

Yellowstone County Ag Extension Update

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY HIRES NEW AG EXTENSION AGENT

Callie Cooley recently joined the MSU Extension staff as Yellowstone County's new Agricultural Extension Agent. Callie grew up on her family's farm and ranch east of Miles City on the Powder River, where she continues to be involved today.



Callie graduated from Montana State University with a degree in Animal Science and minor in Agricultural Business. After college, she was employed by American Simmental Association and Colorado Cattlemen's Association before returning to Montana and accepting the Ag Extension Agent position. Callie's primary interests relating to extension include beef cattle production, crop production, and range management.

Feel free to stop by the office to introduce yourself to Callie or give her a call with any questions. The office is located at 301 N 27th Street, 3rd floor. She can be reached at 406-256-2828.

LAST CHANCE PESTICIDE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have a private applicator's license that you use to purchase restricted-use pesticides? If so, make sure you have enough credits to be recertified for the next cycle (2018-2022). Applicators in Yellowstone County have until the end of December to acquire 6 credits to be recertified. Be sure to contact Callie Cooley with any questions. At this time, the remaining training opportunities are as follows:

Date	Location	Credits Offered	RSVP Number
December 4	Hardin	3	406-665-9770
December 6	Joliet	6	406-962-3522

NEW NITRATE TESTING METHOD TO BE USED

The Yellowstone County Extension Office has a new way to test for forage nitrates. The pH test provides a more quantitative method for nitrate testing as compared to the commonly-used QuikTest method. The pH test cannot be completed in the field, but still provides fast results when necessary procedure materials can be accessed. Contact Callie Cooley to learn more about the test or if future testing is needed. A hay probe to collect samples is also available for check out at the Extension office.

Forage crops can accumulate toxic amounts of nitrate, with high levels being reported in some weeds, small grain annuals, corn, and sorghum-sudan, etc. Toxic levels are more likely to occur during stressful growing conditions and can ultimately lead to adverse reactions including, poor performance, abortion, or even death in livestock.

To learn more about nitrate toxicity, visit the MontGuide titled, *Nitrate Toxicity of Montana Forages*. It can be found at <http://store.msuextension.org/publications/AgandNaturalResources/MT200205AG.pdf>.

Montana State University,
U.S. Department of
Agriculture and Montana
Counties Cooperating.
MSU Extension is an
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MSU TO HOST 15TH ANNUAL CROP & PEST MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

Registration for Montana State University's Crop and Pest Management School is open. The event is set for January 2-4 at MSU's Burns Technology Center in Bozeman and will focus on crop and pest management in forage and pulse crops. Presenters will speak on a wide variety of topics like disease and insect control, pulse agronomy, cover crop management, pea and lentil procedures, and more. Credits will be available for private and commercial applicators and certified crop advisers.

The deadline to register is December 26th and the cost for the workshop is \$195. Visit <http://www.montana.edu/news/17273/registration-open-for-msu-s-2018-crop-and-pest-management-school> for more information.

UPCOMING AG EVENTS NEAR US

November 28-30: Montana Grain Growers Association Convention, Great Falls
November 30-December 2: Montana Wool Growers Association Convention, Billings
December 4: "Last Chance" Pesticide Training, Hardin
December 6: "Last Chance" Pesticide Training, Joliet
December 12-14: Montana Stockgrowers Association Convention & Trade Show, Billings
January 2-4: Crop and Pest Management School, Bozeman
January 19: Chamber Ag Appreciation Banquet, 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!

