

FALL 2022

 MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Spokesman

WE CARE FOR THE COUNTRY

RURAL ROAD SAFETY TIPS

PAGE 10

MFBF 2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

PAGE 17

LIVING RIVER FARMS: PEOPLE AND POULTRY

PAGE 22

CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS

PAGE 25

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MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

WE CARE FOR THE COUNTRY

FALL 2022

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 4 | From The President
SHOW UP! | 16 | Family Time
FAMILY FUN OUTSIDE OF FAMILY BUSINESS |
| 5 | The EVP Message
FARM BUREAU: OUR CULTURE IS AGRICULTURE | 17 | MFBF CONVENTION REGISTRATION |
| 6 | Ranch Mom Musings
A HAMMER AND A WHISTLE | 22 | Local Ag
LIVING RIVER FARMS |
| 8 | Insurance Benefits
LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY | 24 | Local Ag
TURNER FARMS 406 CONTINUES TO SHINE IN SUBURBAN MISSOULA |
| 10 | Roadway safety
WATCH OUT! | 25 | Leopold Award
MONTANA RANCHES EARN LEOPOLD AWARD IN 2021, 2022 |
| 12 | Montana Hospitality
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT ENJOYS FARMER HOSPITALITY ACROSS MONTANA | 28 | AG CHAT |
| 14 | Membership Training
ADVOCATE. COMMUNICATE. EDUCATE. | | |



10



ON THE COVER:
Christopher Green and Beau McLean, Living River Farms, have pasture-raised chickens and a mission to help others.

Photo by Rebecca Colnar

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Cyndi Johnson
President, Montana Farm
Bureau Federation

“ Good Farm
Bureau advocacy
depends on the
members who
have those tough
conversations at the
local meetings that
lead to resolution
proposals. ”

Show up!

As I write this editorial, the sun has been glowing deep orange and pink these late summer days. While the portraits are truly amazing, the haze reminds us of the dreadful cost that exists when the forests of the West suffer another summer of wildfires. By the end of September, harvest is in the bins for most of Montana's farmers, and the remainder of the haying season is winding down. Winter wheat and winter canola seeding are underway, and cattle are coming in from summer pastures. Rain is slow to come to north central Montana, but the state is in good shape to welcome the next few seasons. We have much for which to be thankful.

Early in September, amidst the strongest winds the Rocky Mountain Front had experienced this year, a range fire started on the east side of Conrad. The fire burned across the interstate and sped toward many irrigated and dryland farms and homesteads. Over 2,000 acres and one entire farmstead were entirely burned in less than three hours, but no lives were lost. Farmers and ranchers with equipment of all sizes and trucks full of water showed up. Four neighboring counties and their rural fire departments showed up. County employees and hired hands tended road intersections in the smoke to help folks evacuate, escape the fire, or find the fire to fight. The endurance and future of that neighborhood depended entirely on who showed up. The experience made me proud to be a small rural Montana community member.

That made me think...

The strength of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation also depends entirely on who shows up. We're wrapping up our 2022 membership year with good solid membership numbers. County Farm Bureaus are conducting annual meetings, elections, and finalizing policy decisions they will forward to the state delegate session. Good Farm Bureau advocacy depends on the members who have those tough conversations at the local meetings that lead

to resolution proposals. Montana Farm Bureau remains strong because you show up.

Local meetings often include a change in leadership. Long-time leaders are stepping down, and new leaders are taking their place. County Farm Bureaus rely on the experience and support of all members to remain a sustainable unit, and that experience and support are even more critical in leadership transitions. Help the "new folks." Encourage the young farmers and ranchers who want to be involved. Be creative in your projects and programs to make participation easier for families. Do what you can to help your county Farm Bureau be a recognized pillar in your community. Continue to show up.

Many thanks to those who attend the delegate session and debate the pressing agriculture issues and proposed policy solutions. The answers are never easy, but the conversations are thoughtful and deliberate. Because those delegates are the folks who tend the land and livestock and endure the problematic issues, the result is a solid, realistic policy. Water remains a prevalent issue this year, as well as public lands and marketing.

Montana Farm Bureau is excited to welcome our new Executive Vice President, Scott Kulbeck. He's a familiar face with fresh ideas, and we look forward to the future with him at our helm. The new office building in Bozeman is taking on personality and beginning to look like our new home. The street address is 100 Red Mountain Drive if you'd like to visit and see the progress. "Moving" day (or week) is tentatively the end of December.

The well-honed MFBF staff team is busy with annual convention preparations and end-of-the-year projects that make our meetings and events run smoothly. This year's MFBF Annual Convention will feature many relevant workshops and engaging keynote speakers, and we look forward to everyone showing up in Missoula November 14-17. See you there.



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Farm Bureau: Our Culture is AgriCULTURE

In September, our board conducted a thorough and open hiring process to replace long-serving Executive Vice President John Youngberg, who retired August 1. I am humbled, honored and excited to serve the members, board and staff of our organization after the board's decision to hire me as the next Executive Vice President for Montana Farm Bureau Federation. I grew up on my family's farm west of Big Sandy, where we raised wheat, barley, and Hereford cattle. I graduated from Montana State University in the spring of 1994 with a degree in agricultural business. Shortly after that, I went to work for Montana Farm Bureau Federation as the fieldman for Eastern Montana.

Over the past 27 years, I have held the positions of Young Farmer & Rancher Coordinator, Foundation Coordinator and Director of Membership Development. I have been extensively immersed in the Farm Bureau culture during my nearly three decades of work alongside Farm Bureau members and volunteer leaders. That culture makes us great and keeps me motivated.

The theme for our 2022 MFBF Annual Convention, November 14-17 in Missoula, is "Our AgriCULTURE – Faith | Family | Farm Bureau." I don't recall a theme for our convention that better captures many characteristics that define Montana Farm Bureau. The "Agri" part of AgriCULTURE in the theme is obvious, but what does the inclusion of faith and family say about the Farm Bureau culture?

Faith - noun - 1. Complete trust or confidence in someone or something. 2. Strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof.

How does this translate within Farm Bureau's culture? Montana's farmers and ranchers must have the utmost **faith** each year when they trust their livelihood to Montana's fickle weather. They have **faith** in their skills, experience, in the land itself and **faith** that their work ethic will carry them through countless challenges they will face between spring planting or calving and fall harvest.

Almost every Farm Bureau member I have ever met also has a deep and unwavering **faith** in God. A deep belief strengthens that **faith** they are on this earth to be a steward of the land and the gifts God has endowed us.

Farm Bureau members have **faith** that the grassroots process developed over the past century will make their voice heard at every level where Farm Bureau speaks on their behalf. Those who choose to give their incredibly scarce time to serve agriculture

through their involvement in Farm Bureau have **faith** in their fellow Farm Bureau members to make a difference and build a better future for agriculture, rural Montana and their **families**.

Family - noun - 1. The basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their children. 2. A group of persons of common ancestry. 3. A group of people united by certain convictions or a common affiliation.

Your Farm Bureau membership is a **family** membership, meaning that your dues gain membership access to the head of the **family**, their spouse and all dependent children under the age of 21. By joining Farm Bureau, your membership is to your county Farm Bureau, and together with fellow **family** members from your county, you make up the grassroots level of our organization.

I often hear that Montana is one big town with a really long main street, meaning that all Montanans are neighbors. Finding a common friend or **family** member doesn't take long in any conversation with your neighbor. In that sense, most Montanans are bound together by a common ancestry, especially those of us lucky enough to grow up in the rural areas of this great state.

Our Montana Farm Bureau history book Legacies, written by Laura Nelson, talks extensively about the people, principles, and purpose of Montana Farm Bureau. It's a great read that will make anyone who is part of the Farm Bureau **family** proud to be a part of our common ancestry. That common ancestry built our agriculture industry and our communities from the ground up. They survived lengthy droughts, plagues of grasshoppers, the Great Depression, two world wars, and countless other trials. It's no stretch to say that one of the things our ancestors had in common that allowed them to survive and even thrive was a deep conviction and a common affiliation with the people, principles and purpose of the Farm Bureau. That is the third definition of a **family**.

To those of us who dedicate our time and talents to this organization, the knowledge of the grit and determination of our ancestors also drives us to be the next generation of this Farm Bureau **family**. We are willing to put everything on the line to fulfill our vision, to lead Montana agriculture toward a future with a prosperous ag economy and thriving rural communities. **Faith, family, and Farm Bureau, that's our AgriCULTURE.**



Scott Kulbeck

Executive Vice President,
MFBF

“ To those of us who dedicate our time and talents to this organization, the knowledge of the grit and determination of our ancestors also drives us to be the next generation of this Farm Bureau family. ”



A hammer and a whistle

BY MARIAH SHAMMEL

When I was nine years old, my sister and I took the Greyhound bus from our home in the suburbs of Minneapolis to Billings. Alone.

My grandma lived in Billings and thought it would be an excellent idea for my 14-year-old sister, Betsy, and me to spend a couple of weeks with her while my parents worked tirelessly on their master's degrees simultaneously. My sixteen-year-old brother had a job and stayed home. We didn't have much money, and paying for us to fly there was out of the question, so my parents were more than relieved when Grandma Mary Jane offered to do just that.

Grandma insisted she would take care of everything, which was easy to do in the pre-9/11 era, and my parents were so happy to be able to give Betsy and me some semblance of summer vacation. As the day of our trip approached, Grandma called with the ticket information, and it became clear she had purchased bus tickets, not plane tickets. Grandma insisted it would be fine, she rides Greyhounds all the time, and if we just sat behind the driver, nothing could happen. My parents were livid because who, in their right mind, would send their young kids on a 24-hour bus trip across the country all by themselves? We went.

The trip did not go well. I can still remember the look on my mom's face as the three of us walked across the massive bus barn in downtown Minneapolis to find the one bound for Billings. It wasn't good. We climbed the stairs, and Mom stopped to tell the bus driver that her daughters were traveling alone and she would like us to sit right behind his seat for safety. He looked in the rear-view mirror, back at Mom, and said, "seat's taken." That was true, so Mom asked if the person could move. There was no response from either rider or driver.

Mom went nose to nose with the bus driver and told him we had a hammer and a whistle in our backpack. If he heard the whistle blowing, he better "damn well

pull over and see what was going on" because it meant the other one of us was killing someone with a hammer. He didn't take his eyes off her for a long time. I thought my mom was bluffing and didn't know why she was telling the bus driver that until my sister gave me a look and a nod, and I realized she was, in fact wielding these household tools and was prepared to use them. Welcome to my family.

After we said our goodbyes and found some seats, Betsy (in all of her permed glory) and I settled in for our overnight road trip. I was so petrified; I made my sister sit with the whistle around her neck and her hand on the hammer in the bag. I don't remember her being nearly as nervous as I was.

Until the guy in the row behind us popped up, leaned his head in between ours, and started talking. He talked nonstop until we reached Fargo, four hours away, when he told us he had just died from smoking. I thought I had heard him wrong, but my sister's eyes about popped out of her head, and by the time he told us all about how the doctors had pulled his blackened lungs out of his chest to show him the damage smoking was doing to his body, put them back in, sewed him up and allowed him to live only if he promised to quit, they were as big as dinner plates. We couldn't wait for him to get off the bus.

He did, and another gentleman took his place. This guy jammed out to his Walkman for a long time before taking his headphones off, thrusting them in our direction and insisting we listen to his sister's voice, announcing she had just released her first album and would be famous someday. We finally gave in and "took a listen" (with the volume turned up as loud as it would go so we could hold the headphones as far from our ears as possible). Even if I weren't scared out of my mind and had listened to the singing voice, I wouldn't have known who it was.



Mariah Shammel ranches in Hilger, Montana with four kids, her favorite farmer husband, cattle, dogs and various other critters.

"That's LaToya Jackson," Betsy whispered to me. "What?" I mouthed, "That's Michael Jackson?" pointing to the man behind us with my head. In only the way a 14-year-old teenager could tell her less than cool, annoying nine-year-old sister, she informed me that it was not Michael Jackson nor any of LaToya's other brothers and that the guy behind us might have been working through some issues.

On and on it went until we pulled up to see Grandma standing in the Billings bus depot parking lot. When my sister and I reminisce, we usually end up in tears from laughing so hard. My parents also end up in tears, mainly because they can't believe they let this happen.

Truthfully, as much as they wonder why they allowed this to happen, I am so grateful they did. It wasn't the kind of trip any of us had envisioned, but I learned a lot during those 24 hours. That's when I realized how calm, cool, and collected my sister is, no matter the situation, and I learned that when you find yourself outside of your comfort zone, you should embrace it and find humor in it. It might have turned out to be one of the best experiences of my life, but I think I might encourage my kids to use other modes of transportation. No offense, Mom and Dad.





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Learn more about your mutual insurance company

BY JEFF SULLOFF, VICE PRESIDENT OF CLAIMS, MOUNTAIN WEST FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.

Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company is nearing its 75th year of protecting our Farm Bureau member-clients in Wyoming and Montana, and we thank you for placing your trust in us. We want to share with you what it means to be part of a mutual insurance company.

Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company and its subsidiary company, 360 Insurance which provides property and casualty insurance products in Colorado, employs just over 200 people in our three-state territory. In addition, we have close to 115 independent contractor agents and those agents have more than 250 employees who all represent the local presence of Mountain West in communities across our region. Mountain West has over 80,000 individual policy

and property owners with common interests looking to share risk within a large group.

Each member contributes a sum of money in the form of premiums that provides them financial protection in an amount greater than they may be able to afford if they were not insured and backed by their fellow members. Premium collected that is not used to pay operational expense and claims is then placed into a common fund, referred to as

 **Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company**


to meet our obligations paying covered losses and the amount you pay in premium depends upon the company's ability to achieve fair and reasonable settlements and manage operational costs. The deterioration of surplus has many negative consequences, including a decreased ability to safely grow the company. Mountain West, and mutual insurers in general, are focused on long-term ways to meet the needs of their policyholders who also influence the company's direction and product offerings.

The Benefits of Mutual Insurance Companies

There are many reasons to choose Mountain West over other insurers. Mountain West as a mutual insurer offers our policyholders some notable advantages.

- **Reasonable Premiums:** This is the first, and perhaps most significant, benefit of being part of a mutual insurance company. As a mutual owner of the company, you will share in its success. If the company meets or exceeds its financial goals for the year, premium adjustments will generally be less volatile than when the collective group of owners suffer greater losses.
- **Input.** Another reason to choose a mutual insurer is that as an



“ Each member contributes a sum of money in the form of premiums that provides them financial protection in an amount greater than they may be able to afford if they were not insured and backed by their fellow members. ”

Jeff Sulloff, Vice President of Claims

holders and writes over \$200 million in premium each year. Collectively, these premiums indemnify our member-clients when they suffer a loss.

Mountain West is a mutual insurance company, which means there are no stockholders, and all policyholders are members of the company. Like most of the first insurers in the United States who got their start as a mutual company, Mountain West was created by farmers

Policyholder Security Funds. Policyholder Security Funds protect each member and the company in the event of higher-than-expected claims, such as in widespread catastrophic weather event.

As a mutual insurer, all operational costs, the cost to pay claims, defend our policyholders in lawsuits against them, and defend lawsuits brought against the company are essentially shared by all members. In other words, our ability

owner/member of the company, you have a voice in how the company is run. Mountain West is governed by a board of directors, which is made up of Farm Bureau members who are also policyholders. The board members represent the policyholders and work to ensure the company is operating in their best interests. In contrast, the board of a stock insurance company is chosen by outside investors and is committed to meeting the financial goals of these outside investors whose interests may or may not align with those of the policyholders.

- **Outcomes.** One unique advantage offered by Mountain West is that having an ownership stake in the company can incentivize better performance among the policyholders. Guided by their policyholder-led board of directors, Mountain West has strong risk management programs with appropriate underwriting requirements. Both of which help

reduce the likelihood or the severity of claims. The fewer claims the company must pay out, the higher the potential profits and the more stable premiums will be. Instead of the success of your insurer being an abstract concept, it can have a concrete impact on your bottom line.

- **Focus.** Mountain West was established by Farm Bureau members who share a common interest. As a result, the company has a focused approach to its product offerings to support its owner/members. Mountain West's unique relationship with the Wyoming and

Montana Farm Bureaus provides financial assistance to each organization through significant royalty payments each year. Additionally, Mountain West and its agents act as a membership team providing significant membership growth for each organization year after year.

Thank you for your trust and ownership in YOUR insurance company. We appreciate you choosing Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company to help you protect what's most important to you.



NOTICE

Annual Policyholders' Meeting

December 1, 2022 – 8:00 a.m.

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Watch out!

Rural roadway safety awareness prevents accidents

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

Back to school, harvest, fall livestock work, and trying to soak in the last few weeks of good weather before another long winter means that Montana's roads are busy. According to the Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey, an estimated 19 percent of the U.S. population lives in rural areas and accounts for approximately 30 percent of total vehicle miles traveled; however, rural areas account for nearly 45 percent of all traffic fatalities. In Montana, about 86 percent of traffic fatalities occurred on rural roadways at a rate of 2.8 times those occurring on urban highways. While most of Montana's roads



Dana Jansen, Director of Ag Safety,
Montana State Fund

classify as "rural," it may be no surprise that most motor vehicle-related accidents occur on rural roads. Still, it is vitally important to understand the challenges our expansive and often remote road system creates. Rural roads pose some unique challenges: hilly/steep/curvy roads making it difficult to see, road surfaces that may be rough or unstable, no/narrow shoulder, narrow width, single lane bridges, livestock and wildlife, limited or inadequate signage, and farm equipment or other vehicles sharing the same road. It is not uncommon for machinery and implements to extend past the center or the road, leaving very little room for

oncoming traffic to navigate safely. Most farm equipment (and livestock) moves much slower than other roadway users! Accidents involving farm machinery and implements are five times as likely to result in fatalities. It is crucial for everyone to remember that courtesy is a key component of road safety.

Tips for farmers and ranchers:

- Plan travel or moving of livestock to avoid high traffic times, busy roads, and bad weather. Travel during the day when possible – avoid travel before daylight or after dark.
- Ensure all equipment is in good working order with adequate lighting and markers. Use a Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem when appropriate.
- Install reflective markers or marking tape on equipment edges.



- Use extreme caution when making turns (mainly when wide turns are necessary).
- Always use hand or turn signals to indicate plans.
- Use wide-view mirrors when possible.
- Lock brakes together if applicable.
- Consider the use of a pilot vehicle when moving machinery or livestock.
- Minimize equipment width and haul equipment when practical.
- It is better to make an extra trip. Avoid moving equipment and machinery down roads when you are drowsy; come back for them when you are rested.
- Consider the extra distance required to slow down and stop a loaded trailer or machine pulling a heavy implement. Leave yourself plenty of room to operate.
- Allow traffic to pass if a suitable pull-out is available. Avoid shoulders that may be soft as most machines and implements pose a significant roll-over risk (particularly those carrying a load – grain, hay, livestock, etc.).
- Obey all traffic laws and buckle up!

Tips for motorists:

- SLOW DOWN AND BE PATIENT.
- Never pass farm equipment while in no-passing zones, curves, or hills. Be aware that farm equipment may have to maneuver around obstacles or make wide turns, never attempt to

pass until you are sure of the machine operator's intent. Pass when you can do so safely to prevent traffic from becoming backed up.

- Reduce speed when you see equipment or livestock on a rural road. You will overtake them quickly and may not have time to respond safely.
- Slow down on gravel roads, hills, curves and turns. Consider traveling at a lower speed near farmyards and work sites as a courtesy.
- Keep a safe distance behind farm equipment – if you can't see their mirrors, they can't see you.
- When approaching livestock, it is best to pull over and wait until you receive explicit instruction to move through. If given the opportunity to drive through, do so slowly and stay to one side rather than trying to weave through the herd.

- Consider the extra distance required to slow down and stop a loaded trailer or machine pulling a heavy implement. Leave the driver plenty of room to operate.
- Dust dramatically reduces visibility. Allow extra room between you and other roadway users.
- Watch for changing road surfaces, no/soft shoulders, wildlife, open-range livestock and rapidly changing road conditions.
- Obey all traffic laws and buckle up.

Most deadly rural roadway incidents occur during daylight and good weather, so there is never a time to discount our shared responsibility on rural roads.

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.



➤ Lighting & Marking Recommended By ASAE

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) recommends the following lighting and marking for agricultural machines and implements:

1. Two headlights.
2. At least one tail lamp, mounted on the left side facing the rear of the tractor.
3. At least two amber warning lights, visible from the front and back, mounted at the same level (at least 42 inches above ground level).
4. At least two red reflectors, visible from the rear and mounted on either side.
5. SMV emblem for all equipment and implements traveling 25 mph or less (for equipment being hauled on a trailer, it is recommended that the SMV be covered or removed).

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American Farm Bureau President enjoys farmer hospitality across Montana

Montana Farm Bureau members hosted American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall in August, showing the Georgia-based farmer their ranches and farms. Duvall and his wife, Jennifer, started their tour in Wyoming and, on the afternoon of August 10, headed to MFBF Vice President Gary Heibertshausen's sheep ranch in Alzada. While at the Heibertshausen Ranch, the Duvalls and Heibertshausens discussed a wide range of topics, including ranching on federal lands, sage grouse habitat, labor shortages, and navigating through the new "green energy and climate future."

During their first overnight stay in Montana, the Duvalls enjoyed dinner with District 5 Director Darcia Patten, Custer-Fallon County Farm Bureau President Kim Gibbs, and the rest of the tour group which included MFBF President Cyndi Johnson, Ken Johnson, MFBF's Senior Director of Governmental Affairs Nicole Rolf, and two AFBF staff; Shelby Hagenauer and Cole Staudt. They discussed local agricultural issues, collegiate Young Farmer and Rancher clubs, and the successful agriculture program offered at the local college. Before leaving the Miles City area the next morning, the group visited the



(Left) MFBF District 10 Director Jim Willis explains pivots and irrigated hay ground. (Right) Zippy Duvall helps himself to delicious fare during the Yellowstone County "Membership Month Winners Barbeque."

PHOTOS DYLAN DAVIDSON

Rolf Ranch where Wayne, Melissa, Nicole and Ryan Rolf showed them the pine-topped badlands of eastern Montana, discussed the importance of stock water improvements, grasshopper control, tree thinning projects for conservation, checkerboarded landownership, and cattle.

The group headed west and enjoyed lunch and touring at the Huntley Project Museum, followed by a tour of Diamond X Farms. While there, Leroy, Sydney, Greg and Ellen Gabel talked about sugar beet history in Montana, and even fired up some equipment to show how sugar beet harvesting works. Following the farm tour, the group visited the Vogel's farm

and feedlot in Ballantine where Matt and Teddi Vogel showed pens of finished cattle while discussing cattle markets and transportation costs.

During May Membership Month, county Farm Bureaus were challenged to recruit the most voting members; Yellowstone County won with 17, outpacing Southwest and Powder River/Carter counties. As a reward, the county Farm Bureau received a catered dinner, with steaks grilled by MFBF staff. It turned out that the Duvalls would be in the area simultaneously, so on August 11, Zippy Duvall joined the Yellowstone County Farm Bureau members for a delicious dinner at

Homesteader Park in Huntley.

On August 11, Friday, the Duvalls learned about beekeeping at Drange Apiary in Laurel, covering the entire process from taking bees to California in the winter to pollinate almond trees to raising bees and getting honey to bottle.

The next stop was at the

(Far left) At their feed mill, Matt Vogel tells AFBF President Zippy Duvall about feed rations for the feedlot cattle. (Left) Learning about bees at the Drange Apiary with Jodie and Andy Drange.



At the Heibertshausen's ranch in Alzada: (left to right): Ken and Cyndi Johnson, Zippy and Jennifer Duvall, Joyce and Gary Heibertshausen.



historic Bank Bar in Clyde Park, followed by a visit to the Four Diamond Ranch north of Wilsall. MFBF District 10 Director Jim Willis, ranch manager, visited with Duvall about cattle grazing, irrigated hay ground, and dealing with elk. The Duvall tour concluded with a visit to Cooper Herefords in Willow Creek, where the Cooper family talked about their purebred Hereford breeding program, as well as area water

and dam issues.

Duvall was impressed by the vastness of Montana, expressing admiration for how far ranch to ranch is and how cowboys, farmers and ranchers have survived as they have for many generations. He acknowledged some differences in issues, like water rights and federal lands. Still, he noted that farmers and ranchers across the country have many similarities



Ryan Rolf shows the checkerboard map of federal/private lands to President Duvall.

bringing them together in an organization like Farm Bureau.

After the visit, the AFBF president said, "Where I am from, we talk about southern hospitality, but there is no such thing. It's farmer hospitality and stretches from one coast to the other."








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Advocate. Communicate. Educate. ACE continues to inspire Farm Bureau members

Montana Farm Bureau's ACE program empowers Farm Bureau members to be confident, effective leaders in their county Farm Bureau and local communities. Advocacy follows leadership, and participants will be prepared to actively advocate on crucial industry issues with practiced, ever-evolving leadership skills.

Morgan Kuntz, who resides in the Dillon area, shared her thoughts about her time in the 2022 ACE program.

Q: Tell a little about yourself.

I was born and raised in Dillon, Montana, the fourth generation on my family's ranch. Ranching on Grasshopper Creek, sure-footed ranch horses, and good-minded cow dogs have been my passion for as long as I can remember. I was a reporter for the Prairie Star until I accepted a job with the Montana FFA Foundation. I currently work as the Director of Development for the Montana FFA Foundation, along with helping on the family ranch and starting colts. In addition to my work, my other life passion is playing the fiddle.

Q: What did you apply for ACE?

I applied to ACE after being encouraged by my county Farm Bureau president, J.M. Peck. I wanted to become more involved in Farm Bureau, and I am always looking for ways to better myself as a leader. After J.M. encouraged me, I figured, why not apply?

Q: Which session did you get the most from?

The sessions have been so amazing it is hard to pick just one. If I had to choose, I would say the first session when we heard from Bruce Vincent. Bruce has an incredible message to share. He spoke about the importance of involvement and grassroots advocacy. Rural America is a precious gem, and it is something worth fighting for. That has been my overall takeaway from ACE. There is a lot about the agriculture/rural American lifestyle we take for granted, but it truly is something special. We all have a story to tell, and ACE taught me how to articulate my own story

better, but I also learned how important it is to listen to other people's stories.

Q: What is your ACE project

I hope to start a live animal scholarship program in Beaverhead County that will be modeled after the NILE Merit Heifer Program. My vision is to connect 4-H and FFA members with cattle producers in the county. Youth will be given a heifer calf and must breed and show her at the Beaverhead County Fair. After showing proof of breeding and showing the heifer at the fair, the bill of sale for the heifer will be turned over to the youth. I want to encourage beef production in our county and spark a passion for cattle in our county's 4-H and FFA members.

Q: Would you recommend ACE?

I highly recommend ACE to everyone and anyone. The friendship, the camaraderie, the life lessons and the emotional intelligence you gain from



Morgan Kuntz

participating in this program are bar none. The ACE program is an investment in yourself, and one you absolutely in no way, shape, or form will regret.



➤ Think ACE sounds great? Apply today.

The Montana Farm Bureau is now accepting applications for its 2023 ACE (Advocate. Communicate. Educate.) Leadership Program. ACE empowers Farm Bureau members to advocate on key industry issues and be confident, effective leaders in their county Farm Bureau and local communities.

Selected participants will attend six seminars throughout the year focused on enhancing advocacy skills and leadership development. Class members will participate in one-on-one virtual coaching sessions with experts in leadership development throughout the year.

Participants learn to refine and establish premier leadership and advocacy skills necessary to communicate industry issues effectively; engage in and address the needs of their rural communities; and gain new leadership responsibilities within their county and state Farm Bureau. They practice public speaking and active listening and learn to address the media, elected officials and non-agricultural audiences.

Learning about key industry issues is part of the training for participants. With practiced, ever-evolving leadership skills, participants will be prepared to advocate on crucial industry issues.

"Rural Montana needs strong leadership. We need school board members, local government officials and energetic county Farm Bureau volunteers," noted ACE program director Liv Holt. "Participants will refine and establish premiere leadership skills to prepare them for their next leadership step."


For additional information on ACE and an application that is due by December 1, visit <https://mfbf.org/programs/Montana-Farm-Bureau-ACE-Program>. Questions: Contact Liv Holt, livh@mfbf.org, 406-581-3996 or Sue Ann Streufert, sueanns@mfbf.org, 406-587-3153.

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 **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.

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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. Must be a valid member for at least 30 days to be eligible for discount. 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** - 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 mem-

bership (Platinum 1) - which unlocks 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

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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.

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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, data management solutions, financial execution products, market insights and education. Go to www.stonex.com.

Family fun outside of family business

BY KRIS DESCHEEMAER, DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR, MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

How do you go about family time off the farm or ranch? The following ideas can help your families get together, enjoy a vacation, and spend time outside the business.

Families should be intentional in planning a family get-together; otherwise, it doesn't happen. Is a picnic in the backyard a couple of times in the summer enough to satisfy family time? Is your family the kind that flies by the seat of their pants, throwing a picnic together without planning? If so, go for it. If not, sit down and do some planning in the spring and iron out the details of who, what, when, and where so the summer family fun actually happens.

Having someone in the family willing to handle the details and book the lodging for the chosen dates makes the trip a reality, and people are less likely to cancel if they know reservations are already in place. An Airbnb makes sense for large groups, and booking months in advance gives a better chance of finding suitable accommodations. It can be challenging to plan months in advance, but don't let that be the excuse that keeps you from your multi-family vacation.

Good communication on what is expected will ensure your time together is enjoyable. How are you going to do your cooking for the event? Are you each going to be responsible for your food, or is each family going to make a meal? Would you all prefer to dine out; if so, what are the options?

How are the expenses going to be paid? Is each family responsible for the cost of the lodging, meals, and extras? Asking questions on what family members' expectations are for the vacation will help ensure all agree.

Be flexible when things don't work out as planned. On our recent family adventure, we planned to go into the



Kris Descheemaer



The Descheemaers find fun for the kids during a family getaway that involved digging potatoes at a friend's farm.

where we wanted to go, but had to give up after exhausting all tries on alternate routes.

Because of prior planning, knowing the possibility of a no-go because of the fire, we did a pivot and ended up at the Ruby Reservoir. We had a wonderful day on the water, paddle boarding, kayaking, and hunting for garnets.

To ensure an enjoyable family getaway, it is best for all families involved to have a say in what the vacation/event will entail. Our family had had the goal of going to the Gravelly Range for several years, so it was not hard for us to decide what we wanted to do. It might not have happened if daughter, Nicole, had not just taken the bull by the horns in April and said, "Get your calendars and get this on the books." She

also was the one to do the research and book an Airbnb, so we had concrete plans.

Travel is expensive in today's world, and finding affordable alternatives for the entire family can be a challenge. Tap into other agriculture friends. In our case, we visited friends who grew potatoes. We are dryland farmers and ranchers, so irrigation is a novelty; the grandkids entertained themselves by running through the pivot. The visit to the potato fields, learning how potatoes are grown, and the care taken to prevent disease in the field and spud barns were new information for all. The highlight for the kids was digging potatoes to bring home.

For some families, it might not be possible for all to be gone from the business simultaneously or for an extended time, but having that family time together is still possible. Maybe it is an evening in town at the fair together or renting the local swimming pool for a private family party. Being creative in exploring what you can do together as a family might be part of the fun.

Whatever your family time might be, make plans so it happens. However, be open to those times when recreational opportunities fall into your lap; those times often make the best family memories.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

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103rd Annual

**MONTANA FARM BUREAU
CONVENTION**



TRADE SHOW

November 14-17 | Hilton Garden Inn | Missoula

Monday, November 14

8am-1pm	ACE Seminar & Graduation Luncheon
1-3pm	Women's Leadership Committee Meeting
3-7pm	Registration Open
3-5pm	MFBF Board of Directors Meeting
3-5pm	Promotion & Education Committee Meeting
5:00pm	Convention Kick-off Social

Tuesday, November 15

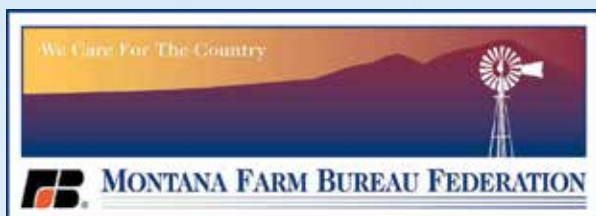
6:45am	Century Club Members Only Breakfast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote: Ryan Zinke, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior (invited)
7:30am-6pm	Registration & Trade Show Open
8:00am	Pre-Session Vespers
8:30am	Opening General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote: Ara Megerdichian, Montana State University
10:00am	Coffee Break
10:15-12:15am	Young Farmer & Rancher Committee Meeting
10:30-11:30am	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longstanding & Emerging Environmental Regulations - Courtney Briggs, AFBF • Wheat & Barley Committee Update & Outlook - Jason Laird, Wheat & Barley Committee • The Power in Creating the Farmer's Story - Roger Rickard, Voices in Advocacy®
11:45am	Audit Report
12:00pm	Open Resolutions Session
12:30-1:45pm	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote: Bringing Cattle Producers and Feeders to the Table - Jordan Levi, Arcadia Management
2:00-3pm	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ways to Add Value to Your Herd and the Production Chain - Jordan Levi, Arcadia Management • Comprehensive Water Review Update - Anna Pakenham Stevenson, Montana DNRC • How to Ditch Burnout, Stress & Unhealthy Habits - Michelle Grocke, MSU Extension
2:00pm	YF&R Discussion Meet - Round 1
3:00pm	Ice Cream Social
3:30-5pm	District Caucuses
5:30pm	YF&R Discussion Meet Final Four
6:00pm	Social Hour
7:00pm	Young Farmer & Rancher Social & Dinner

Wednesday, November 16

6:45am	County Awards Breakfast (RSVP through your County President)
8:00am	General Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call of Delegates • Credentials Committee & Nominating Committee Reports
10:00am	Coffee Break
10:30am	Resolutions Session
11:45am-1pm	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote: If You Don't Have a Seat at the Table, You're on the Menu - Roger Rickard, Voices in Advocacy®
1-5pm	Resolutions Session continues
6:00pm	Social Hour
7:00pm	The Finale Banquet with Entertainment by Comedian Greg Warren

Thursday, November 17

8:00am	Resolutions Session
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103rd Annual Convention REGISTRATION FORM

November 14-17 | Hilton Garden Inn | Missoula

DUE NOVEMBER 1

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

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ COUNTY: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

☐ Voting Delegate

☐ Alternate

☐ Member

☐ Guest

REGISTRATION AND MEALS

Registration Fee (required to attend any events) \$50 x _____ = \$ _____

Registration Fee After November 1 \$100 x _____ = \$ _____

Tuesday Lunch \$25 x _____ = \$ _____

Wednesday Lunch \$25 x _____ = \$ _____

Wednesday *Finale Banquet* \$45 x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

PAYMENT

_____ Check Enclosed (payable to MFBF)

_____ You can register online with
a credit card at www.mfbf.org.

LODGING INFORMATION

Attendees are responsible for making their own room reservations. Call the Hilton Garden Inn at (406) 532-5300. Request the \$129+tax MFBF room block special conference rate. **Book your room by October 31 to guarantee your rate!**

Please return registration form by **November 1** to:

Montana Farm Bureau Federation, 502 S. 19th Ave, Ste 104, Bozeman, MT 59718
Call the MFBF office at (406) 587-3153 or e-mail info@mfbf.org with questions.

Convention Highlights

Ara Megerdichian



Ara Megerdichian is a retired military officer, a business owner, start-up founder, and an adjunct instructor for MSU's business college with over 30 years of combined military and private sector experience. He's been a leader in organizations spanning the spectrum

of America's top tier special operations units to future leaders at the United States Military Academy, as well as building, developing, and managing the staff and operations of the Army's 2500 soldier elite and highly selective unit, The Old Guard in Washington, DC. His passion for building transformational teams by building transformational leaders has fueled a continuous journey of post-military success as a business owner, speaker, and leadership and management consultant.

Jordan Levi

Jordan Levi is the program manager and founder of Arcadia Asset Management, the investment manager to Arcadia Commodity Opportunity, LLC. Concurrently, Jordan is the founder of the Fed Cattle Exchange which began operations in 2016. In March of 2018, Jordan, his firm and partners facilitated the purchase of Five Rivers Cattle, the world's largest cattle feeding operation with a onetime capacity of approximately 900k head. Prior to forming Arcadia in 2009, Mr. Levi formed and co-managed Heritage Management Company, a hedge fund and family office for two Oklahoma City Forbes list oilmen.



The Cattle are Back!

Long-time convention attendees know just how cool this is - cattle pens just off of Reserve Street! We are bringing the cattle judging contest back for convention attendees on

Tuesday, November 15. Stay tuned for more info!

Roger Rickard



Roger Rickard is the Founder & President of Voices in Advocacy® and author of *7 Actions of Highly Effective Advocates*. As a recognized expert in advocacy engagement and grassroots activation, Roger works with a wide cross-section of organizations from diverse industries. His vibrant personality and a good sense of humor make for engaging and interactive programming that is packaged and delivered in an easy to understand, easy to apply format combining his education, experience, and enthusiasm to drive advocacy success.

Greg Warren, Comedian

Greg Warren, most recently seen on Late Night with Seth Meyers, The Late Late Show and Comedy Central Presents, has built a strong fan base with an act inspired by his Midwestern upbringing. An honest mix of self-deprecation, frustration and an arsenal of lifelike characters highlight Greg's colorful perspective.



After a stint selling Jif and Pringles for Procter & Gamble, Greg made the decision to become a full-time comedian. Greg attracts a diverse audience spectrum, having performed on BET's Coming to the Stage and on Country Music Television. Get ready for some laughs!

Polaris Ranger Up For Grabs

Polaris and the Young Farmer & Rancher Committee are upping the ante again this year! The winner of the 2022 MFBF Discussion Meet will take home a brand new Polaris Ranger 500 plus an expense paid trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico to compete in the national YF&R Discussion Meet. All voting members ages 18-35 are eligible to compete. Encourage members from your area to attend the convention on **Tuesday, November 15** for a great day of events for YF&R members. For more information contact, Sue Ann Streufert at sueanns@mfbf.org.



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Living River Farms

Caring about people and poultry in the Bitterroot Valley

BY REBECCA COLNAR, EDITOR, SPOKESMAN

Driving through the Bitterroot Valley, where rural property butts up against suburban housing, one doesn't expect to see a 22-acre grassy pasture with feathery white chickens. However, that is precisely what one sees when driving east of Stevensville on one of the back roads. Look for Living River Farms, and what looks like an open-ended "greenhouse" turns out amazingly enough to be housing for a bevy of birds. The farm has 16,000 chickens on the premises.

July 2022 marked the start of the seventh season the farm has been pasture raising, processing the birds and selling chicken to their niche market.

Beau McLean had been working for a large company in Missouri and remembered when his priorities shifted. "I started visiting with a pastor friend starting in 2013 and told him my goal was to employ people who need to make steps forward in life, and how could I create a business that could employ those people," McLean explained. In 2013, McLean and his long-time friend, Christopher Green, traveled across western Montana doing business research, which is how the two business partners arrived with the idea of raising chickens. McLean moved back to Montana in 2014.

"Originally, we were hoping for a farm-to-table business with the chickens, but it seemed at that time there was no place in the area to process chickens," the business entrepreneur explained. "Christopher and I initially built a processing plant on a farm



Christopher Green, left, and Beau McLean have owned Living River Farms for seven years. They started the business not only to grow pasture-raised chickens and cows, but as a way to provide jobs for local people, especially those who are special needs.

in Hamilton, but we outgrew that and built this facility near Stevensville."

McLean has been able to put his degree in animal science with poultry emphasis to work, although he has found raising meat chickens unique. "Meat chickens are so different than laying hens, and it's been a huge learning curve."

Green came to poultry from a different angle. He grew up on his aunt and uncle's waterfowl farm in Oregon, where he learned about agriculture and animal care. He echoed McLean that raising waterfowl was very different from owning meat chickens.

"Meat chickens grow incredibly fast and have unique needs to grow fast while also reducing health issues related to fast growth," Green explained. The men chose pasture raising for the chickens because "it's good for the soil, which in turn is beneficial for the grass."

"It is also great for the bird and creates a delicious and healthy chicken for our customers," McClean adds.

Chicks arrive every week, starting in February. They are brooded their first three weeks

indoors, moved to the pasture facilities for another five weeks, and processed at eight weeks old.

The Living River Farms facility is impressively clean and efficient. An ample dining hall with a sink and refrigerator is attached to the processing area, which includes a plucker, scalding, and various other equipment for processing the birds, tools for packaging, and cold storage. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Living River Farms processes 200-250 chickens with McLean, Green, and several others, including three special needs employees. The process includes packaging the meat for grocery stores and direct-to-consumer sales.

The chickens at Living River Farms are a Cornish cross that McLean and Green prefer to other meat breeds because they are easy to process and have a uniform carcass, which is what customers expect to see. Consumers can find Living River Farms chicken—either a whole chicken or any of the cuts—in area grocery stores, including Town and Country Foods and the Bozeman Co-op, Good Food store in Missoula, Rainbows End in Hamilton, Hamilton Market Place, and Real Food Market in Helena.



The open-ended sheds provide protection for the birds from avian predators, yet can be moved daily to provide a fresh place for the chickens.



Inside the
processing
facility.

Before the pandemic, Living River Farms sold 80 percent of their chicken to local restaurants. McLean admits that after COVID, their business to restaurant steeply declined; they currently work with local grocery stores or sell directly to consumers, including from their online store.

Green said their chicken "Tastes like your grandma's chicken, having more flavor and texture. We didn't want to raise chickens indoors; there are many chickens raised that way, so we opted for pasture-raised because it appeals to a different market."

The Ravalli County Farm Bureau members explained about their pasture-raised birds. "People want to verify that pasture-raised chicken is something different. Pasture-raised is not the same as free-range. Free-range implies but does not require the birds to be out on pasture or grass. They just have to have access to the outdoors. Pasture-raised chickens are

The chicks are kept indoors until they reach three-weeks old.



moved every day onto the newly growing grass. They eat plenty of insects, but we supplement them with feed, the bulk which is grown nearby in Corvallis."

They use electric fencing and netting to keep out predators, the worst being mink and raccoons. Birds are covered to prevent them from being attacked by avian predators.

McLean enthusiastically believes everyone should have chickens. "It's a positive experience, and you learn that food isn't from a grocery store. Often by recommendation, people try our chicken for the first time, and they have a new interest in how different it tastes. Raising

chickens can be done in a healthy way. Of course, people raise chickens on a larger scale, but how we do it is an opportunity for scaling that is good for the land, people and animals."

Market research helped McLean and Green discover a niche in chicken raising. "It's something young people can do on limited acreage. Our advice is to conduct market research, and don't be afraid to think outside the box," McLean said. "We also have cattle and sell that beef direct to consumers. Having cows and chickens works well because they can graze the same land. The cows keep the grass short enough for us to move the chickens onto it. We also put up hay on our 22 acres. There are ways you can figure out how to be involved in agriculture and make a living."

McLean explains that it's the people who make the business. "It's about chicken, but it's not about chicken. It's the people we are working with. It's a ministry through business, which is where our heart is. We've had employees since our second year; four have been with us since the beginning. We have added some special needs people and employed them, and they learn the skills necessary to move on and find other jobs."

Green said their employees, "Enjoy friendships and the environment. As we say in our mission, we're here to 'Create a great environment where people can start fresh from the river of life.'"

To learn more about Living River Farms, visit www.livingriverfarms.com.



Beau McLean shows
off a packaged
chicken, ready to sell.

Turner Farms 406 continues to shine in suburban Missoula

BY REBECCA COLNAR, EDITOR, SPOKESMAN

Turner Farms 406, with its appealing farm store, market garage, hogs, sheep, pumpkin patch, vegetables, and more, is an oasis in the bustle of Missoula suburbia. The farm, which the Montana Farm Bureau *Spokesman* featured several years ago, has expanded, adding a few acres and renovated buildings, some from the Orchard Homes subdivision dating back to 1910.

The Turner family has been growing their farm since 2006, when the boys wanted to buy bunk beds and had to contribute to their bunk bed fund. They had been harvesting more than their share of corn and vegetables that year, so the boys got creative and set up a farm stand in the driveway for friends and family. The kids made money necessary for bunk beds, and the family decided that selling their home-grown produce was an excellent small business they could all participate in and enjoy.

Since the *Spokesman* article, the Turner boys have grown up; two headed to college, and the youngest, Gus, to high school. Ethan returned after receiving a degree in agricultural business from Montana State University.

"After I graduated, my parents hired me as their farm manager," Ethan explained. "I'm developing a plan on where the farm is headed and taking care of the animals. Going through 4-H and FFA was my preliminary experience in agriculture, and attending the College of Ag at MSU was an educational and excellent experience. I looked around in college and realized many people didn't understand where their food came from."

Over time, the Northwest Counties Farm Bureau members switched from selling at farmers' markets to having people come to the farm to purchase home-grown produce. Today, their produce is for sale via the honor system in their farm store, a charmingly renovated horse barn, which opened in 2018. Most of their business is word-of-mouth, along with a website and promoting their products on social media.

The young farmer said in the urban/suburban interface, reaching out to the public with agri-tourism can generate

additional income. The Turners repurposed a garage, now called their "Market Garage," adding the necessary furniture and

Ethan Turner serves as the farm manager after completing an agri-business degree from Montana State University.

equipment which rents for business parties, wedding receptions and other events.

Turner Farms held a food-to-table event in August with 30 people attending. The Valentine's Dinner in February (Gus's project) brought people to a delicious farm-to-table event that raised money for the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation.

Although they are still offer Consumer Supported Agriculture (CSA), harvesting the vegetables has switched from Ethan's brothers and grandmother picking vegetables for the CSA members to having farm interns from high school responsible for the CSA.

Ethan's passion is educating young people about agriculture, and he has introduced a summer day camp where he hopes youth learn the fundamentals of agriculture. The age groups 6-7 years-old are Sprouts, and 8-13 year-olds are Young Farmers.

"I had some incredible teachers starting with 4-H, and I feel the need to pass that knowledge down."



The Turner Farms 406 Farm Store offers everything from squash and carrots to beef, pork and lamb and locally crafted products.

Montana ranches earn Leopold Award in 2021, 2022

Hidden Hollow Hideaway & Guest Ranch – Grazing, forestry and conservation combine for land stewardship

BY DYLAN DAVIDSON, MFBF DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Between Canyon Ferry Lake and the Boulder Baldy Mountain of the Helena National Forest sits the Hidden Hollow Hideaway Cattle & Guest Ranch, where they've offered "farm family vacations" since the 1960s, guided hunts since the 1970s, and run 130 Red Angus cow-calf pairs.

The Flynn family has owned and operated this ranch since their predecessors homesteaded in the valley and can trace their lineage to when their ancestors followed the 1860s gold rush into Montana. Ever since, the Flynn family has maintained a "temporary steward of the land" mindset, which was recognized when Hidden Hollow Hideaway Cattle & Guest Ranch was awarded the 2021 Montana Leopold Conservation Award.

The Montana Leopold Conservation Award began in partnership with the Sand County

Foundation in 2016 to help recognized private land stewardship in Montana.

"Private land stewardship is so important, and there are great examples, like the Flynns, that show how livestock can improve riparian areas, help with fuel reduction and increase diversity on the landscape," said Stacey Barta, state coordinator at the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. "I think those stories need to be told more often to more audiences now than ever."

Kelly Flynn, who passed away on March 2021, implemented a strong land ethic into the ranch while caring for livestock, wildlife, and thousands of acres of meadows, creeks, and forest land. That land ethic continues now with his wife Jill and daughters

Shannon and Siobhan running the ranch, carrying on many of Kelly's practices while looking for new and improved ways to care for the land and educate others.

"They're an amazing family with deep roots in Montana and care tremendously about the land and leaving it better than they found it," said Barta. "Even going beyond that and educating people who come to the area about the importance of being new stewards."

"My dad loved to share it. His greatest pleasure was taking people around and showing them his management efforts," said Siobahn Flynn, co-owner of the ranch and Kelly's daughter. "He'd drive down through the ranch and say, 'Look around, do you see many weeds?' and of course [the guests] would have said no

The Hidden Hideaway Ranch, winners of the 2021 Leopold Conservation Award in Montana, covers a large expanse of the land between Canyon Ferry Lake and Boulder Baldy Mountain.

PHOTOS BY DYLAN DAVIDSON



she and her sister learned to think into the future by being fiscally savvy and having long-term plans to make things better for future generations.

Part of that long-term plan is continuing Kelly's successful approach to stewardship but also looking for other opportunities to improve the area.

"Dad always said we didn't have to do it the same way as he, but we've seen how successful it was and how efficient things were," said Siobhan. "We don't want to change that. We all put our little twist on things, but it works so well I don't see any reason it needs to be different.

"We're trying to manage our hay crop better so we don't have to purchase as much hay. As well as looking into carbon levels in the soils, creating healthier fields, and attempting to reduce our fertilizer usage on those fields."

because there wasn't many."

The Flynn family's stewardship has shown hundreds of guests that logging, livestock, weed management and other practices can work together to create a healthy and thriving ecosystem. This stewardship particularly paid off during the Woods Creek Fire in July 2021 when lightning started the Woods Creek Wildfire in the Helena National Forest. This, paired with high winds and drought, allowed the fire to grow over 55,000 acres and spread into the private land of Hidden Hollow Hideaway.

"It burned down to our private ground, over into many of our timbered and pasture ground. We saw the benefits firsthand of those conservation efforts with logging and weed control," said Siobahn Flynn. "We're seeing the grass comeback growing, and it's abundant, and some of the trees survived where we made many of those conservation efforts. We are so grateful for those efforts my dad started 15 years ago and seeing that with the deadfall and weeds, someday there was a real possibility that a wildfire could wipe that all out."

The Woods Creek Fire was contained in October 2021, with the primary fuels being heavy forest litter and shrubs, much of which had been removed from Flynn's private land through Kelly and his family's efforts over the years.

Kelly not only made an impact on land stewardship at Hidden Hollow Hideaway but throughout Montana as well. As a member of the Montana Legislature from



2011 to 2018, he chaired the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee and established the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program, which provides \$2 million in grants annually to reduce and remove noxious weeds in wildlife habitats.

"He had just a true love of the land. He was truly working sunup to sundown, and it didn't matter how he was feeling any given day, he would still get out and find something to do," said Lynn Reynolds, ranch hand and outfitter for Hidden Hollow Hideaway. "He was in tune with everything here; if there was a blade of grass out of place, I swear Kelly knew about it."

Siobhan states that this passion for stewardship, conservation and financial planning was passed to Kelly by her grandmother and has undoubtedly passed to her and her sister Shannon. She said

The Flynn family held a tour in late June of the ranch which covered forest health, weed projects, reseeding, and post fire recovery.

PHOTO DYLAN DAVIDSON

Anyone who knows the Flynn family knows about their passion for stewardship of the land, handed down throughout the generations and will continue to be handed down.

"Dad told everyone that he saw he was a temporary steward, and he wasn't going to be here forever," said Siobhan. "But the land will be. The land will always remain regardless of what people are hear or what disasters come through. He was so proud of it, and we want to carry on that legacy."



Barney Creek Livestock

Barney Creek Livestock of Livingston in Park County is the 2022 recipient of the Montana Leopold Conservation Award®.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the prestigious award recognizes farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water and wildlife habitat management on private, working land.

Sand County Foundation and American Farmland Trust present the award in Montana with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Rangeland Resources Committee.

As owners of Barney Creek Livestock, Pete and Meagan Lannan are cattle ranchers and land managers who are showing others how conservation practices can heal landscapes. The Lannans receive \$10,000 and a crystal award for being selected.

Earlier this year, Montana landowners were encouraged to apply (or be nominated) for the award. Applications were reviewed by an independent panel of agricultural and conservation leaders.

Among the many outstanding Montana landowners nominated for the award were finalists Goggins Ranch of Ennis in Madison County, and Kurt and PJ Myllymaki of Stanford in Judith Basin County. Last year's recipient was Hidden Hollow Hideaway Cattle and Guest Ranch, owned by the Flynn family of Townsend in Broadwater County.

Pete and Meagan Lannan are innovative ranchers who found a way to raise beef cattle amid exorbitant land values in Montana's Paradise Valley. As owners of Barney Creek Livestock, they became land managers who show others how conservation can heal landscapes.

Pete studied the environmental and economic benefits of rotational grazing when his parents, Larry and Cathy Lannan, offered to lease Jordan Ranch to him. Pete and his wife Meagan were passionate about making improvements to the soil at the 200-acre ranch that has been in his family since 1900. They embraced conservation practices to build its resiliency for future generations, including their children, Maloi and Liam.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental

Quality Incentives Program helped with that conversion. With its financial and technical assistance, the Lannans mapped out grazing plans and upgraded their fencing and water infrastructure. Water and energy efficiencies were gained when a flood irrigation system was replaced with a pipeline delivering water to livestock tanks and a sprinkler irrigation system.

Their cattle and grass both thrived with a rotational grazing system, allowing the Lannans to increase stocking densities on their pastures. Pete and Meagan realized the more grass they could grow, the less hay they would need to harvest or buy. Since grazing year-round and stopping hay production in 2016, they only purchase the hay needed to feed during harsh winter storms. This change has saved them \$120,000 in equipment depreciation, in addition to lower fuel and labor costs.

Barney Creek bisects their family's ranch. Its riparian area was fenced off to only allow short-duration grazing, which promotes sapling growth and improved riparian function. Windbreaks were established to protect cattle and provide habitat for deer and elk. Wildlife-friendly fencing was installed on the ranch's perimeter.

Each conservation success at the ranch inspired the Lannans to do more. They saw their cattle as a tool to help other landowners in Paradise Valley improve soil health. They built relationships with owners of ungrazed and degraded properties by explaining how their stewardship could conserve and enhance natural resources.

Landowners have noted an influx of birds in pastures grazed by Barney Creek Livestock, lending credence to the adage that "what's good for the herd is good for the bird."

The Park County Farm Bureau members lease more than 800 acres from five landowners; but it's about more than grazing their cattle. Their lessors learn about the photosynthesis process, carbon sequestration, the benefits of hoof action on the land, and that livestock are nutrient cycling machines. They are coached on how soil amendments enhance soil

microbiology, and they receive results from annual soil and plant tissue tests.

Early on, the Lannans recognized that raising cattle is about much more than just marketing beef. The path to success led them off of their home ranch in more ways than one. They frequently move their cattle to greener pastures in Paradise Valley, and they are members of a variety of peer, consumer, neighbor, and apprenticeship networks.

Of all their notable successes on the land, their greatest conservation achievement might be their willingness to share their land ethic with others.



The Lannan Family, Barney Creek Livestock, winners of the 2022 Leopold Conservation Award in Montana.

The Montana Leopold Conservation Award is made possible through the generous support of American Farmland Trust, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Rangeland Resources Committee, Sand County Foundation, Sibanye-Stillwater, TC Energy, Northwest Farm Credit Services, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, C Lazy J Livestock Inc., Ducks Unlimited, Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, McDonald's, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, Ranchers Stewardship Alliance, Soil and Water Conservation Society, and World Wildlife Fund.

In his influential 1949 book, *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage, which he called "an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity."

Sand County Foundation and American Farmland Trust present the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 24 states with a variety of conservation, agricultural and forestry organizations. For more information on the award, visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org.

COUNTY ANNUAL MEETINGS

September is the month for county Farm Bureau annual meetings, a time when members come together to elect officers, discuss policy and make plans for the coming year. Whether the meetings had speakers, were held in unique locations, or were simply members gathered together, the 30 county Farm Bureau meetings showed the reason why Farm Bureau is such a strong organization; it's all about the grassroots.



Austin Buzanowski, AgPro Nutritionist spoke on "Winter Feeding & Supplementation following Drought" during the **Dawson/Wibaux County** meeting in Glendive.



Two-year-old Sawyer Swant, with Lindsay Harper, tentatively touches the python, Harry, during **Yellowstone County's** Annual Meeting at Zoo Montana in Billings.



Judith Basin County met at the Waterhole Station in Stanford.



Dalton Taber & Vic Lewis during the **Wheatland/Golden Valley County** Annual Meeting at the Ryegate Bar.



During the **Northwest Counties** meeting, former Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke spoke to the group, pictured with the Ronan FFA members who served dinner, MFBF EVP Scott Kulbeck and county leaders.



Broadwater County had a colorful backdrop at the Elks Lodge in Townsend. They had Representative Julie Dooling provide an update on the upcoming legislative session.



Carbon/Stillwater County enjoyed the Red Lodge Pizza Company and had several guests speak during their event including new member Jesse Stetson.



Big Horn County members in Hardin discuss the MFBF Policy Book, the guiding document for the organization.



It was a full house as **Richland County** came together to hear a national speaker on suicide awareness, and discuss policy.



Sarah Boyer presents **Carbon/Stillwater County** Farm Bureau's \$1500 donation to Jesse Stetson during the One Valley Ag Benefit Auction September 10. "The One Valley Ag Relief Fund" will provide disaster relief for the flooding in June 2022, specifically for ag-related infrastructure, field recovery, and/or irrigation canal or fixture reconstruction on agricultural properties that are excluded from potential FEMA funding on the Clarks Fork River of the Yellowstone. The event was hosted by Stetson Ranches.

Ag In Color Drawing Contest open for 2022-2023

The Montana Farm Bureau Ag in Color Drawing Contest is underway for students in kindergarten through 6th grade. Teachers who participate in this contest must submit the drawings from their classroom directly to county Farm Bureau leaders.

Drawings are due to the county Farm Bureau by December 1 with judging completed by Dec. 20.

The winning entries will be submitted to the MFBF office. The Montana Farm Bureau Women's Leadership

Committee will select the state winners notify teachers in February and announce the results in March

2023. Winners will receive a prize package from Montana Farm Bureau, ag accurate materials for their teacher & classmates, and a classroom pizza party.

The 'Ag in Color' drawing contest is open to all students and educators across Montana.

The categories are:

- Kindergarten- Farm Animals in Montana
- Grade 1- Grown in Montana
- Grade 2- Grains of Montana
- Grade 3- Cattle in Agriculture
- Grade 4- Noxious Weeds in Montana
- Grade 5- Safety on Montana Farms & Ranches
- Grade 6- Agricultural-related Careers in Montana

Contest rules:

- Entries must be legible with clear printing on good quality paper.
- Paper Size-- half letter/ a5 (5.5" by 8.5") Landscape (no need for margin)
- Paper weight—Card stock is encouraged. Please use heavier than standard printer paper.
- 15 word maximum
- Slogan must include the word "Montana" (GRADE 3, omit "Montana" from slogan for cattle category)
- The student's name, grade, school, school phone number, teacher's name, teacher's email & county must be printed neatly on the back of the drawing (provided labels can be affixed to back of each drawing.)

Entries must be submitted to the local county Farm Bureau Secretary (contact list online) by Thursday, Dec. 1. See details, as well as corresponding lesson plans, at <https://mfbf.org/Programs/MY-AG>. Questions? Contact Rikki Swant, rikkis@mfbf.org.



Senate Candidates

- SD 1 - Michael J. Cuffe
- SD 9 - Bruce "Butch" Gillespie
- SD 12 - Wendy McKamey
- SD 14 - Russel E. Tempel
- SD 15 - Dan Bartel
- SD 19 - Kenneth Bogner
- SD 30 - John Esp
- SD 41 - Dave Galt
- SD 43 - Jason W. Ellsworth

House Candidates

- HD 1 - Steve Gunderson
- HD 2 - Neil A. Duram
- HD 3 - Braxton Mitchell
- HD 7 - Courtenay Sprunger
- HD 13 - Paul C. Fielder
- HD 14 - Denley M. Loge
- HD 17 - Ross H. Fitzgerald
- HD 18 - Llew Jones
- HD 19 - Russel Miner
- HD 20 - Fred Anderson
- HD 21 - Ed Buttrey
- HD 27 - Josh Kassmier
- HD 29 - Douglas Flament
- HD 33 - Casey James Knudsen
- HD 34 - Rhonda Knudsen
- HD 35 - Brandon Ler
- HD 36 - Bob Phalen
- HD 37 - Jerry Schillinger
- HD 56 - Sue Vinton
- HD 58 - Brad Barker
- HD 59 - Marty Malone
- HD 60 - Dan Skattum
- HD 70 - Julie Dooling
- HD 71 - Ken Walsh
- HD 72 - Tom Welch
- HD 75 - Marta Bertoglio
- HD 77 - John Fitzpatrick
- HD 78 - Gregory Lee Frazer
- HD 80 - Becky Beard
- HD 86 - David Bedey
- HD 92 - Mike Hopkins

Brought to you by Montana Farm Bureau PAC. Rachel Cone, Treasurer, 502 S 19th, Ste #104, Bozeman, MT 59718

Get involved. YF&R provides opportunities for young farmers and ranchers

BY J.M PECK, YF&R COMMITTEE CHAIR

Young farmers and ranchers face many challenges, including managing economic volatility, the need for renewed infrastructure, climate change, and climate policy, and juggling off-farm jobs to make the dream of working in agriculture a reality. These topics are posed in the questions for this year's Farm Bureau Discussion Meet and allows young producers to discuss pertinent issues with their peers and work towards building solutions to ensure the next generation can be successful.

As a former participant and winner, I know it was the relationships I developed with young producers from around the state and country,

and the perspectives I learned from them that were the most valuable part of the experience. Often potential participants can be nervous about speaking in front of a group, but this is not the case with the Discussion Meet. The discussion is between yourself and three others who want to find solutions to problems. One of the most significant factors in winning is how well you can work with others and how well a contestant listens and incorporates their thoughts and insights into potential solutions.

The best preparation tool is to learn and be knowledgeable on the questions which are all issues affecting agriculture today. The most

Hoofin' it For Hunger successful in Dillon

The YF&R Committee was granted a beautiful Saturday for hosting our 12th annual Hoofin' it for Hunger Race in Dillon this year. On Friday, Harris Wheat and Becky Stuart completed marking the course, which crossed the Beaverhead River and went through Wheat's Ranch. Race pre-registration occurred during the social hour of the Southwest Counties Annual Meeting. Our start/finish line was marked by two John Deere tractors. The race went smoothly, with participants enjoying the opportunity to run through a local ranch. More than 40 runners were present in Dillon and about the same number participated at home virtually. Participants traveled from as far as Miles City, Billings and Helena. The YF&R Committee was well represented, with Kat Taylor, Zack Weimortz, and Michael Walsh making the trip to Dillon. A special thanks to all of our sponsors who made the race possible and to staff members Sue Ann and Nicole for their help ensuring it ran smoothly. Thanks to our racers, it wouldn't happen without you. It was a great day to raise money for the Montana Food Bank Network. The YF&R Committee will present the check during the Young Farmers and Ranchers Luncheon at the MFBF Convention.



Thank you to our generous Hoofin' it for Hunger sponsors!

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Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture
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Montana Bucks & Ducks
Ortho Rehab
Big Horn County Farm Bureau



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significant benefit is learning something new or making new friends and colleagues.

We are thankful for our Montana Polaris Dealers, who provide a new Polaris Ranger to the Montana Farm Bureau Discussion Meet winner. The competition's winner competes nationally at the American Farm Bureau Convention in January in Puerto Rico. As with anything, practice makes perfect, so I encourage everyone to sign up and give it a try. With the MFBF Annual Convention only a month away, it is time to start preparing, and I can guarantee that the experience will be well worth it.

The YF&R Committee is busy planning our MFBF YF&R Leadership Conference, scheduled for January 27-29 at Fairmont Hot Springs. We have assembled an excellent list of speakers and workshops that will be informative, engaging and fun. To date, workshops will cover vertical integration, direct-to-consumer marketing, collaborating with groups outside of agriculture and coalition building. With the conference being close to my ranch in Melrose, I am proud we can bring many local speakers and folks directly involved with production agriculture to share their knowledge and wisdom with our young farmers and ranchers from around the state.

As Ben Franklin once said, "Tell me, and I forget, teach me, and I remember, involve me, and I learn."

The Discussion Meet and Leadership Conference are great ways to get involved and learn more; more about our neighbors, our businesses, our environment, and the world. Don't miss out on these opportunities. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me, J.M. Peck, at jmpeck@trappercreek ranch.com or Sue Ann Streufert, sueanns@mfbf.org.

2023 AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet Questions

1. How can Farm Bureau effectively support and equip young farmers and ranchers to successfully manage economic and infrastructure challenges to ensure healthy and sustainable farms and ranches across the country?
2. Due to current economic demands, many farmers and ranchers spend a lot of time outside the "fence rows" on off-farm jobs. How can Farm Bureau become more accessible and welcoming to members who are working in related fields and juggling responsibilities on and off the farm?
3. Climate has become a major topic among business leaders, policymakers and consumers. As an industry that depends on the weather, what role do we as farmers and ranchers play in shaping climate initiatives to benefit society overall as well as our own farms and ranches?
4. Advancements in autonomous equipment and drone technology offer solutions to challenges farmers and ranchers have faced for years. How can Farm Bureau improve access to, and help farmers and ranchers deploy, these emerging technologies on their operations?
5. Many external influences are causing supply chain disruption for agricultural goods. How can Farm Bureau reduce the impact of external influences through policy development and programming?

These questions will be used for the YF&R Discussion Meet held during the AFBF Annual Convention and the Collegiate Discussion Meet held during the AFBF FUSION Conference in 2023.

The **videos series "Legacies"** captures the essence of some of Montana agriculture's brightest, boldest and most courageous leaders. For a century, these men and women have led their peers and neighbors in grassroots campaigns for empowerment through agriculture education, a unified voice for Montana's farmers and ranchers, and a path forward for our rural communities. Watch these incredible Legacies Videos on RFD-TV Now or on Youtube.



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Women's Leadership Committee – Three committees: One Mission

BY CARLA LAWRENCE, MFBF WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

During the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Annual Convention held January 7-11 in Atlanta, GA, I was looking for inspiration, a topic that I could write about to share with Montana Farm Bureau members after returning home. During the Leadership Luncheon, which provides the leaders in attendance with information and useful tools to be put to use once folks return back to their respective states, I found my inspiration.

This year, the session was, "Many Leaders: ONE MISSION" and brought to the stage the three leaders for the three national committees formed under the AFBF; Isabella Chism, Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) chair, Jon Iverson, Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) chair, and Stacey Lauwers, Promotion and Education (P&E) chair. As the voice of agriculture, the chairs from each committee talked about how different members take different paths to develop and serve as leaders in the organization, while highlighting how each member's journey is for the unified purpose of accomplishing one mission. Each chair reflected on how Farm Bureau has served as a vehicle for advocacy, leadership and engagement; how each committee's path is different; and how they all work with the same end goal in sight.

The goals and purpose of each of the committees is diagrammed on the next page. All three committees serve as advocates for agriculture and serve to educate children and



Women's Leadership Committee Chair Carla Lawrence at MFBF's Annual Convention.

the public about agriculture. An example is the focus of rural mental health; all three committees have worked to educate themselves about this important issue and promote the program.

There is a definite cross section through the partnership of all three committees, and like a puzzle, they work to fit all the pieces together to complete the picture and fulfill the mission of the AFBF. Isabella Chism stated, "That a united minority yields more power than a divided majority" when talking about the importance of all three committees and with an ability to bring all ages into the fold to accomplish the mission. The young farmer's daughter may have a better fit with the YF&R committee and may then move into the WLC or the P&E depending on her interests. The WLC uses the Cultivator newsletter to share

information and highlight the P&E and YF&R committees in the newsletter. Stacey Lauwers commented that the P&E Committee is a centralized resource for all Farm Bureau members and serves as a "digital toolbox" by storing materials that is available to every member. Likewise, Jon Iverson, added that although YF&R are the future leaders of the organization, women make up one-third of the farmers in the U.S., so it is important to have strong women leaders and that both the WLC and P&E committees are a good next step for YF&R members after they age out.

These three leaders are able to get together, and become friends

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American Farm Bureau Federation Three National Committees

Women's Leadership Committee (AFB-WLC)

The American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership program provides women with the training and education they need to become powerful advocates for today's agriculture. The program provides women with leadership training, communication skills, and networking to strengthen their ability to encourage positive change in their communities and in the agricultural industry.

Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee (YF&R)

The American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers program includes both men and women between the ages of 18-35. The objective of the Young Farmers & Ranchers program is to surface, grow and develop young Farm Bureau members and provide them opportunities and experiences to strengthen their leadership and ensure effective Farm Bureaus.

The program is focused on personal growth in the following areas:

public speaking, issue advocacy
business development
Networking, service leadership
media training
telling the story of agriculture

Promotion and Education Committee (P&E)

The newest American Farm Bureau Federation committee hit the ground running in 2015. The committee formed with the mission to develop and centralize resources that inspire and equip Farm Bureau to convey the significance of agriculture.

The Promotion & Education Committee fills an important role in bridging the gap between farmers and consumers by providing tools and resources to other Farm Bureau members who are eager to help share agriculture's story.

- Taken from <https://www.fb.org/programs/promotion-education/>

and understand each committee's role when reaching out to the consumer. There is a cross promotion of each other's committees and they have quarterly webinars to find out what's going on in all three committees and share programs, when appropriate. They value each other and appreciate the different paths they take to reach the same destination. Many Leaders: ONE MISSION.

All three of the committees outlined above and in the diagram

can be found at the Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF). Each committee parallels the AFBF with many leaders striving to complete ONE MISSION. The chair of the MFBF WLC is Carla Lawrence; the chair of the MFBF YF&R committee is J.M. Peck and the chair of the MFBF P&E committee is Bonita Cremer. All three chairs strive to fulfill the role of their respective committees, while working together to complete the mission of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation.

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"

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Montana Farm Bureau Foundation receives a number of memorial donations to recognize departed members. What an appropriate way to remember someone to whom Farm Bureau has been an important part of their lives. This charitable remembrance perpetuates their belief in the future of agriculture. Next time you ponder how to express your appreciation for a friend or acquaintance who has passed away, consider a memorial that promotes agriculture and will have a meaningful impact.

(Donations from July 1, 2022-Sept. 30, 2022.)

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Geraldine Stilson ...In memory of Dave McClure
Hans and Suzanne McPherson ...In memory of Art Nelson
Hans and Suzanne McPherson ...In memory of Dave McClure
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Jeanine and Pat Pendergrass ...In memory of Dave McClure
Jeffrey and Tamie Kolstad ...In memory of Dave McClure
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Lew Zimmer ...In memory of Art Nelson
Lew Zimmer ...In memory of Charlie Mathews
Lew Zimmer ...In memory of Dave McClure
Ray and Jean Besel ...In memory of Dave McClure
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Richard and Vinita McKay ...In memory of Dave McClure
Thomas and Phyllis Smith ...In memory of Dave McClure
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For more MFB Foundation information visit mfbf.org/Foundation/Foundation-Memorials or contact Alena Standley, alenas@mfbf.org.

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