



# Story Creek Elementary, Belgrade Montana Bison and Barley Soup



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Team Nutrition Program works in close collaboration with the Office of Public Instruction School Nutrition Programs and is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Team Nutrition Training Grant Program. This institution is an equal provider and employer.

## Story Creek Elementary Serves Montana Bison and Barley Soup, November 3, 2021

Belgrade school nutrition staff served up a delicious meal of Montana Bison and Barley Soup for Story Creek Elementary School students on November 3, 2021. Belgrade is one of six school districts in the state working with Montana Team Nutrition to test recipes and conduct nutrition education featuring



Montana grown and raised foods through a 2021 USDA Team Nutrition Grant. "Living in Montana allows for abundant opportunities to implement locally grown and locally raised foods into our everyday meals," says School Food Service Director, Brittany Moats. "Many students don't realize the amount of foods that can be procured from right here in Montana."

Brittany and fellow food service staff Alicia Bellcock and Anna Blackburn utilized

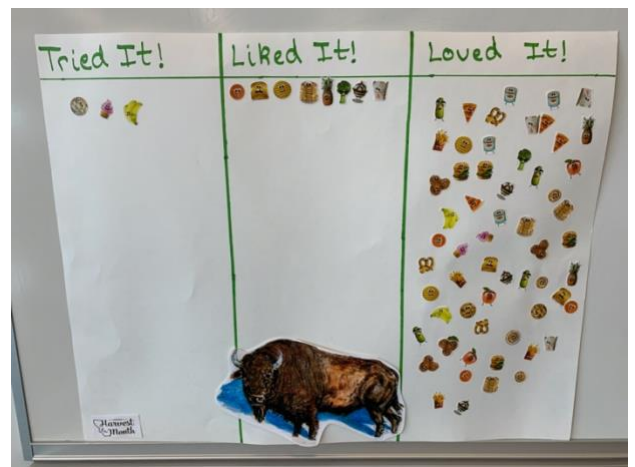


Montana Harvest of the Month materials to get the students excited about bison. Bison is the newest food to be featured for Montana Harvest of the Month, a program in which students explore where their food comes from. The local bison was sourced from Western Montana Growers Cooperative in Missoula, Montana. The students participated in a Tried It, Liked It, Loved It taste test and were greeted by an unexpected visit from Buffalo Restoration, Inc. dressed in a life sized buffalo costume.

When Montana Team Nutrition staff sat down for lunch, the cafeteria was buzzing with satisfied smiles, proud school food service professionals in bison hats, and a colorful, healthy lunch tray with the Bison and Barley Soup cup. Samples of the soup were also shared with students who were eating cold lunch. Any student who tried the soup was entered into a raffle to win a buffalo-themed prize.

Thank you to Principal Lori Degenhart, Brittany Moats, the entire Belgrade school nutrition staff, and the 4th grade teachers for working together to offer the delicious meal served with a smile along with the 4th grade class time devoted to learning about bison.

This Montana Team Nutrition Project, funded by the 2021 USDA Team Nutrition Grant awarded to the Montana Office of Public Instruction, is supporting the development of six recipes to use in school meal programs using ingredients from foods produced in Montana including barley, beets, bison, sweet cherries and lentils. Recipes will be added to the USDA Child Nutrition Recipe Box allowing schools from across the nation to experience Montana flavors, recipes, and cultures.



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