

SUMMER 2020

 MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Spokesman

WE CARE FOR THE COUNTRY



CCI GRANT: OTIUM BREWERY

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A publication for the more than 20,000 member families of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation



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MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

WE CARE FOR THE COUNTRY

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ON THE COVER:

Bill and Dana Milton were the first recipients of the Leopold Conservation Award in Montana.

Photo by Brian Elliott courtesy of Sand County Foundation.

Published by:

Montana Farm Bureau Federation
502 S. 19th Ave, #104
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-587-3153 | www.mfbf.org

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Production Services Provided by:
Bobbi Burow, CreativityTank LLC

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Subscription, advertising and circulation information can be obtained from the publisher.



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Printed 6/2020

Challenging times call for creative solutions

Yowzer, it's been a challenging time in America!

I first want to say how much I missed having everyone together for the Montana Farm Bureau Summer Conference. We still had our board meeting June 8-9, but we certainly missed the energy of an entire Summer Conference with its speakers, tours, dinners, Foundation Fundraiser, golf and just standing in the hall catching up with each other.

However, because of restrictions and health concerns, our committees met electronically and I appreciate their dedication to keep the grassroots of Montana Farm Bureau alive and thriving.

With all that is happening in our country I'm thrilled that we are staying connected. I read a profound quote from Dieter F. Uchtdorf, a man I have great respect for, who said, "We are not social distancing; we are physical distancing and we can stay very connected socially." This is very true. Look at the great job our members did with our MFBF Virtual Farm Fair and many other online activities that MFBF Executive President John Youngberg highlighted in his corresponding editorial in this issue. Montana Farm Bureau's social media pages have been going off the charts for engagement metrics. Thanks to all who are stepping up to keep our online presence fresh and pertinent.

Physical distancing does raise a few problems, though. Because we were not together at our summer conference, we were not able to engage in fundraising efforts for our MFBF Political Action Committee (PAC) and for our Montana Farm Bureau Foundation, both of which depend a great deal on our members' generosity.

This Spokesman has an ad promoting the

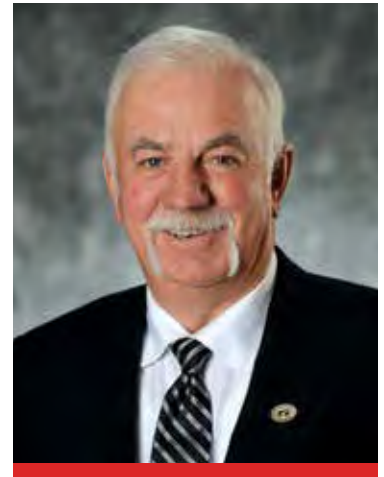
PAC as well as contains our MFB Foundation Annual Report. I humbly ask you to please consider a donation to the PAC and/or the Foundation. I truly understand that things are not rosy in the agricultural economy and in our agricultural communities. Continued low prices, as well as lost markets due to COVID-19, have been a true financial detriment to farmers and ranchers. However, with 2020 being an election year we must make our presence heard politically with our PAC.

If you look at the good our Foundation is doing to promote growth in our rural communities, it's imperative to keep its amazing momentum going. Be sure to check out the article in this Spokesman on Otium Brewery in Miles City—a grateful recipient of our Foundations' Centennial Community Initiative grants. Dustin and Hannah Strong, the young couple starting Otium, were able to make their dream come true because of the money they received from our Foundation.

With the other problems facing urban America today we are very fortunate to be rural. I can't tell you the number of times I've heard friends and associates declare, "I am so happy I live in Montana!" even with the lack of broadband and frigid winter temperatures.

I believe as providers of food, fiber and fuel we will come out ahead in the end, especially when people realize that disruption in our food supply chain is very dangerous and it's imperative to support farmers, ranchers and the food they produce.

Farm Bureau—both American and Montana—have been leading the way in calling for and getting investigations into the serious questions about packer concentration. They have demanded answers to the



Hans McPherson
President, MFBF

problems packer concentration may be causing and they have questioned why the low prices for the farmer/rancher while consumers are seeing sky-high meat prices at the store. In early April, Farm Bureau requested that the Department of Justice look into the cause of volatility in beef prices. Now they are.

As I mentioned earlier, many of our members are facing challenges. Please know that if those challenges become too much to bear, MSU Extension and an associated statewide advisory council, which includes a representative from Montana Farm Bureau, have developed an online clearinghouse of resources for a wide range of topics related to stress and mental health. Visit: https://msuextension.org/wellness/stress-management/mt_farm_stress_clearing_house/.

Have a great summer and stay healthy and safe.



Montana Farm Bureau Spokesman (ISSN 08863075) Published quarterly by the Montana Farm Bureau Federation at 502 S. 19th Ave., Suite 104, Bozeman, MT 59718. Periodical postage paid at Bozeman, MT and additional mailing offices. Subscription rates \$4 a year covered by annual dues to Montana Farm Bureau Federation members. Non-member subscription \$25 per year. Advertising rates available upon request. The Montana Farm Bureau Federation Spokesman reserved the right to reject any advertisements. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: Montana Farm Bureau Federation Spokesman, 502 S. 19th Ave., Suite 104, Bozeman, MT 59718

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COVID-19 and the opportunity to do nothing

As we all adapt to the hopefully temporary changes brought on by the COVID-19 orders and shutdowns, there have been big revisions to the way Montanans do business. In rural Montana the changes are not nearly as noticeable or strict as in more urban areas. Farmers and ranchers are the kings of isolation so outside of having the kids home and trying to do remote schooling, in addition to not being able to attend church services, not much has changed for many of our farmers, ranchers and rural residents. For Montana business much has changed with personal spacing, limited gatherings, meetings and events replaced with ZOOM programming and more. How many of us had even heard of ZOOM before March 1 of this year? Now it is a part of nearly every conversation and certainly of almost every meeting.

Some organizations, business and government agencies have seen this as an opportunity to do nothing—an opportunity they have seized with gusto. I cannot tell you how many businessmen and organizational leaders have complained to me that there is nothing that they can do because of the changes. In many of these cases, creativity could have trumped stagnation.

The staff and members of Montana Farm Bureau opted to look at shutdowns and restrictions for group gatherings as an opportunity to change the way Montana Farm Bureau delivers information and conducts events during these trying times. I am extremely proud of their efforts and the impressive results.

Many counties were forced to cancel farm fairs due to the fact that large gatherings were not allowed and schools were not in session. Farm Bureau members and staff developed the MFBF “Virtual Farm Fair” which featured members doing creative video presentation on everything from bees and sheep to branding, making ice cream and training herding dogs. The programs were not only interesting but also had accompanying study information for teachers. We received rave reviews from the education community and the program has been recognized nationally. For those who haven’t viewed these excellent presentations, they are still available on our website, www.mfbf.org, or on our Facebook page.

When our summer committee meetings were forced to cancel, our committee chairmen and

staff arranged ZOOM meetings for all committees with great success. Our national affairs staff has been very active working with our congressional delegation on issues around the pandemic. We were among the first to call for an investigation into the price gap between producers and retail meat prices and have worked tirelessly to make sure that stimulus money was adequate, timely and going to the right people.

Other Farm Bureau programs that turned “virtual” because of COVID-19 were ag-friendly book readings by members to give entertainment and education to home bound youngsters. Webinars were developed and presented on social media delving into issues such as marketing your crops and mental health.

We had farmer and rancher members who were concerned about people not having enough money for food, so they gave away potatoes and developed a program for ranchers to donate cull cows for meat for a local food bank.

Empty retail meat cases and escalating prices prompted consumers to start looking to direct marketing with producers. Montana Farm Bureau members realized that there was a shortage of trained meat cutters causing a backlog of up to six months in getting animals processed. MFBF began working with the university system to develop a training program for meat cutters. At press time, Miles Community College has prepared the curriculum and Farm Bureau is working with them to secure funding for a certificate program to train people in the art of processing meat.

Our staff and membership stepped up to the plate and jumped into the world of online meeting and videos. They created Right This Very Minute videos, May-You-Belong Baskets to entice new members and promoted the Montana Farm Bureau “Legacies” history book. In addition, they continued their work with legislative interim committees and agencies. I could go on, but space won’t allow.

I will close with fact that while some embraced the opportunity to do nothing, Montana Farm Bureau is still working for you. Stay safe out there and we will endure as we have for the past 100 years by working hard and meeting every challenge with a positive, creative plan.



John Youngberg

Executive Vice President,
MFBF

“Our staff and membership stepped up to the plate and jumped into the world of online meeting and videos. They created Right This Very Minute videos, May-You-Belong Baskets to entice new members and promoted the Montana Farm Bureau “Legacies” history book.”



Lyle Benjamin
Montana Grain Growers
Association

“ Closing a business while still solvent is the responsible thing to do. It is the community thing to do. ”

The business end of farming

Editor's note: The following was posted to Twitter on April 11 by Lyle Benjamin, the immediate past president of the Montana Grain Growers Association, and is published with his permission. It is his account of making the difficult decision to close a farm business and shows the importance of community and making the decision for yourself.

By now, many will have heard that I am closing my farm business and liquidating the assets. Many will be curious about the background and wondering, “How I am doing?” These are both good questions and not only should be asked, but honestly answered, as well. Too often in our farm communities we hesitate to ask out of respect for privacy (but at the unfortunate cost of not appearing to care).

Conversely, those who do “quit” often don’t cathartically talk about the process out of stubborn pride or not wanting to discuss what can feel or look like personal failure. The background? The simple picture is that several years of insufficient rain, combined with poor and declining markets, shrinking crop insurance guarantees, a balance sheet dominated by depreciable assets and some ill-timed equipment upgrades during the good years at the peak of the grain market all combined to create a stressed financial picture that made continued operation a high risk proposition. Low equity going into this venture required decent crops and prices while I built a solid base.

As I looked at the numbers, we could continue to farm, but another year of poor crops and mediocre prices would wipe out what equity remained. That would have put us into or uncomfortably near bankruptcy. One thing I refuse to do is leave local (or any other) vendors holding the bag on bad credit. Those businesses may have skin in the game, but ultimately the responsibility is mine to ensure that no harm accrues to those with whom I do business. That principle, combined with the polite decline by several banks to rent operating money to me for 2020, resulted in my pragmatic decision to liquidate our farm business.

Was my business a failure? No, but it was not returning a profit over several years. The trend was accelerating towards a possible failure. Within the farming community there

is an uncomfortable tradition of not facing facts until all hope of salvage is lost. When a farm business fails at that point, the wreckage ripples across the community as debts are defaulted on and bills for tangible goods go unpaid with no hope of collection.

Closing a business while still solvent is the responsible thing to do. It is the community thing to do. One of the reasons I live where I do is that I like the friends and neighbors we have. As I view the problem, farm liquidation is only failure when it costs other people money. Success can be recognizing that fickle Lady Luck has shifted her attention to other ventures.


One of the central elements of farm culture is the multi-generation heritage of the farm. Too often, the heritage itself is valued over other intangible things like what is good for the farmer’s family. We tend to look back to a homestead year and sentimentally polish it as being the beginning of time. But how did the family happen to arrive on the homestead in that year? They left something else behind, either because it was not working out or because the new opportunity promised more than the old.

Our family was shipped out of Hesse, Germany in 1776 for a reason, left Missouri in the 1890s for a reason, and moved from western Idaho to northern Montana in 1911 for sound reasons. It was not failure that drove those moves, but a clear-eyed view of better opportunities in a new land or business. Each of those generations would understand and approve of selling out and moving on.

My point is, it is okay to make a life-altering decision about your farm. It is okay to make that decision before it is forced upon you. You did not fail. Your neighbors and friends will stand by you and support you if you let them. As I have shared my circumstances and ultimate decision with my peers, friends, and neighbors, I have experienced universal support and even seen the expression of love – not something we expect in a typically stoic farm community, but exactly what we value in a good community. Thank you all, for making me part of this.

If my story keeps one farmer from bankruptcy or suicide, it will have been worth it. There is life after farming.





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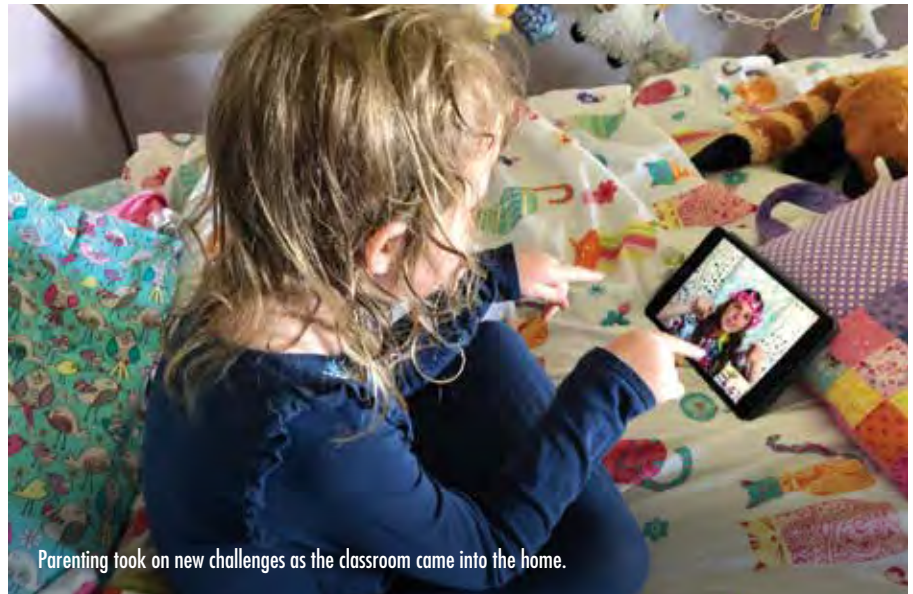
All in a Day's (school) Work

BY MARIAH SHAMMEL

Parenting is hard. Just when you think you deserve a medal for being the best mom ever, you find yourself in the middle of an epic battle with your four-year-old son. You're losing the fight so you throw out the "If you never want to eat another morsel of sugar in your life then by all means, don't brush your teeth!" line, pretend to drop the mic and storm out like you meant to. Feeling defeated, you walk into the living room and find what used to be clean, neatly folded laundry, strewn all across the floor. Perched atop the pile is your twenty-month-old, wiping her peanut buttery fingers on every piece of clothing within reaching distance. It's 9:55 a.m. The two oldest are doing their in-home distance learning, listening to Mrs. K. read the latest installment of "Mysteries According to Humphrey" from the inside of her local greenhouse, full of plants but empty of people. Seeing a rare chance for escape, you tiptoe upstairs in hopes of getting dressed and brushing your own teeth, but three steps up you hear, "Mom, don't I have a ZOOM meeting this morning?"

You realize you have two minutes until go-time and tear the house apart looking for the iPad while simultaneously looking for the best spot your daughter should sit so the entire class won't have to look at the pile of dirty dishes in the sink or the heap of peanut-butter smudged clothes on the floor. She's ZOOMed from every place in the house by now but this time you opt for the front porch because that will be the quietest, at least until you can get the toddler laid down for a nap. Just in time your kindergartener is sitting on the front step with the tablet in hand, a huge grin on her face as she sings the "Good Morning" song with her teacher, Miss I., and classmates who are all waving at each other through the screen.

Each student is in their own little personalized version of a classroom—some sit at the kitchen table, some on couches and others lounge in their bedroom, surrounded by stuffed animals. The view on your daughter's screen is a bit different with siblings peeking in and cows mooing in



Parenting took on new challenges as the classroom came into the home.

the background but she is so excited to see her friends and to revel in this moment of normalcy, she doesn't even notice.

Attention spans are short so it won't last long. You know this is your chance to finally shed your mom pajamas and throw on some mascara but you also know you won't. Everything that's made this parenting thing hard since you rolled out of bed this morning will be forgotten as you grab your re-heated cup of coffee and take a rare moment to sit down and watch the joy beaming in all the faces, even as Miss I. reminds them to only talk when called on and to raise their hands. If you close your eyes and listen, you would think you're sitting outside of a classroom instead of your house and you're so thankful for those few minutes when your child feels like she is back at school too. Your home has a lot to offer your kids but there are a lot of things it can't give them.

You hear the little voices start to sing the "Goodbye Song" and open your eyes, preparing yourself for all the questions she'll ask as soon as the screen turns black and her friends' faces have disappeared. This is when the real parenting begins. The meltdowns and mess will fade with time but how you handle and respond during life-changing events like these will be with them forever. You head into the house and start pushing that pile of unfolded clothes

to the end of the couch, making room for two. The front door opens and just like clockwork, she climbs up into your lap and the heartbreaking conversation begins. When will it be over? When can I hug my friends again? Can I go back to school next year? You do the only thing you know to do: listen, comfort her, tell her it's okay to be sad and scared and admit that you feel the same way. You don't have all the answers but you'll get through it together as a family. You give her all the hugs she wants, knowing it's Miss I.'s hug that she really wants. Her whole world has been flipped upside down and nobody can tell her when it will be normal again. Your four-year-old walks in with your favorite farmer in tow and before you know it, all three of them are shrieking with laughter. It's almost lunch time so you help your second grader finish up his math but before you can walk away to finally get those teeth brushed, you hear, "Do you think I'll be able to see Mrs. K. at the next homework pick up?" Parenting is hard.

Extraordinary circumstances create extraordinary people; Miss I. and Mrs. K. are two of those people. Without skipping a beat, they made our kids feel loved and appreciated, making what could be a horrible situation into a not-so-bad-one, all while teaching from an empty classroom and for that we are forever grateful.



Make Safety the Priority on Your Farm or Ranch

Farming and ranching can be dangerous work. From working around grain bins to driving large farm equipment, there are multiple potential hazards. This is why it's important to create a culture of safe practices on your farm or ranch. Making safety a top priority can go a long way in helping to prevent injuries and damage to equipment, among other risks. Here are some tips for encouraging a culture of safety on your farm or ranch.

Talk About Safety Often

You can't talk about safety too much! Communication is key, and the more you talk about safe practices, the more awareness you'll create. Talking openly and regularly about farm safety will also create a comfortable environment where others can approach you, ask questions and raise concerns.

Offer Training

Ensure your employees are equipped with current and relevant knowledge by providing ongoing farm safety training. Offering in-person or online safety training can provide your employees with necessary information to help avoid injuries. You can also use this opportunity to review farm safety measures and to provide a hands-on learning experience for your employees.

Lead by Example

Your family and employees look up to you. One of the best ways to promote safety on the farm is by modeling safe behaviors yourself. Your family and employees will see your safe practices and want to follow your lead.

Address Safety Concerns

Ignoring safety concerns and potential hazards on your farm or ranch is



dangerous and sends a message to others that safety is not a top priority. Practice responding safely and quickly to hazards and act promptly to improve conditions.


Prepare for the Unexpected

Taking steps to make safety a priority on your farm or ranch is key to keeping you and your employees safe. But accidents do happen. Make sure your farm or ranch is protected by talking to your local Mountain West Farm Bureau agent today. They'll identify your operation's needs and get you the right coverages so you can keep things running smoothly – and safely.



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Rural Road Safety in Montana: It's Everyone's Job

BY MARCEE ALLEN, FHWA MONTANA DIVISION

Montana has an abundance of small towns, farms and ranches, tribal reservations, state and national parks, and wide-open spaces. The 73,000 miles of roads in the state make up a labyrinth of asphalt ribbons crisscrossing the landscape. This network of roadways is the life line to Montana's economy: agriculture, farming and ranching, forestry, mining, tourism, energy production, and high-technology industries. Montana's highway system ensures our products, services and transportation users can arrive at their destinations in a timely manner.

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), local, tribal, and other federal agencies, is responsible for the health of this vast network of roads.

Their work is a continuous cycle of planning, programming, and delivering construction projects to ensure the roadway infrastructure meets acceptable operational and safety levels for the traveling public. Montana has a vision that no person should ever be injured or killed on our public roadways. Yet in 2018 there were 182 fatalities and 770 serious injuries resulting from crashes on Montana's roadways. Montana's Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan is the strategic document for the development and implementation of highway transportation safety improvements. It also guides safety partners and community safety with strategies aimed at reducing fatalities and serious injury crashes. Other Montana stakeholders, such as Operation Lifesaver and AARP, who are interested in improving roadway safety and reducing

deaths and life changing injuries, provide educational efforts and public outreach in collaboration with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) program, managed by MDT.

If you think about it, all Montana transportation users are stakeholders with a role in safety. We each have a responsibility to buckle up every time, drive sober, obey traffic laws and speed limits, avoid distractions while driving, and to make sure we are well rested before getting behind the wheel. These actions alone can prevent crashes from occurring, or at least mitigate the severity of a crash if it occurs. However, traveling in the rural environment presents different safety challenges. Long stretches of unchanging scenery, high travel speeds, the possibility of severe weather conditions, domestic and wild animals, oversize loads, and farm

equipment on roadways are some of the variables encountered while driving which can increase crash risk. Approximately 58 percent of all fatalities and serious injuries in Montana result from roadway departure crashes. A roadway departure is defined as leaving the travel lane, either off the roadway to the right or across the centerline. Common causes of roadway departure crashes are speeding, loss of control on a curve, overcorrection after an avoidance maneuver, or loss of control due to impairment, distraction or inattentive driving.

Moving farm equipment over the road or herding cattle on the road to other fields and pastures is a common occurrence. It can be a scary and dangerous proposition for the unexpected traveler and for the farm or ranch hand on the road. Farm equipment is most often heavy and slow making warning the much faster travelling public difficult.

Here are some safety tips to consider when planning field equipment and pasture movements:

- Notify your local sheriff's office or jurisdictional authority in advance of when and where you will be on the road; they may be able to help with traffic control or advance-warning signs.
- Check that your tires are properly inflated; and equipment, trailers, and loads are secured.
- Use pilot vehicles with flashing lights in front and behind to warn drivers of your presence.
- Use the roadway only in well-lit conditions; be watchful and vigilant for any signs of trouble.
- Look twice and if unable to gauge speed of travelers, wait to cross or pull out until it is clear.
- Be visible to traffic; use flashers and clearly visible warning signs on the back of slow-moving agricultural vehicles in accordance with state law MCA 61-9-415.
- Be aware of other road users; operate vehicles, equipment and ATVs predictably on the roadway.
- Use appropriate safety gear when operating an ATV or riding a horse.
- Be aware of the features of the road. Ensure other vehicles are expecting you over hills and around vertical curves where you cannot be seen in time for a vehicle to stop.
- If vehicles can't pass you and are backing up behind you, pull off at the first opportunity to let vehicles clear.
- If you experience harassing or aggressive driving behavior, record vehicle and license description and notify your highway patrol, local sheriff or jurisdictional authority.

Montana farmers and ranchers are a very important aspect of the economic vitality and social fabric of our great state and country. We want you to arrive home safely to family and friends at the end of a hard day of work. If you would like to learn more about Montana's highway safety program, please visit the MDT's Vision Zero website: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/>.



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Otium Brewing: Energy, enthusiasm and a great IPA

Miles City is about to get a new brewery. Otium, owned by Hannah and Dustin Strong, is not only going to offer a variety of beer made from Montana-grown barley and hops, but will offer a new place for community members to gather.

Bringing vitality back to small towns is the goal of the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation's Centennial Community Initiative Fund. The selection committee chose Otium because of the enthusiasm the Strongs showed toward their business and their energetic desire to see a revitalization in their community.

Dustin and Hannah were both raised in northwest North Dakota. They moved to Miles City in 2011 after college so Dustin could start his job as a research technician at Fort Keogh Agricultural Research Station. One day seven years ago, he came home and declared he wanted to start a brewery. After home brewing for a couple years, they had a few false starts opening a brewery in town, so in 2017, the couple decided to move out to a small farm in Kinsey and try their hand at a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) business and farm brewery.

"Growing vegetables taught us to work hard," Hannah noted. "However, it proved to be difficult as we were too many miles from town and it was a tough business, plus we admitted our hearts really weren't in it."

Meanwhile, Dustin's home brewing began producing delicious beer (with friends as tasters) and Dustin discovered he really enjoyed the process as it combined science with creativity.

"Making beer is more fun when you share it with friends, plus both of us enjoy the hospitality part that we knew would come with running a brewery and tasting room," Dustin said. Once the couple decided a brewery was in their future, they started visiting ones around the state and fell in love with the atmosphere of a community tasting room.

"We really liked the brewery atmosphere because they attract people from all

Hannah and Dustin Strong with their children Virgil, Adelaide, Delilah and Baron. The Strongs received a Montana Farm Bureau Foundation Centennial Community Initiative grant that enabled them to make their dream come true — Otium Brewing in Miles City.

walks of life and are family friendly. The place we've spent the most time visiting was Beaver Creek Brewing in Wibaux. They have been very helpful and forthcoming with information," noted Dustin.

In January 2020, the two found a building to purchase for the endeavor just one block off Main Street in downtown Miles City. It was ideal, as they can live upstairs with their four children and have the brewery humming away downstairs. (Plus, the kids love the fact they can walk to the library and ride bikes around town.)

"As far as the beer production goes, we wanted to keep local ties to Montana agriculture to be our focal point. We're fortunate that Montana is on the upswing for growing hops and barley. We're catching on with the independent farmers who are working with independent breweries."

Otium will have eight taps total in the tap room with four beers remaining constant and four that rotate with seasons and holidays.

They are close to concluding the construction on the brewery side and moving over to what will be their tap room. The plan is to be ready to open the doors to the public in October.

More than anything the Strongs love the idea of community a brewery brings. "I see breweries as a great way to get people downtown," Hannah admitted.



Bringing people back into rural towns is also the goal of the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation's Centennial Community

Initiative. Hannah explained that they had been working with the South Eastern Montana Development Corporation out of Colstrip who recommended applying for Farm Bureau's CCI grant. "We got really excited because it was a perfect fit. Plus, the mission of the Foundation tied directly with our business."

Dustin heartily thanks the MFB Foundation grant for enabling them to really get the nuts and bolts of Otium in gear; the beer making apparatuses. "The grant bought our boil kettle, our mash tun (where grain is steeped), the glycol chiller (where the fermentation tanks are jacketed and kept a certain temperature) and their kegs."

The couple plans to offer a honey cream ale that has 100 percent Montana hops, barley and honey; an Irish Red Ale, a darker stout and an IPA. All of the ingredients will be from Montana, except the yeast.

Once the brewery is up and running, with the tap room and an outdoor patio, the public will be able to realize the true meaning of the Latin word Otium: leisure time spent drinking, playing and possibly, pursuing academic endeavors.



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Milton Ranch combines grass management, cattle and community prosperity

BY REBECCA COLNAR

Ranching takes creativity, determination, resilience and a true love of the land. Ranchers read a variety of publications, attend educational events, get tips from old-timers and visit with other ranchers—all to continually improve the health of cattle as well as the health of the grass and soil.

One rancher who continually asks questions and keeps improving his cattle and range is Bill Milton. Bill, along with his wife, Dana, received the first Montana Leopold Award during the 2019 Montana Farm Bureau Convention in Billings. (See sidebar.) The members of the Montana Farm Bureau raise cattle in the rolling grasslands and sagebrush hills north of the Musselshell River in Eastern Montana.

Meeting with them in their rambling farmhouse east of Roundup, at first glance they might not seem like stereotypical “ranchers.” Bill wears a sweatshirt reading, “California – Berkeley” and Dana is an avid gardener and baker.

However, after a conversation, one realizes they have a deep commitment to their cattle, other ranchers, their land and their community.

Bill was raised on a ranch his father owned east of Wolf Creek near Holter Lake (now the Beartooth Game Ranch) and always had an interest in plants and agriculture. In addition, he spent time with his mother who lived in California which resulted in Bill attending high school in the Golden State where he met Dana. This intriguing young woman was interested in plants, birds and the world around her, loved her garden and weaving, so she and Bill quickly realized they were kindred souls.

Bill studied wildlife conservation at the University of California – Berkeley under professor Starker Leopold, the son of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold. When they graduated from college, Bill and Dana decided to move back to Bill's roots, and have been ranching together in Montana since 1979. Once in Montana, hoping to hone their range management skills, they attended the Savory Holistic Management Workshop and helped form a group to work on the holistic planning process.

The Savory Grazing System is described as: “Holistic Planned Grazing is a planning



Bill and Dana Milton

process for dealing simply with the great complexity livestock managers face daily in integrating livestock production with crop, wildlife and forest production while working to ensure continued land regeneration, animal health and welfare, and profitability. Holistic Planned Grazing helps ensure that livestock are in the right place, at the right time, and with the right behavior.”

“We called it Ranching Made Difficult,” Bill chuckled. “We tried many different things and made a lot of mistakes. I was a lot ‘greener’ than my neighbors; I came of age during the creation of Earth Day, and although we had that ranch in Wolf Creek, from living in the San Francisco Bay Area with my mom, I especially appreciated environmental issues back then. However, I also felt that ranching done well was environmentally friendly.”



The Miltons expanded their current ranch in 2005 and continued to experiment with new methods of ranching. They readily admit that along with education, they used trial and error to develop the best way to manage their cattle, soil and grass while contributing to their community.

"Most ranchers try to do the best they can and be profitable," Bill noted. "There are many external pressures including all kinds of weather, so we try our best to be resilient ranchers and mitigate risk. Taking care of grass is a risk management tool and we try to optimize the moisture we do get with building more surface cover through grazing management and improved livestock genetics."

“ Having a successful ranch doesn't happen in a void; you need a healthy rural community. You want everyone around you to do well. ”

— Dana Milton

Dana added that one can be the best rancher, yet if your community struggles, you're vulnerable. "Having a successful ranch doesn't happen in a void; you need a healthy rural community. You want everyone around you to do well."

The Miltons expressed concern that family ranching and farming is under great stress, and working collaboratively with neighbors and community can be



The Miltons use electric fence extensively for changing pastures on a daily basis. (Right) A motorized device aids in rolling up electric fence easily.

an important response to these stressful challenges. "Taking care of the grass and environment, prosperity and rural communities is all part of one formula. The reason a group like the American Prairie Reserve is coming to central Montana is because it's one of the remaining intact grasslands in the world. Why is it that way? Because of the role ranchers have played in taking care of grass, which these groups sometimes don't seem to fully appreciate."

The Miltons credit the success of their management approach with ongoing adaptation and flexibility. They run on 15,000 acres at their Montana ranch, with their yearlings pastured in Wyoming. About four years ago, they realized they needed to increase their cattle numbers to reduce overhead costs. They needed to work on cattle genetics that require lower inputs and realized that nurturing effective partnerships with their neighbors was key. They also realized it was necessary not only to improve grazing, but to market their cattle more successfully.

For their grazing improvement ideas,



they visited with a Bureau of Land Management range conservationist in Billings who realized what the Miltons wanted to do, all pointing to better management of the range, wildlife and cattle. The Miltons did an extensive water pipeline work (still ongoing) and instituted their grazing management system.

"This is a cow-calf ranch, so our calves are born here and weaned in the fall," said Bill. "We found we could market those weaned calves by teaming up with Country Natural Beef, which is a rancher co-op that sells beef—they market 60,000 animals. We own the calves from birth through processing."

To work with CNB, the Miltons had to participate in the Global Animal Program



PHOTOS BY BILL ELLIOTT COURTESY SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION



The Milton Ranch headquarters feature a charming older farmhouse. (Right) Fencing plays an integral role in holistic range management.

(GAP) which added to the marketing benefit. GAP sets a “meaningful animal welfare labeling program, verified by audits, in order to influence the food industry, raise consumer expectations and create a sustainable environment.” Bill noted that the program is probably already practiced by most ranchers in Montana, and it’s an additional way to add value to your beef.

Dana noted that she and Bill have always considered stockmanship a big deal and are very much into reducing stress in cattle. “With the help of an apprentice, we’ve been keeping 500 head of cows on an average of 25-36 acres each day, with moving to new grass part of the daily routine. This year, we came up with the idea to lower stress by not tagging our calves so we’re not out there trying to tag a calf and stirring up the herd. It’s resulted in a calm herd. We look at them every day and make sure there is water. They know what the program is and are ready to move on to fresh feed as soon as we open the wire gate. It really has resulted in relaxed cattle.”

Bill said that the last thing he’d say to another rancher is, “You shouldn’t tag newborns. For us, it has been less stressful on the cattle and the people. We will tag and castrate at branding, but we certainly



realize every rancher’s situation is unique.”

Their grazing system uses four units of five sections with calving beginning in late April. Those units will be used in May and June during the calving season. Grass on the ranch will only be grazed generally in April, May and June once every four years.

“What we’re doing here accelerates pasture improvement using cattle to improve soil and cover. Right now, we are working to document that good grazing can keep carbon in the soil,” noted Bill. “Managing grazing and the soil improves

For more information about the Milton Ranch visit their website at:

<https://miltonranch.weebly.com>



the diversity and catches the carbon. We’re doing more soil samples to prove that.”

There is a trust factor between a rancher and the cattle. Using this grazing system, Bill explained that cattle trust you will show up and open the gate to fresh feed; you trust they will stay in their new pasture and work well for you.

Cows actually help riparian areas by grazing them at essential times. “When you graze riparian areas correctly you encourage healthy native wetland plants and minimize invasive plants like Canadian thistle. At times we graze riparian areas hard in July to improve cattle performance or upcoming breeding, then move the cattle onto upland feed; this results in the cattle being in good breeding condition and the riparian areas benefit, as well.”

Bill summed up his experience in ranching, “We’re in a rapidly changing world and one needs to adapt by using collaboration, imagination and adaptation. For ranchers to survive you need to have trust with people. We need to show that we are protecting the habitat but can also be profitable and bring prosperity to our local communities.”



➤ The Leopold Conservation Award

Bill and Dana Milton were presented with the Leopold Conservation Award during the Montana Farm Bureau Annual Convention in November 2019. This was the first time the award had been given in Montana. The Leopold Award was presented by the Sand County Foundation with the Governor Steve Bullock’s office, Montana Department of Agriculture, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation’s Rangeland Resources Committee. The award is presented to a private landowner who exemplifies the spirit of this land ethic – an individual or family dedicated to leaving their land better than how they found it.



In his Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage. The land ethic is alive and well today in the thousands of American farmers, ranchers and foresters who do well by their land and do well for their land.

Leopold Conservation Awards recognize extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation, inspire landowners through their example and help the general public understand the vital role private landowners can and do play in conservation success.

For more information visit sandcountystation.org.

Farmers for a Sustainable Future

Farmers and ranchers work hard to earn the “stewards of the land” moniker, using a variety of environmentally friendly practices. However, the need to reach out to lawmakers and policymakers about their work as a united front has not been established until now. Twenty-one farm and ranch groups representing millions of U.S. farmers and ranchers have launched Farmers for a Sustainable Future (FSF), a coalition committed to environmental and economic sustainability. This coalition will serve as a primary resource for lawmakers and policymakers as they consider climate policies.

The coalition will share with elected officials, media and the public U.S. agriculture’s commitment to sustainability and the incredible strides already made to reduce agriculture’s environmental footprint. As policy proposals are developed and considered, the goal is for the coalition and its guiding principles to serve as a foundation to ensure the adoption of meaningful and constructive policies and programs affecting agriculture.

Farmers and ranchers are committed stewards of the land, leading the way to climate-smart farming by promoting soil health, conserving water, enhancing wildlife, using nutrients efficiently, and caring for their animals. For decades, they have pushed past the boundaries of innovation thanks to investments in

agricultural research and the adoption of practices that improve productivity, provide clean and renewable energy, enhance sustainability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon.

FSF’s guiding principles call for policies that support science-based research, voluntary incentive-based conservation programs, investment in infrastructure, and solutions that ensure vibrant rural communities and a healthy planet.

Incentivizing Innovation

Voluntary, incentive-based programs that enhance farmers’ and ranchers’ profitability and production methods, which have already allowed agriculture to achieve significant sustainability gains.

Resilient Infrastructure

Initiatives to maintain and improve infrastructure capacity to support farm and ranch operations, rural communities, and related agricultural businesses.

Science-Based Research

The development of new technologies and practices to help farmers and ranchers achieve greater efficiencies and enhance sustainability.

Reducing Barriers

The examination of existing state and federal programs to identify efficiencies, reduce regulatory obstacles, and improve program delivery.

Focusing on Outcomes

Market-based solutions, led by farmers and ranchers, that improve rural communities while recognizing the diversity of agricultural practices, climates, challenges, and resources needs.

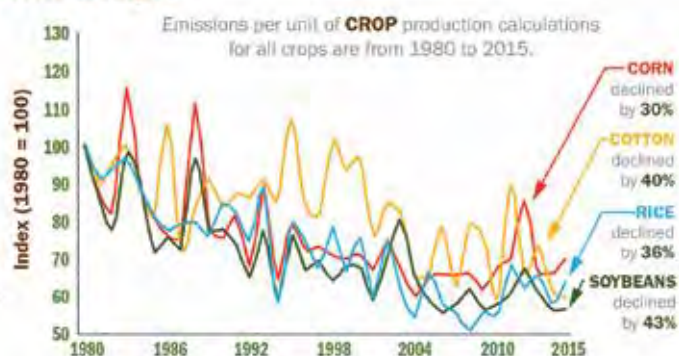
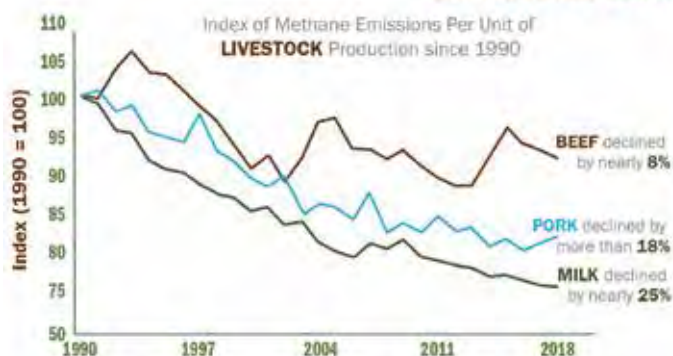
Farmers for a Sustainable Future is motivated to ensure that farm families maintain their ability to respond and adapt to climatic events and that public policies do not threaten the long-term resiliency of our rural communities.

More about the coalition members, guiding principles and sustainability achievements can be found at www.SustainableFarming.us.

FSF members include American Farm Bureau Federation, American Pulse Association, American Sugar Alliance, American Soybean Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Barley Growers Association, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council of America, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Farmers Union, National Sorghum Producers, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council, National Sunflower Association, Southern Peanut Farmers Association, United Egg Producers, U.S. Canola Association, U.S. Dry Bean Council, USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council, USA Rice.



Ag Innovation Leads to Better & Lower GHG Footprint for Livestock and Crops





MONTANA FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

2019 Annual Report

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are many positive programs and achievements to point out in this Foundation Annual Report. That doesn't change the fact that the past year has been particularly trying for all of agriculture. Markets which were challenging last year further deteriorated with the advent of COVID-19. Our industry and our members are hurting financially and dealing with the anxiety and uncertainty caused by the pandemic. The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation is doing our best to be a lifeline for agriculture and rural Montana, but these times have also been a challenge for us.

We continue to operate and fund our many programs as planned, some of which are included in this annual report. Unfortunately, the restrictions around the pandemic forced us to cancel our MFBF Summer Conference. This resulted in us being unable to hold our successful Foundation Fundraiser which dealt a significant blow to our Foundation budget. We are increasing our efforts to make up for this shortfall but we certainly could use your help. As you read this annual report, if you like our Foundation's efforts, please consider making a donation to assist in keeping these programs going for the future.



Programs such as our Centennial Community Initiative, which has awarded \$100,000 worth of economic development grants for rural Montana, and our many scholarships and donations towards youth leadership development, make a positive impact. This year it has been more critical than ever to help small rural businesses and our youth. We will make it through these challenging times because our members—Montana's farmers, ranchers and rural residents—are the most resilient people I know.

The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation will be there on the other side of this pandemic and our efforts will lead to a brighter future for Montana agriculture. Thank you for the support in the past and we appreciate your continued patronage.

Please find it in your heart to help agriculture's youth and rural businesses. This MFB Foundation Annual Report has a tear-off form and envelope to make giving even easier. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Hans McPherson, President

MISSION

Support Montana agriculture through education, research, and community support, with a special emphasis for the development of our youth.

CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

2019 marked the 100th birthday for our parent organization, Montana Farm Bureau Federation. As a celebration of serving agriculture and rural Montana for the past 100 years, and renewing our commitment to our rural communities, the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation established the Centennial Community Initiative. **This initiative has awarded \$100,000 in economic development grants** with the goal of enhancing and improving economic growth where it is needed most, within our rural communities. We have estimated that the businesses chosen to receive these funds will create over 60 full-time jobs and return an economic impact many times the amount of our investment.

AWARDED GRANTS INCLUDE

Otium Brewing, LLC is a startup brewery in Miles City committed to the development of community and support of Montana agriculture. Otium will use Montana grown and malted barley as well as Montana grown and sourced hops to create uniquely Montanan beer.

Windrift Hill Inc is a family business in Conrad producing an amazing line of natural skin care products using goat's milk. Our grant will help purchase a semi-automatic fill line allowing an increase in daily production as well as increased growth through multiple new sales channels.

Powder River First Responders are part of a pilot program titled, Community Integrated Healthcare. The goal of this project is for paramedics to visit homes in the community outside of an emergency situation to help control issues before the emergency occurs. The project relieves pressure on hospitals and clinics, greatly reducing costs and improving the lives of patients.

Wood-N-Woven is an established small business in Terry providing quality hand crafted wood and woven products. The grant will allow the creation of a fiber mill in Eastern Montana.

Prairie County applied for and was awarded a grant to help fund a feasibility study for creating a new irrigation project on the Fallon Flats. This project will provide for the development of approximately 18,000 acres of irrigated farmland, increasing production potential and creating the opportunity for higher value crop production.

"We hope to contribute to the concept of intentional rural living. Where we can say that we are proud of where we come from and we don't need to leave, because our communities are vibrant." - Hanna Strong, Otium Brewing

MINI-GRANTS

Montana Farm Bureau Foundation awarded ten \$1,000 mini grants during our 2019 fiscal year. Here are a few examples of the Mini-Grants awarded and projects supported:

Mobile Agricultural Promotion Billboard

Phillips County Farm Bureau - Using a mobile electronic billboard placed on U.S. Highway 2, Phillips County Farm Bureau showed passers by how farmers and ranchers produce food and fiber in harmony with wildlife. The billboard displayed positive agricultural facts and pictures of local agriculture.

Gallatin Valley Farm Fair

Gallatin Valley Agriculture Committee - This three-day event is held for over 1,200 fourth-graders. Students attend 16 workshops on agriculture production, agricultural science, plant and animal science, and environmental opportunities affiliated with each agriculturally related area.

Refrigerated Vending Machine

Missoula FFA - Our mini-grant helped to purchase a refrigerated vending machine for the Missoula MCPS Agriculture Education

Center. This allowed Missoula FFA to sell products produced by students at their Meat and Food Processing Plant.

Purchase a Multi-purpose Welding Machine

Melstone High School Agricultural Education Program - This mini-grant helped to purchase a welder for use at Melstone High School. The welder aids in the education of students studying vocational technology and agriculture. Students gain a valuable skill that helps in their future employment and work around the farm and ranch.



PROGRAM OF WORK

Supporting Ag Education & Awarding Scholarships

MTBFFo supports youth education and leadership development by working with organizations such as Montana FFA Foundation, Montana 4-H Foundation and the MTBFF Collegiate Young Farmers & Ranchers programs. We provided more than \$5,000 worth of agricultural education materials to classrooms and organizations throughout Montana. Our Foundation provided over \$9,500 in scholarships, including the Future of Ag Honor Scholarship, the Collegiate Young Farmer and Ranchers Scholarship and the Bernard Greufe Honor Scholarship. MTBFFo also awarded another \$25,000 in program funding during 2019 so that Montana youth can receive the training and education they need.

Above: Greta Gustafson of Browning, MT received the Future of Agriculture Honor Scholarship, administered by the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation through generous donations from Seed Source, Inc. of Toston, MT.

PROGRAM OF WORK CONTINUED

Leadership Development

Our Foundation is in our 7th year of providing tuition scholarships for members of the **REAL Montana** program (Resource Education and Agriculture Leadership). Participants analyze complex issues associated with agriculture and natural resources while receiving intensive leadership training.

MFBFo is a major sponsor of the **Young Ag Leadership Conference**, which is a one-of-a-kind event allowing Montana's young producers to come together across organization and commodity lines. Attendees take part in a three-day agenda, which includes relevant keynote speakers, workshops pertinent to today's changing ag scene, discussion groups, industry tours and more. Attendees are also offered numerous opportunities to network with each other, leaders of the state's agricultural organizations and the ag industry as a whole.

MFBFo also supports the **Montana Farm Bureau ACE program** (Advocate, Communicate, Educate). The ACE program was designed to empower Farm Bureau members to actively advocate on key industry issues and be confident, effective leaders in their County Farm Bureau and local communities. The program emphasizes leadership development, issue education and the engagement of local communities.

GET YOUR FOUNDATION LICENSE PLATE!



All of the great educational opportunities, grants and scholarships mentioned in this Annual Report are funded in part by the proceeds the Foundation receives from its very own "Supporting Montana Agriculture" license plate. If you don't already have this plate on your vehicle, please consider upgrading the next time you renew your vehicle

registration. Your County Treasurer's Office will have all the details.

DONATE TODAY

Help us fulfill our mission through a donation by returning the form below in the envelope enclosed in this Annual Report. Your donation to Montana Farm Bureau Foundation will make a difference in keeping rural Montana values alive, supporting agricultural education and aid in youth leadership development. Your gift is going to an organization with a proven track record of working for agriculture and rural Montana. MFBFo is a qualified charity under IRS tax code 501 (c) (3) making all donations tax deductible for our donors. In addition to supporting the educational and leadership development programs we offer, know that your dollars are also working for you.

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The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Directors are leaders who have a passion for agriculture. They bring a diverse set of perspectives together to unite the Foundation strategy of building agriculture awareness and understanding.

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MONTANA FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION
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Tom & Sherri Cunningham
Troy & Janie Kurth
Wayne & Jenifer Lower
Wes & Cheryl Jensen
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VISION

MFB Foundation envisions a future where agriculture is thriving in Montana, younger people are attracted to our farms and ranches, urban and rural residents understand and support agriculture, and the communities where Montana's ranch and farming families reside are healthy and vibrant.





A Western Tradition Worth Fighting For

BY BRIAN GREGG

Wyoming's longest and oldest remaining cattle drive, the Upper Green River Drift, began as scheduled on June 12, just as it has since the 1890s. But just barely.

Deliberations in a federal courthouse 1,500 miles away determined whether this long and storied trek, from winter range on the Red Desert to summer pastures in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, might be teetering on the brink of extinction – the latest casualty of an organized crusade to drive ranchers off the public lands.

Cattle were already moving when the evening reprieve came down: extremists had failed in their efforts to monkey-wrench this year's drive by prohibiting the lethal removal of documented problem bears that prey on livestock grazing their summer range -- a regulated practice allowed under the Endangered Species Act since 1975.

Mountain States Legal Foundation, representing the ranchers, successfully argued that the plaintiffs should be denied "standing" because they failed to show how the occasional removal of problem bears would directly harm them. The judge saw things the ranchers' way in this preliminary phase of the case.

The no-kill rule sought by green groups

would mark a sudden departure from longstanding bear management protocols on the forest, according to ranchers, putting cow hands and cattle at increased risk. The plaintiffs hoped to deprive

“ The Green River Drift is a vital link to the West's ranching history. The route and manner of the cattle drive are largely unchanged since the 1800s, and it is operated by the descendants of the families who homesteaded the area much more over a century ago. ”

ranchers of the lawful use of their grazing rights by making the use of this summer range more dangerous than usual for cowboys and cattle.

The Green River Drift is a vital link to the West's ranching history. The route

and manner of the cattle drive are largely unchanged since the 1800s, and it is operated by the descendants of the families who homesteaded the area much more over a century ago. Because it is so unique, the Upper Green River Drift is listed as a "traditional cultural property" on the National Register of Historic Places, the only ranching-related entity to be so recognized.

MSLF intervened in the case in order to defend the rights of ranchers to access federal land, as they have for generations, and to protect the legacy of the people who built the West. Officially named Western Watersheds Project et al. v. Bernhardt et al., this case is being heard before the Federal District Court of Washington, D.C. MSLF represents the Upper Green River Cattle Association and the Wyoming Stock Growers Association as well as several family ranches: The Price Cattle Ranch, Murdock Land & Livestock Co., and Sommers Ranch, LLC.

While this June 12 ruling came as a relief to the ranchers, they're also realists who know it's only a reprieve. More legal battles must be won before they can permanently secure their grazing rights and ward off another attack on their traditional but still vital ways of



life. This is a new kind of range war, in which anti-ranching activists use allegedly “threatened” or “endangered” species as weapons against ranching families.

Against all evidence, the plaintiffs falsely claim that these grazing practices, which have been practiced soundly for well over a century, will harm grizzly bear populations in violation of the Endangered Species Act. In reality, grizzly populations in the region are on the rise and expanding their range. An estimated 125 grizzlies roamed these parts when federal protections were approved; today their numbers top 700 and seem on a steady upward trajectory.

So successful has their recovery been that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service officials has twice recommended removal of the Greater Yellowstone Grizzly from the endangered species list. This recovery has not been hindered by this ongoing annual cattle drive. Removal of problem bears is not done by the rancher but by state wildlife officials, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after a pattern of repeat behavior has been documented and non-lethal means of deterrence have failed. Ranchers can receive compensation for dead cattle when cases of predation are confirmed. But that’s not as easy as it sounds, given this vast and rugged landscape that easily shelters predators and dwarfs both cattle and cow hands.

The injustice and irony of such attacks

is the strong conservation ethic that has sustained the productivity and environmental health of these ranches for 124 years. A strong “land ethic” is a part and parcel of this literally “down-to-earth” way of life. The stock growers of the Green River Valley wouldn’t still be doing what they’re doing if they weren’t excellent and conscientious stewards of these resources.

The Sommers Ranch, one of the clients in this lawsuit, won the Leopold Conservation Award in 2012 for its remarkable stewardship work. Other area ranchers were instrumental in the creation of nearby wilderness area. The

longevity of these operations proves they live in harmony, not in conflict, with nature, contrary to what their detractors in the green lobby say and think. These ancient homesteads are as much a part of the landscape as the bison, elk, and pronghorn who historically made the same seasonal migrations that livestock do today.

Brian Gregg is an attorney for Mountain States Legal Foundation and is lead counsel, representing Wyoming ranchers, in the case Western Watersheds Project et al. v. Bernhardt et al.



➤ Protecting property and constitutional rights

MSLF is a non-profit, public interest law firm, focused on defending the constitution, protecting property rights, and advancing economic liberty. From their headquarters in Colorado they litigate crucial cases in the mountain west and beyond—at zero cost to their clients—all the way to the Supreme Court, if necessary.

Ken Johnson, former MFBF District 8 Director and a Conrad wheat farmer, sits on the Mountain States Legal Foundation Board of Directors. “Mountain States Legal Foundation fights for ranchers’ rights to use their land. We are always facing challenges to our private property rights and MSLF will protect those rights enshrined by the constitution,” Johnson said.

Other cases of interest have included gun retailers successfully fighting New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham’s special restrictions on coronavirus shutdowns; and a case with Tom Paterson’s Spur Ranch Cattle Company who, along with dozens of other ranchers, are at risk of being put out of business by the Center for Biological Diversity who are using bad science to shut down public grazing lands in Arizona and New Mexico.

For more information on MSLF cases, to submit a case, find out about events or to donate to Mountain State Legal Foundation visit www.mslegal.org.

ACE focuses on shared values with conservation groups

BY REBECCA COLNAR

Where can you get leaders from The Nature Conservancy and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition to meet with farmers and ranchers? Montana Farm Bureau's ACE program. The ACE program was designed to empower Farm Bureau members to actively advocate on key industry issues and be confident, effective leaders in their county Farm Bureau and local communities. The program emphasizes leadership development, issue education and the engagement of local communities.

This year's ACE class began in January with a seminar on personal leadership and communication strengths while the March seminar covered working with the media and learning to listen.

“I want ACE participants to understand that bringing in additional partners, even those whom we don't work closely with, will leverage resources and create new levels of effectiveness.”

“The June seminar introduced participants to building collaboratives,” noted ACE Training Coordinator Chelcie Cargill. “As a leader, there are times when we must acknowledge that our voice and resources simply won't be enough to encourage action. It's in these moments that true leadership is tested. I want ACE participants to understand that bringing in additional partners, even those whom we don't work closely with, will leverage resources and create new levels of effectiveness.”

The training was held at Fairmont Hot



Mary Hill



Dominique Woodham

Springs, even though the MFBF Summer Conference had been cancelled. ACE was a stand-alone event with both in-person and remote presenters. Speakers included photo journalist Becca Skinner; Kelly Beevers with Topos & Anthos; as well as representatives from The Nature Conservancy, Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance and the Winnett ACES (Agricultural and Community Enhancement and Sustainability) group.

Dominique Woodham works for Gallatin County Extension and found the topics to be pertinent to her work. “It was interesting to hear from conservation

groups that actually have shared values and the same perspectives that many people in agriculture have,” said Woodham. “I see a lot of value in the ag community working with conservation groups. I see two groups: conservationists and environmentalists. I see farmers, ranchers and conservationists in the same group. For example, I grew up in Alaska and there were so many farms I went by every day. At the end of the dirt road where I lived was a vegetable stand. But in the year after high school when I went away to college, so many of these farms were subdivided for homes and gravel pits. I think that area would have benefited if agricultural and conservation groups would have come together.”

She added that with the conversations at ACE, it's apparent some of the groups do share the same values as ag with land stewardship and preserving the human culture on that landscape.

“I was most interested in what Mark with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) had to share. When I worked in wildland fire management, I helped with prescribed burning with TNC. TNC had an active prescribed fire program as a tool to improve wildlife habitat and vegetation management. It was interesting to learn

what they were doing in Montana with the Missouri River Breaks and the Matador Ranch and their grass banking program. It's a great opportunity for people to be able to preserve and enhance their grazing allotments on their ranches and elsewhere, then have grass when they can return cattle to their property."

Mary Hill, who raises purebred Gelbvieh cattle, found it refreshing to see agriculture from different viewpoints. "Sometimes it's difficult for people in agriculture to take themselves out of the equation and look at what they do differently. I learned that it's important to build relationships and build trust so we can make a win-win with the 'other side.' It's interesting to use the resources we have, like social media, to build those relationships with someone you never thought you could positively influence, like the World Wildlife Fund."

Hill added that although she learned from all of the speakers, hearing Chris King talk about the ACES program in

➤ In The Beginning

The Winnett ACES (Agricultural and Community Enhancement and Sustainability) began as a group of Winnett area producers joining together to address the most important issues facing their community. Community leaders saw that responsible land management is best done through local management, by people who understand the land and its needs as well as the community and its needs. The ACES website states: This place (Petroleum County) matters – it matters to the ranchers who care for their land and livestock, it matters to the local community, it matters to those who benefit from hunting and fishing opportunities, and it matters to those who care about native prairie. The people, land, and animals coexist in a delicate balance, with each serving as support for the others. With passion for our community, and for our environment, we serve as stewards working to strengthen the resiliency of our community.

For more information on the ACES program and how it is helping both community and rangeland visit www.winnettaces.org.

Winnett resonated with her. "ACES shows what power a community has if they join together to create a better place to live. Both ACES and The Nature Conservancy understand that being able to get young farmers and ranchers on the land is vitally important. If there's not a way to get breaks for these young people, they won't

make it."

Cargill concluded, "Improving rural Montana and the agriculture economy will take a variety of perspectives and backgrounds. I want Farm Bureau and ACE graduates to be the catalyst of that change."



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Meet New District 7 Director Joy DePuydt

BY REBECCA COLNAR

Joy DePuydt brings an interesting dynamic to her role as new District 7 Director of the Montana Farm Bureau. Although she lived and helped on her husband's family ranch in Saco since 1991, Joy served as a nurse in the Emergency, obstetrics and medical-surgical units as well as becoming an area coordinator and supervisor at Francis Mahon Hospital in Glasgow. Her career there spanned 30 years.

Although she wasn't raised on a farm or ranch, her father had an equipment business in Chester, Montana and her mother worked in a bank. Since most of her friends hailed from ag families, however, she spent plenty of time learning about tilling fields and raising cows by osmosis. She met her husband, Tom, while they were both attending Northern Montana College in Havre.

Once they both graduated, they briefly lived in Billings, but Tom had always wanted to get back to the farm. When he got a job offer in Glasgow, which would put him significantly closer to the family place, he accepted, and the young couple launched their careers. Four years after their move to Glasgow, in 1991, the opportunity surfaced to move back to the family farm. They jumped at the chance, although Joy kept her job at the hospital, commuting from Saco.

Although she had varying roles including a role as a supervisor, she said her favorite part of nursing "was patient care and helping people learn how to manage their care at home so they could continue the healing process. Making connections, gaining trust, caring for and seeing people get better was rewarding."

In January 2019, Joy retired when Tom said he needed a helper, his wife was able to start assisting him more on the farm. "I took over the bookkeeping and organized the office and helped organize the shop. Now I help wherever I'm needed whether its moving cows, cattle records, creating spread sheets, branding, preg testing, moving equipment, cooking for a crew, or running

Joy DePuydt is enjoying being back on the farm after 30 years as a nurse.



“ We have a lot of work to do for the public to understand who farmers and ranchers are and what we really do. ”

for parts. In the summer, I'm the official 'groundskeeper'. Let's say I am not bored."

Tom served on the Montana Farm Bureau board from 2013-2019 and when he termed out, there was a need for someone to fill his shoes. Joy had listened to well-known motivational speaker and third generation logger Bruce Vincent and Dr. Gary Brester, ag economics professor, Montana State University, during Farm Bureau conventions and conferences, and their stories started a call to action in her mind.

"Both of those men talked about answering the call to help agriculture and rural communities, the fact that the world is run by those who show up," noted Joy. "I looked at Tom as he was going off the board and said, 'I'm going to have to do this.'"

As a new board member, Joy applied for and was accepted into the Montana

Farm Bureau ACE Program. "I've learned even more about leadership and so many good ways I can promote agriculture and our organization. I'm currently trying to learn about the many issues pertinent to agriculture," Joy said. "I want to be a positive voice."

Joy believes nursing and agriculture have a common thread—problem solving. "You find out what the problem is and then move forward to have a positive outcome. It's important to listen to people. Unless you ask the right questions, you cannot glean information and help—it's the same in agriculture. We are a society that assumes we know what the problems are without actually listening and hearing."

In her role as district director, Joy would like to see her district work toward growing membership and helping people understand about Farm Bureau history. "Our history, or legacy, is so rich. The people from the past identified problems and found ways to solve them that positively affected everyone involved. I think that legacy should be shared with everyone, so they want to become engaged and are inspired to work on projects that positively affect our communities and promotes agriculture."

The new district director expresses concern that although the United States has a plentiful, safe food supply, it's being challenged with misinformation in the media. "Although research is being done, it can be skewed to whatever your agenda is. We have a lot of work to do for the public to understand who farmers and ranchers are and what we really do. So many times, farmers and ranchers don't share what we do because we are immersed in our livelihood, but we need to be sharing the great things we do every day to supply food to the world and improve our environment. Keep in mind it is important for us to listen to peoples' concerns and try to find that common ground to move forward."



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Agent Amanda Martin: Following in Dad's footsteps

BY REBECCA COLNAR

Amanda Martin can almost call an insurance office home. She started making marketing calls for her father, Warren Krone, when she was 12. After high school ended for the day, as well as during summer vacations, she would help with filing and provide assistant work.

Martin explained that while growing up she attended schools in several different towns including Great Falls, Cascade and Roundup. "I competed in volleyball and also FFA, especially in the business competitions. My parents ran a small ranch and I grew up taking care of chickens, cattle and when I was really young, sheep, so I've always appreciated agriculture."

“The more I saw life insurance and how it truly helped people, the more interested I became. Now Mountain West has increased their services to include wealth management and I find that fascinating. I’m constantly learning.”

Her post high-school education found Martin playing volleyball for Dawson Community College and she earned a business degree and a general education degree at MSU Great Falls.

"I was planning to kick-off my career in education, but I kept coming back to the insurance office to help. A couple of years

ago, I found out about the sales associate trips and that appealed to me. When I had enough sales to be able to go on those trips in my first three months, Dad insisted I needed to work in insurance," the competitive 29-year-old remembers. "The more I saw life insurance and how it truly helped people, the more interested I became. Now Mountain West has increased their services to include wealth management and I find that fascinating. I'm constantly learning."

Martin had been helping MWFBMIC Agent Randy Bogden with life sales. When he was planning to retire, Agency Manager Kevin Gillaspie asked if Martin wanted to become a full-time agent. "I thought it was a great time to make a name for myself so I accepted that offer."

She especially enjoys sharing the importance of life insurance. "People listen to financial radio shows and believe life insurance is a one-stop shop; it's not. It can do so much more for you. Yes, it certainly provides needed financial assistance when a loved one passes away, but it can also help when someone has a debilitating accident. Some life policies have cash value and can be used to offset retirement dollars. People benefit from meeting with their agent to discuss goals and needs."

Martin attends her counties' Farm

Bureau meetings (she has clients in Choteau, Cascade and Musselshell counties) and is involved in judging FFA and coaching volleyball in Cascade County. She juggles those volunteer activities with spending time with her two young children, her husband (who is a Mountain West Farm Bureau adjuster) and her clients.

"There are times I have a Saturday client meeting or a Sunday evening phone call as we try to always be available. We understand many people need to schedule after-hours appointments because of




Amanda and her husband, Vince, with children Olen and Addie Mae.

their work schedules," said Martin. The agent enjoys visits to customers on farms and ranches because, "There is no better way to connect to someone than around the kitchen table. I never wear heels out there—sometimes I'm asked to help out."

However, Martin strives to make sure her family has time to do what they enjoy which includes hiking, fishing and simply spending time together.

The young agent wants members to know that MWFBMIC is re-evaluating their rates, understanding that their legacy is working to make sure Country Squire and country homes and farms are their base. "We know what is important to the community," Martin concludes.

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Young Farmers and Ranchers Competitive Events

The Montana Farm Bureau/American Farm Bureau are offering three competitive events open to members ages 18-35: Achievement Award, Excellence in Agriculture and the Discussion Meet.

The **Achievement Award** recognizes Young Farmers & Ranchers who have excelled in their farm or ranch and have honed their leadership abilities to superiority. The contestants will be evaluated on a combination of their farming operation growth and financial progress of operation, Farm Bureau leadership, as well as leadership outside of Farm Bureau. More specifically, the judges will be looking for excellence in management, growth and scope of the enterprise and self-initiative that have been displayed throughout the operation. A contestant's participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations is a definite point getter from the judges.

The Farm Bureau **Excellence in Agriculture Award** is designed as an opportunity for Young Farmers & Ranchers, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture, to earn recognition. Participants will be judged on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations (i.e., civic, service and community).

YF&R Discussion Meet

The Farm Bureau Discussion Meet contest is designed to simulate a

committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. This competition is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a pre-determined topic. The judges are looking for the contestant that offers cooperation and communication while analyzing agricultural problems and developing solutions. These questions will be used for the YF&R

Discussion Meet held during the MFBF Annual Convention in Billings, the AFBF Annual Convention in San Diego, CA and the Collegiate Discussion Meet held during the FUSION Conference in Portland, Oregon.

2021 Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet/Collegiate Discussion Meet Questions

1. International trade is important to agriculture. We must continue working to build strong relations with existing customers while seeking out new trade partners to strengthen market stability. How can we enhance existing, and establish new and diverse foreign trading partners?
2. Connectivity underpins the modern economy. What mix of investment and policy initiatives can provide reliable broadband access to farmers, ranchers and rural America?
3. The increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters creates



additional risk for farmers and ranchers. What tools and production practices can be engaged to reduce climate and weather risks?

4. The decline in rural populations is accelerated by a poor farm economy. What solutions would enhance the vibrancy and economic sustainability of agriculture and rural communities?
5. Is big data a big solution or big exposure? Technology tools are often cited as a method of increasing productivity and profitability, but there are liabilities that go along with technology. As young farmers and ranchers we are often first adopters. How do we ensure clear understanding of the risks and rewards of big data and smart farming?

For more information on the 2020/2021 YF&R Competitive Events, visit www.mfbf.org/programs/young-farmers-ranchers or contact Sue Ann Streufert, 406-587-3153, sueanns@mfbf.org.



Hoofin' it for Hunger cancelled

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the MFBF Young Farmer and Rancher Committee made the difficult decision to cancel their popular Hoofin' it for Hunger race held every October in Miles City. The MFBF YF&R Committee is looking for alternate ways to acquire donations for the Montana Food Bank Network, the recipient of the Hoofin' it for Hunger proceeds. In the past six years, Hoofin' it for Hunger has raised just under \$50,000 for the MFBN which equates to 153,000 meals for hungry families. Keep watching the Montana Farm Facebook page for MFBN donation ideas.

Virtual Farm Fair brings ag home

If you haven't seen the news about the Virtual Farm Fair, you still have a chance to check it out. Even though it was first broadcast on the Montana Farm Bureau website and Facebook page May 11-15, the videos are still available. View Farm Bureau members showing how they raise lambs and cattle, and learn about beekeeping, herding dogs, making ice cream and so much more; 10 videos in all. Get the whole family to gather 'round the iPad and discover agriculture. The website includes lesson plans for youth based on information shared in the video.

Get out to the farm at www.mfbf.org.



Wellness help available

MSU Extension and an associated statewide advisory council, which includes a representative from Montana Farm Bureau, have developed an online clearinghouse of resources for a wide range of topics related to stress and mental health. The clearinghouse was created specifically for ag producers and their families, but it contains a wealth of information for anyone interested in learning more about causes of stress, stress prevention and management, and overall mental health. To access the site, click on:

https://msuextension.org/wellness/stress-management/mt_farm_stress_clearing_house/.

Women's Leadership Committee

PHOTO Contest

Entry Deadline: November 2

Four Categories:

- > Agriculture families/communities
- > Agriculture labor
- > Education and communication
- > Supporting the environment

Contest Prizes:

- > \$75 awarded to winners of each category.
- > Overall winner receives one-year free MFBF membership.

The winning photographs become the property of MFBF to be used for display and publicity purposes.

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation Women's Leadership Committee Photo Contest will be held during the MFBF annual convention November 9-12 at the Northern and Doubletree Hotels in downtown Billings. Photos will be voted online and at the convention for combined votes to decide the winners. The winners of each category will be announced at the convention.

Contest Rules:

- > The entrant must be a current MFBF member and their membership number must be included with their entry.
- > Open to amateur photographers only.
- > Photos must be taken by entrant.

Photos can only be submitted via email! Please email to the contest coordinator, Mary Hill, at BarJRGelbvieh@3rivers.net with the subject line **MFBF PHOTO CONTEST 2020**.

COUNTY NEWS

Members of **Carbon-Stillwater Counties Farm Bureau** planted two living memorial trees in honor of two long-time, active members of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation. Bruce Yanzick and Lee Boyer were ranchers who loved working the land and tending to livestock, and both spent their lives promoting and advocating for agriculture. A Freedom Apple tree was planted at Bruce's home in Absarokee and a Cottonwood tree at Lee's home in Bridger. A tree planted in someone's memory is a living tribute that benefits present and future generations, and is perhaps the most fitting memorial gift of all.

Richland County Farm Bureau and the Sidney Chamber of Commerce hosted a Montana House District 35 Candidates Forum May 14. The forum was broadcast live on Facebook and had more than 100 people watching and asking questions. The **Sweet Grass County Farm Bureau** Board had a meeting June 15 at Café 191 in Melville. **Dawson-Wibaux County Farm Bureau** held their summer picnic June 21 at Jaycee Park in Glendive.



(Far left) Planting a memorial tree at the Yanzick Ranch. Pictured are (Front): Megan Weimortz, Theo Yanzick, Sherri Nelson; Back: Rhonda Hergenrider and Carla Lawrence. (Left) Planting the Cottonwood tree at Boyer Ranch with Rhonda Hergenrider, Carla Lawrence, Theo Yanzick, Sarah Boyer and Sherri Nelson.

Membership Month

May was Membership Month and county Farm Bureaus were encouraged to participate in various activities to promote awareness and recruit members of Farm Bureau. Leaders shared their "Why I Belong" stories the first week, participated and shared the Virtual Farm Fair the second week, highlighted their favorite membership benefit the third week and treated their friends and neighbors to a "May-You-Belong" basket with Farm Bureau goodies the final week.



(Far Left) Carla Lawrence, Carbon/Stillwater County, presents a May-You-Belong Basket to new member Melissa (and Joel) Bertolino. (Left) Russell Menge shows off his May-You-Belong Basket assembled by Joy DePuydt for his membership renewal to Phillips County.



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Scholarships

The Montana Farm Bureau congratulates all of the students who received scholarships from the Women's Leadership Committee, the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation and the Collegiate Young Farmers and Ranchers. Congratulations to all of the students who received scholarships from county Farm Bureaus, as well.

Women's Leadership Committee Scholarship

The Women's Leadership Committee awarded two \$1500 scholarships: one to **Taylor Noyes** and one to **Parker Hufnagel**. Taylor graduated as valedictorian of her class at Broadwater High School. She is going to attend Montana State University majoring in animal science. Taylor plans to become a bovine embryo transfer specialist.

Parker Hufnagel graduated as valedictorian from Broadwater High School. He plans to attend the W.P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University where he will study business and finance.

Bernard Greufe Honor Scholarship

Dyauni Boyce of Winifred was awarded the \$1500 Bernard Greufe Honor Scholarship. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist a Montana Farm Bureau members and children of members with higher education. Dyauni graduated from Winifred High and plans to attend MSU-Billings and pursue a career in elementary education.

Collegiate Young Farmer & Rancher Scholarship

Tyler Noyes of Toston was the recipient of the \$1000 Collegiate YF&R Scholarship. The coming junior is currently double majoring in Ag Business and Ag Education at MSU-Bozeman. He served as Collegiate YF&R president in the 2019-2020 school year.

Future of Agriculture Honor Scholarship

Greta Gustafson of Browning was awarded the \$1500 Future of Agriculture Honor Scholarship administered by the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation and made available through generous donations

from Seed Source, Inc. of Toston. Greta graduated from MSU May 2020 with a degree in Microbiology: Pre-Vet Science. She will the MSU/WIMU regional program where she will work towards a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine working with large animals.

County Farm Bureau Scholarships

Each year **Carbon/Stillwater Counties Farm Bureau** awards two \$500 scholarships, preferably one in each county. The recipients are graduating seniors in high school, planning to attend a college or university in the fall of 2020. The two 2020 recipients are **Braden Tomlin** and **Shaye Salt**. Braden plans to attend Montana State University in Bozeman majoring in Business and/or Business Finance. Shaye is a graduate of Red Lodge High School. She plans to attend the University of Idaho to study Veterinary Science working on her goal as a Veterinary Technician.

Fergus County Farm Bureau awarded three \$500 scholarships to local graduating seniors: **Duyani Boyce** from Winifred and **Parker Donaldson** and

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Morgan Ward from Denton.

Southwest Counties Farm Bureau awarded two \$750 scholarships sponsored by their Women's Leadership Committee: one to **Jessica Pauley** and one to **Jordan Smith**, both from Deer Lodge.



Cascade County Farm Bureau awarded two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors. Winners were **Emily Funseth** from Charlie M. Russel High School and **Mackenzie Leray** from Central Catholic High School.

Montana Farm Bureau seeks to develop meat processing program

The recent disruptions in the livestock product supply chain due to COVID-19 has raised the awareness of the American public to the importance of the local food supply chain. With meat packers' capacities reduced nationally consumers saw empty meat cases at major retail outlets as well as dramatically higher prices. Local producers with the ability to provide animals but the bottleneck in the supply chain locally as well as nationally is the ability to process the animals. Local processing plants, both those federally inspected and custom exempt plants are suffering from a severe lack of qualified butchers.

Montana Farm Bureau has been in discussions with the Montana Meat Processors Association to ascertain there is no training available for meat cutters either through private programs nor the university system. Now MFBF is working with the Montana university system Board of Regents on a program that can be implemented to alleviate that situation. Miles Community College has indicated an interest in developing such a program. Farm Bureau envisions a two-level program. The first level would be toward a journeyman meat cutter, shorter in duration, more economical to participate and could work with local cooperator meat shops to cut down on the cost of a facility. The second level could be a two-year program with emphasis on business, economics and regulations.

"Currently, Montana Farm Bureau is looking for funding for such a program," noted MFBF Executive Vice President John Youngberg. "This program will not only provide processing plants in our state with skilled meat-cutters, but will offer new jobs skills to those seeking this type of career in Montana."

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It's great to get your Farm Bureau discount on a selected new Ford/Lincoln vehicles. Think about how much a Ford truck will make life easier on your farm or ranch. Montana Farm Bureau members receive \$500 bonus cash on the purchase of selected Ford trucks as well as other selected Ford/Lincoln vehicles.

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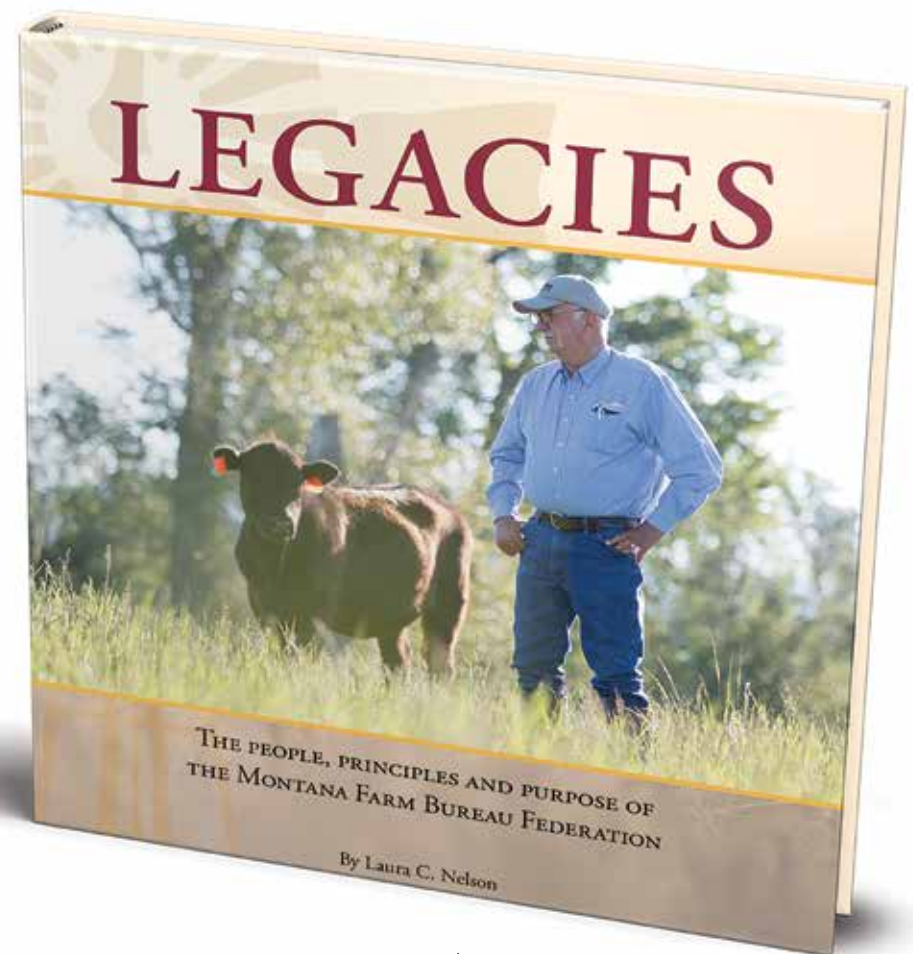
REVIEW BY REBECCA COLNAR

Pallets of the Legacies book arrived in the Montana Farm Bureau office at an interesting time. The country was slowly trying to recover from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and there was extreme social unrest combined with contentious politics. Looking at the first half of 2020, one might feel times have never been worse. Then the Legacies book arrived and its pages captured the knowledge and realization that hard times and social strife are part of cycle of life; but with ingenuity and a positive attitude, success prevails.

Laura Nelson spent an incredible amount of time delving through old newspapers and records at the Montana Historical Society, poring over past Montana Farm Bureau publications, visiting farms and ranches and talking to an incredible array of Farm Bureau leaders.

Legacies is, indeed, a history book and there is so much to tell in the 100 years of Montana Farm Bureau history. Who doesn't love old photos, old newspaper clipping and tales of days gone by—especially when they involve people you know? One really fun nugget Laura discovered was the Farm Bureau play "The Long Trail" written by Mignon Quaw which was performed all over the state. (The Pondera Players performed selections from "The Long Trail" at the Montana Farm Bureau Centennial Convention November 2019.)

The book is divided into three main sections: Values, Principle and Purpose. These sections bounce from past to the present as Nelson weaves modern-day interviews linking to Farm Bureau leaders of the past. The In the News sections share clips from newspapers highlighting Farm



Bureau events from 1919 to present.

Details abound on the history of farming and ranching. Anyone with an interest in history—even if they're not a Farm Bureau member—will enjoy reading Legacies which explains what farmers and ranchers were struggling with through the Depression and the farm crisis of the 1980s as well as the prosperous times, which in the ag world aren't as common as farmers and ranchers would hope.

But hope is the key and Legacies demonstrates that with its abundant interviews and reprinted articles. There is plenty to read and although the text gets

a little heavy in some of the 218 pages, the design complements the beautiful photos. The best way to read the book would be to start at the beginning and read it straight through so it flows chronologically; but even opening the book randomly to read one article at a time is immensely enjoyable.

Nelson has captured Farm Bureau's first 100 years; we can only hope that at the end of the next 100, another talented writer/photographer will care as much to capture that century of Farm Bureau.



Legacies is available from the Montana Farm Bureau for \$40 plus \$5 shipping. Visit www.mfbf.org or call 406-587-3153.

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Our valued partnership highlights the great movement that we have together, and how farming and trucks have gone together for over 100 years.



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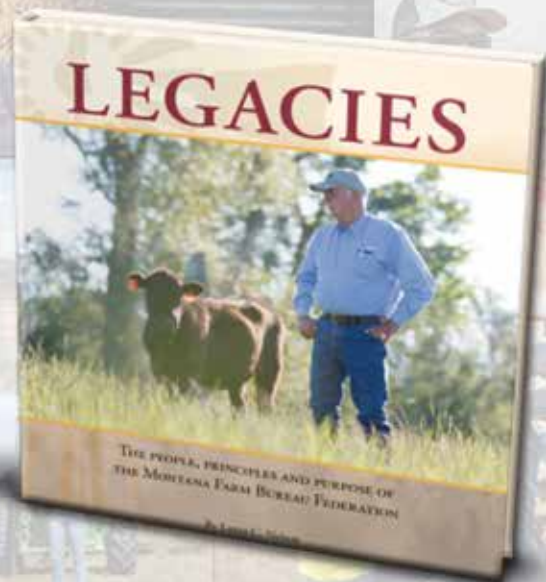
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How We're Driving Change.

*Farm Bureau Bonus Cash is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. This incentive is not available on Mustang Shelby GT350®, Mustang Shelby® GT350R, Mustang Shelby® GT500®, Ford GT, F-150 Raptor, Bronco and Mustang Mach-E. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase and take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by 1/4/21. Visit FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com or see your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details. Note to dealer: Claim in VINCENT using #37408.

Montana Farm Bureau Federation



YOUR STORIES. YOUR HISTORY. **YOUR LEGACIES.**



The idea of a legacy is crafted with future generations in mind, but the reality of one is chiseled by thousands of big and small choices made by generations gone by. If we study the past, can we find hope for the future? Can a foundation of organized agricultural democracy still be used to improve the quality of rural life?

Throughout the past 100 years, the people, principles and purpose of the Montana Farm

Bureau Federation have offered a resounding 'yes' to these questions.

The book *Legacies* captures the essence of some of Montana agriculture's brightest, boldest and most courageous leaders. For more than a century, these men and women have led their peers and neighbors in grassroots campaigns for empowerment through agriculture education, a unified voice for Montana's farmers and ranchers, and a path forward for our rural communities.

Order your copy of *LEGACIES* at www.mfbf.org/legacies.