The quest to develop dark fruit crops in Flathead County continued this month at a workshop in the Missouri Headwaters Research Park.

The state of Montana has hired Pat McGlynn, MSU Flathead County Extension Agent, to ascertain if dark fruit is possible to grow in Montana. McGlynn is currently working with a team of Montana State University graduate students, such as Durc Setzer, who is a graduate student and conducted research on dark fruit crops.

The program is so exciting because it uses the reach and recognition of Men’s Journal to promote multiple aspects of Montana’s tourism offerings.

Before the event, she invited other business owners to participate in the panel discussion. The Whitefish Bike Retreat, which employs two full-time employees, and the Flathead County Farm Bureau, which has 30,641 small businesses, were also invited to participate.

She said other discussions centered on federal support, including expanded federal funding opportunities for the state. Montana has 254,646 small businesses and another estimated 325,875 self-employed workers. These small businesses account for 40 percent of all businesses, which employ $6.45 per cent of all state’s economy.

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