

SUMMER 2022

 MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Spokesman

WE CARE FOR THE COUNTRY



MEET THREE CREATIVE YOUNG WOMEN

PAGE 22

WASHINGTON D.C. FLY-IN SUCCESS

PAGE 12

SUMMER CONFERENCE PHOTO GALLERY

PAGE 14

MFBF FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

PAGE 17

**THEN.
AND NOW.**
WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.



BNSF has a long history of commitment to Montana's producers.

BNSF has supported Montana's producers for over a century. Together we've been part of the innovation that's made the U.S. agriculture industry one of the most efficient and productive in the world. We've always been a critical link to delivering your agricultural products whenever and wherever they're needed. Last year, we moved more than 60,000 carloads of the state's agricultural products to domestic and international markets. BNSF's employees work hard to keep your business moving safely every day. We were there for you then; we're here for you now. You can count on us.

*We're here for you at **[bnsf.com/ag](https://www.bnsf.com/ag)***





Spokesman

MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

WE CARE FOR THE COUNTRY

S U M M E R 2 0 2 2

| | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 4 | From The President WEATHERING CHALLENGES IS NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART | 14 | MFBF SUMMER CONFERENCE PHOTO GALLERY |
| 5 | The EVP Message A FOND FAREWELL TO FARM BUREAU | 17 | MFBF FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT |
| 6 | The Zipline PREPARING FOR A NEW FARM BILL | 22 | Women In AgriBusiness ACTIVITY BOXES, MARKETING AND MORE |
| 8 | Ranch Mom Musings NO REGRETS | 26 | District 5 Chair MEET DARCIA PATTEN, DISTRICT 5 CHAIR |
| 9 | Safety Topics PREPARING FOR THE STORMS | 27 | Ag Education LEARN ABOUT RANCHING WITHOUT LEAVING THE CLASSROOM |
| 10 | Haying Safety STAY ACCIDENT-FREE WHILE HAYING THIS SUMMER | 28 | Membership Training ACE MEMBERS HONE LISTENING, RESPONDING SKILLS |
| 12 | Washington Coverage D.C. FLY-IN: MONTANANS BUSY IN NATION'S CAPITAL | 30 | AG CHAT |
| 13 | MFBF SUMMER CONFERENCE SPONSORS | 34 | BOOK REVIEW |



ON THE COVER:

In front of the U.S. Capitol during the Montana Farm Bureau and Women's Leadership Committee Fly-In. Left to right: Heidi Brewer, Carla Lawrence, Sky Anderson, Monica Switzer and Scott Stoner.

Photo by Nicole Rolf

Published by:

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

Publisher | **John Youngberg**

Editor | **Rebecca Colnar**

Managing Editor | **Sue Ann Streufert**

Advertising Sales | **Rebecca Colnar**
406-223-4106

Production Services Provided by:
Bobbi Burow, CreativityTank LLC

© Copyright 2022. Montana Farm Bureau Federation Spokesman. All rights reserved. The contents of this publication may not be reproduced by any means, in whole or in part, without prior written consent of the publisher.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein and the reliability of the source, the publisher in no way guarantees nor warrants the information and is not responsible for errors, omissions or forward looking statements made by advertisers.

Articles and advertisements in this publication are not solicitations to buy, hold or sell specific securities; they are for information purposes only.

Opinions and recommendations made by contributors or advertisers are not necessarily those of the publisher, its directors, officers or employees. Investors should be aware that risk is associated with any security, strategy or investment and are advised to seek the counsel of a competent investment advisor before making any investment, or utilizing any information contained in this publication.

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



MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

For publishing and advertising information contact:

Rebecca Colnar
Montana Farm Bureau Federation
406-223-4106
rebeccac@mfbf.org

Printed 6/2022



Cyndi Johnson
President, Montana Farm
Bureau Federation

“Montana Farm Bureau Federation has been referred to by many as “family,” and in many ways, it is.”

Weathering challenges is not for the faint of heart

As I travel across our great state to various Farm Bureau activities, I’m continually amazed at the many small communities and how vibrant they are, even in the face of natural disasters, whether crushing drought or devastating floods. Businesses are back in business, and volunteers are tending to those in need; small town theaters host area talent; celebrations of what makes these neighborhoods unique endure, and the folks who make it happen are often the busiest. More likely than not, they’re also farmers and ranchers.

May and June have brought us snow, floods, drought, business interruptions, and commodity price volatility like we haven’t seen in decades. Since we’re engaged in the world’s oldest and most respected profession—farming and ranching—we’ve often had the benefit of family. Having family means there’s someone to pick up the slack, lend a helping hand, fill in for an absence, go to bat for us, or be the shoulder and stability we need precisely when we need it. Family, whether we chose it because we decided to join or it chose us, helps us weather our challenges.

Montana Farm Bureau Federation has been referred to by many as “family,” and in many ways, it is. We all love agriculture, and though it might mean something different to each of us, we speak the same language of our trade and share our opinions freely. We pray together in the morning, argue all day about solutions to our problems, and come together as best friends at the day’s close. We’ve helped each other survive the droughts, pests, cancer, and loss. We’re built of the same stuff; resilience, faith, love and kindness, determination, and integrity. We lead our families, friends, communities, and governments. We have a great appreciation for our kindred spirits, our collective successes, and our support systems. There isn’t another organization I’m aware of

that is a family quite like Farm Bureau, and I am very proud to be a member and a leader.

While the Mental Health Month of May has passed, please take time to check in on your neighbor and, if needed, share the resources of the mental health support systems. Sometimes just being available can save a friend. The MSU Extension website contains a Montana Ag Producer Stress Resource Clearinghouse. The Montana.gov website has a page titled Beyond the Weather: Stress Assistance for Montana Ag with multiple sources of information for folks who might be struggling with their challenges. During our summer conference, we offered QPR (Question. Persuade. Refer.) suicide prevention training.

The annual MFBF Summer Conference held at Fairmont in June were immensely successful. The quality of every speaker in every committee meeting was very refreshing and informative. I think these 2022 summer committee meetings were the best I’ve attended. I wish I could have spent time in each committee. The keynote speakers covering the future of beef markets and the general agriculture economic outlook were fascinating. This year’s Montana Farm Bureau Foundation fundraiser, “Welcome to Butte America” was phenomenal. If you missed this event, next year is coming, and the membership drive and Foundation fundraising will resume in earnest! While waiting for that exciting opportunity, be sure to pay attention to what’s happening in your own county Farm Bureau organizations. Summer events often have a Farm Bureau component. Annual county meetings are right around the corner in September, and we’ll be gathering for local board meetings and policy development discussions. Take an active role and get involved. You will not be disappointed.

Have a great summer.



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

Montana Farm Bureau Federation Officers
Cyndi Johnson – President
Gary Heibertshausen – Vice President
John Youngberg – Executive VP
Diana Bailey – Exec Sec/CFO
Montana Farm Bureau Board
Craig Blevins – District 1
Rhonda Boyd – District 2
Kris Descheemaeker – District 3

Casey Mott – District 4
Darcia Patten – District 5
Don Steinbeisser, Jr. – District 6
Joy DePuydt – District 7
Ed Bandel – District 8
Scott Stoner – District 9
Jim Willis – District 10
J.M. Peck – YF&R
Carla Lawrence – Women’s Leadership Comm.

A fond farewell to Farm Bureau

On February 15, 1992, I inserted my key into the door of the Montana Farm Bureau office in Bozeman for the first time. I started as the membership field staff for the organization. MFBF membership stood at slightly over 3000 members, and I was challenged to grow the organization. It was a leap of faith for myself and the board of directors. Those first few years were lean, with just four full-time employees and the breadth of Montana to travel. I was putting more than 40,000 miles on my car each year and working with thirty-plus county Farm Bureaus. Those were some of the most enjoyable years of my time with the Farm Bureau. The friendships and the people I met have been part of my life ever since.

In July of 1992, I was asked to represent Montana Farm Bureau at a special session of the Montana Legislature as our regular lobbyist could not attend. That began my second passion in Farm Bureau; public policy. Since that chance exposure to the legislative process, I have represented the interest of Montana Farm Bureau members at 15 regular legislative sessions and 11 special sessions. The issues still have the same themes: property and water rights, wildlife management, taxation, and water quality, to name a few. I feel that my efforts over the years have helped change policy for the betterment of agriculture. I have seen changes in demographics to the point that agricultural producers make up less than 2 percent of the U.S. population; even in Montana, we are less than 6 percent. Agricultural organizations have become extremely important to ensure agriculture remains viable in today's society.

Eight years ago, I had the opportunity of a lifetime to become the executive vice president of the Montana Farm Bureau. To be at the helm of Montana's largest and most respected agricultural organization fulfilled a long dream, and I have been honored and blessed to be a part of it. One of the accomplishments that I am most proud of is the new Farm Bureau Center building on Huffine Lane, currently under construction. It is a beautiful office

space that will make Farm Bureau members proud. Another has been the growth of the organization. From 3500 members when I started, the organization has grown to more than 20,000 member families, making it one of the largest organizations in Montana. Another is MFBF's relationship with Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. In the early years, the ties to our insurance were strained, but now we enjoy an excellent working relationship with our partners in Montana. The re-vitalization of our role in representing agriculture in the Montana legislature is paramount. We have become the go-to organization to get things done in the Montana Legislature and the U.S. Congress.

I have announced my retirement effective August 1 of this year. So many people have been an integral part of my success that it would be hard to put together a list, but I would be remiss if I did not mention the man who hired me, Jake Cummins. We worked together through the lean times and made a good team. President Dave McClure, who just recently passed away, was a guiding light in the organization, and I tried to emulate his calm demeanor when representing Montana Farm Bureau. Many board members, county presidents, staff, and Farm Bureau members gave me support and encouragement.

Lastly, I want to thank my wife especially. She has been very supportive over the 30-plus years that Farm Bureau duties called me away from home and family, and I could not have done it without her.

I have had the opportunity to work with incredible people from all walks of life through my involvement with Farm Bureau. I have traveled to places that I may never have had the opportunity to see and made the greatest friends. Farm Bureau is like family; the Montana Farm Bureau family has encouraged me during good times and stood by my side during the bad. It has been a great ride, and I wish everyone the best of luck. I know that the Montana Farm Bureau is in good hands and has a very bright future.



John Youngberg
Executive Vice President, MFBF

“Farm Bureau is like family; the Montana Farm Bureau family has encouraged me during good times and stood by my side during the bad. It has been a great ride, and I wish everyone the best of luck.”



Zippy Duvall
President, American Farm
Bureau Federation

“As I travel
the country, it's
clear the farm bill
has had a broad,
visible impact.”

Preparing for a **new farm bill**

One piece of legislation has had as profound an impact on America as thousands of other bills combined, yet very few people are familiar with it. I'm referring to the farm bill, which ensures a safe and abundant food supply, helps feed the hungry, invigorates rural communities and helps farmers take care of the environment.

As I travel the country, it's clear the farm bill has had a broad, visible impact. Family farms able to be passed to the next generation because of USDA's numerous risk management tools and programs. Families able to put dinner on the table thanks to nutrition assistance programs. Soil and water improvements because of land enrolled in conservation programs. Rural communities back in the game thanks to broadband grants and new business loans authorized by the farm bill. Soon it will be time to refresh and renew this nearly 100-year-old law, so let's examine its history and relevance today.

Those who helped craft the first farm bill in 1933 laid the groundwork for protecting our nation's food supply for generations to come. For example, they created the Commodity Credit Corporation, a program that's still in use today. Thanks to that first farm bill, many of America's farmers and ranchers survived the Great Depression and were equipped to feed our country as we entered World War II, giving us the ability to provide food security which is part of our national security.

As I travel the country, it's clear the farm bill has had a broad, visible impact.

In 1938, the next farm bill was the beginning of federal crop insurance, which remains a critical lifeline for many farmers and ranchers. This tool has continued to evolve to help farmers endure the devastating impacts of natural disasters and unpredictable markets. Congress has increased access and incentives to help farmers—across crops and regions—to protect their businesses. And in recent years, crop insurance has shifted to be more market-based, with the private sector now able to help create new insurance products.

In the 1970s, the farm bill was first combined with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which provides vital support to those who need help feeding themselves and their families. Combining farm programs and nutrition programs in one piece of legislation makes sense because

ensuring we have an abundant domestic supply of food and that it is accessible creates a more food secure nation, which is critical to national security. Farmers and ranchers work hard to provide the food America needs, and the nutrition programs help ensure that what we grow gets to those who need it.

Congress cast the net wider that same decade by including a rural development title that has helped expand rural utilities, which has evolved to include broadband internet, and supported rural businesses and housing initiatives. There are rural communities thriving across the countryside today that were aided or saved by farm bill rural development programs.

Just as agriculture changes and adapts to meet the needs of the time, so does the farm bill. Every five years or so, Congress passes a new farm bill to meet the challenges of an ever-changing landscape and ensure that critical programs continue to work for farmers and ranchers, families on a budget, and rural communities working to stay competitive.

Hearings on the 2023 farm bill started in Congress this year. At Farm Bureau, we began our work last year, recognizing how essential it was to be ready to offer ideas. In August, our farm bill working group started meeting to discuss what's working under the 2018 farm bill, what's not working, and what's missing altogether. Their analysis will help members across the country at the county, state and national levels adopt Farm Bureau policy, which serves as a roadmap for us to engage with Congress. It's critical work as we advocate for a farm bill that helps us combat the challenges we face today and those we will undoubtedly face in the future. It is our responsibility to engage with members of Congress from urban districts, too, who may not understand how farm bill programs impact all families, from our biggest cities to our smallest townships.

The door to engage these members has been opened even wider by the growing public realization that our food supply must not be taken for granted. The farm bill is one of the mightiest tools to protect it. I hope you'll engage in discussions about its significance. You, our grassroots members, are agriculture's most influential advocates. We will need your help to ensure this powerful legislation continues to stand the test of time.





Life insurance takes away worries.
WHY WAIT?

Stressed your loved ones won't have the money to live their current lifestyle if you passed away? Customized coverage doesn't have to break the bank.

You may even qualify for coverage without medical testing or exams.¹

Connect with your Farm Bureau agent to help protect their tomorrows.



It's your future. Let's protect it.®

¹For ages 18-60, subject to underwriting guidelines. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. *Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services. LI204 (6-22)

No regrets

BY MARIAH SHAMMEL

School's out for summer, which means the kids are finally all in one place, we're not rushing around every morning trying to make it to the bus on time, and the cows are finally out to pasture. Except now we have baseball/softball every night of the week, we're sorting and moving cows (and kids) every which direction, and we spend every evening speculating over whether the hay can hang on for a couple more weeks before the drought and grasshoppers call the win. We might not have the crazy 7 AM - 3 PM schedule that is school, but we still have the same kind of crazy that seems to follow us everywhere.

Regardless of the time of year, things are always busy, and that unending list of "to-dos" never gets any shorter, which is why we're excellent about putting off family trips and getaways. We're great at impromptu hikes up the mountain, fun day outings, and even planning those sought-after vacations but follow-through on the latter isn't our strong point. Thankfully, I don't mind packing the kids up solo and enjoying some much-needed respite, but it's not the same without Favorite Farmer to ogle the crops and cows from the passenger's seat. He always adds an extra dynamic that the kids (and I) can't get enough of, so it's not the same when he's not along.

There are times when leaving the ranch as a family is impossible, like haying, harvesting, or calving, pretty much all last year. Deserting our home during the record temps, wind, and fires of 2021 were tempting but didn't seem like the brightest idea. Since Favorite Farmer happens to be chief of the Hilger Volunteer Fire Department, him packing up to hit the road for a bit of vacation probably wouldn't have gone over too well.

When last year's scheduled Dino Camping trip was postponed due to the previous fire season and my recovery from neck surgery, we vowed to put it on this year's calendar and promised the kids it would happen. And amazingly, it did! With a pickup and packed-to-the-gills camper in tow, we picked the kids up from their last day of school and hit the road.

Unfortunately, due to high fuel prices



The Shammel Family enjoying a much-deserved vacation at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center in Thermopolis, Wyoming.

and a busy wedding/graduation season, we couldn't use our original two-week travel plan, which included multiple prehistoric-era-related stops en route to our final destination, Dinosaur National Park in Utah. Instead, we made an abbreviated week-long trip through Wyoming. With my parents, better half, our four kids, and one of my nieces along for the ride, there was never a dull (or silent) moment, but thanks to the laxer schedule, we were able to include something on the itinerary for everyone.

Colter (10) reveled in the history at the Buffalo Bill Museum; Lizzie (8) loved seeing Jeremiah Johnson's gravesite and the cabin Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid used to hide out in; Benjamin (6) and Josie, my niece (10) never stopped talking about walking in dinosaur tracks that are still visible today in an old riverbed—both because they were infatuated with dinosaurs and because we had to sprint back to the pickup when a pop-up thunderstorm threatened to make our outgoing road impassable. Cora's (3) favorite part of the trip was the playgrounds at our campsites. Even Favorite Farmer indulged in his beloved pastime, checking out the scenery and exploring new roads. I celebrated my birthday by hanging out with most of my favorite people, eating delicious food, and shopping with my mama.

Getting away as a family is always tricky, especially when you don't get weekends off and don't have paid vacation days to file with your boss. While you're gone,

you'll wonder if there's enough grass in the pasture you left the cows in, if the neighbor has gotten their swather ready, and if you washed the dishes in the sink before sprinting out of the house to meet the kids at the dismissal bell. You know that in leaving, there will be a pile of disasters to meet you at the door upon your return that will need your attention.

Sometimes you need to pack up and leave. There will always be reasons you shouldn't go, but there are so many more reasons why you should—to leave the pressures of work behind, revel in family time without interruptions, and spend time with grandparents. The time we all spent chasing dinosaurs, playing card games, and giggling while eating what seemed like limitless treats is something none of us will ever regret.

With the ways of the world these days, it seems more obvious than ever that you never know how much time you have or whether you'll get a second chance. It doesn't matter if it's a day, a week, or a month; if you can find some time to get away with the people you love, there's no way you can go wrong. The laughs and memories you come home with will stick with you forever, unlike the dishes in the sink that can eventually be washed though they might be a bit stinky. At least that's what I hear.

Mariah Shammel ranches in Hilger with her husband, four active kids, and various cows, dogs, and other critters.



Preparing for the storms

Storms will come and go but getting scammed by vendors and unprofessional contractors in a time of need can make the effects of a storm seem to last forever. In the rush to get your home repairs completed so you can enjoy the rest of the summer, take time to educate yourself and avoid contractor scams. In addition, schedule a time with your local agent to go over your current coverage to ensure it reflects the unprecedented rate increases in building supplies and materials. Be prepared, be educated and be ready for whatever Mother Nature brings your way.

Tips To Avoid Contractor Scams:

- Work with only licensed and insured contractors and ask for their credentials.
- Be wary of contractors selling door-to-door and think twice about high-pressure sales tactics.
- Make sure the contractor secures required permits.

- Do not pay in full or sign a completion certificate until the work is complete and you have taken the opportunity to inspect it. Payment schedules should be based on completed work only.
- Never sign a contract with blanks and make sure all conditions are noted in the contract. These should include the cost, work to be completed, time schedules, guarantees, payment schedule and other items discussed outside the original contract. Do not let the work begin until you are satisfied with the contract.
- Check Out the Contractor:
 - Ask for local references.
 - Verify with your local BBB and/or state Insurance Office.
 - If you use an out-of-state contractor, ask if they have a relationship with a local contractor who will do any warranty repairs. Once an out-of-state contractor



leaves, any problems, issues or warranties may not get handled.

Your insurance company will inspect your property when a claim is submitted. Avoid contractors who pressure you to let them do an inspection, write a bid for you to give to your insurance company, or offer to take care of business with your insurance company. They may make it sound like it is one less hassle for you this summer, but unfortunately it may create additional concerns or headaches for you and your insurance company.

Keep in mind it is your property that has been damaged. You are responsible for your insurance policy, and you need to remain involved and consulted on any damage and subsequent repairs.




Stay Current, Stay Protected.

Cost of building materials are at an unprecedented all time high. Sufficient property coverage is crucial.

The value of a local agent:

In an event of a loss, don't be caught short.

Schedule your appointment today with your local Farm Bureau agent. So you are prepared to protect what matters most.

 **Mountain West Farm Bureau
Mutual Insurance Company**

Contact your local agent today or visit us online at www.mwfb.com.
HOME | FARM & RANCH | AUTO | BUSINESS

Property-casualty insurance products offered through Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company/Laramie, Wyoming.



Stay accident-free while haying this summer

BY DANA JANSEN, *DIRECTOR, MONTANA AGRICULTURE SAFETY PROGRAM*

Swathers and balers and rakes, oh my! Haying season is upon us. To those still questioning whether it is worth getting your equipment out due to lingering drought conditions, those that ate through most (if not all) of the stockpiles, and those whose hay grounds are sitting underwater, please know my thoughts and prayers are with you. It feels like there is more at stake as we get underway with Hay 2022, which means now is as good a time as any for a few important safety reminders.

It all starts with maintenance. Well-maintained equipment is crucial to safe and efficient operation. Hay is a sensitive crop – narrow harvest windows leave little room for error, and any delay can seriously affect quality. By ensuring all equipment is adequately maintained, you are giving yourself the best opportunity for “making hay while the sun shines.” For those with a variety of operators for

each piece of equipment throughout the season, consider keeping a log book specific to each piece of equipment; record all services, repairs, operating hours, and any notes to help eliminate confusion and quickly correct any potential issues.



Dana Jansen, Director of Ag Safety,
Montana State Fund

- Read all operator's manuals; become familiar with the service requirements for each piece of equipment – perform all scheduled maintenance at specified intervals.
- Conduct regular “walk-arounds.”
- Keep all moving components greased.

- Replace broken and worn parts.
- Use all shields and guards.

Entanglements, severe cuts/lacerations, and equipment overturns are always concerns when working with equipment. Still, in the race against the clock that is haying, our carelessness can increase serious injuries. Everyone should know the specific hazards related to the equipment/

tasks they will be operating/performing. In general:

- Disengage all power before working on or around the equipment.
- Never operate at speeds too great for conditions, equipment capacity, or operator capability.
- Lock and block all hydraulics before working on or around.
- Keep a charged fire extinguisher and basic first aid kit in each piece of equipment.

While it is relieving to have it all cut and baled, the real challenge can be transporting and storing it. Whether you are putting up barns full of little squares or yards of large rounds, the logistics of the final step of hay harvest can prove to be not only difficult but dangerous.

- Keep size in mind when packaging little square bales; weight can quickly become unmanageable.
- Minimize personnel in loading, unloading, and stacking areas.
- Use equipment that is large and powerful enough to handle the bales.
- Ensure adequate overhead clearance in loading, unloading, and stacking areas.

➤ A New Face In Ag Safety

I am Dana Jansen, the new director of ag safety for the Montana Ag Safety Program. My husband and I raise commercial cattle and background calves, run a few yearlings when the grass allows, and produce dryland forage alongside his parents and our two young children. After graduating from Montana State University, my agriculture education degree led me to the classroom, where I spent my early career as an ag teacher and FFA advisor at Broadview Public Schools. Although my time at the school has ended, I am still actively involved in the FFA Alumni Chapter and our local 4-H club as an organizational leader. I am proud to say that we are one of the many Farm Bureau member families and active with the Wheatland-Golden Valley Farm Bureau. My husband and I are both volunteer firemen with the Golden Valley County Fire Department.

While the Montana Ag Safety Program is not new, I feel it is warranted to reintroduce the program and its purpose. The Montana Ag Safety Program is unique. It is housed within Montana Farm Bureau, working cooperatively with Montana State Fund, and comprised of members from seven of the state's most prestigious agriculture organizations. Members from Montana Farm Bureau, Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana Pork Producers Council, Montana Organic Association, Montana Wool Growers Association, Montana Grain Growers Association, and Montana Cattlemen's Association with active State Fund Worker's Comp Insurance policies (in the 0006, 0008, 0034, 0050, 8288 class codes) may enter voluntarily into the Montana Ag Safety Program. Some may remember when membership to the group meant a policy discount; although there is no longer a policy discount, members are eligible for a partial premium return. In addition, the group membership provides a host of other benefits: one-on-one farm/ranch consultations, trainings, and support in developing and maintaining a safety program, all at no cost to the member.

For additional information about the program or what membership to the group looks like for your farm or ranch, email danaj@mtagrisafety.com or call (406) 850-9978. You can view the website – www.mtagrisafety.com. The website is under construction, so check back frequently for more information and resources.

Taking care of yourself and your equipment can ensure a safe and profitable haying season. The greatest asset to your farm or ranch is the people who make it all possible. As we continue to cultivate a culture of safety through this current season, let me take a moment to remind you of a few last things:

- When checking windrows, watch for snakes.
- Stay hydrated and take time to nourish yourself; watch for signs of heat-related illness.
 - Sudden onset of nausea, headache, dizziness, or confusion
 - Extreme elevation in body temperature
 - Lack of sweating and pale skin
- Rest is necessary. A good 3 a.m. dew is hard to pass up when it makes the moisture right, but ensure you get adequate sleep.
- Be sure slow-moving/oversized loads are appropriately marked and flaggers provided.
- Review communication procedures to make sure the crew is accounted for and safe.

Before you know it, we will be back to feeding hay instead of putting it up. Here's to a safe and successful hay season from corner to corner of the Big Sky. For more information regarding the Montana Ag Safety Program or task-specific safety, visit www.mtagrisafety.com or contact Dana Jansen at danaj@mtagrisafety.com or (406) 850-9978.



- Never stand underneath a suspended load.
- Stack straight and true – take the time

to correct any leaning or crooked stacks (ignoring it won't make it straighter.)

WHEN YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT AN AG LOAN, TALK TO BANK OF THE ROCKIES AG EXPERTS AND WE'LL FIND A SOLUTION FOR YOU.

- Ag Operating Lines of Credit
- Livestock and Equipment Term Loans
 - Ag Real Estate Loans
- USDA Guaranteed Farm Loans

CONTACT US
TODAY



Bank of the Rockies



botr.bank

AgLending@botr.bank

Livingston (406) 222-9010

Lewistown (406) 538-7448

White Sulphur Springs (406) 547-3331

D.C. Fly-In: Montanans busy in nation's capital

One of the primary reasons for belonging to Montana Farm Bureau is recognition and respect that the name "Farm Bureau" evokes in Washington, D.C. During the Montana Farm Bureau D.C. Fly-In June 7-10, Montana Farm Bureau members had excellent opportunities to meet with lawmakers, committee staff and American Farm Bureau staff. The Fly-In participants—Sky Anderson and Monica Switzer from Livingston and Scott Stoner from Helena—were selected to attend based on their prior advocacy efforts in Montana. Participants were accompanied by MFBF Senior Director of Governmental Affairs Nicole Rolf.

The action-packed schedule included meetings with Senator Jon Tester, Senator Steve Daines, Representative Matt Rosendale, staff from two House and Senate committees, and external affairs staff from the White House. In addition, the group met with the American Farm Bureau's public policy directors and economists at the organization's headquarters overlooking the Capitol.

"It's impressive to learn that the American Farm Bureau is the number-one agricultural lobbying group on Capitol Hill. They are well-informed and respected," said Anderson, adding that the public policy staff comes from all over the country with most having backgrounds in agriculture. "In our meeting with their economists, we learned these inflationary times are caused by the large increase in the money supply that has been pumped into the economy by the Federal Reserve in the past year and a half. It's going to take a while for that to change, which means we will be struggling with inflation for the next couple of years."

The group had productive meetings with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff and with the House Natural Resources Committee staff.

"We discussed problems with the Endangered Species Act and what is going to happen with Wilderness Study Areas,"

said MFBF District 9 Director Scott Stoner. "We explained that there are currently too many grizzly bears coming onto the plains and into our schoolyards, farmyards and backyards. Montanans need resources to be able to responsibly manage these bears. In addition, we talked about the problems with going back to the 2015 Waters of the U.S. Rule and how it would negatively affect agriculture."

For visits with Montana's Congressional Delegation, the Fly-In members were joined by MFB Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) members who were in town for the national WLC Advocate, Cultivate and Empower Summit. (See page 33.)

"With our delegation, we covered a wide range of issues including the RANCH Act which improves management of federal lands grazing and supports rural communities, cattle markets, concerns about eliminating certain crop protectants, and the upcoming farm bill," said Stoner.

"It's critical to have face-to-face visits with the committees and agencies in D.C. so they see the real people who are affected by their policies," said Switzer. "It was wonderful to see how respected Nicole Rolf and the American Farm Bureau staff are in Washington. This was a great experience that gave us optimism for the future."

Johnson testified virtually

Montana Farm Bureau President Cyndi Johnson testified virtually at the Capitol June 24 during the "Skyrocketing Energy Costs Are Hurting Americans" forum hosted by the Committee on Natural Resources Republicans and the Committee on Energy and Commerce Republicans to examine the Biden administration's energy policies and their impact on American families and businesses.

In her testimony Johnson shared about fuel increases on her farm. "This year, drought and high input costs make my future look pretty bleak," said Johnson. "Farming is a fuel-intensive endeavor. We

rely heavily on diesel, gas and natural gas to produce grain. The high cost of fuel and fertilizer not only impacts my ability to farm and produce safe and abundant food, it impacts the ability of the truck driver to bring that food to market or the manufacturer to process it, package it and ship it to grocery stores around the country. Americans are accustomed to low-cost food, as it should be because we can produce it, but that won't be the case this year and in the future, simply because the fuel costs at every step have increased exponentially. High fuel costs impact food security, cost and availability."

Visit www.mfbf.org/news for the full story.

Rolf testified before the House Natural Resources Committee

MFBF Senior Governmental Affairs Director Nicole Rolf testified May 10 before the House Natural Resources Committee regarding the on-going drought and the need to keep public lands open to grazing.

"The drought has forced many ranchers to sell off part, and in some cases all, of their herds because they did not have enough grass or could not afford hay or other feed for their livestock to get them through the summer, let alone winter. Drought makes the need for access to land even more evident. The state of Montana is about 29% federally owned, predominantly BLM and Forest Service. Many ranchers utilize grazing leases on these properties. Livestock grazing is a critical part of multiple use management on these lands for things like fire management and providing food security to this country. When developing Land Use Plans, grazing plans, and even endangered species considerations, we must remember that public land grazing helps keep food costs low and moving away from it, especially during the drought, would be devastating to individual ranchers and the country as a whole."





**MONTANA
FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION**

2022 MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION SUMMER CONFERENCE

Many thanks to our sponsors and supporters!

Northwest Farm Credit Services
BNSF Railway
MWFBMIC

Descheemaeker Ranch
DoubleTree by Hilton - Billings
Fairmont Hot Springs Resort
FBFS - Jared Grove & Sean Cirillo
FFA Foundation
Gary & Joyce Heibertshausen
Kristopher Kumlien - Edward Jones
LandTrust
Merck Animal Health
Montana Ag Safety Program

Montana Department of Agriculture
MSU College of Ag & Ag Experiment Stations
Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply
Northern Ag Network
Northern Hotel - Billings
PEDE and Associates
Powder River/Carter County Farm Bureau
Redline Sports of Butte
Rib & Chop House
Sandfire Resources
Scheels - Billings
Stoner's Stables
Western Ag Network

Montana Livestock Ag Credit, Inc.



**"In it for the
Long Haul"**

**Operating Loans and Long Term Financing
for Montana Ag Producers**

Follow us @mtlivestockagcredit 800-332-3405

MFBF SUMMER CONFERENCE

JUNE 13-15, 2022

FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS RESORT

Inflation, supply chain issues, input costs and commodity markets drove the focus of the Montana Farm Bureau Summer Conference. The event, held June 13-15 at Fairmont Hot Springs, provided a time for the 180 farmers and ranchers to surface policy ideas in their advisory committee meetings while hearing from experts in the field.

Two speakers, Duane Lenz, senior analyst with Cattlefax and Shelby Myers, an economist with American Farm Bureau, addressed the issues of concern. Lenz noted that despite supply chain issue, cattle producers should see a positive increase in prices over the next four-to-five years.

MFBF had 13 advisory committees who met, ranging from Promotion & Education to Water, Sheep & Goat and Public and Private Lands. Breakout sessions included one on the Montana Foundation for Ag in the Classroom, Suicide Prevention/QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Training and the Montana Ag Safety Program.

The MFB Foundation Fundraiser, "Welcome to Butte America" featured a patriotic theme with an exciting live auction of Farm Bureau district baskets, sales of copper mugs with a Farm Bureau logo and Butte-themed food. Between sponsors, the district basket auction, a basket raffle, "heads and tails" and a Calcutta for the Foundation Golf Scramble, the members raised \$40,000 for the Foundation.

For the full story, visit mfbf.org/news.



MFBF Executive Vice President John Youngberg announced his retirement after working for Montana Farm Bureau since 1992. Youngberg, left, is pictured with MFBF President Cyndi Johnson and Vice President Gary Heibertshausen.



John Youngberg visits with Northern Ag Network's Colter Brown about his career at Montana Farm Bureau.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



American Farm Bureau Economist Shelby Myers explained the concerns about inflation and the effect on agricultural inputs which could cut into any profit for farmers and ranchers.



Duane Lenz', Cattlefax, morning keynote address covered the cattle market and what ranchers can expect over the next few years.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS



John Tabb, Montana Department of Health & Human Services, presented a QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention Training.



The ACE Leadership Seminar was held Monday with Karen McNenny coaching how to approach difficult conversations.



Holly Hinojosa from Senator Daines office joined the Public and Private Lands Committee Meeting via Zoom to talk about the 30 x 30 Initiative and other federal land issues.



Joani Kissonck , Kissonck Horse Center, educated the Equine Committee about different bits and how they either help or hinder the equine.

WELCOME TO BUTTE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER



Susan and Jack Lake promote their District 1 basket.



Jaycie and Canyon Rehbein, Richland County, check out the district baskets.



District 3 Director Kris Descheemaeker fills up the backpack of Cascade County's Russ Miner.



Jodi and son Spencer Drange, Yellowstone County Farm Bureau Board.



Taxation Committee Chair Gina Stevens with long-time Farm Bureau members Bonnie and Jules Marchesseault.



Kids and MFBF staff with Montana Department of Ag Director Kristy Clark, far right, helped showcase various items in a district basket.



Larry Switzer and Nancy Verschoot purchased a gift basket from District 9.

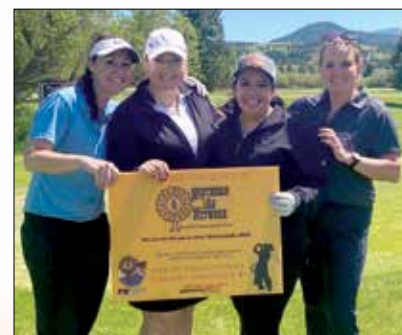
WEDNESDAY TOURS AND GOLF



Learning about the process of roasting barley during a tour of Montana Craft Malt



The group had a tour and lunch at Butte Brewing Company, resurrected after spending 55 years shuttered.



The Ag Ladies team of Courtney Kibblewhite, Northern Ag Network, Raylee Honeycutt, MSGA, Alison Vergeront, MGGA and Nicole Rolf, MFBE.

Membership Benefits Save Money

AGRITOURISM



LandTrust- MFBF
The Recreation Access Network members earn 90% of every completed booking of the member's property. Members also receive a waived first sportsman booking fee when booking their first experiences on the LandTrust platform. Call (406) 587-3153 for more information.

AUTOMOTIVE



Ford Exclusive Cash Reward

- Receive \$500 Ford Exclusive Cash Reward on the purchase or lease of a new Maverick, Ranger, F-150, or Super Duty®. Some exclusions apply. You must be an MFBF member at least 30 days prior to using the Farm Bureau Exclusive Cash Reward. Visit FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com or see your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details.

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

Case IH Tractor & Equipment - Members save \$200-\$500 per unit on select Case IH equipment. Visit your dealer and make your best deal. Then present your discount certificate to subtract another \$200 - \$500 from the bottom line. Your certificate, along with valid ID, must be presented to the Case IH dealer in advance of delivery. Print your certificate at mfbf.org/member-benefits

Caterpillar Inc. - Save up to \$5,000 on the purchase or lease of eligible Cat® wheel loaders, small and medium dozers, backhoe loaders, compact track loaders, multi terrain loaders, skid steer loaders, telehandlers, mini hydraulic excavators and excavators. Members receive an additional \$250 credit on work tool attachments purchased with new Cat machines. You must present a certificate at the time of purchase or lease quote to receive the discount. Print a certificate at mfbf.org/member-benefits.

GRAINGER

Grainger - Get special member prices on all equipment and supplies from Grainger, PLUS get free standard parcel shipping on all standard Grainger products. Get started with your price savings using 3 easy methods: present the Montana Farm Bureau account number at time of purchase - 0854097532, go to grainger.com/farmbureau to establish a new Grainger.com® account using that account number, or call (800) 472-4643.

John Deere - Members receive an upgraded John Deere Rewards membership (Platinum 1) – which unlocks



JOHN DEERE

extra discounts. Go to JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau to register. Check out the savings on the following equipment categories: Commercial Mowing - \$200 to \$1,700 off, Residential Mowing - \$50 to \$150 off, Utility Vehicles - \$100 to \$300 off, Tractors - \$200 to \$300 off.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Farm Bureau® Prescription Discount

- Receive a FREE Prescription Drug Card and save at more than 68,000 national and regional pharmacies. To locate a pharmacy, print a card or look up medication pricing go to mfbf.org/member-benefits or call (406) 587-3153.

Life Line Screening - Save on painless, non-invasive, screening of risk factors for aortic aneurysms, carotid artery disease, atrial fibrillation and other chronic diseases that may lead to an increased risk for stroke, heart attack or other disability. Call (877) 380-1746.

MDLIVE Discount - Talk to a doctor, anywhere, anytime, straight from your phone! Members receive access for only \$50 a year or \$4.95 a month, (3 to 4 times cheaper than the same services of this type) and NO COPAY required. Talk to a board-certified doctor 24/7 via phone or video. Call (801) 288-1400.

HOTEL & TRAVEL

Avis Car Rental - MFBF members receive up to 30% off Avis base rates with Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number A298826. Enjoy offers like dollars off, a complimentary upgrade, or a free weekend day. Visit avis.com/mtfb or call (800) 331-1212 to make a reservation.

Budget Car Rental - Save up to 30% off Budget base rates. Plus, get other great offers like a free upgrade or a free weekend day. Visit budget.com/mtfb or call (800) 527-0700 to make a reservation. Use Budget Customer Discount (BCD) number Y775726.

Budget Truck Rental - Members can now save 20% off Budget Truck Rental! Use your discount to save on consumer rental rates and mileage charges on Budget Truck's broad range of offerings, from cargo vans up to 26' box trucks! Visit BudgetTruck.com/FarmBureau or call (800) 566-8422 and provide the Farm Bureau Account number 56000127747 to make a reservation today!



Choice Hotels Discount - Receive up to 20% off best available rates at participating Ascend®,

Cambria Suites®, Clarion®, Comfort Inn®, Comfort Suites®, Econo Lodge®, MainStay Suites®, Quality Inn®, Rodeway Inn®, Sleep Inn®, and Suburban Extended Stay® hotels. Call (800) 258-2847 and use MFBF benefits number 00209680.

Delta Hotels Helena Colonial - Enjoy the special corporate discounted rate of 20% off the best available rate for any room type. Call (406) 443-2100 and request the MFBF LNR rate or go to Marriott.com/hlnde and enter the Corporate/Promo/SET# code FB1. *Valid only in Helena.*

Thrifty Car Rental - Whether your travel is for business or pleasure, you'll receive discounted prices on car rentals. Call (800) THRIFTY and use your MFBF Corporate Discount Program Code 3007297.

Wyndham Hotels Discount - Members receive up to 20% off the Best Available Rate at participating locations. For terms and conditions, to book online go to wyndhamhotels.com/farm-bureau or call (877) 670-7088 and give your discount ID #8000002613 at time of booking.

INSURANCE & FINANCIAL

Farm Bureau Bank - Farm Bureau Bank offers a full line of banking services. Call (800) 492-FARM or go to farmbureau-bank.com.



Farm Bureau Insurance - Members have access to competitive rates on a wide range of insurance plans through Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. Call (307) 745-4835 or go to mwfb.com.

Montana State Fund Workers Comp - As a member and an employer in the agricultural industry, you may be eligible for a partial premium return on your Montana State Fund workers' compensation insurance plan. Go to mtagrisafety.com for more information.

Reward Signs - Farm Bureau's neighborhood watch program will help protect your property by paying \$500 to \$2500 for information leading to an arrest. Request your reward sign today by calling (406) 587-3153. Certain limitations & exclusions apply.

StoneX® - StoneX® offers exclusive discounts to Montana Farm Bureau® members on agricultural price risk management tools. This includes customized commodity marketing plans, powerful data management solutions, financial execution products, market insights and education. Go to www.stonex.com.



**MONTANA
FARM BUREAU
FOUNDATION**
Investing in the Future of Montana Agriculture

MONTANA FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION *2021 Annual Report*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Believe in the Future of Farming

The vision statement of the Montana Farm Bureau states why we exist: To lead Montana agriculture toward a future with a prosperous agriculture economy and thriving rural communities. The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation helps contribute to that noble purpose through its mission – to support Montana agriculture through education, research and community support with an emphasis on the development of our youth.

With the very generous participation of our members, the Foundation continues to provide both technical assistance and funding for ag education related projects and programs throughout the state and many scholarship opportunities available to Montana's youth.

Some of the projects supported by the Foundation in the past year include farm and ATV safety training, 4H and FFA competitive events, 4H Fairgrounds enhancements, and Collegiate Young Farmers and Ranchers affiliates on three different Montana college campuses. Over \$10,000 have been disbursed for educational scholarships since last summer and the Federation membership once again set records for fundraising to sustain Foundation efforts.



Board members created baskets with items representing their district that were auctioned during the Foundation fundraising dinner. The evening resulted in donations topping the \$40,000 level.

The Farm Bureau family remains true to the original purpose established by members over 100 years ago – supporting agriculture and rural communities of Montana. A huge thank you goes to all who've helped keep that effort strong through your contributions. The volunteer Board of Directors are committed to exploring new giving opportunities and sustaining ongoing programs. I encourage you to read through the many Foundation activities in this annual report. If you also believe in the future of farming, please fill out and return the donation form in this report with your tax-deductible contribution.



Cyndi A. Johnson
Cyndi Johnson, President

MISSION

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

PROGRAM OF WORK



PROVIDING ACCURATE AG EDUCATION MATERIALS

Montana Farm Bureau Foundation provided more than \$5,000 worth of agricultural education materials to classrooms and organizations throughout Montana. We gave out 5,000+ Food and Farm Facts, Ag Mags and pencils printed with farm facts. These materials provide students with accurate information about how agriculture feeds the world and cares for the environment.

SUPPORTING AG EDUCATION & AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS

MFBFo supports youth education and leadership development by working with organizations such as Montana FFA Foundation, Montana 4-H and Montana Youth Agriculture Literacy. Our Foundation provided over \$10,000 in scholarships during 2020 -2021, including the Future of Ag Honor Scholarship, the Collegiate Young Farmer and Rancher Scholarship and the Bernard Greufe Honor Scholarship so that Montana youth can receive the training and education they need.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Our Foundation is in our 10th year of providing tuition scholarships for members of the REAL Montana program (Resource Education and Agriculture Leadership) and 4th year of supporting the MFBF ACE (Advocate, Communicate, Educate) program. We also provide funding for leadership development workshops and speakers to benefit attendees at Montana Farm Bureau events.



2021 ACE program graduates.

YOUNG FARMER & RANCHER SUPPORT

The Foundation annually provides \$4,500 in program funding for Collegiate Young Farmer & Rancher organizations at Montana State University, University of Montana-Western, and Miles Community College. This program support allows the Young Farmer and Rancher clubs to attend leadership development training events, conduct community support projects and network with other students who are working toward a career in agriculture.



A young FFA student competes in the 2022 MFBFo Youth Speech Contest.

YOUTH SPEECH CONTEST

One of our Foundation's most important goals is to aid in the agricultural education and the leadership development of Montana's youth, and this speech contest fits that goal. The Foundation Youth Speech Contest was held during the FFA State Convention in Bozeman this March. Eight Montana 7th, 8th and 9th grade students competed for cash prizes totalling over \$1,000 by developing and presenting 2.5 - 5 minute speeches on the topic of the importance of careers in agriculture, food processing, freight transportation and vocational trades.

MINI-GRANTS

Montana Farm Bureau Foundation awarded ten \$1,000 mini grants during our 2021 fiscal year. Here are a few examples of the Mini-Grants awarded and projects supported:

Low-stress Cattle Handling Workshop
Big Horn County Farm Bureau - This workshop featured Curt Pate, a noted clinician in the field of low-stress cattle handling, which is a newer method of working livestock that uses the animal's natural instincts to quietly handle cattle. This training allows people to work cattle in an easier and more efficient manner, and makes for a safer work environment for people as well as animals.

Harvest Boogie
Rudyard Community Commercial Club - The goal of the Harvest Boogie was to gather community members to engage and reconnect post pandemic and after harvest,

to reignite camaraderie, and to focus on rural community development and vitality. Activities included, face painting, crafts, painting pumpkins, and live music.

Gallatin Farm Fair
Gallatin Valley Agriculture Committee - Gallatin Valley students were not able to participate in the hands-on experience of the Farm Fair in 2021 due to COVID restrictions. The Gallatin Ag Committee used this mini-grant to produce and provide videos of the agricultural education station presentations that students normally see at the Farm Fair. The videos were posted online and links were sent to 4th and 5th grade classes within the Gallatin Valley.

Farm Safety Day
Fergus/Petroleum 4-H Ambassadors This mini-grant offered education about the different safety aspects of daily farm life and was attended by 250 Central Montana 1st

and 2nd grade students. Farm Safety Day teaches awareness through interactive and visual presentations ranging from ATV safety to electrical safety awareness to precautions when working with large animals.

Junior Agricultural Mechanics Show
MSU Department of Agricultural and Technology Education - Our mini-grant helped fund awards for this project that focuses on Montana FFA members' expertise on designing and constructing agricultural mechanics projects. Middle and high school students enrolled in Agricultural Education courses worked to fabricate agricultural mechanics projects. Skills learned include welding, cutting, and fastening.

Right: One of the award winning projects created during the Junior Ag Mechanics Show.



COMING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT AG EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Montana Farm Bureau Foundation's Annual Fundraiser was held in conjunction with the MFBF Summer Conference at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort on June 13-15, 2022.

Over 125 Farm Bureau members attended the fundraising dinner, "Welcome to Butte America!" and celebrated the theme of Americana. Members of the Federation and Foundation Board of Directors put together donations that showcased their corner of Montana featuring items that

make members proud to live in their community.

The following morning, 13 teams teed off in the Foundation Golf Scramble competing for great prizes. The MWFBF team took top prize in the A Tier, while the McPherson Farms/Premium Hay Products team won the B Tier competition. Mountain West Farm Bureau MIC and BNSF Railway sponsored these events that raised just over \$40,000 for the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation.

Our Foundation Board of Directors and staff extend our heart-felt thanks to all of the generous members and guests who gave of their time and their financial support!

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 by returning the form below or go online to mfbf.org/foundation to donate. 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 agricultural awareness and understanding.

Cyndi Johnson, President - Conrad

Gary Heibertshausen, Vice President - Alzada

John Youngberg, Executive VP - Belgrade

Diana Bailey, Secretary-Treasurer - Three Forks

Hans McPherson, Past President - Stevensville

Darcia Patten - Broadus

Ed Bandel - Great Falls

Kris Descheemaeker - Lewistown

Lew Zimmer - Bozeman

Patti Davis - Belgrade

Scott Stoner - Clancy

Sky Anderson - Livingston

Tom Cunningham - Billings

Scott Kulbeck, Coordinator - Belgrade



**MONTANA
FARM BUREAU
FOUNDATION**
Investing in the Future of Montana Agriculture

*MFBFo is a qualified charity
under IRS tax code 501(c)(3)
making donations tax
deductible.*

Support Montana Agriculture!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed is my gift of: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 Other _____

Pledge Donation: ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$2,000 ☐ \$5,000 Other _____

(MFB Foundation will contact you for billing details)

For credit card payments please go to mfbf.org/foundation

Mail Your Donation to:

MONTANA FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION, 502 S. 19TH AVE, SUITE 104, BOZEMAN, MT 59718 * PHONE: 406-587-3153

2021 - 2022 DONORS & SPONSORS

SECURING OUR FUTURE

GOLD LEVEL DONORS: \$ 1,000 +

BNSF Railway
Cyndi and Ken Johnson
Darcia and Ward Patten
Ed & Kayla Bandel
FBL Financial Group
Gallatin County Farm Bureau
Gary and Joyce Heibertshausen
J.M. Peck
Jim and Marilyn Dusenberry
John and Debe Youngberg
Kris and Dennis Descheemaeker

Lew Zimmer
Mel and Becky Jackson
Mountain West Farm Bureau MIC
Patti Davis
Sarah Boyer
Scott and Casey Kulbeck
Scott and Louise Stoner
Sky Anderson
Tom Cunningham
Tom Helm and Alieda Stone

2022 EVENT SPONSORS:

BNSF Railway
Descheemaeker Ranch
District 1 County Farm Bureaus
District 2 County Farm Bureaus
District 3 County Farm Bureaus
District 4 County Farm Bureaus
District 5 County Farm Bureaus
District 6 County Farm Bureaus
District 7 County Farm Bureaus
District 8 County Farm Bureaus
District 9 County Farm Bureaus
District 10 County Farm Bureaus
DoubleTree by Hilton - Billings
Fairmont Hot Springs Resort
FBFS Jerad Grove and Sean Cirillo
Front Range County Farm Bureau
Gary and Joyce Heibertshausen
Kristopher Kumlien - Edward Jones

LandTrust
Montana Ag Safety Program
Montana Department of Agriculture
Montana FFA Foundation
Mountain West Farm Bureau MIC
MSU College of Ag & Experiment
Stations
Northern Ag Network
PEDE and Associates
Powder River - Carter County
Farm Bureau
Redline Sports of Butte
Sandfire Resources America Inc. -
Black Butte Copper Project
SCHEELS - Billings
Stoner's Stables
Western Ag Network

2021 - 2022 MEMORIAL DONATIONS:

Abby Majerus and Jon Byerly
In memory of Hal Machler
Dawson-Wibaux County Farm Bureau
In memory of George Rice
Dawson-Wibaux County Farm Bureau
In memory of Jenny Rice
Dawson-Wibaux County Farm Bureau
In memory of Lillian Nemitz
Diana Bailey
In memory of Art Nelson
Dorothy Hlad Larsen
In memory of LaDonna Sauer
Eric and Mary Jane Gongre
In memory of Joe Lannen
James and Diana Hanson
In memory of Art Nelson
Jim and Charla Berg and Family
In memory of Evan Johnston
John and Debe Youngberg
In memory of Art Nelson

John and Debe Youngberg
In memory of Dave McClure
Lew Zimmer
In memory of Art Nelson
Lew Zimmer
In memory of Charlie Mathews
Patrick McNulty
In memory of Art Nelson
Rebecca Colnar and Casey Mott
In memory of Art Nelson
Rebecca Colnar and Casey Mott
In memory of Dave McClure
Scott and Casey Kulbeck
In memory of Art Nelson
Scott and Casey Kulbeck
In memory of Dave McClure
Wheatland-Golden Valley
County Farm Bureau
In memory of Art Nelson

SILVER LEVEL DONORS: \$ 101-\$999

Alena and Todd Standley
Alisa Reich & Tom Huckleby
Bernard Evans
Bill and Joan Bergin
Bob Quinn
Brent Poppe
Brett Keaster
Big Horn County Farm Bureau
Broadwater County Farm
Bureau
Bruce and Doreen Gillespie
Carbon-Stillwater County Farm
Bureau
Carla and William Lawrence
Casey Mott and Rebecca Colnar
Christy and Lew Clark
Cliff and Missy Cox
Courtney Kibblewhite
Craig and Beth Blevins
Dawn and Lester Aye
Dawson-Wibaux County Farm
Bureau
Diana Bailey
Don Steinbeisser Jr.
Fergus County Farm Bureau
Front Range County Farm
Bureau
Gary Rominger
Hans and Suzanne McPherson
J.J. McDowell
Jack and Susan Lake
Jacob Stenberg
Janet Burbach
Janet and Carl Krob
Jeff Welborn
Jess and Nicole Bandel
Jim and Charla Berg
Jim and Hattie Geesey
Jim and Heather Willis
Jodie Drange
John and Gina Stevens
Jules and Bonnie Marchesseault

Karl and Rae Lynn Christians
Klayton Lohr
Ken Walsh
Larry Switzer
Laurie Sutherlin
Lewis & Clark County Farm
Bureau
Lindsey Orem
Malone for HD 59
Mary Hill
Mary McHugh
Monica Switzer
Nick Jerke
Nordlund Communications
Northwest Counties Farm
Bureau
Patrick McNulty
Paula Steinbeisser
Powder River-Carter County
Farm Bureau
Ravalli County Farm Bureau
Rhonda and Ellis Boyd
Richard Quillin
Rikki & Tyler Swant
Russ and Lorie Miner
Sarah Converse
Sue Ann and Hans Streufert
Sweet Grass County Farm
Bureau
Tom & Joy DePuydt
Tom Mott
Turner Farms
Walt and La Rae Sales
Warren and Michelle Krone
Wes and Cheryl Jensen
Wheatland-Golden Valley
County Farm Bureau
Will Johnson
Yellowstone County Farm
Bureau

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.



We value our long-standing partnership with Farm Bureau and are proud to offer this exclusive members reward.

\$500 EXCLUSIVE CASH REWARD*

ON AN ELIGIBLE NEW MAVERICK™, RANGER®, F-150® OR SUPER DUTY®



FORD SUPER DUTY

Computer-generated image with available features shown.



FARM BUREAU
ADVANTAGE

How We're Driving Change.

fordfarmbureauadvantage.com

*Farm Bureau Exclusive Cash Reward is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. \$500 Exclusive Cash Reward on the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2021/2022/2023 Ford Maverick, Ranger, F-150 or Super Duty. This incentive is not available on F-150 Lightning™, F-150 Raptor®, F-650 and F-750 Super Duty. 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 or lease and take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by January 3, 2023. Visit FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com or see your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details. Note to dealer: Claim in VINCENT using #38326

Young women entrepreneurs use skills to help people and small business

BY REBECCA COLNAR, SPOKESMAN EDITOR

Study the people working on farms, ranches and in agribusiness today and the number of women who own agricultural enterprises keeps increasing. Young women especially are finding creative ways to add to the family income by starting businesses while advocating for agriculture and helping others. MFBF Spokesman Editor Rebecca Colnar visited with three Montana Farm Bureau young women who have started their own unique businesses.

Aly Robins Snowy Mountain Marketing

Twenty-six-year-old Aly Robins believes in the power of rural communities. She attended Miles Community College in Miles City, then transferred to Montana State University where she received a B.S. in range management, followed by three years working for the Natural Resource and Conservation Service.

"I felt I wasn't living up to my potential, so I decided to branch out into marketing. I believed that many small towns, rural areas and ag businesses weren't using the internet to their best potential. They weren't able to grow."

In 2019, the enterprising young woman from Moore started Snowy Mountain Marketing with website development and today, she has a team of subcontractors in place; Aly works on marketing strategy, one of her team works on development and the other focuses on copy creation.

"I work on developing websites; however, I now am offering social media marketing consulting and business coaching," Robins said. "We will work to create a customized plan for your market strategy and bring that plan to life, and trouble shoot what is needed. We are there to support and guide you while you implement the plan, and I serve as a sounding board for your questions."

She explains on her website, alyrobins.com, there is so much "noise" on the internet, it's hard to know what direction to go because it seems like nothing works. "I've found that using social media and your website is the cheapest, fastest, and

most effective way to increase sales in your business. Using a strategy that's specific to your business is key to seeing the results you want."

She enjoys business coaching, which offers a way to get a business back on track if it's struggling to make a profit. "Business coaching is helpful for people who have started their business or been in business for some time, but want to take it to the next level."

Working with small rural businesses is Robins' passion, especially when it involves agriculture, growing up on her families ranch outside of Helena. Recently, she developed a website for Williamson Land & Cattle, based out of Wyoming, who help ranchers buy and sell cattle at a price they are happy with. Another client using her expertise in marketing consulting is Broken Arrow Outfitting.

"Broken Arrow runs their outfitting business on their father's ranch in Winifred and I'm helping them with social media," Robins explained. Another central Montana, home-based business she works with is Montana RanchERS to get their website running and work on messaging about beef. The website also hosts an online store where women can clarify their message for more sales.

Her advice to anyone wanting to start a business is to figure out what you're selling and put it out to the people via social media. "Social media is free, so figure out what you want to sell and see



Aly Robins assists rural Montana businesses with online marketing.

what people's reaction is. It's a great way to make sure what you're selling is what people need. Get the word out as much as possible. I believe it's the only way to know if you're on the right track. It's most effective way of marketing."

Robins points out that activists opposed to animal agriculture have become savvy at using social media and websites for the anti-agriculture message. "We need to use marketing skills to get the correct message out. I invested heavily in business coaching and gleaning all the marketing knowledge I could, and I hired coaches to help me figure out what



I wanted to do. Now I bring those same tactics and strategies I've learned into my business."

Robins and her husband welcomed a baby boy in February, but the young son hasn't slowed her down.

"I have an in-home nanny three days a week so I can work, and the other four days J2 and I can spend a lot of time together. That's one of many reasons why I love owning my own business."

For information on Snowy Mountain Marketing, its workshops and master classes, visit alyrobins.com and follow her on Instagram @alyrobins1.

Krista Arntzen Agivity Boxes

Imagine providing children hands-on experience growing crops or working cattle without leaving the kitchen table. That's the goal for Krista Arntzen, a former teacher who has recently embraced the agricultural lifestyle and has developed a unique idea for bringing agricultural practices into the home.

Arntzen grew up in Great Falls and taught special education classes for 12 years in Lewistown and Winifred, then for the Central Montana Resource Center. In 2013, she met Kevin Arntzen, who is involved in the family ranch in Hilger, well-known for their Black Angus breeding stock. She and Kevin were married in 2016. After their first child, Knox, was born, she continued teaching, but once the couple had their second child, Knealy, in 2017, Arntzen decided to teach part-time so she could spend more time with the children and help Kevin on the ranch.

"However, once I left teaching full-time, I realized I missed the classroom," Arntzen said. Still using the skills she gleaned as a teacher, Arntzen devised a way to bring the agricultural lifestyle to families;

"Agivity" Boxes. Each Agivity Box supplies lessons and activities that children can do at home with their parents.

The 35-year-old mom said that by staying home with the children, she learns daily about agriculture through her children's eyes which, in turn, inspires many of the boxes.

"My first activity box featured ranching, with ear tag matching, balloons to serve as a pen for calves, with and a flyswatter as a sorting stick," Arntzen said. "I used our work on the ranch as a theme for an activity box. For instance, if we were tagging and branding calves, that became a theme for the box. Kids can learn numbers by writing their calf number on an ear tag included in the kit. The box might contain a small combine if it's harvest season."

For May, the box

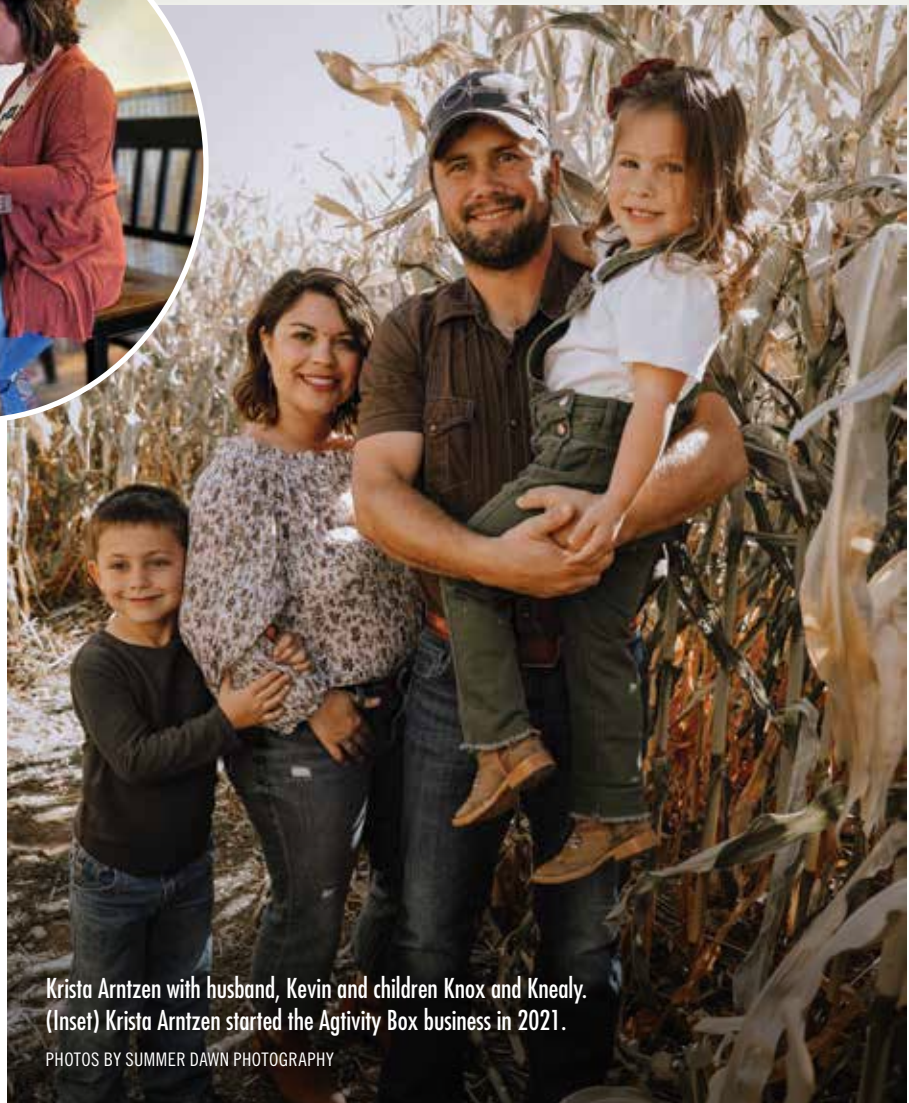
contains everything needed to learn about "planting season," including a small greenhouse to hang in the window where the children can plant soybean seeds.

"That gives children the idea of what is required to plant a seed, nurture it and watch it grow," Arntzen said. "We might cover how to feed a cow, and that box will contain grain and hay from our place."

Agivity Box themes include:

- Ranching
- Cattle
- Feeding Time
- Harvest
- Calving
- Snow Fun
- Planting
- Machinery

Arntzen explains that the boxes are only a guide for parents to follow, so they can be as creative as they want. "I



Krista Arntzen with husband, Kevin and children Knox and Knealy.
(Inset) Krista Arntzen started the Agivity Box business in 2021.

PHOTOS BY SUMMER DAWN PHOTOGRAPHY

created boxes mainly for kids until they go to school and learn about farming and ranching through Ag in the Classroom. There is a gap when parents send their children to preschool or homeschool, and there is not much education regarding what it's like working at a ranch. The activity boxes are a start where parents can talk about what farmers and ranchers are doing before their children enter first grade. I feel a lot of misconceptions begin once they get to school."

There are currently eight activity boxes for sale. When Arntzen first started doing her business—she became official in July 2021, hoping to create a box each month, but the logistics proved difficult.

Each box contains five activities, one being a hands-on lesson or something sensory to do with farming or ranching. For instance, the box might contain wheat a child can touch and then put in the combine. Kids can learn their numbers by matching cattle tags included in the activity box. The box contains everything the family will need to complete the "activity," created with readily available items.

Currently, Arntzen sells the activity boxes through her website, theruralresourceroom.com, and her Facebook page. "At this point, most families buying boxes are other ranching moms, which is wonderful, but my goal is to sell them to people who don't work cattle or grow crops for a living. Many parents and children know very little about agriculture, which is an educational yet fun way to educate them, and I want to make it handy and easy for moms."

She adds that it's an ideal way to get everyone doing a project as a family. "The boxes contain early childhood concepts, cutting, writing, and creative play. Spending time with your child is very important. Learn about agriculture as a family. Sit down, get off devices, then take time to learn something important about agriculture in Montana."

Parents may purchase one box at a time or get two-month, three-month, six-month, or nine-month subscriptions that offer a discount. You get your own farm or ranch delivered right to your door.

The young entrepreneur sees the boxes as a way to increase curiosity about farms and ranches. "I started the boxes to encourage families to visit our place. Our gate is open; people are welcome to see

what calving is like and watch baby calves. We had one family bring their young children, and after we were in the calving barn, the dad noted that our cows were where milk comes from. That provided a bridge to educate them about milk cows versus beef cattle. Having someone visit your farm or ranch is a fantastic way to make the connection about where a certain food comes from. Before our visitors leave, we offer them some beef and beef recipes to try. Inviting people to your farm or ranch is a wonderful way to build trust and understanding."

To learn more about Activity Boxes, visit theruralresourceroom.com or email Krista Arntzen at theruralresourceroom@gmail.com.

Kendra Joyce Cutting Fences Foundation

Farming and ranching are near the top of the list of dangerous jobs, with more than 100 injuries reported yearly. Reported statistics and stories sometimes make the news, but following initial coverage, the story vanishes, and all but close family and friends forget the injured party. Often medical professionals aren't well versed on what the agricultural lifestyle looks like and the devastation an ag injury brings to the entire family.

Farm Bureau members attending the

2021 Montana Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Billings may recall meeting Kendra Joyce at her trade show booth. Joyce, the founder of the non-profit "Cutting Fences Foundation," said she decided to have a booth at the convention because farmers and ranchers are her audiences. Joyce, who has a doctorate in occupational therapy and teaches OT classes at Rocky Mountain College, was passionate about having occupational therapy that could help individuals with disabilities continue to farm and ranch. Joyce saw the booth at the convention as a two-way street. Farmers and ranchers could learn about her, and she could understand the needs of people in agriculture.

"The more research I have done, the more I discovered about injuries in agriculture," Joyce explained. "I conducted an informal survey and found that 88 percent of the people who responded knew at least one person who had had an agricultural-related accident."

Despite other states' programs to serve this population, Montana does not offer a program that explicitly helps farmers and ranchers. No occupational therapists are doing so, despite the profession being the perfect fit to create function and quality of life for the farming and ranching community with disabilities.

The creative young woman started Cutting Fences to "cultivate connections, support, advocacy and compassion for all individuals in agriculture who have sustained injuries,



Kendra Joyce of Cutting Fences visits with Carbon/Stillwater County Farm Bureau Vice President during the Montana Farm Bureau Convention in 2021.



accidents or have disabilities.”

Since August 2021, she has reached out to audiences with her weekly podcasts. Interviewees are farmers and ranchers living the agricultural life despite a disability.

“My podcast aims to advocate for the incredible people in the agricultural population who have suffered injuries, accidents, or have disabilities. These individuals’ challenges never hold them back from checking calves at 4:00 a.m. amid a bitter winter storm or an overnight harvest shift and, most notably, from helping to feed this wonderful world we live in.”

She added that the individuals featured on this podcast are filled with perseverance, grit, pride, and a wealth of wisdom. “My podcasts are formed to cultivate compassion, empathy, and support.”

Joyce explained that currently, what can help this population most is assistance to get in and out of equipment and access to occupational therapy services. She has researched and connected with companies that focus on building equipment to help individuals with disabilities. That equipment is adaptable for farmers and ranchers with disabilities, including running board lifts and truck bed lifts. She has been working with the company Life Lyfts by Life Essentials, which constructs a variety of lifts that can be adapted to allow a farmer access to a tractor or combine seat.

“I was visiting with someone at Agrability, and he said I was a unicorn,” Joyce said, adding that she was initially not sure exactly what the comment meant. Then he explained, “You’re involved in health care, but you also know agriculture.”

This observation incentivized Joyce to take on being a professor in the OT program at Rocky Mountain College to increase knowledge and rural cultural humility for the future of the profession and patients.

The enterprising young woman received approval to start a foundation, meaning tax-deductible donations can be made to help disabled members of the ag community afford adaptive equipment. It also allowed her to continue her informational campaign to help others, including those working in the OT field.

“I do my best to empathize how sometimes people want just to give up,” Joyce noted. “I’m hoping Cutting Fences can offer connections and support for anyone who has sustained an ag accident or has disabilities but still wants to be involved in agriculture.”

Since the MFBF Convention in 2021, Joyce has been applying for grants for Cutting Fences. She recently partnered with Laurence B.G. Rhone from Scobey, who heads the community resource center. Lawrence also offers a farming retreat where he brings in veterans and teaches them

about farming, explaining how agriculture fits into the task-oriented military and veteran culture—which can prove healing.

“The program we’re creating and seeking funding in Scobey is called HITE—Holistic Impactful Transition and Engagement program. It’s centered around transitioning veterans from service into civilian life and agriculture, and it’s beneficial for their mental health,” Joyce said.

During her summer break from teaching, she’s hoping to get the Pints for Producers program underway, where she hopes to partner with local breweries across the state to raise money to cover adaptive equipment for farmers and ranchers with disabilities.

“I recently worked with a client in partnership with Montana Vocational Rehabilitation to obtain approval for them to fund a Life Essentials Lift so he could get into his tractor and be as independent and functional in his agricultural occupation. He’s going to travel to Indiana to pick up the lift and install it. Thank you, Vocational Rehab, for doing what you do!”

Joyce is excited to see that Cutting Fences is growing. “It’s been a lot of work, but it’s gratifying.”

To learn more, visit www.cuttingfencesfoundation.net or contact Kendra Joyce at cuttingfencesfoundation@gmail.com.



Meet Darcia Patten, District 5 Chair

BY REBECCA COLNAR

Does your horse prefer rosemary, lavender or patchouli? That's a curious question, but after a horse receives a chiropractic session with Darcia Patten of Equine Align, the animal can choose a preferred essential oil from a box of small vials.

It's all in a day's work for Montana Farm Bureau District 5 Director Darcia Patten, who combines her equine chiropractic business with ranching in Broadus with her husband, Ward. Ranching and horses aren't new to Patten. She was born in Gillette, Wyoming and her family moved to the Sanburn Ranch at Belle Creek, located south of Broadus, where she spent her childhood helping on the ranch. Darcia also spent time helping other family members on their different ranches. In the late 1970s, her family moved into town, where her father managed the local co-op.

"I always rode horses, and caring for animals was my passion," Darcia said. "My first job was at Bill's Saddlery in Broadus when I was in fifth grade, where I learned to do leatherwork and boot and shoe repair. I've always been a workaholic," Patten noted, adding that when she was 15 years old, she began working as a receptionist for a chiropractor in Glenrock and Casper. This experience planted the seed for her interest in equine chiropractic two decades later. At the same time, she completed high school via a correspondence course.

In December 1984, Patten had her first daughter, Breauna, and her parents moved from Wyoming to Belgrade, Montana. Patten followed so her mom could help care for her daughter while Patten attended cosmetology school. While in Belgrade, she got married, was a dental assistant and had a second child. However, after getting divorced, Patten moved back to Broadus with her two daughters. She sold insurance and became reacquainted with a local rancher, Ward Patten.

"I'd always known Ward. As little girls, we used to trail our cattle home, and Ward often rode with us," said Patten. "He asked me to marry him and in 1993 we tied the knot. Currently, we have three daughters

and five grandkids, ages 3-15."

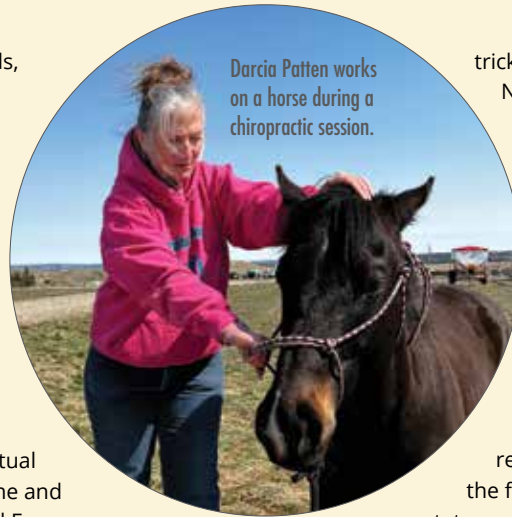
Patten helps her husband on their family ranch and is passionate about being involved with Farm Bureau. Her parents always had Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance, and she and Ward also carried Farm Bureau insurance. Agent Jon Kraft insisted the couple attend the Powder River County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in 2010.

"There was only Ward and me, Jon Kraft and his parents, the Schaffers and Aaron and Mollie Phipps. I was elected president," said Patten. Although Powder River County Farm Bureau always included Carter County members, Alzada sheep rancher Gary Heibertshausen and Patten were instrumental in adding Carter County to the official county Farm Bureau name in 2012.

Wanting to be more involved, Patten considered becoming involved with one of the MFBF issue advisory committees that help surface policy on farming and ranching issues. When Mack Cole, a paint horse breeder from Hysham, was stepping down on the Equine Committee, he urged Patten to indicate she'd like to be on that committee. Today, she serves as the Equine Committee chair.

Patten continued to become increasingly involved with Farm Bureau because she wanted her grandchildren to be able to ranch. "If someone doesn't step up and hold a leadership role and speak out, those who have louder voices will try to shut us down. Ranching is an amazing lifestyle and business. I grew up ranching, and it's always been what I've wanted to do. I've tried many different things, but I love agriculture and want to see it preserved."

She readily admits ranching can be



Darcia Patten works on a horse during a chiropractic session.

tricky, with Mother Nature's challenges and the negative press from people who know nothing about agriculture but feel compelled to have a loud voice. "That's what I appreciate about Farm Bureau; they are a respected voice on the front lines in our state and Washington, D.C., providing factual information about farming and ranching and protecting the rights of farmers and ranchers."

Equine Align takes shape

Equine Align had its early start in the mid-1998. Patten knew a masseuse and a cowboy who joined forces to start helping horses in pain. She was intrigued and planned to become certified.

"Dr. Kamen, who had been a human chiropractor, decided to work solely on horses and dogs. I took his course in Rapid City in 2002 and received a certificate. In 2011 I traveled to Equiassage in Virginia, the first equine massage business ever opened in the country. I returned with three certificates for doing chiropractic work on equines and canines."

Patten travels to Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and North Dakota to work on horses and dogs.

"When my father died, I was in a bad place. Chiropractic was something I always wanted to do. It started as therapy for me, and even now, I can be having a bad day, but all I have to do is get my hands on an animal, and my stress is gone," Patten shared.

"Farm Bureau ties my passion for ranching and working on horses and dogs together because it provides an excellent way to share common ground," Patten said. "I've even recruited Farm Bureau members while I'm working on animals."



Learn about ranching without leaving the classroom

BY LINDSAY OREM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTANA AG IN THE CLASSROOM

As the 2022-2023 school year is nearing, we are working hard at MAITC to plan, organize and recruit. We had many successful projects and resources sent out during the last school year and are using the momentum to map out projects, needed resources and volunteers for the coming school year. The message is clear; Montana wants Ag in the Classroom to be active in their local schools.

As part of a priority to seek out and organize volunteers to assist educators in using agricultural-based literature as a launchpad for engaging instruction, Lindsay Orem presented a creative lesson to workshop attendees at the Montana Farm Bureau Summer Conference in Fairmont. Attendees received a copy of *Can Do Cow Kids* by Amanda Radke. This book is appropriate for K-5 students, and the activity shared would be great for 3rd-5th graders. Also in the bag of resources were lesson plans covering brands, using Bureau of Land Management grazing and cooperative grazing in Montana. The lesson plan covers multiple days of instruction that include the culminating activity MFBF members experienced. Participants paired up, then were given a garbage bag (stock trailer), ten balloons (calves), two pipe cleaners, and a permanent marker (branding irons). Partners were to design a brand, register it with the brand inspector, brand their ten calves, load them in their stock trailer, turn them out on designated cooperative grazing ground, send someone to ride through, gather, report loss, and load stock trailers. Attendees discussed opportunities to show pictures, share tools used, answer questions and share insight. Additionally, they discussed what other activities would be enjoyable for kids to experience and the value of having local producers available to classroom teachers.

Opportunities to work with schools multiply when MAITC provides teachers with resources and lesson plans that tie to

common core and ag literacy standards. During the 2021-2022 school year, we worked to provide over 1,000 ag accurate books to educators. These books had lesson plans and hands-on activities that enabled teachers to expose students to valuable experiences exploring Montana agriculture.

In addition to learning the needs and desires of K-12 agricultural education in schools throughout our great state, Montana Ag in the Classroom will continue with their Montana Ag Book Buddies Program next school year. We will expand the program to more classrooms throughout the state, working in K-1st, 2nd-3rd and 4th-5th grade-level cohorts. Teachers will be provided

with an engaging book, lesson plans and materials to execute hands-on activities each month. To increase the number of classrooms we can reach, we were required to raise the cost to sponsor classrooms to \$225 per classroom for the entire year. This allows us to hire assistance in filling boxes and getting them into teachers' hands in a timely fashion and follow up with teachers, connecting them to local producers willing to come in and help effectively execute lesson plans. Any K-5 classroom in Montana is eligible to participate. We are excited to have individuals throughout the state who have prioritized

finding funding for every classroom in their local schools.

Memberships are always available to support Montana Ag in the Classroom. Interested businesses, ranches and individuals can become a member, ensuring we have the funding needed



Loretta Burnham and Deb Bricker show off their pipe cleaner "brands" as part of the Ag in the Classroom creative lesson on ranching.

for day-to-day costs that increase daily. MATIC desires to continue to grow and support our kids and educators with as few restraints as possible. To do this, we will rely on consistent cheerleaders, volunteers and donations. Still, we need individuals who want to become members eligible to hold a position on our board.

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and reach out to Lindsay, montanaaitc@gmail.com. Let's talk about what you want to see in your community's school and what we can do to make it happen.



ACE members hone listening, responding skills



The ACE Program empowers Farm Bureau members to advocate on key industry issues and be confident, influential leaders in their county Farm Bureau and local communities. The focus of the program is three primary objectives: developing leaders, engaging local communities, and issues advocacy.

Zach Coccoli, Helena, Montana

Zach didn't grow up in traditional agriculture but developed a strong appreciation for agriculture's contribution to rural communities growing up in Choteau, MT. His father worked for the Montana Highway Patrol and his mother kept chickens, pigs, and orphan goats in addition to operating two daycare facilities. During the summer, Zach irrigated for nearby farms and helped cut, rake, and stack hay.

He opted to attend college at Washington State University because although it was a large school, it was located in a rural community. Zach studied political science and pre-law specializing in economics and sustainable development.

"I took one year off after college and studied in the Netherlands," Zach shared. "When I returned, I began working for a lobbying organization in Olympia and while working there, I became especially interested in policy and how you can participate in developing policy. In our case, we generally worked ahead of the news cycle, which was exciting."

That experience brought him back to Big Sky Country to study law at the University of Montana where he became increasingly interested in water, land and oil & gas law. In 2015, he earned a Juris Doctorate from University of Montana School of Law focused on Environmental and Natural Resource Law. Zach then relocated to Helena and served as Judicial Law Clerk to Hon. DeeAnn Cooney in the First Judicial District Court in Helena. Shortly after passing the Montana Bar Exam, he saw an opening at the Montana Department of Agriculture, where he had interned previously. Since 2017, Zach has served as the deputy legal counsel, with interim



Zach Coccoli

roles as Marketing and Development Bureau Chief and State Grain Lab Manager before taking on the role of acting Deputy Director and Agriculture Development Division Administrator. In March 2022, Zach was officially named MDA's Deputy Director of Agriculture. His work with the department continues to inspire his interest in both agriculture and leadership,

“ I applied for the ACE program because in my leadership position I realized the value of direct input from farmers and ranchers. I saw Montana Farm Bureau as a very representative and influential organization. ”

so when he learned about the ACE program, it seemed like an excellent fit.

"I applied for the ACE program because in my leadership position I realized the value of direct input from farmers and ranchers. I saw Montana Farm Bureau as a very representative and influential



Becky Stuart

organization and I studied their policy book," said Zach. "I was a little nervous about being part of ACE because I'm not in production agriculture. However, it's wonderful meeting the other ACE classmates from every corner of the state and I feel I bring a different perspective working for a state governmental agency."

He said that logger-turned-advocacy champion Bruce Vincent, who spoke at their first ACE session in January 2022 set the foundation for the rest of educational sessions.

"He explained that you need to tell your story, but you also need to listen and get to know people," said Zach. "Take time to understand what motivates them, and what factors in to their lives, as well as what common ground you have. That can translate into a productive conversation."

Becky Stuart, Dillon, Montana

Becky Stuart came to agriculture via her passion for horses. Born and raised 30 miles from St. Louis, MO, her family received a "free" horse when she was 11.

"We knew nothing about horses, like that they need regular hoof and veterinary care. We didn't know about grooming tools or how to tack up a horse. My sister learned some of that through Girl Scout camp. By owning that horse, however, my mom, my sister, and my passion grew for

horses, so we met new trainers, and I had the opportunity to ride often. I cleaned many stalls to receive private lessons and started riding hunt seat. By high school, my parents decided we needed more horses and property."

Becky turned her passion into a career where she earned a B.S. in equine administration, followed by an MBA from William Wood University in Fulton, Mo. She moved to Dillon in August 2009, where she held several jobs, one with a professional horsemanship school and worked for large ranches in the area.

"I fell in love with Dillon and agriculture, especially sheep and cattle. That's how I met Harris and Sharon Wheat and ended up marrying their grandson," explained Becky. The Wheats ranch outside of Dillon; Harris is a former MFBF District 2 Director.

As the University of Montana-Western graduation program coordinator, Becky determines whether a student has met the requirements to fulfill their degree. She audits and works with students transferring to UM-Western to decide

what classes and credits transfer. In addition, she plans the commencement ceremonies.

The Dillon resident learned about the ACE program through local rancher and MFBF Young Farmer & Rancher Committee Chair J.M. Peck. "I've been a member of Farm Bureau for nine years, and after J.M. had gone through the ACE program, he had excellent comments about ACE. I saw how ACE transformed his confidence as a leader. I have a passion for learning and doing more, and wanting to be an advocate for agriculture."

Becky admits when she first moved to Montana, she didn't know the difference between a cow and a heifer and wondered what the plastic was for lying in the field. (Only later to discover it was for flood irrigation.)

Her early experience learning about agriculture alerted Becky to the need to educate and be a helping hand to the people who are moving to Montana. For her ACE project, she wants to develop an informative pamphlet realtors can provide

to new residents explaining agriculture in the area, which fosters an understanding that when the agricultural community thrives, so do rural communities.

Bruce Vincent set the stage for the ACE program. "I knew nothing about forestry, but it was interesting to learn more about that industry and the advocacy challenges they faced. He was humble, especially when he told us to learn from his mistakes and do better. Be the ripple.

"The speaker we had during the ACE meeting at Summer Conference, Karen McNenny, had wonderful advice on how to stop the drama and redirect it," Becky said. "She gave us tools we can use to handle a tough situation. I have kept my notes from the ACE classes and review them when I have spare time."

Interested in ACE? It's not too early to think about applying for the 2023 class. Applications will be available September 1, 2022. For more information visit <https://mfbf.org/Programs/ACE-AdvocateCommunicateEducate>.



**COUNTRY
CLIPPER**
ZERO TURN MOWER

**Discounted
Carryover
Units
Available**

- ▶ Patented Stand-Up Deck with the Quick Release System
- ▶ Easy, Point & Go Joystick Steering
- ▶ Traditional Twin Lever Steering
- ▶ Pivoting Front Axle and Deck
- ▶ Heavy-Duty Spindles
- ▶ Welded Steel Deck

**MADE
IN THE
USA**



Revolutionary in Every Aspect

**POWERHOUSE
EQUIPMENT**
FLOWEREE, MT

**Just North of
Great Falls**

Call Today!

406-727-9994

CountryClipper.com

Young Farmers and Ranchers News

BY J.M. PECK, YF&R COMMITTEE CHAIR

On behalf of the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee I would like to thank the MFBF Board of Directors, the MFBF staff and all the attendees for hosting another successful Summer Conference. I would like to congratulate MFBF Executive Vice President John Youngberg on his retirement. I know I speak for the entire YF&R Committee on thanking him for his years of service to MFBF and Montana agriculture. He has served as a mentor and colleague to many on the committee and we wish him the best in his next chapter.

We kicked off the Summer Conference with our annual YF&R Day. The morning was filled with local speakers. Ted Odle with Diamond T Livestock and Superior shared his thoughts on navigating market volatility and gave some marketing tips for young cattle producers. Next, the Big Hole Watershed Committee joined us to talk about restoration and conservation work being done down the road on the Big Hole River. Ben LaPorte and Tana Nulph shared how the key to success was working together with a diverse group and identifying common goals to bring ranchers, fisherman and conservationists together to improve the river resource for all users. We wrapped up the morning learning about livestock insurance programs from John Lockie with USDA.

After lunch in Deer Lodge the group toured the Grant Kohrs Ranch to learn about agriculture's roots in the state and the open range era. The wranglers were fortunate to have a calm group of Young Farmers and Ranchers on board the wagon when the horses spooked crossing a new bridge.

During the committee meeting, our group talked about the Hoofin' it for Hunger race, the YF&R Discussion Meet, the Young Farmer and Rancher Leadership Conference and member engagement.

We want to encourage other young farmers and ranchers to join us on the YF&R Committee, and we engaged two new members during this event," said Peck. "As for the Hoofin' it for Hunger race, although Fort Keogh in Miles City had been an excellent place for the event, there is excitement about the race being held in September in Dillon this year. Our volunteers are already excited about increasing our donations to the Montana Food Bank Network, which is the reason for the race, and a great way for our young farmers and



J.M. Peck, who won the Discussion Meet and the Polaris Ranger in 2021, has put 3500 miles on the hard-working utility vehicle on his ranch in Melrose in less than seven months.

ranchers to give back to communities across the state.

We're thrilled that for the eighth consecutive year, Montana Polaris dealers are donating a Ranger to the winner of the MFBF YF&R Discussion Meet. In addition to the utility vehicle, the winner receives an all-expense-paid trip to the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Puerto Rico in January.

The committee also discussed plans for their Young Farmer and Rancher Leadership Conference in January 2023.

The day was a success and we accomplished our goal of bringing our committee together for networking, continuing education and even some fun.

Hoofin' it for Hunger run slated for September in Dillon

The Montana Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Committee is pleased to announce that their Hoofin' it for Hunger run will be held Saturday, September 17 starting and ending at Depot Park in Dillon. This will be the 12th year for the race which changed its format for two years to a virtual event during the pandemic. Now, the run is back with an in-person competition, a beautiful course through ranch country, and a move to southwestern Montana.

The run features a 10K, starting at 11 a.m. and a 5K. If you can't get over to Dillon, or just prefer to sit on your couch, sign up to be a virtual runner. As a virtual runner you'll still "get the t-shirt" while supporting the event and raising money for the Montana Food Bank Network.

Hoofin' it for Hunger was launched during the Montana Farm Bureau Convention in Missoula in 2011 as part of the national Young Farmer and Rancher Program called Harvest for All. The run has created awareness for hunger relief in Montana, and has raised nearly \$70,000 since 2011. That amount has provided more than 350,000 meals to those in need.

Registration fees are \$40 (10K) and \$30 (5K and virtual). The awards ceremony will take place at Depot Park following the conclusion of the races.

Register at www.runsignup.com. Be sure to check out the Hoofin' it for Hunger page on Facebook. Questions? Contact Sue Ann Streufert, 406-587-3153, sueanns@mfbf.org.



Learning about draft horses and driving during the tour of the Grant Kohrs Ranch.



Partners again in 2022!

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR 2022
PARTICIPATING POLARIS DEALERS!**

*Stop by these local dealers and
check out their line up...and tell them
you're a Farm Bureau member!*

Beaverhead Motorsports - Dillon

Bliss Cycle - Conrad

Gallatin Recreation - Bozeman

Helena Cycle Center - Helena

Kurt's Polaris - Seeley Lake

Lewistown Honda & Polaris - Lewistown

Redline Sports, Inc - Butte

Riverside Marine and Cycle - Miles City

Russell Motorsports - Missoula

Sports City Cyclery - Great Falls

Yellowstone Polaris - Billings

*Calling all
YF&R members!*

**Want to learn more
about how to win one
of these?**



COMPETE & WIN!

The winner of the 2022 Young Farmer & Rancher Discussion Meet will be taking home a new Polaris Ranger 500!

For more details go to www.mfbf.org
or contact Sue Ann Streufert at
sueanns@mfbf.org or (406) 587-3153.

COUNTY NEWS

May Membership Month served as a salute to Farm Bureau members as well as a time for member recruitment. It was the perfect time to get the word out regarding why members are Farm Bureau Proud and was the time for County Farm Bureaus to ignite their competitive spirit. The county who recruited the most members would enjoy a personal barbeque hosted by the MFBF staff who would travel to the home county to celebrate of their recruitment efforts. Congratulations to **Yellowstone County** which captured first place. **Southwest Counties** took second place and **Powder River/Carter County** came in third. Thank you to all of the counties that participated in Membership Month and helped grow Farm Bureau membership.

Custer/Fallon County (right) held a summer meeting June 1 at Riverside Park in Miles City which included a food truck, candidate "meet and greet" and a business meeting.



Make plans to attend the **Rosebud-Treasure** Golf Tournament and membership event in Forsyth August 27.

Yellowstone County presented scholarships to five students; two currently in college and three high school seniors. Collegiate winners (\$500 each): Loran Murphy, Ballantine, MT, attending the University of Montana Western, studying Elementary Education; Ann Killen, Huntley, MT, attending the University of Montana studying Pharmacy. High school winners (\$500 each): Raegan Nansel, Billings, MT, Civil Engineering and minor in Ag Business; Hollis Baker, Billings, MT, University of Montana, Pre-Med; Dalton Duncan, Hardin, MT, Montana State University-Northern, Welding.

Phillips County held an informative water rights workshop featuring guest speakers Krista Lee Evans and Holly Franz June 8 at The Armory in Malta. Evans and Franz provided an overview of Montana water law and then discussed the facts surrounding the current debate of federally held water rights.



Chouteau County had a float in their community parade June 25 in Fort Benton and they served pancakes, sausage and other breakfast items to more than 200 people.

Wheatland/Golden Valley County presented a scholarship of \$2000 to Laura Power, Harlowton High. \$1000 came from the county Farm Bureau with the other from their local MWFBMIC insurance agent Allison Jones.

Richland County kicked off the first official day of summer by hosting their annual summer picnic June 21 at Veteran's Memorial Park in Sidney. During the event they presented a \$1000 scholarship check to each scholarship recipient.



Richland County President Canyon Rehbein presents a scholarship check to Lacie Selting.



Richland County Secretary Kyra Hagberg and President Canyon Rehbein presents a scholarship check to Brett Mullin.

Montana Farm Bureau Federation-Women's Leadership Committee

BY CARLA LAWRENCE, MONTANA WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) program strives to change the perception about agriculture, family farms and ranches, and the role of women in agriculture. We are changing those perceptions through direct contact, educational programming, and leadership development, speaking out for our industry, and recognizing the unlimited possibilities for women in agriculture.

The WLC welcomes women from across the state (two district representatives from each of the ten districts) and all interested women to discuss issues, share information and ideas that affect agriculture in Montana and across the nation, and plan for and work on activities and to advocate for agriculture. This is accomplished through many activities such as awarding scholarships, reading Ag Accurate Books to grade school children and assisting with the Ag in Color drawing contest by serving as judges. The WLC supports the Ronald McDonald Houses (RMH) in Billings and Missoula by preparing meals for families and providing meat and other needed items directly to the RMH. The WLC advocates for agriculture in Helena during Calling on the Capitol, held every other year when the legislature is in session and Washington, D.C., during the American Farm Bureau (AFB)-Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) during the Fly-In, also held bi-annually.

The AFB-WLC recently held an Advocate, Cultivate and Empower (ACE) Summit Fly-In June 5-9, 2022, in Washington D.C. Heidi Brewer, District 10 representative from Bozeman, and I were able to attend the event, which welcomed more than 100 women from across the nation.

The program started with a welcome reception the first evening and a full schedule of events on the second day with

an opening general session, breakout sessions, and regional meet-ups. Montana is part of the Western Region, and the two representatives on the AFB-WLC for this region are Dot Jensen, UT, and Shawn Wood, AZ.

The summit's last day included a message from the AFB-WLC Chair, Isabella Chism, and a panel of three women who serve on the House Ag Committee (Rep. Cheri Bustos, IL, Rep. Angie Craig, MN and Rep. Cindy Axne, IA). The representatives shared their pathway to the U.S. House and provided insight into how the House Ag Committee makes decisions on behalf of farmers and ranchers nationwide.

AFB's Policy Director Cody Lyons provided advocacy training before each state visited Capitol Hill. We were fortunate to have MFBF Senior Director of Governmental Affairs Nicole Rolf in D.C., along with three other members who were in town for the MFBF Fly-in: Sky Anderson, Monica Switzer and Scott Stoner. Nicole had scheduled meetings for her group, and we joined them for visits to the offices of U.S. Representative Matt Rosendale, Senator Steve Daines and Senator Jon Tester. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet our Montana delegation and staff and visit about important issues that impact the farmers and ranchers in Montana and across the nation.

Scholarships Awarded

The MFB Women's Leadership Committee awarded two \$1500 scholarships; one to Asa Gray Jassen of Belt and one to Colton Noyes of Toston. Jassen plans to attend Gonzaga University, majoring in biology/pre-med. Noyes will attend Montana State University, Bozeman, majoring in crop science. Congratulations!

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Photo Contest

"Agriculture under the Big Sky"

Photos will be posted on the MFBF Facebook page and the top three photos with the most votes receive cash awards!

- Entrants must be a current MFBF member
- Open to amateur photographers only
- Photos must be taken by entrant
- No limit on entries!

Photos become property of MFBF to be used for publicity purposes.

**\$150 to
1st place!**



Email photos to Mary Hill, contest coordinator:
barjrgelbvieh@3rivers.net
with subject line "2022 WLC Photo Contest"

Blue Man — By John Moore

REVIEWED BY CASEY MOTT, MFBF DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR

You've undoubtedly heard of John Moore if you ranch in eastern Montana. He has researched history of the area around Miles City extensively and is always willing to share his knowledge. His popular Ezra Riley series captures ranching life with a unique slant. Ezra is an older eastern Montana rancher who loves the ranch and his land and has good Montana rancher values. He also has the psychic ability to interpret dreams.

“The Blue Man is hard to put down. Moore is a solid writer who keeps your attention.”

In *The Blue Man*, a political thriller, this ability results in Ezra traveling to Washington, D.C., to interpret a series of nightmares that the current U.S. president is having. Having done this, he returns to his ranch for the late fall work of gathering strays and everything else eastern Montana ranchers do this time of year; but now he's entangled in political intrigue that threatens his life. Yep, there's even a possessed cow!

With Ezra Riley, Moore has developed a genuinely relatable character to people

who farm and ranch, but he's more than one-dimensional. With his belief in God (Moore is a Christian writer and those feelings come out), Ezra at first appears as a rancher, but he is much more. He has an interesting back story that Moore explains in the book.

Having read modern-day westerns and political thrillers, I wondered if the two could mesh in this novel, but they do. Moore writes in knowledgeable detail about ranch life; however, the scenes about “subterranean” halls of power, though well-written, don't have the same level of detail.

The Blue Man is hard to put down. Moore is a solid writer who keeps your attention. He has a lot of modern cultural references.

Even if you've never read any of the books in the Ezra Riley series, you would not feel adrift reading *The Blue Man*. Since



Moore is a rancher, he explains ranch life with passion and credibility. Readers who live in eastern Montana will instantly recognize his area references. The non-Montana folks who read the book will undoubtedly stay riveted to the political intrigue, along with learning why the land and lifestyle are so important to those who live it every day.



Stockman Bank opened its doors nearly 70 years ago with a vision to help the people, businesses and communities of Montana realize their dreams. Today, we continue to fulfill this promise with products and services uniquely designed for Montanans and a local banking experience built on relationships, integrity, expertise and results.

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE

Montana's Brand of Banking

**WORLD'S
BEST BANKS**

**Forbes
2022**

POWERED BY STATISTA

Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender



Looking to grow? Let's get started.

Every new producer has to start somewhere. And it's far from easy. We help give young, beginning and small farmers and ranchers a leg up with special financing options, educational opportunities, and hands-on, strategic advice to help you get started.

So if you're ready to start cultivating your dream, give us a call. We'd be happy to help.

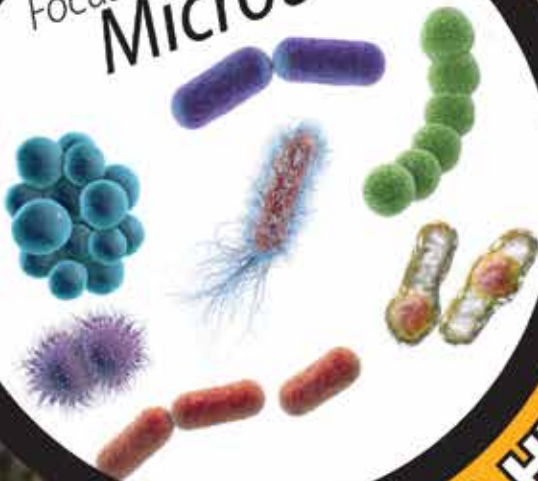
800.743.2125 | northwestfcs.com

Here to Help You Grow®

Agri Best
Feeds.com
866.601.6646

**MAXIMIZE
GENETIC POTENTIAL**

Focus on the
Microbes



SOIL HEALTH

**REDMOND'S
ONE-TWO PUNCH**

Sea Minerals + Volcanic Ash

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT YOUR AGRI-BEST FEEDS TEAM



Dwain Hould
406-321-4517



Todd Daniels
406-426-8090



Ty Jones
406-951-4221



Joe Best
406-694-4178



ALL NATURAL

