

## 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. Added this year, "My Five" noxious weed educational materials.

### **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-Her's 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 will be available to assist.

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### **Tours**

Please Refer to the Back side of this Brochure for Full Tour Information.

## Contests

### **Range Exhibits (4-19 years old)**

Lot 1 Plant Collection, present year  
Lot 2 Plant Collection, past & present years  
Lot 3 Weed Collection, present year  
Lot 4 Weed Collection, 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 6/15/13 to 6/15/14.
- 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:  
<http://montanarangedays.macdnet.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.
- These awards can only be won once by the same individual.
- Plant identification scores will be used to break all ties.
- See the MRD website:  
<http://montanarangedays.macdnet.org> for point values.

### **Team Competition**

- Youth (ages 14 - 19) Teams must register as FFA or Open.
- FFA Chapters may enter only one team, with all team members being from that Chapter.
- Wrangler (ages 12 - 13) and Superstarter (ages 9 - 11) Teams will be organized at Tuesday's Workshop.
- 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.
- Montana's 4-H Team to Old West Regional Competition is usually made up of top 4-H Individuals at MRD.

## Registration

**Individuals** –Before June 10 \$50.00  
After June 10 \$55.00  
**Family** – Before June 10 \$100.00  
After June 10: \$125.00

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

Printable Registration Forms may be  
found at  
<http://montanarangedays.macdnet.org>

## Lodging

A full Listing of Accommodations in  
Harlowton may be found at:  
<http://montanarangedays.macdnet.org>

## Packing List

- Warm coats, hats, slickers, over-  
shoes and boots or other sturdy foot-  
wear.
- Sunscreen, mosquito repellent.
- Clip board, pencils, calculator, 10-  
power hand lens.
- Tent and sleeping bag, toiletries,  
towels.
- Fishing pole, swimming suit, cam-  
era and plant press optional.

## MRD Scholarships

\$1,000 Harold & Lillian Jensen  
Scholarship  
\$1,000 Bob Sitz Memorial Scholar-  
ship  
\$1,000 Range Days Scholarship  
\$1,000 MRD Scholarship for Top  
Range Hand (awarded after success-  
ful completion of 1st semester of post

## Statewide Sponsors

- Bobcat of Montana
- Carter County Conservation District
- Cattleman's Choice Loomix
- Crop Production Services,
- Dow AgroSciences
- DuPont Crop Protection
- Dupont Land Management
- Great Northern Properties
- Hubbard Feeds, Inc.
- Montana Association of State Grazing  
Districts
- Montana CattleWomen
- Montana Department of Environmental  
Quality
- Montana 4-H Foundation
- Montana FFA Foundation
- Montana Land Reliance
- Montana Livestock Ag. Credit, Inc.
- Montana Stockgrowers Association
- Montana Stockgrowers Research
- Montana Weed Control Association
- MT Wheat and Barley Committee
- Northern Ag Network
- 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

## Contacts

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<http://montanarangedays.macdnet.org>

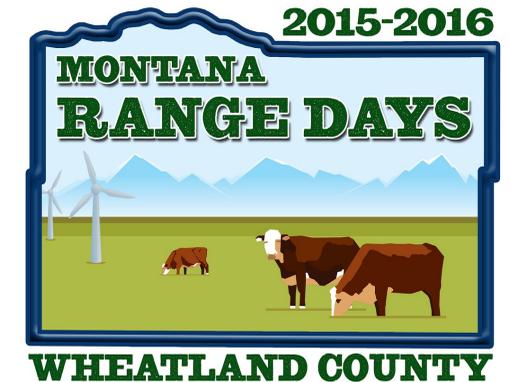
## Major Supporters

Natural Resources  
and Conservation (NRCS)  
MT DNRC  
USDI BLM  
MT Woolgrowers Assoc.  
Wheatland County Stockgrowers  
Harlowton High School  
Ticketprinting.com  
Northern Agricultural Research Center  
MSU Extension  
MT GLCI  
Wilks Ranch Montana  
Meadow Gold Dairy  
**Tours**

**Tuesday All Day** – Award winning  
ranches of Wheatland County and Bio-  
logical Weed Tour

**Wednesday AM** - Upper Musselshell  
Historical Society Bair Museum and  
Gordon Butte Windfarm

**Monday through Wednesday** the Up-  
per Musselshell Museum and Milwau-  
kee Depot Museum will be open for  
MRD participants



# 40th Annual Montana Range Days

**Harlowton, MT  
June 20 –22, 2016  
Chief Joseph Park**

**Hosted by  
Upper Musselshell  
Conservation District**