

MONTANA RANGE DAYS (MRD)

RULES, DIVISIONS, AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Contestant Eligibility and Approx. Points per Contest Event					
	Exhib its (Plant & Weed Collectio ns) (Display s)	Illustra ted Talks	Plant Identifica tion	Plant Anato my	Range Managem ent (Inventory, Soils, Range Sites, Utilization, Stocking Rates, Ecological Sites)
Buckaro o	YES (130 pt)*	YES (100 pt)*	No Contest	No Contest	No Contest
Ecosyste m	YES (130 pt)*	Yes (130 pt)*	No Contest	No Contest	No Contest
Super Starter	YES (130 pt)*	YES (100 pt)*	YES (250 pt)	YES (150 pt)	No
Wrangle r	YES (130 pt)*	YES (100 pt)*	YES (300 pt)	YES (150 pt)	Range Utilization. Ecological Sites & Soils

					(200 pt)
4H & FFA & Open Youth	YES (130 pt)	YES (100 pt)	YES (300 pt)	YES (150 pt)	YES (300 pt)
Open Adult	NO	NO	YES (300 pt)	YES (150 pt)	YES (300 pt)
Rancher	NO	NO	YES (300 pt)	YES (150 pt)	YES (300 pt)
Managem ent Tours	NO	NO	Contest Optional	Contest Optional	Contest Optional

*** These points do not count towards Top Super Starter or Top Wrangler Awards**

EXHIBITS

(Up to 130 Possible Points)

(Revised 5-21-2001)

Exhibitors, ages 4 to 19 can compete in as many lots as desired. However, those individuals participating in the Top Green Hand or Top Range Hand competitions should note the limit is one Range Plant or Weed Plant Collection and one Range Display for points towards the above mentioned awards. Therefore, a contestant entering more than one exhibit must designate (upon entering) which entry (lot) is to be considered for the Top Green Hand or Top Range Hand competition.

Note: Exhibits need to be in place by 8:00 a.m. Tuesday. Exhibitors need to have the appropriate number of noxious weeds in Lots 1-4 to be eligible for cash awards.

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|---------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Lot 1: | Range Plant Collection
(weeds) | Present year collection (80 pts) (5 noxious weeds) |
| Lot 2: | Range Plant Collection
(weeds) | Previous years collection (80 pts) (8 noxious weeds) |
| Lot 3: | Weed Plant Collection
(weeds) | Present year collection (80 pts) (5 noxious weeds) |
| Lot 4: | Weed Plant Collection
(weeds) | Previous years collection (80 pts) (8 noxious weeds) |
| Lot 5: | Range Display | Individual (50 points)
Group (no points) |

Lot 6: 4-H Range Workbooks, Units 1-5 (no points)

***Any Noxious Weed specimens** are required to be permanently covered to prohibit an seed dispersal.

****Present year** is defined as: Beginning June 15th of previous year to June 15th of contest year

*****Weed Reference for Lots 1-4 is the Montana Range Days Master Weed List which is posted on the MRD website.**

***** Noxious Weeds will be identified by the most recent Montana Noxious Weed List published by the Montana Department of Agriculture.**

Exhibits Judging Criteria

Lots 1 and 2

1. Overall quality of specimens (25 points)
2. Good representation of plant types and lifespans (15 points)
3. Good representation of Decreasers, Increasesers, Invaders and Noxious weeds of the area where the plants are collected. (15 points)
4. Accuracy of identification (15 points)
5. Reference value (10 points)

Lots 3 and 4

1. Overall quality of specimens (25 points)
2. Good representation of plant types and lifespans (15 points)
3. Good representation of Noxious and Common weeds of the area where the plants are collected. (15 points)
4. Accuracy of identification (15 points)
5. Reference value (10 points)

Lot 5

1. Overall quality of exhibits (individual - 15 points) (group - no points)
2. Subject matter is range related (individual - 15 points) (group - no points)
3. Informational value (individual - 10 points) (group - no points)
4. Accuracy of contents (individual - 10 points) (group - no points)

Lot 6

1. Satisfactory three-ring binder, correctly labeled (no points)
2. Binder material in order, manual followed with worksheets in numerical order (no points)
3. Overall completeness of all worksheets (no points)
4. Overall neatness and readability (no points)

ILLUSTRATED TALKS

(Up to 100 Possible Points)

Participants, ages 4 to 19 may present an Illustrated Talk on any phase of range resources and/or the management of such resources. The talk should focus on a specific topic rather than trying to present too much information. Length is no less than 6 minutes and no more than 8 minutes. (See penalty information below.) An additional 5 minutes of time is allotted for questions from a slate of judges. Each judge will ask at least one question. A power point projector and screen will be available to all contestants. Presenters using Power Point must supply a computer. Easels, slide projectors, etc. will be made available at a participants request.

Note: The winner of the Illustrated Talks competition will give their presentation again before the award ceremony. This award can only be won once by the same individual. However, previous winners may still compete in Illustrated Talks and receive points towards the "TOP GREEN HAND" or "TOP RANGE HAND" awards, provided they have not previously won these awards.

Illustrated Talks Judging Criteria

JUDGES: A slate of judges score the Illustrated Talks.

QUESTIONS: There will be 5 minutes allotted to each student for questions. Each judge will ask the speaker at least one question during that time.

TIME LIMIT: For each second over or under the 6 to 8 minute time limit 1 point is deducted from the average score of the four judges. Time commences when the speaker begins talking. Speakers may use a watch to keep a record of their time or utilize the timer provided.

TIES: In case of ties in overall scores, the *Knowledge of Subject* average score will be used to break the ties.

VISUAL AIDS: If no visual aids are used, a mark of zero (0) will be awarded. However, the contestant will not be disqualified.

JUDGING CRITERIA	POINTS
Introduction	10
Body	20
<i>Subject matter</i>	15
<i>Visual aids</i>	15
<i>Conclusion</i>	10
<i>Knowledge of subject</i>	15

<i>matter</i>	
<i>Delivery and language</i>	<i>15</i>

PLANT IDENTIFICATION

(Approx. 300 possible points)

This contest will consist of identifying 20-30 range plants and marking the respective plant characteristics. Plants included on the test will be from the current year's **Montana Range Days Plant List**. This list is available upon request from hosting community or found on the following website www.montanarangedays.com or www.cartercd.org

You will need to know:

1. Common Name*
2. Type of Plant
3. Life Span
4. Grazing Response
5. Season of Growth
6. Plant Origin
7. Poisonous or Non-Poisonous

*Points given only for each plant correctly named as shown on plant list.

PLANT ANATOMY

(Approx. 150 Possible Points)

Studying for and participating in this contest enhances one's ability to identify plants and to use plant taxonomic keys. The contest format is multiple-choice with questions regarding plant parts and variations. Students will also use a simplified dichotomous key to identify two plants.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

(Approx 300 Possible Points)

This contest is conducted in the field. Contestants will have to determine:

1. Ecological sites
2. Similarity indexes/Range trends
3. Range utilization levels
4. Stocking rates

Wranglers will evaluate levels of grazing utilization at five stations. They may be asked to identify key areas and/or key species. Wranglers will be asked to identify very basic range sites (ex. run-in, run-off, normal), soil texture samples and determine the soil profile depth within soil pits. (e.i. Shallow, Moderately Deep, Very Shallow, etc)

(Approx. 200 Possible Points)

Divisions

(Age is determined as of June 15th)

Buckaroo (4 to 6 year olds)

This instructional program is offered for the little tykes, permitting parent to take an active part in Montana Range Days, free from having to supervise their small youngsters. The day and half program provide meaningful activities to help foster interest in future Montana Range Days competition. Buckaroos may also participate in the Exhibits and Illustrated Talk Competitions.

Ecosystems Explorers (7 to 8 years olds) Ecosystem explorers

“explore” the basic principles of ecology. They learn

about ecosystems, energy photosynthesis, food chains and the balance of resources within an ecosystem. They may also participate

in the exhibits and Illustrated Talk Competitions.

Super Starter (9 to 11 year olds)

Super Starters will spend time exploring the rangeland at the workshop site on Tuesday. Paired with great instructors, they discover the basic principles of range ecology, while also learning how to use plant anatomy to identify common range

plants. Super Starters will also have a chance to collect and press plants. They will learn how to properly mount and label a plant for a collection. On Wednesday, Super Starters compete in the areas of Plant Identification and Plant Anatomy for individual awards as well as the **"Top Super Starter Award"**.

Note: Super Starters may also participate in the Exhibits and Illustrated Talk Competitions, but these points do not add into the Top Super Starter Award.

Wrangler (12 & 13 year olds)

On Tuesday, the Wrangler curriculum presents challenging, hands-on learning opportunities. Instruction is focused on plant anatomy and plant identification. Students are introduced to the basics of range (ecological) sites, grazing utilization, stocking rates and weed management. Wednesday, the Wrangler competition features contests on Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, Range Utilization and Ecological (Range) Sites/Soils Judging. The competition is for individual awards as well as the **"Top Wrangler"**.

Note: Wranglers may also participate in the Exhibits and Illustrated Talk Competitions but these points do not add into the Top Wrangler Award.

4-H, FFA, or Open Youth

(14 to 19 year olds that have not graduated from High School)

On Tuesday, students participate in rotating workshops that focus on various aspects of range including Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, Range Sites/Soils and Stocking Rates/Utilization. Each workshop has an expert panel of instructors. Wednesday morning, students participate in a competition including contests in Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy and Range Management. Following the competition on Wednesday, students will have a workshop on range planning. Students also have the opportunity to compete in the Illustrated Talk Competition held on Monday evening and in the Exhibits Contest. Awards are given in all contest categories. A combination of contest points is used to determine the individual winners of the "Top Green Hand" and the "Top Range Hand" contests. *(Please refer to the "Rules of Individual Competition" for clarification.)* Individuals competing in the Youth Category may also participate in the Team Competition *(Please refer to the "Rules of Team Competition" for clarification)*.

Note: The Top Range Hand award can only be won once by the same individual.

FFA Division is for FFA members who are 14 to 19 years old and have not graduated from high school.

Open Youth Division is for anyone 14 to 19 years old and has not graduated from high school and does not qualify for any other division. This includes 4-H members.

Open Adult (Professionals cannot compete)

This division is for any adult who wishes to participate in the rotating workshops on Tuesday. Wednesday, you may compete against other adults in a competition including contests in Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, and Range Management (Prizes will be Awarded!).

Note: Top Open Adult first place award can only be won once by the same individual. Further note that professional range personnel or previous winners can compete, but not place in this division.

Rancher

This division consists of any adult active in ranching who wishes to take part in the Rotating Workshops on Tuesday. On Wednesday you may compete against other ranchers in a contest including Plant Identification Plant Anatomy, and Range Management (Prizes will be Awarded!)

Management Tour (Contest optional)

This division is for any individual who wishes to attend the Management Tours. Any individual who attends the Management Tours and wishes to participate in the contest may do so by also signing up for the appropriate Division Contest.

Rules For Individual Competition

"TOP RANGE HAND" This award will be awarded to the individual youth age 15 to 19 and has not graduated from High School, with the highest total score from these five contests: *Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, Range Management, Illustration Talks and Exhibits*. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties. ***This award can only be won once by the same individual.*** High point sub-contests for the youth division may be won by the same individual more than once. Exhibits and Illustrated Talks are not considered sub-contests.

"TOP GREEN HAND" This award will be awarded to the individual youth who is 14 years old, and has the highest total score from these five contests: *Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, Range Management, Illustration Talks and Exhibits*. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties. Exhibits and Illustrated Talks are not considered sub-contests.

"TOP WRANGLER" This award will be awarded to the individual youth age 12

to 13 with the highest total score from these four contests *Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, Ecological Sites, Soils Judging, Range Utilization*. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties.

“TOP SUPER STARTER” This award will be awarded to the individual youth age 9 to 11 with the highest total score from these three contests. *Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy*. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties.

“TOP OPEN ADULT” This award will be awarded to the individual registered in the Open Adult Division with the highest total score from these three contests. *Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, and Range Management*. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties.

“TOP RANCHER” This award will be awarded to the individual registered in the Rancher Division with the highest total score from these three contests. *Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, and Range Management*. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties.

Former first place winning individuals in the following areas: **Top Green Hand and Top Range Hand** are not eligible to win these awards again.

Rules For Team Competition

1. Teams must be designated as either Open or FFA. (Open teams can include 4-H and FFA members)
2. Teams will have at least three members.
3. Teams points will be totaled from the three highest individual scores.
4. The points of individual team members will automatically be counted towards their individual placing.
5. Open Youth individuals may not participate on an FFA Team.
6. FFA Chapters may enter more than one team.
7. Former first place teams must replace at least one of the previous high three-team members.
8. The Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, and Range Management contests are the only contests used toward team points.
9. Team members must be 14 to 19 years old and not yet graduated from high school.
10. Open Team members must be from the same State.
11. FFA Team members must be enrolled in the same Chapter in Montana.

12. Super Starters and Wranglers may compete in teams formed by individuals at registration. When individuals register, they should indicate that they are already part of a team, or wish to be assigned to a team.

Awards

Range Display

Best of Show

Reserve Best of Show

Range Plant Collection

Best of Show

Reserve Best of Show

Cash Award for Lots 1 and 3 if exhibits include 5 noxious weeds.

Weed Collection

Best of Show

Reserve Best of Show

Cash Award for Lot 2 and Lot 4 if exhibits include 8 noxious weeds.

Illustrated Talk

Awards to the first six places

Buckaroos (4 to 6 years old) All participants receive participation ribbon

Ecosystem Explorers (7 to 8 years old)

Super Starter (9 to 11 year olds) All participants receive participation ribbon

Top Super Starter: The individual with the highest combined contest scores in Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, and Plant Mount Judging.

Sub Contests

High Point Individual - Plant Identification

Ribbon and/or award

High Point Individual - Plant Anatomy

Ribbon and/or award

High Point Individual - Plant Mount Judging

Ribbon and/or award

****High Point Individual** awards may be won by the same individual more than once**

Ribbon first 6 places -- Awards first 3 places *

Super Starter Teams – First through Fourth placings for teams

Wranglers (12 & 13 year olds) All participants receive participation ribbon

Top Wrangler: The individual with the highest combined contest score in Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, Plant Mount & Label Judging, and Soils Judging.

Sub Contests

High Point Individual - Plant Identification Ribbon and/or award

High Point Individual – Plant Anatomy Ribbon and/or award

High Point Individual – Range Utilization Ribbon and/or award

High Point Individual – Ecological(Range)Site/Soils Judging Ribbon and/or award

****High Point Individual** awards may be won by the same individual more than once**

* Ribbon first 6 places -- Awards first 3 places *

Wrangler Teams – First through fourth placing for teams.

Youth (4-H, FFA, or Open) (14 to 19 years old who has not graduated from High School)

Sub Contests

High Point Individual - Plant Identification Ribbon and/or award

High Point Individual – Plant Anatomy Ribbon and/or award

High Point Individual - Range Management Ribbon and/or award

****High Point Individual** awards may be won by the same individual more than once**

* Ribbon first 6 places -- Awards first 3 places *

Top Green Hand -

A 14 year old individual in 4-H, FFA or Open Youth Division, with the highest combined score from these five contests: Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, Range Management, Illustration Talks and Exhibits. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties.

* Ribbon first 6 places -- Awards first 3 places *

Top Range Hand

A 15 to 19 year old individual in 4-H, FFA, or Open Youth Division who has not graduated from High School, with the highest combined score from these five contests: Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, Range Management, Illustration Talks and Exhibits. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties. 1st place winner receives MRD traveling Trophy (***This award can only be won once by the same individual***)

* Ribbon first 6 places -- Awards first 3 places *

Open Youth - Top Individual

A 14 to 19 year old individual in the Open Division who has not graduated from High School, with the highest combined score in Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, and Range Management. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties.

* Ribbon first 6 places -- Awards first 3 places *

Open Youth - TEAM

Montana's 4-H Team to Old West Regional Competition is usually made up of top 4-H Individuals at MRD. \$200.00 gift goes to the 1st place team to help them represent MRD at Old West Range Competition.

* Ribbon first 6 places -- Awards and plaques first 3 places

(optional)*

FFA - Top Individual

A 14 to 19 year old individual in the FFA Division who has not graduated from High School, with the highest combined score in: Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, and Range Management. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties.

* Ribbon first 6 places -- Awards first 3 places *

FFA - TEAM

A cash gift goes to the 1st place team to help them represent MRD at Old West Range Competition. In the event the 1st place team does not attend Old West Range Competition, these funds can be awarded to the 2nd or 3rd place team

Ribbon first 6 places -- Awards and plaques first 3 places *

The team with the overall high score will receive \$500.00 to attend the National Land and Pasture Judging held each fall in Oklahoma.

Open Adult – Top Individual

Individual registered in the Open Adult Division with the highest combined score in: Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, and Range Management. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties.

* Ribbon first 6 places -- Awards first 3 places *

Rancher (Any adult active in ranching)

Top Rancher

Individual registered in the Rancher Division with the highest combined score in Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, and Range Management. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties.

* Ribbon first 6 places -- Awards first 3 places *