MEDA ONLINE NEWS FOR OCTOBER 2010

- October 26th in Billings: Save the Date!
- Grant and Funding Opportunities
- Working Groups
- Opportunities For You
- Montana BEAR Report – New Survey is Up
- My Turn: This, That and the Other Thing

OCTOBER 26TH - PLAN TO BE IN BILLINGS

Rural Seminar and Strategy Session:
MEDA’s leadership is working with Matt Chase (NADO) and Chuck Fluharty (RUPRI) to hold a seminar on October 26th in Billings. The purpose of the seminar will be to learn of pending policy changes on the federal level that would impact rural states; attendees will also begin an action plan to address the issues. Registration will be available next week.

GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. New Community Friendly Grants Extension Community Resources Program weblink. Check out these great community grant links. Thanks to David Young, Professor, Community Resource Specialist Extension Service & College of Nursing, MSU, for providing this information.

2. Leveraging the Partnership: DOT, HUD, and EPA Programs for Sustainable Communities;
It is not too early to start planning for the FY 2011 funding opportunities and to begin communication with your regional partners; and, you can start by looking at HUD’s Grants web site and the on-line training available to assist FY 2010 applicants. The eLogic Model and Accountability Tool may be a good place to start your on-line training. http://portal.hud.gov For more information contact Larry Gallagher at 406.447.1480.

3. Clean Energy Funding Workshops Slated for Havre on November 16-17th:
This fall and winter Montana farmers, ranchers, and small businesses -- along with agency and non-profit staff and private grant writers -- will be able to learn more about how to tap renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities for rural Montana. The workshops will outline what loans, rebates, and grants are available in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The workshops will include a specific focus on the USDA-RD’s Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant and loan program. November 16th focuses on grantwriter packagers and agency staff – MEDA members would probably get the most use out of this session. The November 17th workshop is shorter and geared more for prospective applicants --farmers, ranchers and rural businesses. You could encourage your clients to attend the 17th workshop. Contact: Al Kurki, NCAT, 449-0104


WORKING GROUPS
During the MEDA Conference, members indicated interest in reforming or starting the following Working Groups:

- Value Added Ag: Jan Tusick (Chair), Collin Watters, Joel Clairmont, Brian Gion, Sarah Converse and Tracy McIntyre
- Energy: Debbie Singer (Chair), Warren Harden, Tracy McIntyre, Sarah Converse,
Next week, members will be invited to join a group of interest to them. The Chair will then schedule a conference call to plan next steps.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU**

Interested in sharpening your professional skills as an economic and community development practitioner? Looking for new tools to place in your economic development tool box? Check these out.

1. View all of the [Training News](#) for Montana Nonprofit Association

2. Agricultural Biofuel Summit. Noon-5 p.m. Tuesday, October 19, 2010 * 8 a.m. - Noon Wednesday, October 20, 2010. MSU-Northern BioEnergy Center Havre MT
   Topics Include:
   - Wheat and Barley, Ethanol production using small grains
   - “The Closed Loop”
   - High Protein Distillers Grains for Livestock Feed
   - Use, availability and opportunities of biofuels in Agri business
   - The Appomattox Barley to Ethanol Plant Model
   - Farm Equipment, Products and Warranties using biodiesel
   REGISTER TODAY – Please see attached form or Call 406-785-3722 or e-mail epac@ethanolmt.org
   No Registration Fee but Space is Limited

3. The Governor’s Office of Economic Development is making available copies of the new issue of the Montana Business and Technology Magazine. These are available to you at no cost. View the publication at [http://business.mt.gov/docs/MTBus&Tech10fall.pdf](http://business.mt.gov/docs/MTBus&Tech10fall.pdf) and contact Jacques Koppel at jacques@innovatemontana.com with the number of copies you would like to have sent to you.

**MONTANA BEAR Report**  Learn what is new in your region with the statewide Montana BEAR Program’s monthly report.

View the September 2010 [report](#) and catch up on the latest BEAR Team news. There were 24 (Wow!) business visits held in September in the following counties:

- Carbon County - 1
- Missoula County - 4
- Deer Lodge County - 1
- Park County - 2
- Ravalli County - 2
- Lewis & Clark – 2
- Yellowstone County - 4
- Flathead County – 7
- Silver Bow County – 2

**My Turn: This, That and the Other Thing**

The past few weeks have been very busy for MEDA Members: The Montana Economic Summit, Fall MEDA Conference…and our first ever MEDA Webinar. In case you missed the email, the [Fall Conference Summary](#) is now available. According to your evaluations, you found the conference to be most worthwhile. Thanks to each of you for participating in MEDA’s first webinar: Continuing the Investment Success. An email will be sent across the listserve next week when the powerpoint and program information booklets are updated. Finally, do watch your inbox for registration information regarding October 26th. Have a great week!

Do you have a Success Story to share? [Download the report template](#) and send to MEDA.