



MONTANA FARM BUREAU *News Brief*

We Care for the Country

November 2017

TOP STORIES



Runners at Hoofin' it for Hunger show off their race shirts as they head down the road.

Hoofin' it for Hunger raises \$7,000

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers Hoofin' it for Hunger race proved to be another successful event. The race saw more than 140 registered to run and 40 virtual runners. The race, which is put on by the MFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee and Fort Keogh Research Station raises money for the Montana Food Bank Network. This year the MFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee will donate \$7,000 to the MFBN during the MFBF Convention Nov. 12-15 in Billings. Hoofin' it for Hunger has raised more than \$42,500 for the MFBN.

In addition, the race raised more than 120 pounds of food for the Custer County Food Bank.

The race featured a half-marathon, a 10K, 5K and one-mile walk.

Darcia Patten, Powder River County

Farm Bureau president, has been a sponsor and a participant for several years. "Hoofin' it for Hunger gives money to a wonderful cause. I budget a certain amount of money for sponsorships, and I believe with Hoofin' it for Hunger, I get the best bang for my buck," says the owner of Equine Align. "Food banks feeding hungry people is a very worthy reason to participate. I walk in the 5K which shows anyone can do it. Plus, it's a beautiful course that is fairly level and well-groomed and is held in the heart of agriculture, which is very important to me."

Sue Ann Streufert, YF&R coordinator, noted, "We are thankful to our many sponsors that help offset the cost of putting on the race so that all runner and virtual runner fees go directly to the Montana Food Bank Network. We are proud to be able to make an impact on feeding Montana families."

Celebrate 100 years of Farm Bureau heritage

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation is turning 100 in 2019 and you're invited to start the celebration now! Over the next two years we'll be working to compile the memories, historic moments and turning points in a memoir of 100 years of Montana Farm Bureau history. We need your help.

Bring your pieces of Farm Bureau history to the 2017 Annual Convention to share and start our history research. We'll have a Centennial booth set up where you can bring ideas, memorabilia, photos, etc., to share and help us start documenting our history. Here are a few ideas:

- Names and contact information for families in your county who have played a significant role in your local Farm Bureau or the state's organization.
- Historic county scrapbooks, photos, records, publications, etc.
- Heritage family recipes – nothing celebrates Montana agriculture's history like tried-and-true farm recipes. Bring grandma's famous branding recipes, signature dishes that have been sent to the harvest field for decades or recipes that tell the stories of your farm and ranch family's heritage.

Every county Farm Bureau has a place in our state's history, but we can only share yours if you share it with us. If you won't be at Annual Convention, please email your Farm Bureau history ideas, memories and tips to lauran@mfbf.org, or call Laura Nelson at 406-932-3515.

NOTICE

Annual Policyholders' Meeting
Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual
Insurance Company
December 7, 2017 – 8 a.m.
Farm Bureau Center, 931 Boulder Dr.
Laramie, WY 82070

Keep Beef Check-off Dollars in Montana

Earlier this year the U.S. District Court granted R-CALF USA a preliminary injunction enjoining USDA from continuing to allow Montana Beef Council to use the assessments that it is qualified to collect under the Beef Checkoff Program to fund its advertising campaigns, unless a Montana cattle producer provides prior affirmative consent authorizing MBC to retain a portion of the cattle producer's assessment. What this means is that as a result of the preliminary injunction, the MBC was directed to begin forwarding all beef checkoff collections to the Cattlemen's Beef Board. As a Montana cattle producer selling cattle or calves, for any reason and regardless of age or sex, you must still pay the \$1-per-head assessment.

The collection process will still be conducted by the MBC; however, in order for the MBC to do any promotional activities for beef, Montana producers will need to give consent by signing the Montana Producer Request to Retain Beef Checkoff Assessments Form.

The MBC is organized to protect and increase demand for beef and beef products through state, national and international consumer marketing programs thereby enhancing profit opportunities for Montana beef producers. If Montana producers do not provide prior affirmative consent to the Montana Beef Council, their full assessment will remain with the CBB and Montana will lose the state control. Please complete ASAP or by January 15, 2018.

For further information or to obtain the form, contact the Montana Beef Council at (406) 656-3336 or info@montana-beefcouncil.org.

Welcome new Farm Bureau members

Leif Arthun – Park County Farm Bureau • Patrick Ayers – Chouteau County Farm Bureau • Justin Bailey – Sweet Grass County Farm Bureau • Brian Beerman – Cascade County Farm Bureau • Edward & Dora-Jean Beil – Valley County Farm Bureau • Katie Bertolino – Carbon-Stillwater County Farm Bureau • Daniel Brewer – Musselshell County Farm Bureau • Donald Connard – Fergus County Farm Bureau • Kaitlyn Dahlberg – Roosevelt County Farm Bureau • Brody Dahlman – Cascade County Farm Bureau • Greg Eby – Lewis & Clark County Farm Bureau • Steve Funston – Ravalli County Farm Bureau • Megan Griffith – Fergus County Farm Bureau • Jason Haivala – Fergus County Farm Bureau • Lewis Harrell – Fergus County Farm Bureau • Floyd Huckins – Powder River-Carter County Farm Bureau • Nicholas Jerke – Park County Farm Bureau • Steven Keller – Yellowstone County Farm Bureau • Kathy Matt – Northwest Counties Farm Bureau • Thomas Maxwell – Fergus County Farm Bureau • Rodney Mills – Southwest Counties Farm Bureau • Katie Mitchell – Musselshell County Farm Bureau • Daniel Moore – Custer-Fallon County Farm Bureau • Teresa Nash – Southwest Counties Farm Bureau • Clark O'Donnell – Powder River-Carter County Farm Bureau • Kim Phillips – Lewis & Clark County Farm Bureau • Carl Polisenio – Carbon-Stillwater County Farm Bureau • Canyon Rehbein – Richland County Farm Bureau • Janice Reichelt – Phillips County Farm Bureau • Robert Sager – Park County Farm Bureau • Dwight Sibley – Valley County Farm Bureau • Todd Singbeil – Carbon-Stillwater County Farm Bureau • Marissa Soderberg – Musselshell County Farm Bureau • Sheila Stovall – Wheatland-Golden Valley County Farm Bureau • Timothy Swant – Northwest Counties Farm Bureau • Joe Tripp – Cascade County Farm Bureau • Steve Tyrrel – Musselshell County Farm Bureau.



The District 10 Discussion Meet held in Bozeman.

Discussion Meets

District, county and collegiate Farm Bureaus have been holding local Discussion Meets so participants can hone their skills for competing in the Montana Farm Bureau Discussion Meet November 13 during the MFBF Annual Convention.

District 10 held their Discussion Meet Oct. 26 at the MFBF office in Bozeman. The McCone County Farm Bureau held theirs the same night in Circle.

Miles City Community College Young Farmer and Rancher Club held their Discussion Meet Nov. 1 at the Ag Center in Miles City.

During the Montana Farm Convention, preliminary Discussion Meets will be held Monday afternoon with the Final Four Monday evening. The winner of the MFBF Discussion Meet receives a Polaris Ranger and an all-expense paid trip to compete in the event at the American Farm Bureau Convention in January in Nashville.

MFBF Calendar

November 12-15
MFBF Annual Convention
Billings

January 5-10
AFBF Annual Convention
Nashville

June 12-14
MFBF Summer Conference
Fairmont Hot Springs

People

Gina Stevens, Big Horn County Farm Bureau, wrote an editorial on tax reform for radio websites and newspapers. In her editorial, she listed the five principles to make the tax code simpler, more transparent, revenue neutral and fair to farmers and ranchers.

James Taber, Montana Beef Council board member and Wheatland Golden Valley FB member, wrote an editorial about keeping Beef Check-off money in Montana for the Montana Beef Council to use for beef promotion in the state.

John Youngberg, MFBF executive VP, was interviewed by Rick Haines, KMON, Ag Independent Network on the sage grouse conservation plan.

Sign up for YF&R event

Mark your calendar for the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference themed "Agriculture: Biggest Little Industry in the World." It takes place February 16-19, 2018 at the Peppermill Casino in Reno, NV. The conference brings together YF&R members to learn, share and grow together to build a stronger Farm Bureau. For more information watch the MFBF Facebook page and contact Sue Ann Streufert, 406-587-3153, sueanns@mfbf.org.

See green on your farm

Like to see green on your farm? A new Montana Farm Bureau member benefit means access to the John Deere's GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards program, providing Farm Bureau members with a free two-year Platinum 2 membership. This offers discounts on John Deere equipment including mowers, tractors and UTVs. In addition, save money on great John Deere merchandise. Visit mfbf.org/benefits to find out more. You must be a Montana Farm Bureau member to enjoy this special program.

Worms and clams

Cows are frequently blamed for their high methane production, but a recent article in *Newsweek* magazine says that "Scientific Reports" claims that clams and worms at the depths of the ocean release more methane and nitrous oxide into the environment than cows.

Like cows, the gases are produced by microbes that live in the gut. Clams and worms in the Baltic Sea alone produce more methane than 20,000 cows.

Now that's interesting!

Head to Music City

Don't miss the 2018 American Farm Bureau Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show January 5-10 at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Participate in educational workshops to expand your leadership skills, impactful policy discussions and more. Montana Farm Bureau delegates will be casting important votes at the AFB Women's Leadership Committee Caucus as well having the opportunity to sit on the delegate floor at the AFBF Resolutions Session.

Entertainer Reba McEntire will join AFBF President Zippy Duvall during the Closing General Session on Monday, January 8, for a Q&A Keynote touching on her rural roots, family, career, and, of course, country music.

Interested? Contact Alena Standley before December 2 at 406-799-9955, alenas@mfbf.org.



Reba McEntire will be a keynote speaker at the AFBF Convention.

Farm Bureau and GIPSA rules

The Montana Farm Bureau has been carefully studying the U.S. Department of Agriculture's withdrawal of selected rules that would have amended certain portions of the livestock regulations under the Packers & Stockyards Act.

The American Farm Bureau had commented several times on the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration's (GIPSA's) Interim Final Rule (IFR). "American Farm Bureau represents farmers and ranchers who raise all livestock and poultry species impacted by this rule," noted Dale Moore, executive director, public policy, AFBF, in a letter to GIPSA earlier this year. "Our members raise and sell livestock under a variety of arrangements. However, after reviewing the IFR, Farm Bureau determined that it could not support the rule as written."

Moore adds, "We say this reluctantly because of our strong policy supporting the strengthening of USDA's ability to stop predatory practices; but we believe in a competitive market environment in which farmers and ranchers have freedom and choices to reduce risk and gain optimal value for their animals. The scope portion of this rule has the potential to remove both. Unfortunately, the IFR is a vague and incomplete effort aimed at achieving USDA's goals. We feel it would leave the door open to frivolous lawsuits."

The other rule of concern to Montana's beef producers was the Unfair and Undue Preferences Rule. Its purpose was to evaluate and describe what conduct violates the Packers and Stockyards Act. "We would have preferred this rule being kept on the table. Our plan is to take the Secretary at his word that he will be diligent in making sure USDA is working to ensure ranchers are being treated fairly in the marketplace."

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COUNTY NEWS

County annual meetings wrap up, socials and more

Several county Farm Bureau Annual Meetings were held following the MFBF *Spokesman* deadline, but are pictured here. MFBF President Hans McPherson traveled 514 miles to attend **Roosevelt County Farm Bureau's** Annual Meeting in Wolf Point.

Northwest Counties Farm Bureau held a young producer tax prep and Q&A session for young farmers and ranchers November 9 at Nine Pipes Lodge.

District 6 held a YF&R Social at the Roundtowne Restaurant in Circle October 4. Attendees were encouraged to

to participate in the McCone County Farm Bureau Discussion Meet.

Lewis & Clark County Farm Bureau held their Hay Bale Sculpture Contest in October. The contest is judged on creativity, promotion of agriculture, 4-H and Farm Bureau, as well as visibility to the public.



First place winner of the Lewis & Clark Bale Sculpture Contest.

Speaking of hay, a county Farm Bureau in Minnesota heard about the drought in Montana and is donating a large amount of hay to **Dawson/Wibaux County Farm Bureau** members. Stay tuned for the rest of the story!



Garrett Hamm, new president, at the Park County meeting.



Above: left: Lisa McFarland, Yellowstone County president, addresses the group at their annual meeting.



Above right: District 7 Director Tom DePuydt talks about policy at the Valley County Farm Bureau annual meeting.



Above: Phillips County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

Left: Gallatin County Farm Bureau annual meeting.