



# MONTANA FARM BUREAU News Brief

*We Care for the Country*

November 2021

## TOP STORIES



Young farmers and ranchers engage in a fun and educational game of ag trivia during the Montana Farm Bureau YF&R Conference in October in Bozeman.

### ***YF&R Conference offers networking, education***

The MFBF YF&R Committee hosted an exceptional conference Oct. 15-17 at the GranTree Inn in Bozeman. Speakers covered a variety of topics that included hedging, carbon markets and sustainability.

Changes in production agriculture during COVID was the topic of the keynote speakers. Matt Niswander talked about taking the time to understand other people's perspectives and how now more than ever it's worth realizing where people are coming from and find common ground.

Amanda Radke, South Dakota cattle rancher and BEEF Daily blogger, challenged young farmers to change their outlook in the face of great uncertainties, to look for new business opportunities where it appears none exist, and to pivot in creative and innovative directions in order to add value to their operations

while serving as a high-quality supplier of safe, affordable, nutrient-dense food for consumers here and abroad.

MSU Collegiate Farm Bureau President Tyler Noyes won the Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet.

Tours included MT Gluten Free, Storey Hereford Ranch, MSU Plant Growth Center/BART Farm/Post Farm and Dry Hills Distillery.

The conference concluded with a keynote from Attorney General Austin Knudsen.

YF&R Committee Chair J.M. Peck noted, "It was a great weekend. We had an amazing crowd from across the state, and our speakers and workshops were very educational. I came away from the conference with new knowledge and revived optimism about agriculture and the future for young leaders across our state."

### **Hoofin' it for Hunger**

Despite not having an in-person Hoofin' it for Hunger Race this October, the MFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee still held a virtual race with participant t-shirts and awards. Some of the 48 participants ran the half marathon, 10K and 5K posting a photo of themselves on the YF&R Facebook page. Others opted to run on the treadmill due to inclement weather in parts of the state while others opted to simply hang out on the couch.

Whether a runner or lounging, proceeds from the race, including generous sponsorships from businesses and county Farm Bureaus, will be presented to the Montana Food Bank Network during the MFBF Convention November 8-11 in Billings.

### **Campaign Training**

Planning to run for office? Curious about what it takes to manage a campaign? Mark February 10-11 on your calendar for the Montana Farm Bureau Campaign Training at the Delta Colonial Inn in Helena. Look for details in the *2021 December News Brief*.

### **News Brief Plus**

Want more information regarding articles in this *News Brief*? Check out the *News Brief Plus* which can be found online. Full stories and press releases will be posted along with information gleaned from additional sources. The *September 2021 News Brief Plus* contains:

- AFBF Convention
  - Noxious Weed Grants
  - New proposals roll back progress.
- Visit [mfbf.org/News/News-Brief](https://mfbf.org/News/News-Brief).

## NOTICE

*Annual Policyholders' Meeting  
December 2, 2021 – 8:00 a.m.  
Mountain West Farm Bureau  
Mutual Insurance Company  
Farm Bureau Center  
931 Boulder Drive  
Laramie, Wyoming 82070*

## Interim Committee Update

The past month has been a busy one for the state. While many interim committees are meeting and regularly scheduled state board meetings are held, the new addition to the MFBF calendar is the ARPA Commission meetings.

ARPA, or the American Rescue Plan Act, was passed by the U.S. Congress during the 2021 Legislative Session and the Montana Legislature busily developed a plan, wanting to get this money back in the hands of Montanans. The Water and Sewer Commission has approved \$10 million to be focused on irrigation. Applications for this are due on January 14, 2022.

The Board of Livestock has put plans in motion for their Red Tape Initiative work, allowing for stakeholder input and discussion at meetings. The board is working through the regulations that fall under the Department and are evaluating the need and purpose of those regulations. MFBF stays actively engaged in these discussions.

The Water Policy Interim Committee, Environmental Quality Council, and the Economic Affairs Committee are the interim committees that MFBF focuses on because of their direct tie to agriculture.

## Foundation mini-grants

Hosting an activity that promotes agriculture or educates consumers about farming and ranching? Check out the MFB Foundation Mini-Grants.

The grants have been used for fall festivals, science fairs and more. Visit [mfbf.org/foundation](https://mfbf.org/foundation) for an application.

## Welcome new members

*Montana Farm Bureau gives a hearty welcome to new members who realize the importance of belonging to the state's largest ag organization.*

Big Horn County – Tristan Henke; Carbon/Stillwater County – George Duke • Gary and Jolynn Ellis • Tim Kirk and Jone Shilliday • Andy Simpson • Robert and Constance Thomas; Cascade County – James and Courtney Feldman; Chouteau County – Zachary and Margaret Helberg; Custer/Fallon County – Fritz Zook; Dawson/Wibaux County – Lowell and Lynn Stevenson; Fergus County – Sue Duffy • Keith and Rungsima Glass • Dorothy Lenz; Front Range Counties – Sheridan Johnson; Gallatin County – Kyra Armstrong • Ben Deuling and Rebecca Finch • Gary and Bev Flikkema • Douglas Harcksen • Heidi Ruble • Kevin and Jessica Thomas; Judith Basin County – Pamela and Frank Fiedler; Lewis & Clark County – Justin and Christina Walsh; McCone County – Alexis Cane; Meagher County – Rawhide Meats • Sam Berg • Eric and Patty Campbell • Justine Hurley and Derek Johnston; Musselshell County – Brian and Teresa Walker; Northwest Counties – Michaela Blevins • Houston Blevins • Charles and Breanne Headley • Timothy and Tracy Howard • Don and Jaspen Webster; Park County – Heather Malcolm; Powder River/Carter County – Courtney and Crystal Higgins • Lester and Renetta Phillippi; Ravalli County – Shannon and Michael Doleac • William and Nicola Laverack • Brian McGuire • Mark Miller • Kathy Zadlock; Richland County – Tyke and Patty Colbert • Marianne Gartner; Roosevelt County – Gary and Traci Sadler • Carolyn and Blaine Smith; Rosebud/Treasure County – J. Allen Baue • Justin and Tiffany Ferguson; Southwest Counties – John and Patricia Lesnik • Kyle and Jayme Tash; Sweet Grass County – Charles and Debi Hammond; Valley County – Mike and Teresa Jones • Shane and Kassidi Knuchel; Wheatland/Golden Valley County – Geoff Heiken; Yellowstone County – Kayla Koivu.



## ACE application time

The Montana Farm Bureau is now accepting applications for its 2022 ACE (Advocate. Communicate. Educate.) program. 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 includes three primary objectives: developing leaders, engaging local communities, and issues advocacy.

Each ACE participant must develop a project, which is presented in detail during the MFBF Annual Convention in November.

Applications are due by Dec. 1. Visit <https://mfbf.org/programs/Montana-Farm-Bureau-ACE-Program>.

Questions? Contact Liv Holt at [livh@mfbf.org](mailto:livh@mfbf.org), 406-581-3996 or Sue Ann Streufert at [sueanns@mfbf.org](mailto:sueanns@mfbf.org), 406-587-3153.

## Calendar

**MFBF Annual Convention**  
November 8-11—Billings

**AFBF Annual Convention**  
January 7-12, 2022—Atlanta, GA

## People

MFBF Executive Vice President **John Youngberg** was on a panel discussion regarding the Right to Repair.

MFBF Vice President **Cyndi Johnson** visited with Ed O'Brien, MT Public Radio, regarding markets and drought.

MFBF State Affairs Director **Nicole Rolf** was interviewed by the Bozeman Chronicle about rewriting WOTUS. She was named "Tow Rope Tour Hero" by Northern Ag Network and was interviewed about MFBF.

YF&R Chair **J.M. Peck** interviewed with the Bozeman Chronicle about the YF&R Conference in Bozeman.

Western Regional Manager **Alena Standley** spoke with **Randy Bogden**, KMON, about the MFBF Convention.

Former District 7 Director **Tom DePuydt** was on Montana Talks visiting about freedoms and Farm Bureau.



## Inflation and the supply chain

Worried about upcoming inflation? It's usually caused when too much money is put into circulation by a central bank to pay for government debt or to stimulate economic activity. Today we face a different sort of inflation (September's consumer price index was up 5.4% from last year), with specific disruptions cascading throughout the economy, leading to general shortages and price increases.

To learn more visit [www.fb.org/market-intel/inflation-and-the-supply-chain](http://www.fb.org/market-intel/inflation-and-the-supply-chain).

## MD Live Discount

Weather, health issues and time can present challenges from meeting with your doctor. MFBF members can receive medical help easily with MDLive. Talk to a doctor, anywhere, anytime, straight from your phone. Members receive access for only \$50 a year or \$4.95 a month, and NO COPAY required. Talk to a board-certified doctor 24/7 via phone or video. Visit [mdlivebrokers.com/mfbf](http://mdlivebrokers.com/mfbf) or call (801) 288-1400.

Discover additional MFBF benefits at [mfbf.org/benefits](http://mfbf.org/benefits).

## Food and Farm Facts

Fascinating facts about food in America are at your fingertips in a new resource produced by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. The 32-page, full-color Food and Farm Facts features updated facts and easy-to-read infographics about U.S. agriculture that can be used in a variety of ways to help increase agricultural literacy. Order the new Food and Farm Facts book, map, pocket guide and related products in the series at [fb.org/store](http://fb.org/store).

## Farm bill and more

Last month, MFBF Senior Governmental Affairs Director Nicole Rolf traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the AFBF's Farm Bill Working Group discussion. The group visited about what their members would like to see and started strategizing for successful passage of the legislation. In addition, Rolf visited with staff of all three of Montana's Congressional delegation, had the opportunity to speak directly with Senator Steve Daines (R-MT), and greeted Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) between meetings. During her visits, Rolf explained the need for preserving the stepped-up in basis, and other important tax provisions related to estate and corporate taxes. She also shared impacts of the state's severe and widespread drought and concerns with programs designed to provide relief.



## Register for the AFBF Convention

The American Farm Bureau Federation has announced the opening of general registration for the 2022 American Farm Bureau Convention. The convention will be held in-person Jan. 7-12, 2022, in Atlanta, Georgia, with a virtual option for portions of the event available to those not attending in-person.

"People, Purpose, Possibilities – Growing Tomorrow, Together" is the theme of AFBF's 103rd consecutive convention, a "can't miss" event that offers the inside scoop on policies and perspectives that will affect farms, ranches and agribusinesses in 2022 and beyond.

"This is your chance to look beyond the horizon at the future of agriculture, sharpen your skills and help set the agenda in Washington," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "I look forward to seeing you in January in my home state of Georgia as we begin another year of growing together."

Attendees may participate in educational workshops to advance their leadership skills, expand business acumen and gain insight into the policies and trends impacting food production. The convention also offers the opportunity to learn about cutting-edge innovations in agriculture, hear from powerful speakers and explore a dynamic trade show with exhibitors.

For schedules, speakers and workshops visit [fb.org](http://fb.org). To register, contact Alena Standley, [alenas@mfbf.org](mailto:alenas@mfbf.org), before December 1.

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**Check it out.**

## COUNTY NEWS

### Fall meetings underway at county Farm Bureaus

Following the hectic county annual meeting season, counties have scheduled meetings to review and discuss the proposed resolutions. **Fergus County** held a board meeting October 11. **Sweet Grass, Yellowstone, Fergus, Big Horn, Carbon/Stillwater, Southwest, Cascade, Richland and Lewis & Clark Counties** held meetings to discuss the delegate packets for the resolution session prior to the MFBB Convention. **Custer/Fallon County** held a Program of Work planning board meeting November 4 and **Broadwater County** met to finalize updating their by-laws.



L to R: Gretchen Schubert, Carla Lawrence and Jim Schubert judging at the NILE.

**Carbon/Stillwater and Yellowstone Counties** had volunteers at the NILE Stockshow and Rodeo in Billings. Carla Lawrence and Jim and Gretchen Schubert helped judge the FFA Sales & Service Career and Leadership Development events at the NILE. These events provide FFA members with competitive hands-on learning opportunities.

**Sweet Grass County** is hosting a workshop Nov. 5 at the county fairgrounds with Allan Crockett of People, Profit, Progress. Crockett will talk about finding common ground while being sustainable and profitable.



NW Montana Fair Herdsmanship buckle recipients, sponsored by NW County.



MFBB is continuing to host the Ag in Color Drawing Contest for students in kindergarten through 6th grade with a difference this year; county Farm Bureaus are more involved. Teachers who participate in this contest will submit the drawings from their classroom to county Farm Bureau leaders as the direct local representative of Farm Bureau.

Drawings are due to the county Farm Bureau by December 1 with county judging completed by Dec. 20. The winning entries will be submitted to the MFBB office. The Women's Leadership State Committee will select the state winners and announce the results in February 2022.

For more information contact your regional manager or Rikki Swant, [rikkis@mfbf.org](mailto:rikkis@mfbf.org).



**October 25, 2021**

## **New Proposal Threaten to Roll Back Environmental Progress**

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented today on the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposal to reverse two critical habitat regulations finalized last December.

“America’s farmers and ranchers care for the natural resources they’ve been entrusted with and support common-sense reforms to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) implementation. We were pleased to see reforms to these regulations during the past few years.

“AFBF is now equally disappointed that in the space of three weeks, the Biden administration has proposed three different changes to these regulations, signaling a return to complicated and burdensome rules that do little to advance conservation goals. Farmers and ranchers are facing continued challenges from the pandemic, supply chain issues, labor shortages, drought in the West and significant cost increases in operating their farms. Adding uncertainty to environmental regulations creates another obstacle for farmers as they work to keep America’s pantries stocked.

“AFBF and state Farm Bureaus will remain engaged on ESA issues, and we encourage farmers and ranchers to share their stories during the proposed rule change comment period to let the administration know we should continue moving forward toward conservation goals, not backward.”



## Registration Open for American Farm Bureau Convention

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Attendees may participate in educational workshops to advance their leadership skills, expand business acumen and gain insight into the policies and trends impacting food production. The convention also offers the opportunity to learn about cutting-edge innovations in agriculture, hear from powerful speakers and explore a dynamic trade show with exhibitors showcasing the latest in agricultural technology, tools and services.

Workshop topics range from the 2023 farm bill, market outlooks, climate policy and trade to ag education resources, effective advocacy and mental health.

View the high-level agenda [here](#) . The official event hashtag is #AFBF22; the event website is <https://annualconvention.fb.org/>

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Date: 9/30/2021

## **Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant Program is Now Accepting Applications**

**CONTACT:**

[Greta Dige](#), Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant Coordinator, (406) 444-7882  
[Jasmine Reimer](#), State Weed Coordinator, (406) 444-3140

### **Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant Applications Due January 6, 2022**

**Helena, Mont.** – The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) announces noxious weed grant funding is now available through the 2022 Noxious Trust Fund (NWTF) Grant Program.

Established by the 1985 Montana Legislature, the NWTF grants provide funding for noxious weed research projects, development projects, state and community education, and local cooperative - landowner cost share. Funding assistance is provided to counties, local communities, researchers, and educators to assist with their efforts to solve a variety of weed problems in Montana.

In 2021, over \$2 million was awarded to organizations in 54 counties and seven tribal nations across Montana.

Applicants may apply for funding up to \$75,000 per project through [WebGrants - Montana Grants and Loans](#). The deadline to apply is January 6, 2022.

To learn more about these opportunities, visit the [Noxious Weed Trust Fund website](#) or contact Greta Dige, NWTF Program Coordinator, at 444-7882 or [greta.dige@mt.gov](mailto:greta.dige@mt.gov).

The Montana Department of Agriculture is serving Montana Agriculture and growing prosperity under the Big Sky. For more information on department programs and services, visit [agr.mt.gov](http://agr.mt.gov).

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