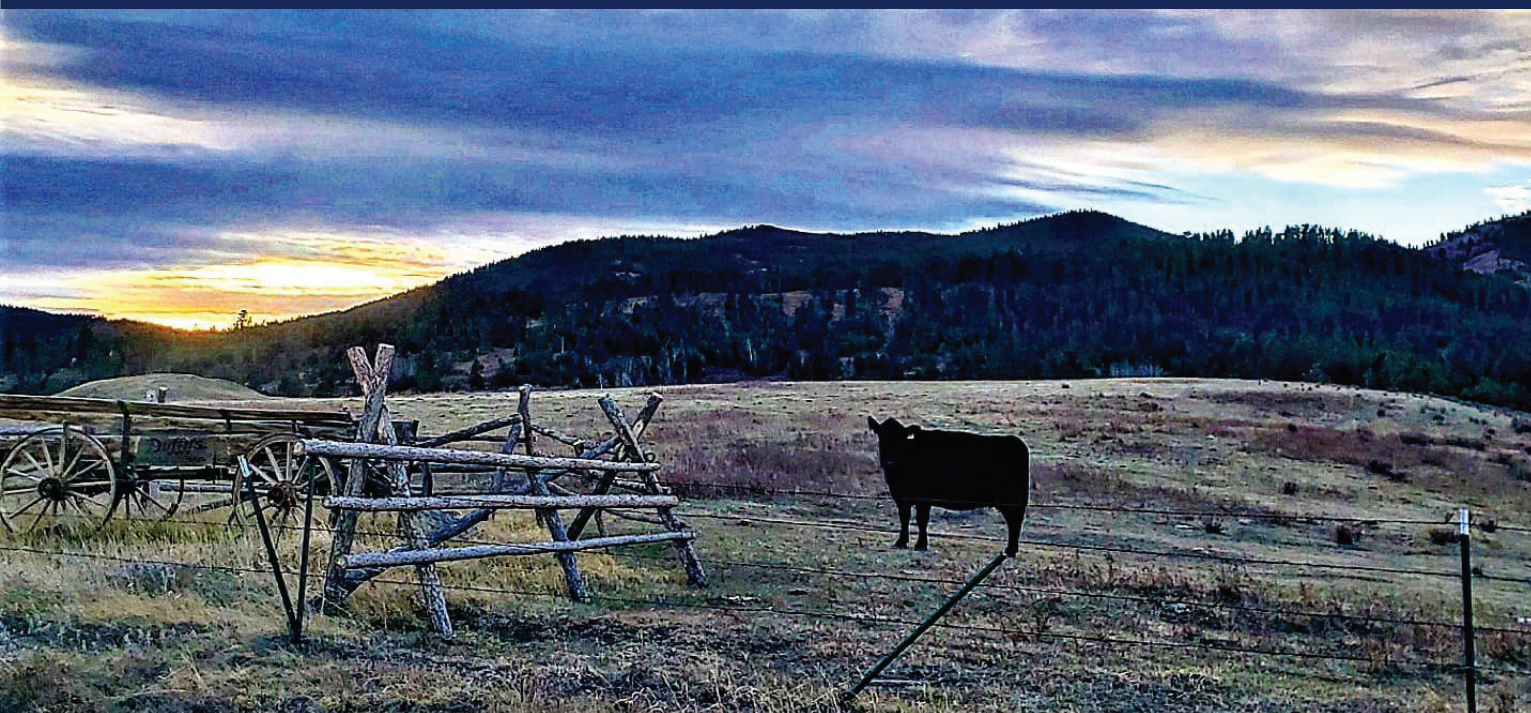


Fergus County



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Dusk by the Old Wagon by Cody Ream.

Fergus County sits in the heart of Montana, spanning approximately 2,777,000 acres and is home to around 11,000 residents. Lewistown is the county seat with a population of approximately 5,900 residents, while the remaining population can be found in the small towns of Denton, Grass Range, Moore, Roy, and Winifred. The county's borders consist of the Missouri River to the North, and the Big Snowy Mountains to the south and contains the Moccasin and Judith island mountain ranges.

Agriculture dominates the county as 845 farms cover 78.8% of the landmass with cattle and small grains being the dominant production industries. This brings in approximately \$64 million in cash receipts, making Fergus County the third largest agricultural producer in the state of Montana. The county produces 109,00 acres of winter wheat, 35,800 acres of spring wheat, 43,400 acres of barley, 200,000 acres of hay, and has 66,000 beef cows and heifers.

South Moccasin Fire Restoration Coalition

On October 4, the South Moccasin Fire started and would burn over 12,000 acres that encompass the Island mountain

range. In the morning of October 5, MSU Extension and the 4-H office led a group of volunteers to organize meals for the firefighters that came into the area to fight the fire. Volunteers from across the county came to the fairgrounds in order to help.

After the fire had settled, landowners who were affected were contacted and a workshop was created to help landowners evaluate their properties. The workshop hosted two MSU specialists, Peter Kolb and Jeffrey Mosley. We held the workshop downtown and opened it to the public. The following two days were spent visiting with landowners affected by the wildfire and assessing the damage of the fire. Landowners were given recommendations on how to best recover and salvage the timber burned.

Since the visits with landowners, we have put together a coalition for the landowners called the South Moccasin Restoration Coalition with the aim to help landowners in their efforts to recover. The coalition has already met once and members from NRCS (Miranda Protzen and Mike Lucas) were present to discuss grants and re-seeding options. Our next meeting is scheduled for December, to discuss the efforts of finding seed and a way to apply it to the land.

Caring for YOU While Caring for Others

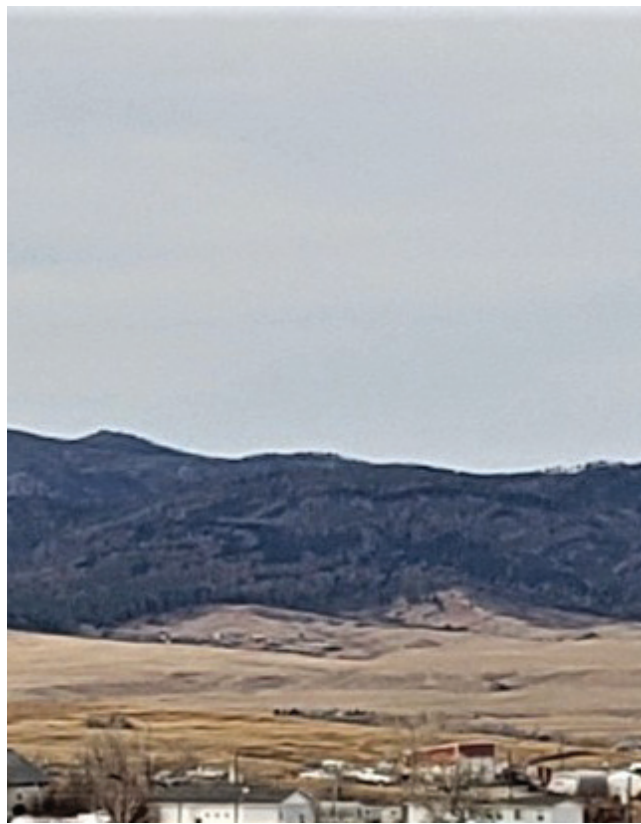
According to a 2019 AARP update, the state of Montana has approximately 114,000 caregivers who provide unpaid care for their loved ones. Caregivers often experience many difficult emotions and face many challenges while caring for their family member. It is crucial for caregivers to take care of themselves so that they can provide quality care to the best of their ability. However, often self-care is overlooked when an individual is put in that role.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a six-week class for caregivers of family members with chronic medical conditions. The program focuses on helping caregivers practice taking care of themselves. Topics include reducing personal stress, communicating effectively with family members and professionals and learning from their emotions. After a few years without the program available in Fergus County, Sarah Bock, the new 4-H/Youth Development and Family and Consumer Sciences agent, is partnering with a community member to host Powerful Tools Class this fall for caregivers.

After the first week, one participant said “I had the best week I’ve had in a long time because of this class. It felt so good to be able to talk to other people who understand.” Another participant from the class told Sarah, “I have gained so much from this class and I am so glad that it exists.” Sarah has already received a call from someone who heard about the ongoing class and requested to be placed on the list for the next one.

Marketing Education in 4-H

The 4-H Family and Consumer Science and Miscellaneous Project Committees teamed up in 2020-2021 to offer a “4-H Indoor Project Auction” for the members entering static projects in the 4-H division of the fair. They took the process one step further by offering a marketing workshop and hands-on experience. The leader who volunteered to lead the workshop works in marketing. Topics included identifying your target customers, promotion, and publicity. She helped all the members design a flyer for their own product and discussed how they would distribute the flyer. They practiced introducing themselves, shaking hands and speaking about their projects. All the participants went to the radio station and spoke during a live program. They created a special area for their auction items to be displayed during the fair. The auction was held on the “free stage” on the midway, attracting a more diverse audience than the livestock sale traditionally has. The members helped set up for the auction and they stood with their items, visiting with prospective buyers before the sale started.



Matryoshka Dolls



BID ON THIS ITEM AT THE 2021 INDOOR 4-H PROJECT AUCTION DURING THE CENTRAL MT FAIR!



This are a set of 10, hand painted farm animals that nest into one another – similar to nesting dolls.

Anya enjoyed painting the intricate details on the animals, even the cow's ear tag!

- 10 animals – horse, cow, sheep, goat, pig, dog, cat, duck, chicken & rabbit
- Includes a rustic wooden display tray with handles.

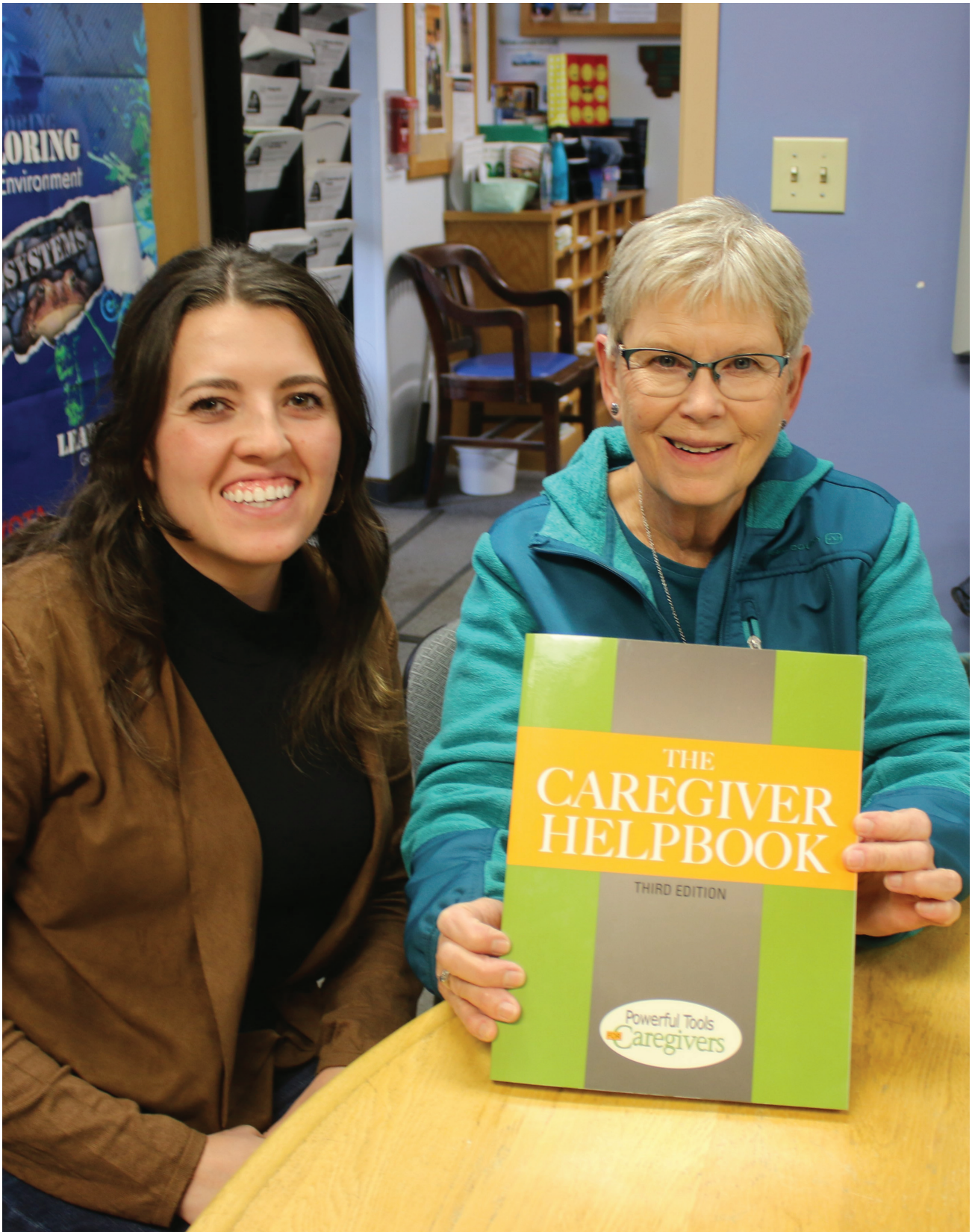
Auction Details:

- THURSDAY JULY 29TH
- 5:00PM
- FREE STAGE ON MIDWAY OF FAIRGROUNDS
- CASH OR CHECK ACCEPTED
- ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO THE 4-H MEMBER





Anya Farley
Creative Critters 4-H Club
11
4 Years in 4-H
1 Year in Visual Arts



Previous Page: (top) Burned South Moccasin Mountains by Cody Ream; **(bottom)** Marketing flyer made by 4-H member Anya Farley;
This Page: Sarah Bock and community partner, Lynette Sallee, by Lewistown News-Argus

This new venture turned out to be a great experience. The members learned many new skills, they had to meet deadlines, and understand the standards for a sale item. They also found a very receptive audience and enjoyed a financial reward for their hard work.

Fergus County Staff



Montana State University Extension is an ADA/EO/AA Veteran's Preference Employer and provider of educational outreach.

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