

**Montana Department of Agriculture**  
**Vertebrate Pest Workshop**  
**June 13, 2024-**  
**Broadwater County Fairgrounds 4-H Building**  
**189 US Hwy 12 E**  
**Townsend, MT 59644**

The MDA and MSU Extension-Broadwater County are hosting a vertebrate pest workshop to train producers, landowners, and pesticide applicators how to identify and manage damage caused by vertebrate pests. Through a combination of presentations and field experience, attendees will learn how to correctly identify the problem pest, determine an action threshold, and implement control measures. This six-hour class will cover ground squirrels, voles, prairie dogs, pocket gophers, and elk.

Due to the practical nature of the training, attendees are encouraged to wear clothing appropriate to the day's weather conditions. Shoes should be comfortable, suitable for extended periods of standing and working in the field. Attendees should bring with them work gloves for use during the hands-on field exercises.

**8-8:20 Check in**

**8:20-8:30 Welcome/Introductions**

**8:30-9 Whodunnit? Correctly Identifying Vertebrate Pest Damage**

The presentation will review the key signs used to correctly identify the presence and activity of prairie dogs, Richardson ground squirrels, Columbian Ground squirrels, pocket gophers and voles.

**9-9:30 Identifying Pest Damage and Action Thresholds**

Attendees will be introduced to some techniques to assess vertebrate pest damage needed to determine when to initiate control efforts.

**9:30-10:10am Hands on ID and Matching Exercise**

Attendees will look at 15-20 items (i.e. photos, samples, and stuffed specimens) on display tables and identify the vertebrate pest associated with that item.

**10:10-10:25 Break**

**10:25-10:55 Trap Setting and Use Exercise**

Attendees will be shown traps used to manage different vertebrate pests and have opportunities to manipulate and set the traps in an environment where they can learn about their use.

**10:55-11:25 Pesticide Applications & Bait Stations**

Bait station Construction, design options, requirements by label, placement density.

**11:25-12:10 Managing Conflicts with Elk. Warren Hansen; MT FWP**

Warren Hansen, Wildlife Manager for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 3, will suggest ways for landowners to mitigate conflicts with elk and relate recent changes to elk management in general within the state.

**12:10-12:45 Lunch (Provided)**

**12:45-1pm Travel to field site**

**Field Activities 1pm-3pm**

During the field activities session attendees will practice applying what they have learned in the morning session. They will identify the presence of various vertebrate pests and demonstrate how to manage those pests using traps and pesticides.

**Event Registration Questions:**

Beth Thomas  
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Montana Department of Agriculture

Allison Kosto  
406-266-9242  
MSU Extension-Broadwater County

**Training Questions:**

Stephen Vantassel  
MDA Vertebrate Pest Specialist  
406-538-3004

**Credits Available:**

- (10) Dealer – 5
- (32) Ag Vert Pest – 5
- (33) Forest Pest – 5
- (34) Ornamental & Turf Pest – 5
- (39) Demonstration & Research Pest – 5
- (45) School IPM – 5
- (54) Rodent – 5
- (60) Private Agricultural Pest – 6