



Community Compass



Small Acreage Course

Coming this April, Gallatin County Extension will be hosting a small acreage landowners course. This course is a great way to learn valuable techniques to properly manage and enhance the resources of your property. This course is designed to address the unique challenges residents of Gallatin county as well as southwestern Montana face on a daily basis. Whether you live in the grassy plains of Three Forks or the mountain meadows of Bridger Canyon there is something for everyone in this course.

The following topics will be covered in this six week course: forest planning and management (4/16), native pollinators and beekeeping basics (4/23), Soil and water improvements (4/30), Wildland fire preparedness and controlled burning (5/7), Wildlife and pasture management (5/14) and Noxious weed identification and management (5/21). Representatives from MSU Extension, Gallatin County Weed District, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and others will present on the wide array of content. The six week course will be every Monday night starting on April 16th at 6 PM with the last class on May 21st. The course will be held at the MSU Extension – Gallatin County office located at 903 N. Black Ave in Bozeman (Gallatin County Fairgrounds Ag Center).

The entire six week course will cost \$60 per person or you can take any individual class for \$15. We ask that you RSVP no later than April 9th for the full course and at least 24 hours before each individual course. RSVPs can be made by calling our office at 406-582-3280, emailing us at gallatin@montana.edu or by coming in and registering in person. Please feel free to contact us with any questions and we hope to see you there!

MSU Extension Gallatin County

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[Website](#) “search Gallatin County Weed District”

ASK THE AG AGENT

What is a pulse crop?

Pulses are a leguminous crop that are harvested solely for the dry seed. Dried beans, chickpeas, lentils and peas are the most commonly known and consumed types of pulses.

These little nutrition nuggets play a huge role in healthy diets in countries all over the world. They also are a powerful versatile crop that Montana farmers can use to promote biodiversity, improve soil health, and generate income from local and global markets.

If you might be interested in adding a pulse crop to your rotation fell free to stop by our office or give us a call to discuss what crop would fit best .

GALLATIN COUNTY WEED DISTRICT

Developing a noxious weed management plan can be confusing if you are unfamiliar with noxious weed identification and biology. Control measures that work well for one species may actually make the problem worse for another species. Fortunately, the Gallatin County Weed District offers a wide variety of services to help landowners with noxious weed control.

Noxious Weed Identification

Bring a sample of the plant in to the Weed District office and we will identify it for you. Be sure to get as much of the plant as you can including the roots and flowers.

Site Visits

Schedule a site visit with Weed District staff and we will help put together a weed management plan for your property.

Rental Sprayers

The Weed District maintains a number of rental sprayers for use by landowners. Call us to schedule a pick up time.

Cost Share

The Weed District has limited funds available for offsetting the cost of weed control. These cost share funds will reimburse half of eligible weed control costs, up to \$200 annually per landowner.

If you need assistance creating a weed management plan, give us a call at 582-3265 or visit our website at www.gallatin.mt.gov for more details.

AG BRIEFS : SPRING VS. WINTER WHEAT

There are hundreds of varieties of wheat grown across the United States, but did you know that there are only six classes of wheat? Wheat varieties are classified by three distinct characteristics; season (winter/spring), hardness (hard/soft) and color (red/white). The combinations of these three characteristics make up the six different classes. The six classes found in the United States are: Hard Red Winter (HRW), Hard White (HW), Soft Red Winter (SRW), Soft White (SW), Hard Red Spring (HRS) and Durum.

The most predominant class of wheat grown in Gallatin County, and most of Montana for that matter, are Hard Red Winter wheat. Hard classified wheat varieties have a much better ability to withstand the colder climate of Montana but require more time to mature than a soft wheat variety. Winter wheat is planted in the fall and typically begins to germinate before the onset of winter. The plant then goes dormant over the winter months but is one of the first plants to green up in early spring. Winter wheat is typically harvested in late July/early August.

The second most predominant class grown in Gallatin County/Montana is Hard Red Spring Wheat. Much like the hard winter wheat, hard spring wheat is adept to the ever-changing weather conditions of Montana. Hard Red Winter and Hard Red Spring share similar characteristics in that they are both high in protein and have strong gluten, but Hard Red Spring wheat takes less time to maturity than Hard Red Winter but it will not go dormant over the winter, so it can only be planted in the spring. Spring wheat is typically planted in April and will be harvested in mid to late August.

NATURAL RESOURCE CORNER

Hello Gallatin County! My name is Dominique Woodham and I am the new Natural Resources Extension Agent based in Bozeman, MT. I'm looking forward to working with residents of Gallatin, Park and Meagher Counties in the areas of wildland fire preparedness and mitigation, natural resources management and education. Please swing into my office at the Ag Center located within the Gallatin County Fairgrounds anytime!

I grew up in Alaska, exploring the outdoors while hiking and trail running. Running carried me to the University of Montana which eventually led to a degree in Forestry with a concentration in Range Resources Management. For the next 12.5 years, I worked all over the western United States as a wildland firefighter. My talent and passion for delivering fire and natural resources education grew while working as the Fire Prevention and Mitigation Specialist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Crow Agency, MT. I began graduate studies through Iowa State University in pursuit of a Masters degree in Agriculture Education with a minor in Extension work.

Today, besides being very passionate about education and the natural world, I have diverse interests. My husband and I own and manage a farm in SW Washington, I am a 3rd year beekeeper, artist, and I continue to enjoy hiking and running trails and rural routes with my very loyal border collie and blue heeler.

4-H YOUTH PARTICIPATION COMMUNICATION SKILLS

The 4-H program teaches youth life skills through hands on learning using various 4-H projects. Some of those skills can be problem solving, record keeping, stress management and even conflict resolution. Communication is another life skill that 4-H teaches youth.

Public speaking is a fear for many adults and children. Each year hundreds of Gallatin County 4-H members look to conquer that fear and make it just another life skill they have learned. This time of year 4-H members are busy presenting demonstrations and illustrated talks to their clubs and projects. Youth pick a topic that either relates to their 4-H project or something of interest to them to present.

For those youth that really want to test their public speaking skills, they can compete at the Gallatin County Communication Day in April. At this event youth can compete in not only demonstrations and illustrated talks but in speech, career communications, and even video production. Volunteer community members are used to judge the contest. Youth as young as 5 will participate in the contest and senior 4-H members can earn a chance to attend the Montana State 4-H Congress in the summer.

It is important that youth are given the opportunity to practice public speaking in front of their peers and adults. 4-H members also practice their communication skills at the fair during their record book interviews. It is our goal that 4-H members will grow up without the fear of public speaking that so many people have.



ASK THE N.R. AGENT

The 2018 burn season will begin March 1st at 8am for Gallatin County. Burn permits can be used for the entire 2018 burn season. They are \$15 each.

Gallatin County Burn Permits for the 2018 burn season are available for purchase or renewal online at: <https://appmt.gov/burnpermit/>

OR available for purchase at the following locations:

Bozeman Fire Station #1
Central Valley Fire Dist. Station #1
Gallatin County Treasurers Office
Hebgen Basin Fire Dist. Station #1
Manhattan Fire Department
Three Forks Public Library

After purchase, activate your permit online or by calling 1-877-306-BURN.

For additional information and inquiries, please call Gallatin County Rural Fire at 406-548-0144.

ASK THE 4-H AGENT

How do I become a judge for communication day or the Fair?

Being a judge for communication day or the fair is just a couple hours of commitment. Community members that possess a care for youth to learn and grow are encouraged to contact the office to provide your name, mailing address and phone number.

We need approximately 12-15 judges for Communication Day on April 21st. Judges listen to the youth's presentation while filling out a rubric. Judging typically runs 1/2 day.

We need approximately 20-30 judges for Fair interviews. Judges sit with youth and review record books and talk about youth's experience in 4-H. Judges will complete a rubric. We do ask that judges have some knowledge on topics that youth are learning about. For specific information please visit, gallatin4H.org and click on scrolling image that says "Will you be a fair judge?"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March	April	May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 13 : 4-H Unlimited Leaders Council Meeting • March 15: Initial Private Applicators Training—Three Forks • March 22: Pollinators Workshop • March 22: 4-H Foundation Meeting • March 28: 4-H Youth and Adult Workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 1: 4-H scholarships Due • April 16: Small Acreage Course • April 17-18: Beef Nutrition Conference • April 19: Master Gardener Level II, 8 week class • April 21: 4-H Communication Day • April 23: Small Acreage Course • April 28: 4-H AQA Training • April 30: Small Acreage Course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 1: Last day to enroll in 4-H • May 7: Small Acreage Course • May 14: Small Acreage Course • May 21: Small Acreage Course

Gallatin County MSU Extension Office

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GallatinExtension.com



Mitch Lassa joined the Gallatin County Extension office in January 2018 as an AmeriCorps volunteer through the Big Sky Watershed Corps Program. Mitch’s work will focus primarily on program planning and development for the MSU Extension Climate Science Team.



Along with Extension, Mitch also serves with a local non-profit called One Montana, which endeavors to create a vibrant Montana by bridging the rural-urban divide.

Mitch hails from Wisconsin and has a background in geology. He came to Montana in May of 2017 to serve on a field crew with the Montana Conservation Corps. Prior to that, Mitch interned as a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Troy, New York and has also traveled to New Zealand to volunteer on organic farms. In his free time, Mitch enjoys exploring Montana by snowshoeing, hiking, camping, and canoeing.

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