

Food and Agriculture Development Center: Pasture Tour and Noxious Weed Identification Success Story

The Project: One issue that affects many farmers is noxious weeds. These weeds not only can be toxic to livestock and decrease land productivity, they're also illegal to let propagate without a management plan. Ravalli County Economic Development Authority Food and Ag Development Center (RCEDA FADC) and Montana Farmers Union (MFU) set out to educate producers about noxious weed identification and management.

In June 2024, RCEDA and MFU put on a noxious weed identification and pasture tour at 7B Farmstead in Victor. 7B Farmstead, owned by Katie Austin, is an artisan raw milk Jersey creamery. Katie practices high density rotational grazing with her livestock, and wanted to share the soil health benefits of this system with others.

Over 30 attendees joined the tour. Katie talked about rotational grazing, allowing the animals to thoroughly eat the vegetation before moving to new pasture. The local Weed District helped identify common pasture weeds and shared how to best manage them. The NRCS showed how to identify Ventenata, a common noxious grass. Finally, attendees toured the Weed District's demonstration garden.

Learn more about 7B Farmstead here: [Home Page \(localline.ca\)](#)

For more information:

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