

MONTANA FARM BUREAU FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT



MONTANA
FARM BUREAU
FOUNDATION

Investing in the Future of Montana Agriculture

2023-2024



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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

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

In this annual report you will read about numerous projects supported by the Foundation that achieve our mission with the very generous participation of our members. Our investment in rural Montana and youth in agriculture includes \$17,000 invested in youth organizations including 4-H and FFA, \$33,000 to support leadership development programs such as MFBF ACE, and \$18,360 in scholarships, educational materials and support for Collegiate Young Farmers & Ranchers Clubs. The Farm Bureau family remains true to the original purpose established by members over 100 years ago – supporting Montana agriculture and rural communities. A huge thank you goes to all our donors who support our efforts. One thing that makes our Foundation so attractive to donors is that we accomplish all the programs highlighted in this report while maintaining a 10% administrative cost ratio. The result of our low overhead means that more out of every dollar spent by the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation goes towards programs that champion our mission!

I'm proud of our accomplishments to date and thankful for our generous donors. I hope you enjoy reading about our efforts and become more familiar with the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation. If you are ready to make a difference for Montana agriculture, our Foundation can provide options that benefit you, your family and your community.



CYNTHIA JOHNSON
MFB Foundation President

DONATE!



**Supporting our neighbors
when they need it most.**



mfbf.org/foundation

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Alena Standley, Foundation Coordinator

"I'm on the Foundation Board because I believe in their mission of helping verified people or organizations who have legitimate needs. I have donated to the Foundation over the years because they do a good job qualifying the applicants before they allocate their funds. I'm also confident all donations are being used to the benefit of agriculture and the people involved with the greatest business in our state!"



*–Sky Anderson,
MFB Foundation Board Member*





WHO WE ARE

We are farmers, ranchers, ag professionals, and your neighbors. Rural Montana is our home and our family. It's a community of hard-working Montanans who care deeply about their responsibility to provide healthy food and quality products. Farming and ranching isn't just a business for us—it's a way of life.

Grow with us as we work to keep Montana... Montana.



\$18,360

*Scholarships
& Ag Ed Materials
awarded*



\$33,885

*invested Leadership
Development*



\$6,000

*invested in
Community
Grants*



\$17,420

*invested in
Youth Agriculture
Organizations*



Donor Feature:

"I like what the Farm Bureau does to advocate for agriculture. Becoming involved in the county Farm Bureau and donating to the Foundation is my way to give back to agriculture, which is how I designed my business model."

— Summit Browning, S Bar B Coffee



**Proceeds from the MFBFo
"Supporting Montana Agriculture" license
plate go directly towards our programs!**



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Scholarships & Ag Accurate Education Materials



Montana Farm Bureau Foundation provided **\$18,360** in scholarships and educational materials that have a direct impact on agricultural education students and classrooms across Montana. This includes five Ag Ed student teacher scholarships, two college scholarships, \$4,500 in funding for three collegiate YF&R Clubs, over \$1,000 in award money to youth speech contest winners, and support for elementary classrooms where volunteers & teachers utilize free books, activities, ag mags, and coloring contests to teach students about agriculture.



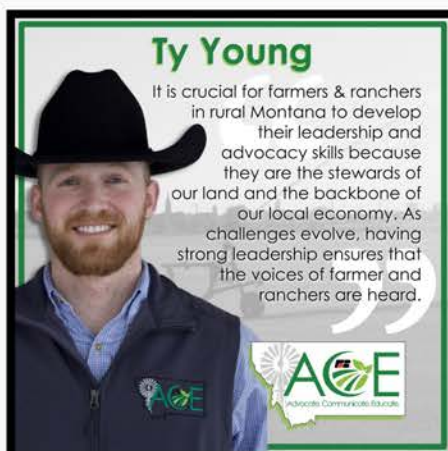
"Receiving support from the MFB Foundation helped me be more involved with ag organizations and pursue a degree in Animal Science, Livestock Management. They've helped me network with other young farmers and ranchers across the U.S. and make connections I will always cherish." -Taryn Martinell, Scholarship Winner

Supporting Youth in Agriculture

Over **\$17,000** was invested in youth ag organizations last year including 4-H & FFA scholarships and program funding. MFBFo believes in supporting our future industry leaders and maintains a steady presence at events like the State FFA Convention and the State 4-H Working Ranch Horse Show.



Leadership Development



With the help of our partners, the Foundation was able to increase the amount awarded in tuition scholarships toward Montana's elite agriculture leadership programs. MFBF ACE (Advocate, Communicate, Educate) program and the REAL Montana (Resource Education and Agriculture Leadership) program are recognized for their work in building educated and passionate leaders for rural communities. MFBFo has invested over \$88,000 in scholarships for ag industry leaders over the last eleven years! \$5,000 is also given to bring in leadership development speakers at MFBF events which host over 600 agriculture leaders annually.





Mini-Grants - Investing in our rural communities

MFB Foundation awarded six \$1,000 mini-grants!

- Meat Cutting demonstration with Butcher Solutions in Ryegate.
- Farm and ranch succession planning workshop "The Top Ten Mistakes that Breakup the Family Business" with Jolene Brown in Big Timber.
- Support for a district-wide Fall Festival in Circle with keynote speaker, JR Vezain.
- A community seminar with a panel of experts on trends in the agriculture industry in Glasgow.
- 2,200 youth ag magazines for over 1,100 4th grade students in Gallatin County.
- Support for the Junior Ag Mechanics Project Show in Billings.

"The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation has generously supported the Gallatin Farm Fair with their Mini-Grants by providing agricultural educational materials that teachers can incorporate into their lesson plans. Over 1,200 students and teachers spend a day on a working ranch and have hands-on lessons about ag.

We are so grateful to have the support of the MFB Foundation."

- Patti Soares, Gallatin Farm Fair, Mini-Grant Recipient



Thank you for supporting my 4-H club. My name is Bailee, and I have been in 4-H for 2 years. I am 10 and my project last year was lamb. I learned a lot. One thing I learned is to be patient with them. They won't let me catch them and I got really frustrated. Then my dad made me feel better and I finally caught them. I love being in 4-H. Thank you for your support. I love 4-H and I think it made me a better person.

Thank you, Bgy

Dear Montana Farm Bureau,

As the student teachers in Agriculture Education, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for the support you've provided through the Student Teacher Scholarship. Your generosity allows us to focus on what truly matters - developing the skills and knowledge to teach the next generation of agricultural leaders.

We are proud to be part of a community that values hard work, education, and the future of agriculture as much as you do. We can't wait to give back to Montana agriculture!

Sincerely,

Ann McRae

Maisie Banderson

Sam Wigen

Making Connections



We provide Ag Education materials for your local programs! Contact us for more information.





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

100 Red Mountain Drive, Ste 101
Bozeman, MT 59718

Growing the future of Montana Agriculture!

OUR PARTNERS 2023-2024 DONORS

GOLD Level \$1,000+

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*Thank
You!*

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Montana Ag Safety Program

Donations listed were received within the previous fiscal year 10/1/2023-9/30/2024



Donate Today at mfbf.org/foundation or mail contributions to:

**Montana Farm Bureau Foundation
100 Red Mountain Drive, Suite 101
Bozeman, MT 59718**

MFBF is a qualified 501 (c) (3) making all gifts tax deductible!

Memorial Donations

Lew Zimmer - Edie Wright Memorial
Lew Zimmer - Tom Cunningham Memorial
Dorothy Hlad-Larson - Edie Wright Memorial
Broadwater Co. FB - Leon Henke Memorial
Rosebud/Treasure Co. FB - Anderson Memorial
MFBF - Tom Cunningham Memorial
Chris & Vickie Kolstad - Howard Kolstad Memorial
MFBF - Howard Kolstad Memorial

Montana Farm Bureau Foundation envisions a future where agriculture is thriving in Montana, where younger people are attracted to our farms and ranches, urban and rural residents understand and support agriculture, and where our farm and ranch communities are healthy and vibrant.