



# MONTANA FARM BUREAU *News Brief*

*We Care for the Country*

November 2018

## TOP STORIES



*Congressman Greg Gianforte receives his Friend of Farm Bureau Award from MFBF Director of National Affairs Nicole Rolf with Fergus County Farm Bureau members Doug and Keith Arntzen.*

### ***Gianforte receives Farm Bureau award***

Montana Congressman Greg Gianforte was presented with a national Friend of Farm Bureau Award October 17 during a visit to the Arntzen Angus Ranch in Hilger.

The American Farm Bureau Federation's Friend of Farm Bureau is given each Congress to individuals who have supported Farm Bureau policy as shown by their voting records, were nominated by their respective state Farm Bureau and were approved by the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors. The voting records of the 115th Congress are based on priority issues selected by the AFBF board.

"Farm Bureau is an important voice for farmers in Montana and throughout the country, and I'm honored to receive the Friend of Farm Bureau award," said Congressman Gianforte. "In Congress, I will continue serving as a strong voice for Montana's farmers and ranchers

working to roll back and repeal burdensome regulations they face, passing a Farm Bill that works for them, and advocating fair trade deals that benefit them so they can get their products to foreign markets."

"Greg Gianforte has always realized the importance of agriculture and in particular, the Farm Bureau organization," noted Montana Farm Bureau President Hans McPherson. "Ever since he ran for Congress, Representative Gianforte frequently consulted us on ag issues because he recognized us as the leading agricultural association in Montana. He has voted with Farm Bureau policy the majority of the time. He has always been very helpful and responded quickly to what we need in Washington, D.C. We were proud to nominate him to the AFBF Board for this prestigious award."

Montana Senator Steve Daines also received the Friend of Farm Bureau Award and will be presented with his plaque later this year.

### **Young ag conference**

Positive energy marked the Young Ag Leadership Conference held October 5-7 in Billings. This year's agenda featured top-notch speakers, including advocate for agriculture, "Big Sky Farmer", Michelle Jones and cutting-edge workshops, exciting entertainment and an Entrepreneur Spotlight of local business folks.

Shay Richter who represented Montana Farm Bureau at the event said he found the workshops particularly valuable. "They gave you something new to think about—the use of technology with our younger generations is getting more and more advanced. During the KW Insurance presentation they talked not only about using drones in our workplace but new types of seeding technology and where the future of agriculture is heading in the next 20 years," said Richter. "In the Farm Credit Service presentation, I got more exposure to crop and hail insurance, something that I'm not directly involved in. It was really good for younger producers, who might not be making business decisions yet, to get to see that side of the business."

Richter noted the importance of attending YALC. "YALC is a great place to get exposure to different areas of your farm or ranch from forward-thinking people who want to help you grow in your farming or agricultural career. The networking is always great and if you can step away from a conference such as YALC with just one more contact to bounce ideas off of from time to time, I think that in itself is a win."

## NOTICE

**Annual Policyholder's Meeting  
Mountain West Farm Bureau  
Mutual Insurance Company**

**Dec. 6, 2018 - 8 a.m.**

**Farm Bureau Center, 931 Boulder Dr.  
Laramie, WY 82070**

## Equine health

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation Equine Committee has published an Equine Health, Disease & Risk Management brochure available to all horse owners. The valuable brochure has an annual health checklist, and an equine travel checklist along with equine health, disease & disaster resources which contains contact information for 10 different state and national agencies. In addition, the flip side of the brochure has an easy-to-read chart that lists the disease, signs and symptoms, how it spreads, prevention/treatment and consequences.

The information has been reviewed by the Montana Veterinary Medical Association.

The free brochure can be downloaded at <https://mfbf.org/Programs/Equine-Health-Disease-Risk-Management> or a print copy can be mailed to you by calling the MFBF office at 406-587-3153.

## Ag in Color Contest

Got a kid or grandkid who loves art? Talk to kindergarten through sixth grade teachers about Montana Youth Ag Literacy's 2019 'Ag in Color' drawing contest. This well-established drawing contest, now under guidance of MFBF's Women's Leadership Committee, consists of six entry categories specific to Montana Agriculture: Farm Animals, Crops, Cattle, Noxious Weeds, Grains and Careers.

The winner will be chosen from each category and one overall winner selected from the winning drawings. Details of categories and official rules are available on [mfbf.org](http://mfbf.org) or contact Rikki Swant, 406-231-4422, [rikkis@mfbf.org](mailto:rikkis@mfbf.org).

## Welcome new Farm Bureau members

Robert Dills and Teri Bell - Northwest Counties • Kaehl Berg - Southwest Counties • Jim and Charla Berg - Southwest Counties • Sam Berg - Meagher County • Kyle and Stacy Berger - Yellowstone • Bill and Shaunna Bossler - Lewis & Clark • Casey and Davin Buffington - Hill-Liberty-Blaine • Mike and Kerry Butler - Wheatland-Golden Valley • Nan Christianson - Ravalli • Scott Coleman - Carbon-Stillwater • Scott and Jennifer Darlington - Chouteau • Melissa Dighans - Roosevelt • Michael Doney - Valley • Jasmine Evans - Dawson-Wibaux • Diana Flynn - Gallatin • Rocky and Anna Forseth - Lewis & Clark • Julia Harris - Carbon-Stillwater • Sam and Lisa Herreid - Northwest • Dennis and Donna Holman - Sweet Grass • Jeff Holmes - Wheatland-Golden Valley • Chantz Hubing - McCone • Ian and Megan Kalfell - Prairie • Justin and Annette Mauler - Ravalli • Bill and Elaine McLean - Front Range • Ethan and Keturah Moberg - Richland • Ralph Nace - Yellowstone • RJ and Mariah Patterson - Fergus • Mitch Pavlovick - Wheatland-Golden Valley • Art Pearson - Cascade • Todd and Corinne Ringhouse - Cascade • Jeremy Roberts - Sweet Grass • Justin and Heather Sarrazin - Park • Phil Shields - Southwest • John Spizirri - Wheatland-Golden Valley • Jim and Andrea Stampfel - Carbon-Stillwater • Melissa Street - Northwest • Steve and Judy Vernier - Ravalli • Ron and Susan Wilson - Cascade



*Hoofin' it for Hunger at Fort Keogh in Miles City.*

## Hoofin' It for Hunger

On a chilly day October 6, runners congregated at Fort Keogh in Miles City to compete in the Hoofin' it for Hunger race to raise money for the Montana Food Bank Network. This annual event is co-hosted by the Montana Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Committee and the Fort Keogh Range and Livestock Research Station to benefit the Montana Food Bank Network.

"It went well," said YF&R Chair Gil Gasper who helped with Friday night's meal and the race. "We had a lot of half-marathon runners. It seems the 10K and half-marathon have become very popular and a race that runners put on their calendar. It's a great course and the people at Fort Keogh do an awesome job getting the trails ready."

Gasper added, "Of course, everyone who runs is aware the proceeds go to end hunger in Montana. That is another reason runners want to come to this race."

## MFBF Calendar

**November 7-10  
MFBF Annual Convention  
Billings**

**January 11-16  
AFBF Annual Convention  
New Orleans, LA**

## People

MFBF President Hans McPherson was interviewed by the Prairie Star on the US Canada-Mexico trade agreement. Nicole Rolf, MFBF's National Affairs Director was interviewed by Montana Public Radio on the USMCA, as well.

McPherson, along with MFBF Vice President Cyndi Johnson, were interviewed by the Northern Ag Network about the upcoming MFBF Convention. Rikki Swant, MFBF Central Regional Manager, was interviewed by KTVQ on the convention.

MFBF Executive Vice President John Youngberg spoke at the Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Conference in Billings on how rural areas can work to combat the opioid crisis and talked about [farmtownstrong.org](http://farmtownstrong.org).

## Opioid law a step forward

The American Farm Bureau Federation applauded President Trump signing into law the Support for Patients and Communities Act, a measure that promises help in the fight against drug addiction. The action will make it easier for Medicaid patients to seek and receive the treatment they need to overcome drug addiction.

AFBF recognizes the problems with the opioid crisis in rural area. Visit [farm-townstrong.org](http://farm-townstrong.org) for more information.

## Support the farm bill

Need the perfect compact tractor for every season? Use your Montana Farm Bureau membership to receive access to the John Deere Rewards program and apply Platinum 2 discounts the purchase of a new 3 family tractor.

Learn more and sign up by going to [JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau](http://JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau) and creating your account by using your Montana Farm Bureau membership number or by visiting a dealership. For full program details, visit [www.mfbf.org/benefits](http://www.mfbf.org/benefits).

## Junior Farm Facts

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has developed a *Food and Farm Facts Junior* edition. Questions explored in the 12-page full-color book, which was developed for kindergarten through third-grade students answer a variety of questions.

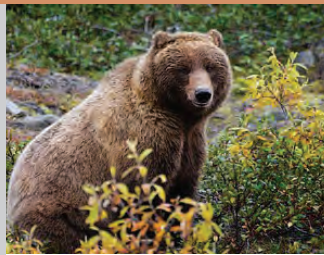
Copies may be purchased for \$3.00 each. A price break is available for purchases of 25 or more (\$2.00 each). Visit <http://bit.ly/FFFJR18> for more information and to order copies.

## Trucking regs

AFBF and other agriculture organizations including MFBF are requesting a five-year exemption from hours of service requirements for livestock haulers. Andrew Walmsley, AFBF congressional relations director, said the safety measures for truck drivers need to consider the uniqueness of hauling livestock.

"The current hours of service rules don't really take into account the unique needs of our livestock haulers on the flexibility that Congress has granted over the years, but also the need to really take into account the animal care that's entrusted for our members and for truck drivers," Walmsley said.

Recently, AFBF and other ag organizations sent a petition to the Department of Transportation seeking extended drive time and hours on duty for livestock haulers.



## Time for ESA reform

Species delisting has to be definite, reliable and concrete. That's the words of the Montana Farm Bureau in their comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The National Marine Fisheries Service regarding Endangered Species Act reform—namely, section 4 of the Endangered Species Act.

"Montana Farm Bureau members make their living from the land and interact with nature on a daily basis," MFBF President Hans McPherson said. "The Endangered Species Act has affected many of them and has the potential to affect all of them in very real and direct ways. In recent years, our members have been particularly impacted by species including gray wolves, grizzly bears, and sage grouse."

McPherson noted that it is, "incredibly frustrating to people who make their living and spend their lives raising and developing high quality livestock, especially when the species (wolves) that was inflicting the damage was well over its 'recovery' objective."

"We want to emphasize how important it is that the delisting process be clear, efficient, concise and reliable," the Stevensville farmer said, adding that safeguards need to be in place so the goal posts cannot be moved every time the species gets close to a delisting like happened with the wolf and just happened with the grizzly.

"We value protecting species from extinction, but it's disheartening that farmers, ranchers and others act in good faith, yet once those numbers are reached, the target numbers get changed," McPherson said. "For species protection programs to work better, they must be improved not only for the species but for the people whom those species directly affect."

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## COUNTY NEWS

### County Farm Bureaus keep busy with fall activities

Members of **Northwest Counties Farm Bureau** prepared healthy freezer meals for families to use while staying at the Missoula Ronald McDonald House. They made 22 freezer meals and 70 hamburger patties made from Montana beef. The Ronald McDonald House provides a place for families to call home so they can stay close by their hospitalized child at little to no cost.

**Miles City Community College** held a Collegiate Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet October 25 at the Ag Advancement Center.

**Meagher & Park County** hosted a District 10 Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet October 28 in Clyde Park which had participants from Gallatin, Meagher and Carbon-Stillwater County Farm Bureaus.

**Sweet Grass County Farm Bureau** held a RanchHacks workshop October 30. RanchHacks is a technology consulting firm based in Montana which educates and trains ranchers and livestock producers to effectively manage

technology within their operation.

**Chouteau County Farm Bureau** held a meeting as part one of their county Plan of Work. They will continue their coupon program for high school sporting events, and plan to get more involved with the new Fort Benton FFA chapter as well as planning a Centennial event.

**Yellowstone, Big Horn and Fergus County** all held board meetings in late October.

### Lewis & Clark County Farm Bureau Annual Hay Bale Contest



Above: Jodi Wills Kris Fleming and Beth Blevins make food for the Ronald McDonald House in Missoula.



Above: The First Place Winner in Lewis & Clark Farm Bureau Bale Contest was Last Chance Livestock - Gathering Cattle at the Barn.



Top: Second place winner was Montana City Mavericks - It's What's For Dinner - Chicken. Third place went to the Farm Kids 4-H Club - Candy.