

Extension Services

Department Overview

The Gallatin County Extension office includes three full time Extension agents, two funded by County, state and federal funds and one fully funded by state and federal grants held at Montana State University (MSU). The office also has one full time Administrative Assistant and shares a full time Program Manager with the Noxious Weed District. The office created a part time Outreach & Communication Coordinator in 2019 that is grant fund.

The 4-H Agent oversees the 4-H youth development program which reaches over 550 youth, has 120 volunteer leaders and offers more than 50 projects. Youth learn life skills through hands on learning using research-based materials in partnership with a caring adult volunteer.

The Agricultural Agent works with farmers, ranchers, and researchers utilizing field trials, workshops, and individual visits to help producers remain productive and profitable. The Agent provides program coordination for the Gallatin Master Gardener program and a Plant Clinic held in the Extension office. He also assists landowners with small acreage management issues. The Agriculture agent works with a variety of agencies and organizations to strengthen agricultural education and outreach efforts.

The Natural Resource Agent works with landowners in Gallatin, Park and Madison Counties on forest health, wildfire preparedness/adaptation and pollinator education. They are the Chair of the statewide Extension Climate Science Team, assisting with sharing climate adaptation and science information with Extension agents across the state. They are also a member of the Fire Adapted Montana Learning network which strives to improve wildfire education statewide through collaborations and partnerships.

Department Goals

- Increase productivity of pasture, crop, rangelands, and livestock production through a variety of methods including individual consultations and workshops.
- Offer an annual to biennial Level 1 & 2 Master Gardener Program and provide horticulture assistance.
- Promote Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) into 4-H project areas.
- Increase volunteer development opportunities, while recruiting more volunteers to build capacity.
- Address natural resource issues including forest health, wildfire risk reduction, and pollinator habitat improvement through public education, site visits, & community awareness.
- Assist landowners in the wildland urban interface with wildland fire preparedness and safety.

Recent Accomplishments

- \$7,000 grant from Gilhousen Family Foundation for 4-H programming needs, for science development, engineering & technology (SET) programs, and leadership & life skills development.
- \$44,268 grant from Washington State University to support educational opportunities for farmers and ranchers in the transition of agriculture property from one generation to the next.
- \$15,000 grant from Montana Noxious Trust Fund focused on the control of Sufler cinquefoil and spotted knapweed on roughly 10,000 acres.
- \$5000 grant from Bayer to plant a demonstration garden for pollinators outside the Extension Office.
- \$15,000 grant from the Northern Plains Climate Hub (NPCH) to develop Wildfire Lessons Learned for Livestock Producers.
- \$5000 grant from the NPCH for wildfire adaptation short course offerings. This grant award led to a Wildfire Book Club, a Community Wildfire Preparedness Day in Big Sky and professional development opportunities related to climate adaptation for 4 MSU Extension faculty.
- \$1200 WSARE grant awarded to the Natural Resource Agent for professional development in apicultural related topics so as to better serve the growing public curiosity surrounding pollinators and honeybees.

RECREATION AND OTHER

Extension Services

Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Estimated						
	Actual FY 2018	Final FY 2019	Actual FY 2019	Start Up FY 2020	Request FY 2020	Preliminary FY 2020	Final FY 2020
Personnel	\$ 64,613	\$ 68,061	\$ 67,856	\$ 71,840	\$ 71,840	\$ 71,840	\$ 72,906
Operations	117,661	140,531	120,076	135,498	135,475	135,498	135,498
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	12,500	-	12,500	21,420	15,000	15,000
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 182,274	\$ 221,092	\$ 187,933	\$ 219,838	\$ 228,735	\$ 222,338	\$ 223,404

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ 182,274	\$ 221,092	\$ 187,933	\$ 219,838	\$ 228,735	\$ 222,338	\$ 223,404
Special Revenue Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 182,274	\$ 221,092	\$ 187,933	\$ 219,838	\$ 228,735	\$ 222,338	\$ 223,404

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 81,515	\$ 91,428	\$ 90,513	\$ 111,465	\$ 76,908	\$ 97,471	\$ 104,794
Non-Tax Revenues	76,307	72,741	69,104	74,736	35,039	63,463	66,992
Cash Reappropriated	24,452	56,923	28,315	33,637	116,788	61,404	51,617
Total	\$ 182,274	\$ 221,092	\$ 187,933	\$ 219,838	\$ 228,735	\$ 222,338	\$ 223,404

Department Personnel

No. of Positions	FT/PT	Title	FTE 2018	FTE 2019	FTE 2020
2	Full-Time	Extension Agents (Contracted)	2.00	2.00	2.00
1	Full-Time	Natural Resource Agent (Grant funded, MSU)	1.00	1.00	1.00
1	Full-Time	Administrative Assistant	1.00	1.00	1.00
1	Part-Time	Program Assistant	0.25	0.25	0.25
	Part-Time	4-H Youth Outreach Program Coordinator – Grant Funded (MSU)	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Full-Time	SNAP-ED Program Manager (Grant Funded, MSU)	0.00	0.00	0.00
5		6.00	4.25	4.25	4.25

The 5 positions shown include 1.0 grant funded positions paid through MSU. The County is responsible for part of the salary for 2 Agents. The county is responsible for the salary of 1 Administrative Assistant and 0.25 Program Assistant that is shared with Noxious Weeds.