

# PLANNING YOUR YOUTH & ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMMING



*2025 CD Education & Awareness Campaign, State Capitol:*

When you are preparing your strategic plan every 3-5 years and developing your annual workplan, it's a good time to evaluate your previous educational programming. Following are some ideas to consider as you assess what you've done in the past and what new programs you'd like to add in the future.

One of the first steps in this process is to ask your community and partners what they like about past activities, what could be improved, and what training, education modules, seminars, classroom activities, events, and resources they'd like your conservation district (CD) to deliver. Going through this process can strengthen your education and outreach efforts, so you are providing what your community members want and need.

## **SOME CONSIDERATIONS:**

- What are your annual workplan objectives for youth and adult education programming?
- For youth programming, consider your different audiences--grade school, middle school, and high school students.

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- How has participation been in your past events? Was there a lack of interest or do you need to bolster your outreach and advertising efforts?
- How might you extend your reach and attract new audiences?
- Include an evaluation, so you can gather feedback and ideas from your participants.
- What educational expertise is your CD able to provide or do you need to partner with a natural resource professional or another CD?

## IDEAS TO CONSIDER:

- Annual Range Tour
- Rolling Rivers
- Envirothon
- Partner events with organizations such as NRCS, Extension, FWP, FFA, river councils, or other CDs
- Field workshops for topic areas such as rangeland, water quality, wildlife habitat, forestry, soil health, pollinators, and invasive species
- Soil Health Symposium
- National Association of Conservation District meetings and convention
- Local fairs and other community events
- Film viewings, art contests, demonstration events, and more
- Montana Youth Range Camp or Range Days



*Brent Smit, Central Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team (CEMIST) Program Coordinator, teaching kids about feral swine.*

**Good planning and evaluation are key to ensuring your education programming is relevant and successful!**

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