MSU Extension Missoula County
and
Missoula County Weed District

Now and Into the Future
The History of the Extension Service

- The **Morrill Land-grant Acts** created land-grant colleges.

- The **Smith–Lever Act of 1914** established a system of cooperative extension services, connected to the land-grant universities, to inform people about current developments in agriculture, home economics, and related subjects.
The Extension Service of the USDA

A non-formal educational program designed to help people use research-based knowledge to improve their lives, typically in the areas of agriculture and food, home and family, the environment, community economic development, and youth and 4-H.
The Missoula County Weed District

Established to promote and maintain healthy vegetation by minimizing the ecological and economical impact of noxious weeds through public education, technology transfer, and monitoring, and by involvement of landowners and land management agencies.
Missoula County Extension

- 4-H/Youth Development
- Horticulture/Walk-in Plant Clinic
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
4-H/Youth Development

- **County 4-H Clubs**
  - 400 members
  - 150 volunteer leaders

- **Camps**
Horticulture

- Master Gardener’s Training Program
- Training and Support for Growers/Nurseries
- Seminars and Tours
- Publications and Resources
- Research and Pest Alert Hotline
Walk-in Plant Clinic

- Plant/Insect/Disease Identification
- Soil Analysis
- Gardening Information
- Research of Current Information
- Landscape Design Advice
- Special Topics (i.e. Deer-resistant and Drought-resistant Plants)
Family and Consumer Sciences

- Nutrition
- Canning and Food Preservation
- Food Safety Training
- Energy Savings
- Financial Training
EFNEP - Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Programs

Youth and Adult Nutrition Education for those with limited income
Missoula County Weed District

- Healthy Acres Educational Programs
- Field Trips and Lessons for K-12 Schools
- Landowner Groups and Grants to Public
- Work with Groups on Weed Control Plans
- Invasive Species Research and Publications
- Vegetation Mapping/Management Planning
- Pesticide Applicator Training
The Blackfoot Challenge
Strategic Plan Goals

- Locate a centrally located site and Develop a Learning Center and Demonstration Gardens
- Expanding programs
  - Master Gardener Volunteers
  - Youth gardening
  - 4-H Youth offerings
  - Agriculture: Small Acreage and Livestock
  - Energy Education- Cost savings and sustainability
  - Invasive Species Program Outreach
Watershed Groups and Aquatics
Future Extension Learning Center

Meeting Space for up to 200 people
Staff and Volunteer Offices
Walk-in Plant Clinic
Library/Resource Room
Demonstration Gardens/Greenhouse
Educational Kitchen
Easy year-round access for public
4-H Youth Meeting/Project Space
Extension/Weed District Building Trust Fund

Currently $432,049.85 accumulated in interest-bearing account
Designated for building or purchase of a facility
Costs of Renting a Facility

Currently

$97,470 rent annually

for office facility

at 2825 Santa Fe Ct., Missoula

This budget can be applied to a payment on a new facility
Evaluating Potential Missoula County Building Sites

- Centrally Located
- Highly Visible
- Year-round access
- 1 to 2 acres
- County-owned property
- Potential for partnerships
- Cost/buildability
- Risk Assessment (Flooding, etc)
- Management of Facility
Missoula County Fairgrounds and the Extension/Weed Office

4-H/FFA Country Fair
- 4-H Youth Livestock Exhibits and Shows
- Demonstration Gardens and Extension/Weed Information Booth
- 4-H Exhibit Building
- 4-H Petting Zoo
- 4-H Café and Public Picnic Area
- Kiddie Rodeos with prizes
- 4-H/FFA Dance
- Farm Equipment Exhibits

4-H Horse Show
4-H Dog Show
Year-round Possibilities for Extension/Weed District at the fairgrounds?

- Master Gardener Volunteers Office
- Demonstration Gardens and Greenhouse
  - Native Plant Gardens, Waterwise Gardens, vegetable gardens, youth project gardens
- Livestock Events
- 4-H Youth Programs
- Walk-in plant clinic
- Demonstration Kitchen
- Model of energy-efficiency and green building practices
How to fund Learning Center improvements?

Operating Budget

Supplemented with

Trust Fund
Endowment Fund
User Fees
Fundraising Events
Grants
Donations
The End