



MONTANA FARM BUREAU *News Brief*

We Care for the Country

May 2022

TOP STORIES



Fifth-grade students from Broadus learn about farm and ranch safety with MFBF District 5 Director Darcia Patten (far left) and WLC District 5 Chair Cathy McDowell.

Counties teach ag safety, read ag books

County Farm Bureau members had a busy spring reading Accurate Ag Books and conducting ag safety trainings around the state.

District 5 Director Darcia Patten presented the ABC on the Farm School Safety training to seven classrooms. Her co-presenters included MFBF Vice President Gary Heibertshausen, District 5 YF&R Chair John Olson and District 5 Women's Leadership Committee Chair Catherine McDowell.

"The teachers told us how much they appreciated the program, and the students listened intently with plenty of questions," said Patten. She noted that questions included if you should eat grain straight from the grain bin (no!), ride on a tractor fender (no!) or ride on the back rack on an ATV (no!). Kids even say that their parents could benefit from the safety training."

Phillips County Farm Bureau members read two Accurate Ag Books. In Saco, District 7 Director Joy DePuydt, along with Phillips County member Rhonda Bergtoll read, "How Did That Get in My Lunchbox" and had students make their own bread and butter. They ground the wheat DePuydt had brought from their farm before using it in their bread-in-a-bag recipe. Each of the teachers were given a copy of the book for future classrooms.

In Malta, volunteers read "Tales of a Dairy Godmother" followed by DePuydt, Pat Anderson, Debbie Anderson and Nancy Ereaux teaching the students how to make ice cream in a bag.

Rhonda Boyd, District 2 Director, read "Right This Very Minute" to students at Alder School during Ag Week and introduced the students to the My American Farm game.

Summer Conference slated for June

The Montana Farm Bureau Summer Conference is planned for June 13-15 at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. Keynote speakers include Duane Lenz, Cattlefax, giving a protein market forecast and Shelby Myers, AFBE, addressing agriculture and the economy.

This conference is a time for commodity and advisory committees to meet and surface policy for the coming year. Workshops and presentations, along with the Foundation Golf Scramble and ag tours, and the exciting "Welcome to Butte America" Foundation Fundraiser are sure to make the 2022 Summer Conference an excellent time.

See the registration form on pages 5-6 of this *News Brief* for details. Register online or through the mail. Be sure to register no later than June 3. To get the Fairmont Hot Springs MFBF room rate, reservations must be made by noon on May 30.

Membership month

May is Membership Month and the MFBF Membership Team has a month planned for recognitions, activities, recruitment and more. Watch the MFBF Facebook Page for additional information and check your emails.

News Brief Plus

Want more information regarding articles in this *News Brief*? Check out the *News Brief Plus* online. The May 2022 *News Brief Plus* contains:

- CI - 121 information
- I - 191 information
- State hail insurance
- Wheat & Barley Committee News

Visit mfbf.org/News/News-Brief.

CI-121

The Montana Farm Bureau is part of the KNOW the Consequences Coalition, advocating against the CI-121 ballot initiative. The first step in the coalition's work is to get the word out to decline to sign the petition for this ballot. There are several ways to participate and raise awareness about CI-121 and its harmful unintended consequences for farmers, ranchers, young families, small business and more.

Pledge of Opposition: All County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to Pledge their Opposition by signing onto the pledge at knowtheconsequences121.com/sign-the-pledge/.

Social Media Engagement: Follow and like the Know the Consequences: Vote No on CI-121 Facebook page. Share the content and tag the campaign using the hashtags #KnowTheConsequences #NoOnCI121 and #DeclineToSign.

Signature Collection: If you notice a signature collector for CI-121, please make the rest of the coalition aware by emailing MTPetitionReporting@gmail.com.

Media Engagement: Contact MFBF Rachel Cone, rachelc@mfbf.org, if you are interested in writing or placing an op-ed or Letter to the Editor in a local publication.

Donate: Donations to the campaign effort to keep CI-121 off the ballot information can be found at www.knowtheconsequences121.com.

River initiative opposed

Montana Farm Bureau is opposing I-191 which would subject large stretches of the Gallatin and Madison rivers to the same strict regulations currently found only in national parks and wilderness areas. The result would restrict ranchers from watering livestock, farmers from irrigating, and anglers from accessing these rivers. I-191 would devalue neighboring property, prohibit road and bridge maintenance and undermine current environmental restoration efforts.

For more information visit www.stopi191.com.

Welcome new county Farm Bureau members

Big Horn County – Bruce and Georgia Weeter; **Carbon-Stillwater County** – Richard and Karleen Bridges • Bill Flanagan, Flanagan's, Diamond J inc • Judy Gans • Noel Keogh, Key-O Inc; **Cascade County** - Bryan and Mikayla Allegretto • Paul Leach • Carol Lorang • Cory and Beckie Marquis • Matthew Muretta • Cole Nelson • Stephanie and Lee Wilkins; **Chouteau County** – Kem Allen, Kem Allen Farms • Scott and Jennifer Darlington • Mark and Cheryl Ostrom, Prairie Sage Inc • Jon Sheehy, Sheehy Ranch LLC; **Dawson-Wibaux County** – Kelsey Eayrs; **Fergus County** – Henry Slining; **Front Range Counties** – Danny Weist, Weist Farms Inc • Dennis and Tina Loch • Lisa Schmidt; **Gallatin County**– Jake and Alyssa Feddes; **Lewis & Clark County** – Brent and Cheryl Conklin; **Musselshell County** – Barry and Corinna DeJaegher • Mitch and Jennifer Roen; **Northwest Counties** – Raymond Anderson • Mary Beavers • Dan and Gina Harkalis • Lane Harriman • Carol Hayes • Jess Kitchen • Mack and Connie Long • Gregory Massey • Brian Waits; **Powder River-Carter County** – Jessica Scott; **Richland County** – Jeff Moore and Holly Salsbury • Ryan and Lindsay Smith; **Southwest Counties**– Brian and Samantha Bignell • Brandon and Alexandra Nicholls • Laura Slominski • Clark and Nancy Ward; **Yellowstone County** - Clinton Johannes, Johannes Ranch • Scott Stokenbury.



Gabe Brown (left) visits with Riza and Warren Gilpin about adaptive grazing.

Regenerative agriculture

Regenerative farming and ranching pioneer Gabe Brown addressed a packed building at the Big Timber Fairgrounds April 19 regarding the importance of regenerative agriculture practices.

“How do we heal our soils? By practicing regenerative agriculture,” the North Dakota farmer told the crowd during the Sweet Grass County Farm Bureau sponsored event. Brown said regenerative agriculture and adaptive grazing work in synchrony with nature's principles

“The information was interesting and creative,” said Sweet Grass County President Jacob Stenberg. “It gave me a new perspective on what I would like to accomplish on my ranch. He explained how you can take parts of regenerative agriculture to make improvements.”

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

Calendar

MFBF Summer Conference
June 13-15 - Fairmont Hot Springs, MT

People

MFBF Executive Vice President **John Youngberg** discussed concerns about CI-121 on Montana Talks and Voices of Montana. In addition Youngberg interviewed with the Western Ag Reporter regarding the rollback of new NEPA regulations.

Josh Senecal and the Senecal Ranch Ag Day were featured in the *Leader Advertiser* newspaper.

Teddi Vogel and **Bonita Cremer** interviewed respectively with Colter Brown/Northern Ag Network and Randy Bogden, KMON, regarding their attendance at the AFBF Target Training in Minneapolis in April.

Musselshell County member, ag instructor, FFA adviser, and ACE program graduate **Dana Jansen** has been hired as the new MT Ag Safety Director.

Morgan Kuntz and **Kelsey Kraft** have been hired by the Montana FFA Foundation. Kuntz will serve as Director of Development with Kraft as Director of Operations.

Misty Meged, **Joani Kissock** and **Darla Tyler McSherry** were interviewed for a column in *Montana Parent* magazine.

May is Mental Health Month

May is Mental Health Month, which presents an opportunity to reach out to those around you and share your story.

Visit the AFBF's Farm State of Mind website, www.fb.org/land/fsom, MFBF Rural Mental Health: mfbf.org/rural-mental-health-and-suicide-prevention and Beyond the Weather: www.frontier.care/beyondtheweather for stress and mental health resources, treatment locators and tips for helping someone in emotional pain and resources for managing stress, anxiety or depression.

John Deere member discounts

If it ever stops snowing, the grass will be growing and it will be time to start mowing. John Deere not only sells farm tractors for plowing, seeding and feeding, but offers a variety of lawnmowers and other lawn care implements.

Visit JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau to see how your Farm Bureau membership can help you save money and advance worthy causes to help veterans, like The SAVE Farm and Honor Edition vehicles at the same time.

For more benefits visit mfbf.org/benefits.

I Love Strawberries

Check out the new book from Feeding Minds Press, *I Love Strawberries*. Through Jolie's comical scrapbook-style journal entries, young readers will learn how she convinces the "old people" (aka her parents) to let her grow her own strawberries. Growing strawberries is a lot of work and responsibility, but Jolie is ready with the help of her faithful rabbit Munchy! Together they find out just how delicious, rewarding, and complicated it can be to grow your own food.

Washington, D.C. Fly-In for members

Montana Farm Bureau members will be traveling to Washington, D.C. in June 7-10 for the MFBF Fly-In.

The Fly-In provides an excellent opportunity for members to visit with Montana's Congressional delegation and their staff, as well as with federal agencies to discuss issues pertinent to Montana agriculture.

Agency visits in the past have included the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land Management, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and more.

"The value of members having in-person meetings with policy makers and those agencies that affect their business decisions back home is priceless," said MFBF Senior Director of Governmental Affairs Nicole Rolf. "Sitting around the table with the head of the EPA and explaining why Water of the U.S. is a bad rule can be a game-changer. With so much happening, from a new farm bill to inflation to cattle marketing concerns, it will be beneficial to have our members in the nation's capital."

The group will visit the American Farm Bureau office to meet with their lobbyists and tour some of the iconic Washington, D.C. sites.

Members of MFBF's Women's Leadership Committee, who will be in town for an AFBF WLC Conference that week, will join the group for the Hill visits.



NEPA reversal problems for ag

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented today on the final Phase 1 revisions to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

"AFBF is disappointed that the Biden administration has decided to reverse commonsense reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Farmers and ranchers share the goal of caring for the natural resources they've been entrusted with and were pleased that the updated 2020 regulations allowed them to protect the environment while meeting the demands of a growing nation," Duvall said.

Montana Farm Bureau President Cyndi Johnson added, "This is a step back for Montana's farmers and ranchers who are very concerned about water quality and doing what's right for the environment. Farmers and ranchers need rules they can understand without having a team of lawyers to decipher them. This reversal takes us back to those days and it's sure to slow down the process of growing food for our nation."

Duvall echoed Johnson's concerns. "Continued challenges from the pandemic, supply chain issues and the drought in the West are impacting farmers, ranchers and the American public in the form of increased food and fuel prices. The situation will now be made worse by the return to a slow and cumbersome NEPA review process that, in many cases, takes years to complete. We urge the administration to stop moving backward and keep focused on working with farmers and ranchers."

Proposed SEC rule hurts farmers, ranchers

The American Farm Bureau Federation joined 119 other agriculture organizations in sending a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) asking for an extension of time to comment on its proposed rule, "The Enhancement and Standardization of Climate Related Disclosures for Investors."

The SEC - whose primary purpose is to protect investors, maintain efficient markets and facilitate capital formation - now wants to require public companies to report data about their entire supply chain. Nearly every farmer's and rancher's products eventually touch a publicly traded company, meaning that farmers and ranchers could be forced to report personal information and business-related data. This unprecedented overreach could create onerous reporting requirements for even small farms and ranches with few or no employees.

"This appears to be an example of overreach by the Securities and Exchange Commission," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Farmers and ranchers are already heavily regulated by multiple agencies at the local, state and the federal level. New SEC reporting requirements will no doubt make an already complicated patchwork of regulations even more cumbersome."

Visit fb.org/newsroom for the full story and copy of the letter.

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

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

COUNTY NEWS

Farm fairs, socials on counties' to-do lists

Fergus County held a Farm Safety Day April 19 and a Cinco De Mayo celebration at the Eagles Hall in Lewistown for May Membership Month.

Yellowstone County held a YF&R Social April 23 at Trailhead Distillery where attendees learned about the process of using grain for spirits.

Northwest Counties held a successful YF&R Ag Trivia Night April 26 at the Ronan Co-op Brewery. In addition, the county held two Ag Days at the Senecal Ranch; one for the Mission Valley Christian School and one for the Fourth Grade Ag Days May 5-6.

Sweet Grass County held a candidate forum in Big Timber May 4.

Park County is hosting a BBQ social May 11 with visiting American Farm Bureau staff members.

Gallatin County members will participate in the Gallatin Farm Fair, including the MFBF ATV Safety booth May 10-12 in Belgrade.

Lewis & Clark County is holding their Annual County Farm Bureau Ag Day May 10 at the Prickly Pear Ranch. They will offer 15-17 educational stops.

Ravalli County had an ATV Safety booth at their local farm fair May 6.



Deb Bricker, Fergus County Farm Bureau, with winners of the county's Ag Facts contest during Ag Week. The winning entries were read on air.



A student learns about horse care during AgDay at Senecal Ranch, NW Counties Farm Bureau.



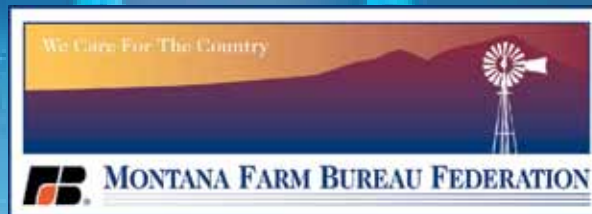
District 8 Director Joy Depudyt with Saco students talks about making bread from wheat.



Above: Yellowstone County members get a tour of Trailhead Distillery in Billings during the YF&R Social.

Right: YF&R Collegiate Farm Bureau's Tyler Noyes reads *What's in My Lunchbox* at Morning Star Elementary, Bozeman.





MFBF SUMMER CONFERENCE

June 13-15, 2022 * Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

Schedule of Events

Monday, June 13

8:00 AM	Foundation Board of Directors Meeting
8 AM-5 PM	A.C.E. Leadership Seminar
9 AM-5 PM	YF&R Comm. Speakers, Tour & Meeting
9:30 AM-3 PM	MFBF Board of Directors Meeting
12:00 PM	Registration Opens
3:30 PM	Women's Leadership Comm. Meeting
3:30 PM	Policy Development Comm. Meeting

Tuesday, June 14

7:30 AM	Registration Opens
8:00 AM	Opening General Session - Keynote: Duane Lenz, CattleFax "Protein Market Forecast & Beef Industry Update"
9:15 AM	Coffee Break
9:45 AM	Livestock Committee Meeting Membership Committee Meeting Farm & Trade Committee Meeting Ag in the Classroom Workshop
11:15 AM	Lunch Sponsored by Northwest Farm Credit - Keynote: Shelby Myers, AFBF "Agriculture & the Economy"
12:45 PM	Promotion & Education Comm. Meeting Sheep & Goat Committee Meeting Public & Private Lands Comm. Meeting RMET Committee Meeting Legacies Video Series Premiere

Tuesday, June 14 *cont.*

2:15 PM	Coffee Break
2:45 PM	Water Committee Meeting Equine Committee Meeting Taxation Committee Meeting QPR Suicide Prevention Training
5:00 PM	Social Hour
6:00 PM	MFB Foundation Fundraising Dinner Sponsored by Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company

Welcome to Butte America!

Like Butties, we are all fiercely proud of our slice of America and just as patriotic. Thus the theme for our annual Foundation fundraising event is "Americana". Every corner of Montana is a piece of America that we love to show off and will be reflected during our district basket auction, featuring items that make members proud to live in their community. The Teccas will return to entertain us with their all-American brand of live music, you might just see an Evel Knievel impersonator or the ghost of a Copper King and some of the hearty and delicious food staples that made Butte famous will be on the menu.

Wednesday, June 15

7:00 AM	MFBF Board of Directors Meeting
9:00 AM	Tour bus departs Includes tour stops to Montana Craft Malt, Butte Brewing Company and the Montana Prison Ranch
9:00 AM	Golfers tee off at Fairmont Golf Course Sponsored by BNSF Railway Includes eighteen holes of golf, a cart, lunch, refreshments and great prizes.

MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Summer Conference

June 13-15, 2022 * Fairmont Hot Springs Resort

**DUE
JUNE 3**

PLEASE PRINT NAME(S) AS YOU WANT THEM TO APPEAR ON NAME BADGE(S):

NAME: _____ COMMITTEE(S)*: _____

NAME: _____ COMMITTEE(S)*: _____

**Committee appointments are for one year only. Appointment letters for 2022 have already been sent out. If you do not remember receiving one or aren't sure which committee(s) you are on, please contact the state office.*

ADDRESS: _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

	REGISTRATION	# ATTENDING	TOTAL
TUESDAY:			
Lunch	\$25 x _____	=	\$ _____
Foundation Fundraiser	\$45 x _____	=	\$ _____
<i>Price includes dinner, live music and a small donation to the MFB Foundation.</i>			
WEDNESDAY:			
Golf Scramble Day (includes lunch)	\$85 x _____	=	\$ _____
<i>For the best value see the sponsor package below.</i>			
Tour Day (includes lunch)	\$60 x _____	=	\$ _____
TOTAL			\$ _____

PAYMENT

_____ Check Enclosed (payable to MFBF)

_____ To Register and Pay By

VISA or MASTERCARD go online
to www.mfbf.org.

LODGING INFORMATION

Attendees are responsible for making their own room reservations. Call Fairmont Hot Springs at (406) 797-3241 and request the "Montana Farm Bureau" room block for the special \$144 conference rate. **The room block will be released MAY 30.** Book now so you don't miss out on the special rate and availability.

Please register online OR return this registration form by June 3 to:

MFBF, 502 S. 19th Ave., Suite 104, Bozeman, MT 59718 * Phone (406) 587-3153 * Email info@mfbf.org

MFB FOUNDATION GOLF SCRAMBLE & CALCUTTA

18 HOLE SCRAMBLE * 4 PERSON TEAMS

HOLE AND TEAM PRIZES * MULLIGANS & POPSICLE STICKS AVAILABLE

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE: \$450 (Save \$60!)

HOLE SPONSORSHIP (VALUED AT \$250) PLUS 4 PERSON TEAM ENTRY (NORMALLY \$260)

SPONSOR: _____ TEAM

TEAM CAPTAIN: _____ 2: _____ 3: _____ 4: _____

All team members must be registered. Contact Scott Kulbeck at 587-3153 with questions.

A CALCUTTA WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE FOUNDATION DINNER AFTER THE TEAMS ARE FORMED.
40% TO 1ST • 25% TO 2ND • 10% TO 3RD • 25% TO MFB FOUNDATION





MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF **AGRICULTURE**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

CONTACT:

[Dani Jones](#), Montana Department of Agriculture, (406) 444-2402

State Hail Insurance Program Enters 106th Year

Applications Available [Online](#)

Helena, Mont. – For over 100 years, the Montana State Hail Insurance program has provided vital hail coverage to producers in every corner of the state. With planting season right around the corner, the Montana Department of Agriculture is reminding folks to contact the program and get covered.

“The Montana State Hail Insurance Program was established over 100 years ago at the request of producers to fill coverage gaps in hail insurance. Due to the support of Montana producers, the program remains strong and to this day and is an effective tool to provide crop insurance for hail,” said Director Christy Clark.

Producers can insure crops against hail damage at the maximum coverage rate of \$75 per acre for dryland and \$114 per acre for irrigated land. Rates charged are a percentage of the insured amount and vary by county. A detailed list of rates by county and crop can be found by visiting the Department’s [website](#). Policies are available for purchase until August 15, 2022. Policies are effective at 12:01 a.m. the day following the date of application.

Application forms are available [online](#) or by calling the State Hail office. Completed forms can be emailed, mailed, faxed, or used as a reference when contacting the State office. Staff is available to process policies, file claims, and help answer any questions producers may have regarding coverage options.

The Montana State Hail Insurance program was created at the request of producers in 1917 to provide basic hail insurance coverage on any crop grown in Montana. The program is directed by a five-member board consisting of the Department director, state insurance commissioner, and three producers. The Montana Department of Agriculture’s mission is to serve Montana Agriculture and growing prosperity under the Big Sky. For more information about the Department, please visit [agr.mt.gov](#).

Contact Information:

Montana State Hail Insurance Program
P.O. Box 200201
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: (406) 444-5429

Email: agrmail@mt.gov
Toll Free: 1 (844) 515-1571
Fax: (406) 444-9442

###



April 27, 2022

Proposed SEC Rule Could Reach Nearly Every Farmer and Rancher

WASHINGTON, April 27, 2022 – The American Farm Bureau Federation joined 119 other agriculture organizations in sending a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) asking for an extension of time to comment on its proposed rule, “The Enhancement and Standardization of Climate Related Disclosures for Investors.”

The SEC - whose primary purpose is to protect investors, maintain efficient markets and facilitate capital formation - now wants to require public companies to report data about their entire supply chain. Nearly every farmer’s and rancher’s products eventually touch a publicly traded company, meaning that farmers and ranchers could be forced to report personal information and business-related data. This unprecedented overreach could create onerous reporting requirements for even small farms and ranches with few or no employees.

“This appears to be an example of overreach by the Securities and Exchange Commission,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “Farmers and ranchers are already heavily regulated by multiple agencies at the local, state and the federal level. New SEC reporting requirements will no doubt make an already complicated patchwork of regulations even more cumbersome.

“Farmers and ranchers are focused on growing the food, fuel and fiber this country needs, and have never been subjected to SEC regulations. Unlike the large corporations currently regulated by the SEC, family farms and ranches don’t have teams of compliance officers. We urge the SEC to extend the comment period to allow those in agriculture time to understand the full impact of this proposal and offer meaningful input.”

The proposed rule is 510 pages long with 1,068 technical footnotes and almost 750 direct questions, but the SEC has only allowed 39 days for review.

The proposed rule “may create multiple, new sources of substantial costs and liabilities,” the letter states. “These include almost certain reporting obligations, technical challenges, significant financial and operational disruption and the risk of financially crippling legal liabilities.”

Read the full letter [here](#).



May 9, 2022

Montana Farm Bureau opposes overzealous river control initiative

BOZEMAN, *Montana*—The Montana Farm Bureau has joined more than 50 groups in opposing I-191 which would subject large stretches of the Gallatin and Madison rivers to the same strict regulations currently found only in national parks and wilderness areas. The result would restrict ranchers from watering livestock and farmers from irrigating, as well as stop most other activities in or around the rivers.

“Our organization has a real concern about I-191 because not only would it keep our state’s farmers and ranchers from growing crops and caring for their animals, but it would devalue neighboring property, prohibit road and bridge maintenance, shut down an entire area of Gallatin County to affordable housing development, and undermine current environmental restoration efforts,” noted MFBF Executive Vice President John Youngberg.

He explained that Montana has some of the strongest water quality laws in the country, but I-191 would circumvent the existing laws and process by overriding the protections that Montanans worked together to put in place.

“Under I-191, Montana Department of Environmental Quality would be prohibited from approving a permit for any new or increased discharge that causes a change in water quality, including only a temporary change. I-191’s sponsors tried before to shut down activity on these rivers, but they were denied by the Board of Environmental Review and the Montana courts,” Youngberg said. “Now they are attempting to set a new precedent that could be used on waterbodies throughout the state. This initiative undermines controls that have been set in place and tosses out any collaboration of groups who worked for years to protect the water. I-191 ignores input from local Montanans who have to live with the consequences of a rule developed by environmental extremists.”

Youngberg noted that the initiative would hurt Montana’s economy by halting agricultural activity, preventing anglers from enjoying the rivers, and stopping any bridge or road repair in the vicinity of the rivers.

For more information visit www.stopi191.com.



May 10, 2022

Montana Farm Bureau Summer Conference planned for Fairmont

The MFBF Summer Conference will be held June 13-15 at the Fairmont Hot Springs. The summer conference is when advisory committees meet to discuss current agricultural issues and concerns and surface ideas for policy development.

Keynote speakers include Duane Lenz with CattleFax, who will give a beef industry update, and American Farm Bureau Economist Shelby Myers, who will discuss the agricultural economy.

The MFBF Summer Conference begins Monday morning with MFBF Board and Foundation Board meetings and the Young Farmers & Ranchers, Women's Leadership, and Policy Development Committee meetings.

The eleven issues advisory committees will meet Tuesday to hear informative speakers on pertinent topics. Breakout sessions that day include Montana Ag in the Classroom Training, QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention training and the Legacies Video Series Premiere.

The MFB Foundation will hold its "Welcome to Butte America" Fundraiser on Tuesday evening. The event, with its Americana theme, features an auction of MFBF District Baskets with items showing members' pride in their communities, a Montana Mule Copper Cup fundraiser, and traditional American tunes by the inspirational band, the Teccas.

Wednesday's agricultural-themed tour includes Montana Craft Malt, Butte Brewing Company, and the Montana Prison Ranch. The MFB Foundation will hold its popular Foundation Golf Scramble Wednesday, as well.

For more information and to register, visit www.mfbf.org. The registration deadline is June 3, with the room block deadline at Fairmont Hot Springs by noon on May 30. Questions? Call the MFBF office at 406-587-3153.

###

Wheat & Barley Committee

Four New MSU Wheat and Barley Plant Varieties Are Officially Named Thanks To Public Input

After inviting the public to help name three new publicly released wheat varieties and one new barley variety, the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee (MWBC) and Montana State University Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology Department (MSU) is announcing the highly awaited results.

The official winners are...

MTD18313 (Semi-Dwarf Spring Durum) – MT Raska

MTD18348 (Spring Durum) – MT Blackbeard

MT16F02902 (Spring Forage Barley) – MT Cowgirl

MTS18149 (Hard Red Winter Wheat) – MT WarCat

“Allowing Montana producers as well as consumers around the world the opportunity to name the new varieties was a great way to highlight the MSU breeding programs and not only get people excited, but also involved in the work happening in varietal development,” said Executive Vice President of the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee Cassidy Marn. “The response rate was extremely high, and we are excited for growers to have four new tools to utilize in their operations in the future.”

The committee’s goal was to generate excitement and get more people involved with this year’s plant variety releases. A list of clever possible names, many honoring industry legends or locations throughout the state, for three new wheat varieties and one new forage barley variety and was populated for the public to vote on.

The voting generated hundreds of submissions as well as media coverage from around the nation.

MT Raska is described as an early flowering semi-dwarf durum that has high yield potential, maintains high test weight even under very dry conditions and has very good standability under sawfly pressure. The new variety gets its name from long-time industry leader and former Executive Director of the Montana Grain Growers Association Lola Raska.

“This is a very nice honor and I’m truly humbled,” said Raska. “It’s especially meaningful to me for a couple of reasons, one, because the name was chosen by growers across the state who took the time to vote in the naming contest and two, because Durum was the long-time crop of choice on my family’s farm in Northeastern Montana.”

MT Blackbeard is described as a standard height durum that yields very well under dryland conditions and has a high percentage of large seeds, high gluten strength, and low grain cadmium.

“We are excited about the recent release of both MT Raska and MT Blackbeard,” stated Dr. Mike Giroux, Professor and Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology Department Head.

“Both of these new varieties have very good yield potential under dryland conditions, and both should fill a niche and offer growers improved yields versus currently available durum varieties,” said Andy Hogg, Research Associate at MSU.

MT Cowgirl is described as a taller, high yielding, awn-less forage with an extended grain fill period that is certain to be widely adapted in the Northern Plains

MT WarCat is described as great yielding, with improved winter hardiness and higher stem solidness than Loma, aluminum tolerance, and excellent end use characteristics. End users will be delighted to see high falling numbers, low PPO, high water absorption and strong mix times.

Book readings, activities across the state

In April MFBF leaders spent time visiting schools and reading ag books to students.



Darcia Patten at the Biddle School with John Olsen and the Alzada School with MFBF VP Gary Heibertshausen.



Darcia Patten and John Olsen at the South Stacey School and Darcia and Gary Heibertshausen at the Hawks and Hammond Home School classes.



Nancy Ereaux doing ag book activities at the elementary school in Malta.



Joy and Tom DePuydt at Phillips County Ag Day.



Rhonda Boyd reads Right This Very Minute and talks about the This American Farm computer game.



Kids at NW Counties Ag Day for Mission Valley Christian Academy kids at the Senecal Ranch learn about pigs.