pool contributed 15,688 pounds of wool from eight growers, worth $29,105. In 2017, the Eastern Montana Consolidated Wool Pool delivered 98,000 pounds of wool from 89 growers worth $180,500. The total volume represents 5.4% of Montana’s total wool clip.

The Wibaux County Weed Board has reported an increase in noxious weed control across the county with assistance from grant money and producer’s increased awareness and participation.

Pictured are the new grandstands, with seating capacity up to 1,200. The Wibaux County Commissioners, with assistance from the Wibaux County Fair Board, saw the years-long project to completion in August 2017.
Wibaux Health Fair

The Wibaux Health Fair has been serving Wibaux County and surrounding communities with health-saving testing and informational booths for many years. The March health fair opened its doors to over 540 youth and adults. The “Kick Butts Day” theme matched the enthusiasm of the Health Fair Committee, volunteers, and attendees.

The health fair is also a social event. Farmers, ranchers, and retirees welcome the opportunity to visit with friends while enjoying a continental breakfast sponsored by local individuals and businesses. Youth enjoy the hands-on booths and picking up a snack or a free pencil.

With an emphasis on prevention and healthy lifestyles, the health fair is sponsored by MSU Extension in Wibaux County. The fair has grown to serve more than 500 people with typically over 20 organizations exhibiting their health-related services.

With the cooperation of many volunteers and the local high school, which serves as the location for the fair, this is one of Wibaux’s most anticipated annual events.

Healthcare in Wibaux consists of a county-owned clinic staffed two days a week by Glendive Medical Center, and two days a week by Fallon Medical Complex.

Nutrition and health education are essential components needed to emphasize the importance of developing healthy lifestyles. Routine medical examinations also play an important role in prevention, as well as early detection.

The Wibaux Health Fair offers complete blood profiles, A1C, and PSA screening at reduced costs. Other services offered include blood sugar testing, blood pressures, free hearing evaluations, and a wide variety of services for all ages.

The Health Fair Committee consists of Danielle Harper, county Extension agent; Patti Goroski, Extension Administrative/Program Assistant; and Barb Maus, former County Health Nurse.

LEFT: Dawson County Tobacco Prevention Program had their mascots, Mo the Moose and Ciggy Butts, available to represent Kick Butts Day. RIGHT: CHI St. Alexius Health Clinic Registered Nurse, MaryLee Schmitz, offered blood pressure screening. Photos by Patti Goroski
The health fair has proven to save community members thousands of dollars in health care costs. It has also saved the lives of those who have been referred to their primary care physician due to an abnormal blood profile or other screening test results obtained at the Health Fair.

Because of the information presented, participants are aware that increased physical activity and improved dietary habits are a necessity to prolong their lives. Offering testing at a reduced cost encourages people to complete their blood work in a timely and cost-effective manner. Incorporating a variety of informative/hands-on booths provides supplemental information to those attending.

**Wibaux County 4-H Plants Seeds of Change**

Wibaux County 4-H consists of 54 youth members, 21 adult leaders, and five active clubs. Although the 4-H program is small in number, the members are very active, ranging from one to seven projects enrolled, averaging three projects per member. The 4-Her’s not only show their enthusiasm for 4-H in their project loads, but also by branching out in different project interests. Our 4-H members completed 58 different projects.

This past 4-H year brought many firsts to Wibaux County and also some great success in growing programs as well. Wibaux’s first dog agility and showmanship clinic was very popular with not only the members in the dog project, but also sparked interest in members not enrolled in the project. The horse program also had its “first” guest professional horse trainer, Bryan Neubert, present a full-day horsemanship clinic open to 4-H horse members, and to all 4-H members. As for growing success, the archery program has gained popularity and became the most popular project in Wibaux County. Within the archery program, hard work and dedicated practices have been proven at regional and state competitions with placings in multiple age groups. The growth of state event participation has also increased from Wibaux 4-H with attendance at 4-H Congress, Rec Lab, and Fall Ambassador Training. Being located on the very edge of Eastern Montana makes it difficult for youth to participate in some of these state events, but their efforts have shown to make the long trips well worth the time when returning home.
Wibaux County has a rich history.
The town of Wibaux and the county of Wibaux are both named for Pierre Wibaux, a Frenchman who gave up opportunities in his family’s textile business to seek his fortune in the cattle industry of the American northwest. Arriving in the area in 1883, a young man of 27, Pierre established the W-Bar Ranch. He ran cattle on the open range in an area covering nearly 70,000 acres. By 1889, he had accumulated more than 40,000 head of cattle and employed 25 to 30 cowboys.