MONTANA FARM BUREAU News Brief

TOP STORIES



We Care for the Country

Montana Farm Bureau leaders present the Friend of Farm Bureau Award to Senator Steve Daines. (Left to Right): President Hans McPherson, Senator Steve Daines, Executive VP John Youngberg and VP Cyndi Johnson.

Friend of Farm Bureau Award

All three members of the Montana Congressional delegation have received the Friend of Farm Bureau Award including Senator Jon Tester, Senator Steve Daines and Congressman Greg Gianforte.

"We are fortunate to have elected officials who understand the concerns of Montana's farmers and ranchers regardless of political party," said MFBF President Hans McPherson.

The American Farm Bureau Federation's Friend of Farm Bureau is given each Congress to individuals who have: supported Farm Bureau policy as shown by their voting records; were nominated by their respective state Farm Bureau; and were approved by the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors. The voting records of the 116th Congress are based on priority issues selected by the AFBF board. "It's an honor to receive this award from Farm Bureau and I will always fight for our Montana farmers and ranchers to ensure they have the best opportunities possible to provide high-quality Montana ag products to our nation and the world," Daines said.

MFBF President Hans McPherson noted, "We are especially glad Senator Daines is receiving this non-partisan award as he always makes time for Montana farmers and ranchers when they visit Washington, D.C. Senator Daines is a true friend of the farmer and rancher."

MFBF's Director of National Affairs Nicole Rolf, who has worked extensively with Senator Daines and his staff, added, "Senator Daines is a real leader in Congress on issues of importance to our farmer and rancher members."

For more information on the "Friend of Farm Bureau" award visit <u>www.mfbf.org/news</u>.

Convention changes

November 2020

Due to directives of the Yellowstone County Health Department, the MFBF Convention, even in its reduced state, has been cancelled. However, to continue the good work of our grassroots organization while still implementing COVID-19 safety measures, there will be meetings in each district Tuesday, November 10 that all voting and alternate delegates have been invited to attend. The groups will be small enough to comply with COVID-19 restrictions and will meet via a Zoom call, hold elections and conduct the delegate session. Refunds will be issued to those members who have already registered for the convention.

"We want to keep everyone safe while maintaining the integrity of our delegates session," said MFBF President Hans McPherson.

Keep current on the latest information on the Montana Farm Bureau Facebook page or call the office, 406-587-3153.

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 when applicable, along with other information gleaned from other sources.

The November NB Plus contains:

- Boots on the Hill, Q3 Legislative updates/interim committee reports.
- MSU Dan Scott Range Newsletter.
- October Well Owners Tip Sheet.
- Special deals from Polaris continue for farmers and ranchers.
- Gray wolf delisted release.
- Visit <u>mfbf.org/News/News-Brief</u>.

STATE NEWS

NOTICE Annual Policyholders' Meeting December 3, 2020 – 8:00 a.m. Hilton Garden Inn 2229 Grand Ave Laramie, Wyoming 82070

Weather modification

Southwest Counties Farm Bureau member and weather modification expert Jim Hagenbarth held a webinar on weather modification for MFBF members Oct. 22. In his presentation, he talked about cloud seeding, a safe, scientific, time-tested and proven set of technologies used to enhance rain and snow, reduce hail damage and alleviate fog.

"Cloud seeding benefits are measured in additional water for all uses, and reduction of damage from severe weather," he explained. "It is used in both cold and warm season applications."

He included different methods—by air and using generators—and explained how each works, using Idaho as an example of its success. He also talked about private/public funding, facts about safety regarding cloud seeding and the benefits to Montana.

USFWS Rountable

Front Range County Farm Bureau member Karli Johnson had the opportunity to participate in a roundtable discussion with Aurelia Skipwith, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The roundtable consisted of livestock organizations, Pondera and Teton county officials and conservation associations who discussed Grizzly bear depredation of cattle and elk in the state.

"I talked about how we regularly have bears near our home and the concerning part is that we live a half a mile from the elementary school in Choteau," said Johnson. "The reality is that Grizzly bear issues aren't just livestock producer issues, they are community safety issues."

Johnson noted that Skipwith was very receptive to the group's comments. For the full story visit <u>www.mfbf.org/news</u>.

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.

Broadwater - Andrew and Kindle Van Dyken; Carbon/Stillwater - Clint and Janna Branger, Edith Viig and Eldon Robinette; Cascade - Dustin Clark, Robert and Connie Coil, Ron and Lou Lords, Kelly and Tracy Mikes, Gregory and Amelia Nichols, Arthur and Jean Scoats, Dennis Skinner, Gayla Wortman; Chouteau - Andrew and Grace Long, Shaud and Melanie Schwarzbach; Custer-Fallon - John Beardsley, Daniel Doran, Kyle and Gail Shaw; Dawson-Wibaux - Michelle Chalet and James Newell, Robert Petermann, Liam and Delayne Robbins; Fergus - Lee West, Loren and Jill Wright; Front Range - Carl Flesch, Connor Hodgkiss, Michael and Stacy Woodhouse; Gallatin - Connor Crookham, Chuck Feddes, Ted Harris and Emma Keefe, Chelsey McDonnell, Jack and Jami Meyer, Justina Pape Sheppard; Hill/Liberty/Blaine - Justin and Becki Miller, Kyle and Donna Rudolph; Judith Basin - Stephen and Amalie Dell, David Ferdinand, Gregory and Karen Grove, Clayton Kaiser, Travis Poser; Lewis & Clark -Shannon Boswell, Ken and Catherine McNeil; McCone - Kyle and Brianna Vine, Kurt and Ronda Voss; Mussellshell - Brad and Tara Kinsey; Northwest - Clayton Christian, Robert Flansaas, Mark Johnston, Mark Koemans, Jeremy and Janell Plummer, Wade and Shelli Riedesel, Colton and Jesse Stephens, Susan Stuart and Cal Caldarella, Wayne and Terina Williams; Park - Jennifer Grossenbacher; Prairie - Tina Rutledge, Tyler Sackman; Ravalli - Beau McClean and Christopher Green; Richland - Kaci Jo Brodhead; Rosebud-Treasure - Raelynn Keefer; Southwest - Craig Grayer, Danny and Lukrisha Mattison, Rodney Mills; Sweet Grass - Kim Chavez; Valley - Steve and Peggy Hansen, Jeff and Dawn Pattison; Wheatland/ Golden Valley - Bonnie and Kelly Ramage; Yellowstone - Gary Adams, Todd Fornstrom.



Gallatin County Farm Bureau member Tim Feddes' pup is in the running for Farm Dog of the Year.

Peoples' Choice Pup

Tim Feddes' dog, Mike, is one of 10 working dogs that have been selected as final contestants for the American Farm Bureau Farm Dog of the Year. Montana Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Commitee District Chair Beth Blevins served as Farm Dog of the Year Judge.

Members of the public are invited to vote via Faceboook for their favorite dog as People's Choice Pup, part of the overall competition.

The Peoples' Choice Pup will win bragging rights and Purina products including one year's worth of dry dog food. The winner, along with the Farm Dog of the Year and runners-up, will be announced in January at AFBF's Convention.

To vote for Mike, go to the American Farm Bureau's Facebook page and vote by liking Mike's picture on the Peoples' Choice Pup post. Support your local Farm Dog!

Calendar

MFBF Delegate Session November 10 Statewide

People

Susan Lake served on a women's roundtable discussion spearheaded by Sen. Steve Daines regarding Supreme Court Justice **Amy Coney Barrett**.

MFBF President Hans McPherson served on a roundtable with USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs Under Secretary Greg Ibach to discuss brucellosis.

"It was great to see USDA pushing forward to find a solution to brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Ranchers under DSA rules carry an extra burden because of the park wildlife. Hopefully we can find a solution."

MFBF National Affairs Director Nicole Rolf participated in a panel on agricultural issues during Dawson Community College's First Annual Autumn Ag Day.

MFBF 's Alena Standley visited with The Prairie Star and KMON regarding changes in the MFBF Convention/delegate session.

Craig and Conni French of Malta received the prestigious Leopold Conservation Award.

NATIONAL NEWS

Cattle on feed up from '19

USDA's latest Cattle on Feed report, released October 23, shows the number of animals on feed as of October 1 is higher than it was this time last year. The report provides monthly estimates of the number of cattle being fed for slaughter. For the report, USDA surveys feedlots of 1,000 head or more, as this represents 85% of all fed cattle. Cattle feeders provide data on inventory, placements, marketings and other disappearance.

Check out <u>https://www.fb.org/market-intel</u>.

FB Cattle Market Working Group report

A new report by the American Farm Bureau Federation provides an in-depth examination of the causes and price implications resulting from extreme market volatility in the cattle industry. It also sets the stage to explore policy solutions.

The Cattle Market Working Group, comprised of 10 state Farm Bureau presidents and state national affairs staff spent more than two months investigating factors that led to market disruptions following the Holcomb packing plant fire and the COVID-19 pandemic. They invited input and consultation from government and university experts, among others. MFBF President Hans McPherson and National Affairs Director Nicole Rolf were part of the group.

The report is designed to equip state and county Farm Bureau organizations with deep insight and policy considerations as Farm Bureau leaders debate policy recommendations for 2021.

Key topics included mandatory negotiated trade, risk management and education, small capacity meat packing and strengthening the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyard Administration (GIPSA).

Read the report at <u>fb.org/</u><u>newsroom/new-report-ex-</u><u>amines-cattle-market-issues-</u><u>solutions</u>.

Special deal from Ford

New Q4 Promotion for the Ford Farm Bureau Program is now available on the FordFarmBureauAdvantage.com.

Farm Bureau Members receive \$1,000 Bonus Cash on purchase of most eligible Ford and Lincoln vehicles.

F-150 and Super Duty will remain at \$500 Bonus Cash. This is available for a LIMITED TIME October 1, 2020 -January 4, 2021.

Please view the limited disclaimer at <u>mfbf.org/benefits</u>.

At Home Learning Page

AFB Foundation has developed an At Home Learning Page offering weekly ideas for learning about agriculture. These activities are all free to access and share. The activities do not build on each other, but are individual and can be done in any order. They offer activities for all ages, complete with seasonal projects with card games, books to read, ag products to research such as sugar beets during harvest time, and much more. Visit <u>https://www.agfoundation.org/</u> <u>at-home-learning</u>.



American Farm Bureau Convention goes virtual

The American Farm Bureau Federation announced today that its 102nd Annual Convention will be held online following the cancelation of all events through Jan. 31, 2021, at the San Diego Convention Center where the convention was scheduled to take place.

"Our top priority at every Farm Bureau gathering is the safety of our attendees and staff," AFBF President Zippy Duvall said. "While we are saddened to not meet in person for this convention, we are eager to bring this event safely to farm and ranch homes across the country and excited to offer the same top-level content our members have come to expect from our in-person events."

The 2021 American Farm Bureau Virtual Convention, to be held Jan. 10-13, 2021, will bring together farmers, ranchers and industry experts to discuss the top issues facing agriculture, including the impact of COVID-19, sustainability and the future of the supply chain, and will feature keynote speakers who inspire and motivate grassroots action.

"Our convention theme this year is 'Stronger Together," Duvall said. "I can think of nothing more fitting to spotlight how the agricultural community has come together keep growing the products our nation depends on while supporting our friends and neighbors throughout this public health crisis."

Registration for the 2021 American Farm Bureau Virtual Convention will open later this year and will be free to all attendees. Further details on the event can be found at <u>fb.org/events</u>.

Martine Erin Joren Fatures Low Bri	1555 788X	9-21-2020
Eight times /year	8	\$25.00
502 5 19m Ave Much Boten	m .m .5971B	Remailing-
Sare	to app life (St of our live)	
John Youngberg, Houken, Fam Born Sca 3 19m he # 104, Boun	01 MT 59710	
Release Comun Same		
statistic inter-later but to the second second		
See Ann Strader, Sant	and the start and attenue of the second seco	I to a surrounders, give the
A diverse provide the second strate of the second strate of the second strate of the second strate of the second strate strate of the second strate strat	a figure at the sale and sale of plant of plant of a sole or other consequential that your is instally minimize, you it instally planters: I Consider Building Address	Carl a survey set of the Assoc of
 Down (Driver Same Same C're application of present by a community of the second second	a figure at the sale and sale of plant of plant of a sole or other consequential that your is instally minimize, you it instally planters: I Consider Building Address	I to a surrounders, give the
An an analysis of the analysis of the first second	Computer Holes allowed Sec. S. 1999 Alex Blo	A Journa Mir. Sink
An an analysis of the analysis of the first second	Constant With Statement Sciences With Statement Sciences J. M. B. Alter With	A Journa Mir. Sink
Anntani Forn Burton Federation	Constant With Statement Sciences With Statement Sciences J. M. B. Alter With	A Journa Mir. Sink

Mudava Farm Bureau Federadan Ales Brot		Solember 2020		
Design and the	~	lyear, slakuide	Average No. Course Spirit Internet Duriting Proceedings 12 Manufes	Ro. Coper of Single Internet for Filing So
à Title Marie		Course and particular and	34,900	4700
	þ	Name Orient-Cross Part Schwerpiller, Uland in PS Fare phi (Instain cale SetSubri direct served rat, Alter Ser Style (spin, (ed antilegy (spin)	34016	4474
A Sec	Antine (a) Human to Courty Paul Scienceptore, Stand (r. PS Furn Ser) (relaying to the statistical state courts (see, article) provided and a state of the second s	*		
County Do the	-	That Districtor Quarter for Mail Instanton Lines Theory Description Common Street Version During States, and Drive Part Continues Column 1997		
	F	First Dimension by Devel Damain of Max Transfer the USP'S (and President Watth)	*	-
-	-	andream (a) a set of the set of t	34016	4474
1.000	h	Panet in the solid later of state Courts Courts and an INCARE (1981)	440	110
Sundard in	4	True is binning have belowing Copies indicates as MIL From pairs		-
Cases-	F	Train in Yournal Balls Capitor Materia in Chen Classes, Non-printer, 1995 (e.g., Flori Classe (Ad)	-	-
	1	Take in Manufacture (Cardinates Cardin See Man Cardon and Arrange		
s here	-	nul agreement die d Mitti G Gerriff	440	110
1 heating	-	analisatin 🕨	34456	4584
a Territori	-	nani jane jenerane u felinine del jane di u	444	116
n feading	e	regi	34900	4700
feature for		Piecest .	9890	9790

libre .		Average Re. Copies Dath Jeron During Pressing 12 Marchie	No. Count of Engle West fullipted Summer to filling from
in Part Second Cryse.	*		
a harmonican promit numbers from the			
a Anto Description (internation (international international		14	
1. Parries Paul Stat. Prot & Terranet Street, (154 damant by Str. or 105)	*		
The state of the s		rinne)	
		() Paska	-

MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION 502 S. 19th Ave., Suite 104 Bozeman, MT 59718

ISSN: 1555-788X

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation News Brief is published monthly except for January, April, July and October by the Montana Farm Bureau Federation at 502 S. 19th Ave., Suite 104, Bozeman, MT 59718. Subscription rates are \$4 per year, covered by annual dues to the Montana Farm Bureau Federation. Nonmember subscriptions are \$25 per year. Mail at periodical postage rate in Bozeman, MT and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Montana Farm Bureau Federation News Brief, 502 S. 19th Ave., Suite 104, Bozeman, MT 59718. 406-587-3153.

News Brief Plus More News. More Details. mfbf.org/news/news-brief Check it out.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID Kalispell, MT

COUNTYNEWS

Counties generous during pandemic changes

Northwest Counties donated money for a new saw for the Missoula High School Ag Department meat cutting program.

Big Horn County was a \$500 sponsor for the Sarpy Fire Relief Fund Ranch Roping event held Oct. 18 with the sponsorship including a Big Horn Farm Bureau banner at the venue.

The Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter at Dawson Community College helped with the First Annual Autumn Ag Days Oct. 17-18. Dawson/Wibaux

County was a sponsor.

The MFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee has been donating proceeds from their October Hoofin' it for Hunger Race to the Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) since 2011. This year, when Hoofin' it for Hunger was cancelled due to COVID concerns. several county Farm Bureaus stepped up to the plate to generously donate directly to the MFBN.

Many thanks to Northwest, Richland, Big Horn, Meagher, Fergus, Judith Basin, Lewis & Clark, Southwest and Carbon/Stillwater for helping raise more than \$6000 for the MFBN.



Above: Long-time Gold Century Club members Mike and Beth Ann Stenerson (left), Bill's Auto Parts, receive a Legacies book from Big Horn County leaders Gina Stevens, Sec/ Treasurer and past president Casey Mott.



meeting. Here a few members of Carbon/ Stillwater discuss proposed policy.



Above: MFBF Executive VP John Youngberg (left) presents the Friend of Farm Bureau Award to Congressman Greg Gianforte.

Gianforte receives Friend of Farm Bureau Award

Montana Congressman Greg Gianforte was presented with a national Friend of Farm Bureau Award October 23 at Gianforte's ranch near Bozeman.

Representative Gianforte expressed his appreciation for the award and his gratitude for being able to work with farmers and ranchers in Montana.

Youngberg said, "Congressman Gianforte's willingness to hear the concerns of our state's farmers and ranchers is one of the reasons he is receiving this non-partisan, prestigious award. He and his staff have always been willing to meet with our leaders and staff when they visit Washington, D.C."



October 29, 2020

Farm Bureau comments on gray wolf removal from Endangered Species List

The Department of the Interior announced it has removed the gray wolf from the endangered species list, signaling a successful recovery under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The gray wolf spent more than four decades on the endangered species list. The population is now thriving in the lower 48 states.

"This should be heralded as a success story of the Endangered Species Act," noted Montana Farm Bureau Executive Vice President John Youngberg. "The gray wolf in Montana has already been delisted and state and tribal management is working well. When the numbers required by a scientific study are reached, it's time to delist that species. In the case of the gray wolf, those states where they have already been delisted are managing the species well, limiting conflict with livestock and keeping a check on the reduction of wildlife numbers—yet still have the species thrive."

State and tribal wildlife management agencies will now be responsible for the management and protection of the gray wolf.

"This is an Endangered Species Act success story," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall. "The gray wolf joins more than 50 other animals, including the bald eagle, as an example of how careful management and partnerships between federal and state agencies can result in the successful recovery of a once-threatened species. The gray wolf population is now thriving so it is appropriate to turn management over to the states, which can oversee the species in a way that is most appropriate for each region."

Over 1,600 species remain on the federal threatened and endangered list. Delisting the gray wolf allows the Department of the Interior to focus resources on other species in need of recovery.

###



October 30, 2020

Front Range County Farm Bureau member meets with federal wildlife agency

Front Range County Farm Bureau member Karli Johnson had the opportunity to participate in a roundtable discussion with Aurelia Skipwith, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The group, which was consisted of livestock organizations, Pondera and Teton county officials and a conservation association, discussed Grizzly bear depredation of cattle and elk in the state.

Johnson, who ranches in Choteau with her family, explained the group addressed bear populations in certain areas of the state and de-listing of the animal.

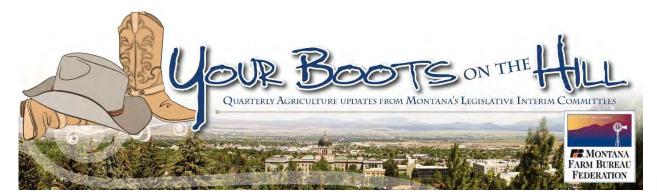
"There was a suggestion about revising the 'three strikes you're out' Grizzly bear rule, which means the animal has to be caught and confirmed that it killed livestock three times before it's terminated. The on-the-ground experience is once they start with livestock depredation, they don't stop and get harder to catch, which can really extend the loss period for producers," said Johnson, adding that Grizzly bears are becoming a widespread issue around the state, not just around the east slope of the Rockies.

The group shared personal stories about living in bear country. They told Director Skipwith about bears in their yards, bear scat under swing sets and what it's like to be faced with making decisions about safety, yet abiding by the current bear management plan.

"I talked about how we regularly have bears near our home and the concerning part is that we live a half a mile from the elementary school in Choteau," said Johnson. "I'm not just worried about my children, I'm worried about the kids who live and play in town and are totally unaware there may be a bear nearby. The reality is that Grizzly bear issues aren't just livestock producer issues, they are community safety issues. I asked for increased transparency about where collared bears are to raise awareness that we do live in bear country."

Johnson noted that Skipwith was very receptive to the group's comments and indicated she is committed to taking the suggestions back the Fish and Wildlife Service, and working towards improved Grizzly bear management.

"She reiterated her commitment to making decisions that are science-based and within the legal structure of her role. We are thankful to have someone like Director Skipwith who is willing to take the time to meet with and listen to farmers and ranchers," Johnson said. "We are also thankful to have a senator like Steve Daines who facilitated this meeting, advocates for us, and helps our voices to be heard."



October 12, 2020

YOUR BOOTS ON THE HILL: July 2020 – September 2020

Welcome to the end of quarter three and the next "Boots on the Hill". Montana Farm Bureau has continued to attend interim committee meetings virtually and is tracking what is being discussed in the legislature. We want to keep the members updated on legislation that may impact them. Keep an eye on your inbox for these interim quarterly reports and always feel free to reach out to your Montana Farm Bureau Legislative Team with questions.

State Government Affairs

By Rachel Cone

The third quarter of 2020 has brought a lot of excitement to this ever-changing year. We are all learning how to move through and navigate this year, from farming and ranching to interim work at the legislature. As fall arrives, weather is changing and calves are getting shipped out, we are bringing the close of the interim and looking forward to the start of 2021.

Since July and into the end of September, interim committees have discussed many topics to move business along and what 2021 might look like.

2021 Legislative Session

The timeliest discussion may be the 2021 Montana Legislative Session and what the Legislative Council has been discussing. The Legislative Council has met often in the past few months to elaborate on the possible scenarios of how to hold a legislative session amidst the Coronavirus. These scenarios depend highly on the status of the phase the state is in and range from a full, normal session to an entirely virtual session. The latest information from the Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council outlines possible rule changes to allow for more virtual engagement from legislators and the public should the decision be made to have a hybrid or virtual session.

The full committee will meet October 15, 2020 to discuss further 2021 Session Planning. Stay tuned for more information on the final decisions regarding what Montana Farm Bureau plans to

do in the next session. Without a doubt the Montana Farm Bureau Team will be ready and able to represent you – the farmers and ranchers, the agriculturalists.

Revenue Interim Committee

The Revenue Interim Committee met in September to discuss many topics, including the HJ 35 Tax Study. The HJ 35 Tax Study committee also met during this period to discuss over eight subtopics within HJ35. After much discussion, only five were forwarded onto the committee – these included. HJ35-01 - Full inflation for mill levy limit; HJ35-02 - Property tax circuit breaker; HJ35-03 - Increase minimum corporate income tax to \$200; HJ35-04 - Revise calculation of capital gains tax credit; HJ35-08 - Decouple from CARES Act net operating loss deduction provisions.

Once brought to committee in September, only HJ35-02: Property tax circuit breaker; and HJ35-03: Increase minimum corporate income tax to \$200 were voted to recommend to be introduced to the 2021 Legislature. Montana Farm Bureau testified on HJ35-01 and voiced some concern for its lack of broadening the tax base for Montanans. It did not pass the committee.

Board of Livestock

The Board of Livestock has met twice this quarter, once in July and one in September. Many topics were discussed, including the updated plans for the new Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Brand Rerecord and the updates on the Department's continuity during COVID-19.

The Board presented some new design layouts of the lab to be built. The design looks great. There was an update on a joint venture with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Livestock – so that the Department of Ag will have space at this hall as well.

Please remember that Brand Rerecord is coming up in 2021. The Montana Department of Livestock will send out notices in December 2020, rerecord begins January 1, 2021 and ends December 21, 2021. There is more information on this on the Department of Livestock's website.

Christine Brown discussed updates on the Montana Historical Society Centennial Farm and Ranch Program. Information was provided on the honorary program of 100+ year-old ranches. For more information, email Christine at <u>Christine.brown@mt.gov</u> and visit <u>https://mhs.mt.gov/education/MTCentFarmRanchProg</u>.

National Affairs

By Nicole Rolf

As 2020 rolls on, lackluster commodity markets continue to make farming and ranching a struggle. In response, Farm Bureau continues the push to include direct assistance for farmers and ranchers in the next COVID stimulus package. Farm Bureau has also advocated for replenishment of the CCC (Commodity Credit Corporation) to allow USDA the flexibility to fund necessary ongoing and future programs. Congress did fully replenish the CCC, when they

passed the Continuing Resolution, HR 8337, which will fund the government through December 11.

USDA announced in early September, that another round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program would be made available. CFAP2, as it is commonly referred to, includes many commodities that were left out of the first package. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to apply at the website: <u>www.farmers.gov/cfap</u> or by reaching out to their local Farm Service Agency Office. The deadline for application is December 11.

MFBF continues our work at improving commodity markets. AFBF's Cattle Market Working Group, of which Montana Farm Bureau's President was a member, concluded their work in late September and released a report of their findings. For more information and details, visit: <u>https://www.fb.org/newsroom/new-report-examines-cattle-market-issues-solutions</u>. MFBF is supporting various legislation to make changes that will improve meat processing capacity and competition including the DIRECT Act, HR 7425, the RAMP-UP Act, HR 7490, and others.

WELL OWNER TIP SHEET

A private well owner newsletter brought to you by NGWA and WellOwner.org



October 2020

Another tip sheet, another opportunity for all well owners to understand and promote the importance of the water we drink—groundwater!

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: Winter Is Coming — Tips for Protecting Your Well, Your Water, and Your Wallet This Winter

The cooler weather and pumpkin pies can be a welcome change from the summer heat, but it also means one looming fact: winter is coming.

While many of the water well systems in the northern U.S. are required to be built under the frost line, there is a large section of the South and Midwest where pumping systems are constructed above ground or above the frost line. For these systems, it's important to take steps to keep your well safe and operating through the winter.



Before winter hits, get your well inspected. Scheduling your annual inspections ahead of the cold temperatures could save you a lot of time and money!

Content of the second second

In one of the recent "That's Well Said" blog posts, Gary Hix recommends some seasonal inspections and maintenance tasks to make sure your water well works year-round.

For example, WellOwner.org columnist Gary Hix suggests to get your well inspected before snow or leaves cover the exposed portions of your water well. <u>Click here to read his full blog post about</u> <u>seasonal inspections.</u>

Here are some additional winter tips from the professionals at NGWA:

Protect Your Pump

Many well systems are buried deep underground, which provides protection from the cold. But for well owners with above ground pumps, action should be taken to keep the system insulated and warm. Constructing a small insulated enclosure covering the pump will help keep the system above 32 degrees and reduce the risk of freezing and other damage. This small "well house" can save thousands of dollars in repairs and ensure a well operates throughout a cold winter. Find a qualified contractor.

Protect Your Pipes

As water freezes, it expands and can burst your pipes, leading to significant damage to your home and well. Frozen pipes are a common winter issue for homeowners, but can be avoided with a few easy steps.

• Turn off your exterior water and blow out your pipes.

Ideally your house will have a shut-off valve for its exterior water supply. If so, turn off any water that flows to outside irrigation systems and faucets. Once you have turned the water off, then drain the remaining water or use an air compressor to blow out the pipes. If you don't have a shut-off valve, <u>find a local contractor</u> for other options to shutting off exterior water.
 Insulate your pipes.

For houses with piping that runs through non-heated spaces like basements, we suggest

insulating pipes. Wrapping pipes with rubber casings or fiberglass insulation can keep their temperature above freezing and the water flowing.

Inspect your pipes.

This is a great time to do a general inspection of your water system and piping. Spotting a problem in your system now could save you from a costly problem this winter. Find a certified contractor to schedule an inspection.

Prepare for a Power Outage

While there is little that can be done by the homeowner to prevent power outages due to winter weather, there are steps to take so you have water to drink while waiting for the lights to come back on.

- Always have a portable gas generator and plenty of gas to connect to your pumping system.
- Stock up on bottled water before the winter; this way if there is a prolonged outage, you can still have clean drinking water in the house.
- Contact a local contractor to learn more about backup generators and other options to keep your water flowing during a power outage.



Keep these upcoming dates in mind as we near the end of 2020:

Dec. 7: Groundwater and Public Health Symposium (Virtual event designed for private well owners, public health officials, state regulators, and more)

Dec. 8-10: Groundwater Summit for scientists and engineers (100% virtual)

Dec. 8-11: Groundwater Week (100% virtual. Early registration discount ends Nov. 6)

Wellowner.org



Informing consumers about groundwater and water wells.

Wellowner.org is supported by the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP.org), as part of the USEPA funded program "Improving Water Quality through Training and Technical Assistance to Private Well Owners".



The Groundwater Foundation has learn-at-home resources for parents and teachers. Please share with your networks and utilize yourself:

The Groundwater Foundation is operated by NGWA.



The Dan Scott Ranch Management Program

October 2020 Newsletter

"Turning passion into a profitable profession"

Issue 2: October 2020

Read the Dan Scott Ranch Management Program newsletter in its entirety and find out more about the program at <u>animalrange.montana.edu</u>. First Annual Management Symposium Held Virtually

Farm and Ranch Leadership in the 21st Century

Dr. Bob Milligan



"Today is likely the greatest opportunity for leadership in your lifetime". ~ Dr. Bob Milligan.

The Dan Scott Ranch Management Program hosted its first Management Symposium on September 22nd & 23rd in a virtual format. Most ranch education programs are focused on management of livestock or natural resources, but this program focused on management of an essential third component of any operation – the human resources. Whether you manage a family

operation or oversee a crew of 30 people, the principles delivered by Dr. Milligan are proven to make you a better leader, and improve the working relations of your business. Dr. Milligan focused on the differences between management and leadership and how to rally people to a better future. From developing active listening skills to improving tactics for recruiting and hiring new employees, as well as providing effective feedback to ensure employee growth and job satisfaction, Dr. Milligan covered it all in this workshop. See below for testimonials of attendees.

For more information on the DSRMP Management Symposia Series, visit: <u>http://animalrange.montana.edu/danscott/danscottoutreach.html</u> or contact Rachel Frost at 406-994-3724 or <u>frost@montana.edu</u>.

"Dr. Bob made you think about your leadership skills in a different light. I would highly recommend his class to anyone in a leadership/management role." ~ Taylor Davis, Lonestar Land & Cattle, Springdale, MT

"For me the biggest take-a-way was in maintaining positive relationships with those you work with, as employees, colleagues or supervisors, because our job satisfaction depends on it." ~ Paul Nehring, Farm Manager, Flying D Ranch

"He has a great take on leadership on the ranch and really explains the concepts in a way that connects with an audience." Colleen M. Buck, MSU Sheridan County Extension Agent.



http://animalrange.montana.edu/danscottmanagementprogram.html

In this Issue:

- First
 Management
 Symposium
- DSRMP Seminar
 Series Finalized
- Student Learns from Award Winning Ranch
- First Internship
 Term Completed
- UpcomingEvents
- Host RanchesNeeded for 2021

For more information:

Rachel Frost, Program Lead Dan Scott Ranch Management Program

406-994-3724 (office) 406-223-7262 (cell)

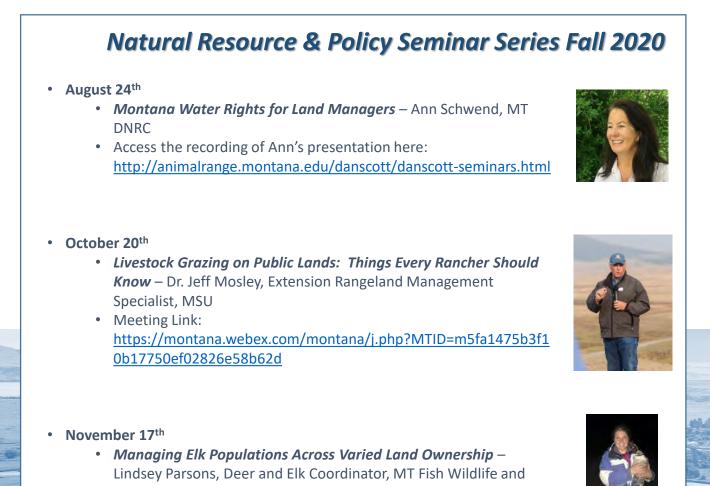
frost@montana.edu

Department of Animal and Range Sciences, MSU P.O. Box 172900 Bozeman, MT 59717



Speakers and dates set for 2020-2021 Seminar Series

Please join us for an insightful seminar series on practical management issues relevant to every land manager in the Northern Great Plains and Intermountain West. These seminars are offered monthly and feature an expert sharing the complexity of different issues related to natural resource management. All the seminars will be offered virtually through WebEx. Join live, or watch the recordings at your convenience. To access the meetings, or recordings visit: <u>http://animalrange.montana.edu/danscott/danscott-seminars.html</u>



Parks