

Yellowstone County Ag Extension Update

HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope this letter finds you all well, and that you were able to spend time with your loved ones this holiday season.

As I reflect on 2017, I am thankful for many things – getting to meet many of you and getting the opportunity to serve as your Ag Extension Agent certainly top my list. I am looking forward to the year ahead and am excited about some program ideas that I would like to see happen this year.



Speaking of programs, I hope to see you all at this year's Winter Beef Cow Management Seminar. My goal when it comes to offering programs is to bring you the most worthwhile information because I know how busy everyone is! This year's speakers will focus on topics like water quality, nutrition, genomic testing, pasture management during drought, and improving forage quality. If you think you may want to attend, read the rest of the newsletter for details.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Callie

WINTER BEEF COW MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

This year's Winter Beef Cow Management Seminar will be held on **February 6th** at the Yellowstone County 4-H Building on MetraPark grounds. The seminar will begin at 11:00 a.m. and costs \$10 to attend. Lunch will be provided. Presentation topics are described below. See the enclosed flyer for a full schedule!

RSVP required by February 2nd

Phone: 406-256-2828

Email: callie.cooley@montana.edu

Searching for the Efficient Beef Cow: How Do Nutrition, Environment and Genetics Affect Future Productivity? – *Dr. John Paterson, MSU Emeritus Professor and Extension Beef Specialist*

This talk will focus on the latest scientific findings on how fetal programming, nutritional conditions and genetics influence the productivity of young beef cows. Although restriction of nutrients prior to calving may not affect subsequent pregnancy, there can be a dramatic effect of productivity of the offspring. We now have the ability to test the DNA of replacement heifers and predict future sustainability, calving ease and carcass traits of their offspring. The science is exploding. Come and learn about what your neighbors are trying.

Improving forage quality: From field to stack – *Dr. Emily Meccage, MSU Extension Forage Specialist*

There are many ways that we can control the forage quality of our hay. Choices in haying equipment balers to rakes, as well as swath width, and storage method can all create both major losses and gains in what your animals will eat. Dr. Emily Meccage will be discussing ways to improve your forage quality, all the way from harvesting to stacking.

Livestock Water Quality Recommendations – *Mike Schuldt, Custer County Extension Agent*

Mike Schuldt will present information about livestock water quality issues that we should be concerned about, how livestock water quality changes over time, and some strategies to assess and manage the risk of poor quality water. Information from a 7 year livestock water quality study conducted at the USDA-ARS Fort Keogh Livestock & Range Research Laboratory in Miles City is the basis for the presentation. Attendees will receive information on the application of inexpensive field testing equipment for assessing general water quality as well as a newly developed field test for determining sulfate risk.

Montana State University,
U.S. Department of
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P.O. Box 35021
Billings, MT 59107-5021
www.msuxextension.org

Tel (406) 256-2828
Fax (406) 256-2825

Drought and Rangeland Management – *Dr. Lance Vermeire, Range Ecologist at USDA-ARS Fort Keogh*
Lance Vermeire will discuss how the timing and intensity of drought affects rangelands and how grazing management may interact with those effects.

Understanding Genomic Testing in Beef Cattle – *Callie Cooley, Yellowstone County Extension Agent*
In the past few years, there has been a huge influx of terms used to describe DNA testing in cattle. We see the terms on bull sale advertisements and hear the terms on the radio, but what do they mean? Callie Cooley will break down the terminology and explain how both seedstock and commercial producers can interpret and use DNA testing on their operations, specifically genomic testing.

PESTICIDE TRAINING AT THE MATE SHOW

Over the course of two days, six (6) private applicator credits will be offered at this year's MATE Show, which will be held at MetraPark's Montana Pavilion. Sessions of pesticide training will be offered on February 15th and 16th. Pre-registration is not required. The schedule is as follows:

February 15th – 3 credits available

Time	Speaker	Topic
1:00	Dr. Cecil Tharp, MSU Pesticide Education Director	Tank mixing herbicides and insecticides; pitfalls and problems
2:00	Nikki Bailey, Carbon County Extension Agent	Safe pest control in your garden
3:00	Mat Walter, Musselshell/Golden Valley County Extension Agent	Effective weed control in conventional or glyphosate ready alfalfa hay

February 16th – 3 credits available

Time	Speaker	Topic
1:00	Dr. Emily Meccage, MSU Extension Forage Specialist	Alfalfa weevil management
2:00	Dr. Jane Mangold, MSU Extension Invasive Plant Specialist	Drought stress on effective weed control
3:00	Molly Hammond, Big Horn County Extension Agent	Myth busting prairie rodent control

Contact Callie Cooley at 256-2828 with any questions.

UPCOMING AG EVENTS NEAR YOU

January 15: MSU College of Ag Connects, Bozeman
 January 18: Soil Health Workshop, Billings
 January 19: Chamber Ag Appreciation Banquet, Billings
 February 1: Initial Pesticide Training, Columbus (*for those wishing to obtain private applicator license for first time*)
 February 6: Winter Beef Cow Management Seminar, Billings
 February 7: Herbicide Resistance Workshop, Huntley
 February 15-17: The MATE Show, Billings

ONLINE OPTION

We now offer several ways to stay connected with Extension! Please call the office at 406-256-2828 if you'd like to be added to our email list. Signing up for the email will get you ag-related updates, MSU research updates, and an online newsletter!

We also have a website and Facebook page. Visit our website at <http://msuextension.org/yellowstone/> or find us on Facebook at MSU Extension – Yellowstone County Agriculture. Be sure to like and follow us!

