

MONTANA RANGE DAYS

	Exhibits	Illustrated Talks	Plant Identification	Plant Anatomy	Ecological sites /Soils	Stocking Rate / Utilization	Range Inventory/ Monitoring
Buckaroo	YES	YES (100pt)	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Ecosystem Explorer	YES	YES (100pt)	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Super Starter	YES	YES (100pt)	YES (260pt)	YES (160pt)	NO	NO	NO
Wrangler	YES	YES (100pt)	YES (300pt)	YES (150pt)	YES (100pt)	YES (60pt)	NO
FFA - Open Youth	YES	YES (100pt)	YES (300pt)	YES (150pt)	YES (100pt)	YES (100pt)	YES (100pt)
Open Adult	NO	NO	YES (300pt)	YES (150pt)	YES (100pt)	YES (100pt)	YES (100pt)
Rancher	NO	NO	YES (300pt)	YES (150pt)	YES (100pt)	YES (100pt)	YES (100pt)

RANGE EXHIBITS COMPETITION

(Up to 130 Possible Points)

Exhibitors, ages 4 to 19 can compete in as many lots as desired. Individuals participating in the Top Greenhand 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 Top Range Hand and Top Greenhand. Therefore, a contestant entering more than one exhibit must designate (upon entering) which entry (lot) is to be considered for the Top Greenhand or Top Range Hand competition.

No specific amount of plants per display is required. They can display as many plants as they collected for the year/past years.

Note: Best of Show award for **Range Plant Collection** (Lots: 1 & 2), **Weed Plant Collection** (Lots: 3 & 4), and **Range Display** (Lot: 5) can only be won once by the same individual. However previous winners may still compete in the Exhibits and receive points towards the "TOP GREEN HAND" or "TOP RANGE HAND" awards, provided they have not previously won these awards. **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.**

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Required for Cash Prize</u>
Lot 1: Range Plant Collection	Present year (80 points)	(5 noxious weeds)
Lot 2: Range Plant Collection	Present year & past years (80 points)	(8 noxious weeds)
Lot 3: Weed Plant Collection	Present year collection (80 points)	(5 noxious weeds)
Lot 4: Weed Plant Collection	Present year & past years (80 points)	(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 any 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.

Range Exhibits Judging Criteria

**See Grading Rubrics Folder for print out version of grading rubric*

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 COMPETITION

(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

**See Grading Rubrics Folder for print out version of grading rubric*

- ❑ JUDGES: A slate of four 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.
- ❑ VISIAL AIDS: If no visual aids are used, a mark of zero (0) will be awarded. However, the contestant will not be disqualified.

BUCKAROO

- **Buckaroo**

Ages 4-6

- This instructional program is offered for young children, permitting parent to participate in Montana Range Days. The day and half program provides meaningful, hands on conservation education activities to help foster interest in future Montana Range Days competition. Buckaroos may participate in the Exhibits and Illustrated Talk Competitions.
- Tuesday consists of the kids going to the ranch site and having lunch with everyone. They then will head out to the park for an hour or so, then return to the fairgrounds for games and crafts. Parents will pick them up at 4:00pm.

ECOSYSTEM EXPLORER

- **Ecosystem Explorer**

Ages 7-8

- This division is designed for 7-8 year old's or Buckaroos with a little more experience. The curriculum of this educational program is designed to introduce young children to basic ecology concepts. Ecosystems, photosynthesis, food chains (webs), plant and animal interactions and plant communities are some of the topics covered in this division. Ecosystem Explorers may participate in the Exhibits and Illustrated Talk Competitions.

SUPERSTARTER

Overview

- **SUPERSTARTER**

Ages 9-11

- On Tuesday, the superstarters will travel out to the ranch site. They will learn about the different types and characteristics of plants and learn how plants grow. They also will learn how to use a plant key. On Wednesday, the contest consists of Plant ID (20 plants) and plant anatomy for individual awards as well as the "**Top Superstarter Award**". 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. Weed education is also introduced to this division.
- **Note:** Superstarters may participate in the Exhibits and Illustrated Talk Competitions but these points do not add into the Top Superstarter Award. *The Top Superstarter award can only be won once by the same individual.*
- Activities include:

WRANGLER

Overview

- **WRANGLER**

Ages 12-13

- 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 management: soils, ecological sites, proper grazing use and stocking rates. Wednesday, the Wrangler competition is focused on testing Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy and basic Range Management skills. The competition is for individual awards as well as the "**Top Wrangler**". **Note:** Wranglers may participate in the Exhibits and Illustrated Talk Competitions but these points do not add into the Top Wrangler Award. *The Top Wrangler award can only be won once by the same individual.*

Contest - Wrangler

1) PLANT IDENTIFICATION (Up to 300 possible points)

This contest will consist of identifying 20 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.org

You will need to know:

1. Common Name*, Type of Plant, Life Span, Grazing Response, Season of Growth, and Plant Origin for points. Knowing if the plant is poisonous and/or noxious will be on contest but will not include points.

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

2) PLANT ANATOMY (Up to 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 one plant.

3) STOCKING RATE/UTILIZATION (Up to 60 Possible Points)

Wranglers will evaluate levels of grazing utilization at 4 plots. Levels defined as: Slight (0-20%), Moderate (21-40%), Full (41-60%), Close (61-80%) and Severe (81-100%)

4) ECOLOGICAL SITES/SOILS (Up to 100 Possible Points)

Wranglers will identify very basic range sites including: soil surface texture (clayey, silty or sandy), soil profile (moderately deep, shallow or very shallow), range site (run-in, run-off, or normal).

YOUTH/ADULT

Overview

- **FFA/YOUTH OPEN** Ages 13-19 (In high school)
 - Includes 14 to 19 years old students that have not graduated from high school (both FFA and 4H members register as "Open Youth" when competing individually. Only FFA members can participate in the team FFA competition. Other 14-19 year old students participate in the team Open Youth competition. 4-H members participate as team Open Youth competition.

Awards are given in all contest categories. A combination of contest points are 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.*

- **OPEN ADULT**

Ages 19+

- This division is for any adult who wishes to participate in the rotating workshops on Tuesday. On Wednesday, participants in the Open Adult Division can compete in the contest which includes: 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**

Ages 19+

- This division consists of any adult active in ranching who wishes to take part in the rotating workshops on Tuesday. On Wednesday, participants in the Rancher Division can compete in the contest which includes: Plant Identification Plant Anatomy, and Range Management. Prizes will be awarded!

Contest – Youth/Adult

1) PLANT IDENTIFICATION (Up to 300 possible points)

This contest will consist of identifying 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.org

You will need to know:

1. Common Name*, Type of Plant, Life Span, Grazing Response, Season of Growth, and Plant Origin for points. Knowing if the plant is poisonous and/or noxious will be on contest, but will not include points.

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

2) PLANT ANATOMY (Up to 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.

3) RANGE MANAGEMENT (Up to 300 Possible Points)

- Range Inventory/Monitoring (Similarity Index/Range Trend) (100 points)– Calculate similarity index and range trend for one ecological site. (Note: Pounds of current forage production will be provided for the students at the station.) Answer quiz questions.
- Ecological Sites/Soils (100 points) – Identify 3 ecological sites. Answer quiz questions.
- Stocking Rates/Utilization (100 points) - Determine grazing utilization on 3-5 plots. Answer 5 stocking rate questions using a stocking rate scenario provided at the station. Answer quiz questions.

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, Illustrated 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 contests for the youth division may be won by the same individual more than once. The winner receives the traveling trophy and keeps it until the next year.

"TOP GREENHAND" 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, Illustrated Talks and Exhibits*. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties. High point 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 WRANGLER" This award will be awarded to the individual youth age 12 to 13 with the highest total score from these contests: *Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy, Range Management*. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties. ***This award can only be won once by the same individual.*** High point contests for the Wrangler division may be won

by the same individual more than once.

“TOP SUPER STARTER” This award will be awarded to the individual youth age 9 to 11 with the highest total score from these contests: *Plant Identification, Plant Anatomy*. Plant Identification scores will be used to break all ties. ***This award can only be won once by the same individual.*** High point contests for the Super Starter division may be won by the same individual more than once.

“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. ***This award can only be won once by the same individual.***

“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. ***This award can only be won once by the same individual.***

Former first place winning individuals in the following areas: **Illustrated Talks, Range Plant Collection, Weed Plant Collection, Range Display, Top Superstarter, Top Wrangler, Top Green Hand, Top Range Hand, Top Open Adult and Top Rancher** are not eligible to win these awards again. However, participants may still compete in the Exhibits and Illustrated Talks and receive points towards the “TOP GREEN HAND” or “TOP RANGE HAND” awards, provided they have not previously won these awards.

Rules for Team Competition

1. Teams must be designated as either Open Youth or FFA.
2. Teams will have at least three members.
3. Team 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 a FFA Team.
6. FFA Chapters may enter only 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. FFA Team members must be enrolled in the same Chapter.
11. Superstarter and Wrangler teams may be formed at registration. Students should indicate whether they are already part of a team, or wish to be assigned to a team.

Awards

Awards given for each category and division are up to the discretion of the local committee each year.