

MONTANA RANGE DAYS BOOSTER CLUB

DATE: April 26,2011

TO: Montana Range Days Boosters

FROM: Amber Nordahl, Booster Club Chairman

RE: 2011 Range Days and Booster Club

The calendar says: April 26th. 48 days until Montana Range Days. Sun, 100 degrees, sweat, mosquitoes. Looking out the window – it is SNOWING – **AGAIN**. I don't know if it has ever snowed at Range Days, but this year you better bring cold weather gear just in case. And an extra pair of socks.

I will be bringing along new muck boots. My old pair finally sprang a leak. My new ones are a bit larger I discovered, twice. Hurrying through the corrals after a cow, I felt that cold, wet, mushy feeling between my toes. It takes a couple steps for a person to get their momentum slowed down in the mud. There I found myself, standing on 1 foot that had a boot on, in about 8" of corral muck. The other foot had a muddy sock on. My new muck boot was about 5 feet behind me, stuck. So now what? You can't reach back that far, certainly can't hop in the mud. So I put the toe of my muddy sock foot gently back down in the mud, stepped, leaned over and YANKED out my stuck boot. Now, do you: put that muddy sock foot back in your new muck boot? Not a chance. So I am balancing on my 1 foot that has the boot on, pulling the wet muddy sock off the other. The cows are standing there watching this whole process. I put my bare foot back in my boot which is now really loose, wad the muddy sock inside out and shove it in my coat pocket, and back to work. The moral is that any mud over 5" deep requires a second pair of socks!

JUNE 13th, 14th, 15th DEER LODGE 35th ANNUAL MONTANA RANGE DAYS

Go to the website: montanarangedays.org

There you will find a great brochure, pictures, plant lists, the tour schedule, motel and campground suggestions, the 14 members of the steering committee listed, and the registration forms. Also our Booster Club and PNCA Club Lists.

We haven't been to Deer Lodge ever. In 1995 and 96 MRD was in Cascade and in 1987 and 88 in Dillon. So we are pretty excited to get out this way in the state again. Also Range Days is a week earlier this year. With our cold spring you probably won't be putting down hay yet, the timing is perfect. Those folk from the north will want to come south to see some grass grow after their winter. The Deer Lodge committee has a new logo, new tours and a great program lined up. Don't miss it.

The Steering committee has made some changes also. For the contest, we feel if you have worked hard to be the best, you should win. So the only award that you can win once is the Top Range Hand. There are cash prizes for Illustrated Talks and for Plant and Weed collections that meet the noxious weed criteria. The Top Range Hand winner has the opportunity of a summer job with the NRCS field office closest to their home. We voted to award an additional \$1000 scholarship in December. All those details are on the website. At Range Days we will give away another \$3000 in 3 scholarships to High School Seniors and College students studying an Ag related field. There is going to be \$200 in travel money going to the top FFA team and top Youth team at Range Days to attend Old West Regional Judging Contest, besides their matching team jackets.

You may have guessed this is the annual Booster Club Membership letter. Range Days has quite a bit going on. The \$25.00 dues each year goes entirely to fund MRD, the kids and to promote Rangeland Education. If we all stick together with Montana Range Days, our corner of the world will be a better place. Including both land and people. The Endowment Fund is our permanent back up and a place to donate in memory of individuals who loved our Montana rangeland and prairies.

Leading by example isn't the best way to lead – it is the ONLY way to lead. So make your place and your lifestyle an example. There aren't any better folks in the world then the ones that show up and belong to Montana Range Days. We are grateful and proud of our MRD family.

I hope you can get to Deer Lodge. I hope you chose to help out through the Booster Club. And for heaven's sake I hope you wear double socks when it's muddy!

See you in Deer Lodge. Call me at (406) 669-3193 or email: tbarj@mtintouch.net if you have any questions.

MONTANA RANGE DAYS BOOSTER CLUB DUES \$25.00

Donation to MRD Permanent Endowment Fund _____

Total Contribution _____

We would appreciate your dues by June 30, 2011
You can mail it in the enclosed envelope
or bring it along to Range Days

Mail to: Montana Range Days Booster Club
c/o Amber Nordahl
2033 Columbus-Molt Road
Molt Montana 59057