

Divisions

Buckaroos (4-6 years old)

Little tykes have fun and learn about the rangeland environment while their parents attend workshops and contests. Our instructors are tops with keeping little hands and minds busy and happy.

Ecosystem Explorers (7-8 years old)

Budding naturalists are introduced to rangeland components, processes and management through fun games and activities. They will get to know a short list of important range plants and get the feel of rangeland soil.

Superstarters (9-11 years old)

Elementary students explore rangeland ecology and learn basic plant identification during Tuesday workshops, and are tested on Plant Anatomy and Plant ID Wednesday. Student/Instructor ratio is approximately 5:1 and the group is stationed near the older group.

Wranglers (12-13 years old)

Tuesday workshops challenge Junior High students with hands-on learning activities focusing on plant anatomy and ID and introducing range sites, proper grazing use and stocking rate. Students are tested on these topics Wednesday morning. Student to Instructor ratio is approximately 5:1.

FFA Youth/Open Youth (14-19, not graduated from high school)

High school students register as FFA or Open Youth and rotate through workshops with instruction from specialists in each topic. 4-Hers compete as "Open Youth".

Rancher/Open Adult

Adults rotate through workshops along with the Youth. Adults may choose to attend tours any of the three days and still participate in workshops or contests.

Workshops

Plant Anatomy

Learn the basics of plant anatomy and plant groups, and use simple plant keys based on this knowledge. Explore how plant anatomy relates to plant growth and development.

Plant Identification

Identify common Montana rangeland vegetation and discuss growth characteristics. Get to know unique local vegetation.

Range Sites/Soils

Study geology, climate, topography, soils, vegetation, and animal life associated with local rangelands. Use basic keys to identify soil textures and range sites.

Inventory/Monitoring

Discover how vegetation and forage production on range sites changes over time with different grazing management. Compare present day vegetation and forage production to historic plant communities (Similarity Index), and evaluate Range Trend & Range Health.

Stocking Rate/Utilization

Calculate stocking rates, figure grazing capacity, measure utilization of key forage species, and discuss how grazing use affects range plants.

Range Planning

Consider a real-life ranch scenario and the range management decisions that maintain resources and keep the ranch in business.

Practice Site

Practice using workshop material in competition format, in the field. Staff available to assist.

Tours

[See Back of brochure](#)

Contests

Range Exhibits (4-19 years old)

Lot 1 Plant Collection, present year
Lot 2 Plant Coll., past & present years
Lot 3 Weed Collection, present year
Lot 4 Weed Coll., past & present years
Lot 5 Range Display by Individual
Lot 6 Completed 4-H Range Units

- Each contestant is limited to one plant collection and one range display for points.
- "Present year" means 6/15/10 to 6/15/11.
- The Montana Weed Control Association will award cash prizes to the top collections that include noxious weeds listed on the Montana Noxious Weed List. *Lots 1 & 3 must contain five noxious weeds, and Lots 2 & 4 must contain eight.*
- Collections must be in place by 8:00 am Tuesday.

Illustrated Talks (4-19 years old)

- Present any range-related topic as a 6-8 minute illustrated talk, and answer judge's questions.
- Bring Powerpoint presentations on a CD or flash drive. A laptop, projector and screen will be provided.

Range Plant Anatomy

- Answer multiple-choice plant anatomy questions about flagged plants.
- Identify plant specimens using a simple plant identification key and MRD plant anatomy notebook information.

Range Plant ID

- Identify common name, type of plant, life span, grazing response, season of growth, plant origin, and poisonous or non-poisonous for 20-30 flagged range plants.
- Name must be correct for plant characteristic points to count.
- Plants lists for each division can be found at the MRD website, montanarangedays.org

Range Management

- Identify 3 Range Sites at contest location.
- Calculate 1 Range Inventory (Similarity Index and Range Trend). Answer 3-5 quiz questions
- Determine Range Utilization Percent on 3-5 utilization plots
- Answer 5 Stocking Rate questions related to a real-life scenario.
- Answer 3-5 quiz questions on stocking rate and utilization.

Individual Competition

- "Top Superstarter" and "Top Wrangler" awards are based on total test scores. Talk and Exhibits scores are not included.
- "Top Range Hand" (15-19 years old) and "Top Green Hand" (14 years old) will receive Montana Silversmiths belt buckles. Scores are totaled from these contests: Plant ID, Plant Anatomy, Range Management, Illustrated Talk, and Range Exhibits.
- Top Range Hand can only be won once by the same individual.
- Plant identification scores will be used to break all ties.
- See the MRD website, montanarangedays.org, for point values.

Team Competition

- Teams must register as FFA or Open.
- FFA Chapters may enter only one team, with all team members being from that Chapter.
- Teams must have at least three members and no more than four.
- Team points will be scored from the highest three individual scores.
- Former first place teams must replace at least one of the previous high three-team members.
- Team points do not include Illustrated Talk or Range Exhibit points.
- If top FFA Team cannot attend Old West the 2nd place team will be sponsored to attend!

Registration

Individuals – Before June 1: \$35.00
After June 1: \$40.00
Family – Before June 1: \$85.00
After June 1 is \$90.00

Fee includes workshop materials, supper Monday, 3 meals Tuesday, and 2 meals Wednesday.

Registration Form at montanarangadays.org

Lodging

Camping is available at the School District #1. Restroom and shower facilities will be available.

Budget Inn 846-2810
Rodeway Inn 846-2370
Western Big Sky Inn 1-866-244-7590

KOA Campground (406) 846-1629
Indian Creek RV Campground (406) 846-3848

Fairmont Hot Springs 1-800-332-3272

Packing List

- Warm coats, hats, slickers, and overshoes
- Sunscreen, mosquito repellent,
- Clip board, pencils, calculator, 10-power hand lens
- Tent and sleeping bag, toiletries, towels
- Fishing pole, swimming suit, camera and plant press optional

MRD Scholarships

\$1,000 Harold & Lillian Jensen Scholarship
\$1,000 Bob Sitz Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000 Range Days Scholarship
Applications due April 30.

College credit will be offered by Northwest College, Powell, Wyoming. Register at MRD. Contact us about other Continuing Ed Credit.

Statewide Sponsors

Carter Co. Conservation District
Crop Production Services,
Timberland Division
Dow Agro Sciences
DuPont Crop Protection
Hubbard Feeds, Inc.
Montana Association of
State Grazing Districts
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Montana Land Reliance
Montana Livestock Ag Credit
Montana Stockgrowers Association
Montana Weed Control Association
Montana Wheat & Barley Committee
Northwest Farm Credit Services
Society for Range Management
-International Mountain Section
-Northern Great Plains Section
Wells Fargo Bank
Western Energy Company
Western Ranch Supply
Wilbur-Ellis Company
Wolenetz Ranch

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Major Supporters

MT DNRC
USDA BLM
MSU Extension
MT GLCI

Tours:

Monday —Montana Correctional Enterprises
Tues A.M. —Integrative Vegetation Management (sheep grazing / helicopter operation)
Tues P.M.—Old Prison Museum and Auto Museum
Wednesday—Sun Mountain Lumber Mill / Grant Kohrs Ranch National Park Service



For more information:
www.powellcountymt.gov

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35TH ANNUAL MONTANA RANGE DAYS

DEER LODGE, MT
JUNE 13-15, 2011
ST. MARY'S CENTER

HOSTED BY
DEER LODGE VALLEY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT (DLVCD)
NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION
SERVICE (NRCS)
NORTHERN AG NETWORK