

FALL 2020



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**ON THE COVER:**

Gilmen Gasper at T&G Processing, his livestock and wild game processing shop in Circle. Gilmen served as the MFBF Young Farmer and Rancher Chair from 2016-2019.

Photo courtesy Laura Nelson

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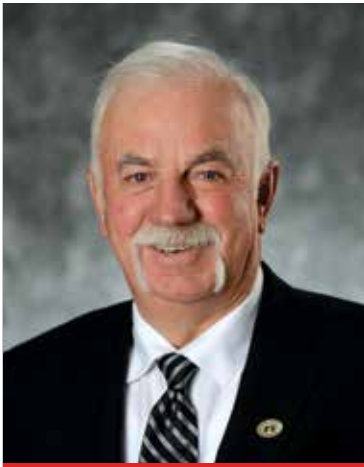


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Hans McPherson
President, Montana Farm
Bureau Federation

“Farmers and ranchers live on optimism and I am looking forward to seeing our delegates in Billings and anticipate a highly successful convention.”

The MFBF **COVIDvention**

At the time that I am writing this editorial it is mid-September. We just completed our two-day Montana Farm Bureau Federation board meeting in Lewistown where we set the budget for the next year. Most importantly, at our meeting we debated and discussed how to make our annual MFBF convention as normal as possible in Billings come November. Like it or not we have to comply and plan for the public health position and policies of the COVID-19 pandemic and live within the restrictions that have been placed upon us.

Much consideration was given to the needs of our members at the convention and how to conduct our committee meetings such as our Women's Leadership Committee, the Promotion and Education Committee and the Young Farmer & Rancher Discussion Meet. There are so many other meetings, activities and workshops that are a major factor in making our conventions educational and enjoyable. Unfortunately, the pandemic has thrown an extremely disruptive monkey wrench into our usually well-oiled convention machine.

The most important item our Board of Directors discussed was protecting our grassroots policy process better known as our delegate session. The first thing we ruled out was having a virtual convention. We are determined to meet in person and carry on the business of the Montana Farm Bureau policy development as close to normal as possible. Unfortunately, this convention will be unlike any other we've ever had. It will be short and sweet, but we will still be able to complete the work that our counties send their delegates here to do.

The convention will start at noon on Tuesday, November 10 with district caucus meetings and will wrap up by Wednesday afternoon. Sadly, we will be unable to have any of the usual banquets, social events or other gatherings that we've become accustomed to. What is very important for

our members and delegates to remember is that we are passionate about our grassroots policy development. The county voting delegates will be here to accomplish that task—and that's all. We look forward to seeing our voting delegates in November and very much appreciate their dedication to Montana agriculture. Let's all pray that by this time next year we are back to normal!

As I write this, we're more than halfway through the county annual meetings. Most of the grain in the state has been combined, winter wheat is being re-planted and fields prepared for winter. Ranchers are gathering and pre-conditioning their calves to be weaned and shipped and getting all the hay gathered and ready for winter. The year is moving along and although it has not been what anybody could consider a "great" year, farmers and ranchers are still working hard to produce food and fiber for our nation.

I'm personally very sorry that our 2020 convention couldn't build off the energy of last year's amazing MFBF Centennial Convention, but who knew the world was going to be hit by a pandemic that has changed everything we do.

Farmers and ranchers live on optimism and I am looking forward to seeing our delegates in Billings and anticipate a highly successful convention. We have a condensed registration form in this Spokesman, so be sure look it over, register and book your hotel room.

Thanks for all you do.



NOTICE

Annual Policyholders' Meeting

December 3, 2020 – 8 a.m.

Mountain West Farm Bureau

Mutual Insurance Company

Farm Bureau Center

931 Boulder Dr., Laramie, WY 82070



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The Fiscal Cliff

The past few months have been challenging times for all of us. If we watch the daily news, there many problems in the world today. It reminds me of an old proverb that I heard in a recent presentation by the American Farm Bureau Federation: "When a man has no food, he has only one problem. When he has plenty of food, he has many problems."

This has never been more evident than earlier this year when supermarket shelves were beginning to empty and the meat case was a barren as the Sahara. Almost overnight there wasn't as much talk about natural foods, GMO or pesticides but more about whether or not there would be something to feed our families. Throughout all this, farm gate prices plummeted due to constraints in processing and transportation. The government has been willing to provide funding to agricultural producers in order to cover their costs of production and more. In fact, net farm income increased by \$15 billion in 2020. It has kept many people in business and allowed us to continue to produce cheap and abundant food.

However, there is a cost to all of this support both fiscally and in public opinion. Some of the recent headlines in major publications included:

- Here's your check: Trump's massive payout to farmers will be hard pull back. (Politico)
- Government Payouts to Make Up 36% Of Farm Income. (Forbes).
- USDA to send fatter checks to farmers. (Politico 5/11/20).

Who in 2015 would have envisioned 36% of farm receipts coming from the government? At that time, about \$10.8 billion came from programs with a little less than half from conservation programs, a small portion from disaster payments and the remainder from coverage under the farm bill such as Price Loss Control (PLC) and Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC). Fast forward to 2017 when the trade wars began and Market Facilitation Program payments began and climaxed in 2019 at around \$14 billion. Then COVID hit and programs under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) bulged the total of all payments to over \$32 billion. Add to that net crop insurance indemnities to bring the total to nearly \$45



billion and we are not done yet with yet another round of assistance in the offing. We all know that these programs cannot go on much longer, the checkbook won't allow it nor is the public willing to accept it. This leads us to the question: What does the future of agriculture look like in the advent of all these government programs?

According to the latest Baseline Update for U.S. Farm Income and the Farm Balance Sheet* with no CFAP, MFP, or Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), government payments fall by more than 50%. As other factors offset each other, the result is a \$16 billion reduction in net farm income in 2021. In later years projected increases in farm commodity prices and production outweigh increases in production expenses, and net farm income increases. However, inflation-corrected real net farm income remains below the 2020 level through 2025. Projections show relatively stable values of farm real estate and other farm assets. Farm debt, on the other hand, continues to grow at a modest rate. The farm debt-to-asset ratio has increased in every year since 2013 and that trend will continue through 2025.

I am not advocating that we need to stop emergency assistance to agriculture in the future. At some point, though, we need to find a way to educate the consuming public that farm programs are what keep our food affordable and provide for national food security which was brought to a point during the COVID crisis. Farmers and ranchers would much rather let the market determine net farm income but in order for that to happen, food prices will have to rise. As William Jennings Bryan stated so eloquently; "Burn down our cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic; but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country."

**Food & Agricultural Policy Research Institute
@University of Missouri (FAPRI-MU Report
#05-20)*



John Youngberg
Executive Vice President, MFBF

“ At some point, we need to find a way to educate the consuming public that farm programs are what keep our food affordable and provide for national food security which was brought to a point during the COVID crisis. ”



Zippy Duvall
President, American Farm
Bureau Federation

“ The views of Farm Bureau members are as diverse as the crops they grow and the animals they raise. But they have a lot in common, too: patriotism, a sense of duty, a strong work ethic and engagement in civic matters and policy advocacy. ”

Pledge to Vote in November

In Farm Bureau, we often talk about how active and engaged our members are in policy advocacy. We're usually referring to Farm Bureau members' engagement on specific legislation or issues—their calls, emails and in-person visits (pre-pandemic, anyway) to ensure that those who are elected to serve us are aware of what's important to agriculture. Just as important is engagement to make sure the right people get into office in the first place.

Farmers and ranchers tend to vote at a high rate. They know that who's in office can have a huge impact on their ability to farm. From regulations and taxes to access to labor and foreign markets, policies supported by those whom we elect to Congress, the White House and other offices directly affect our farms and families—and our ability to feed our nation.

Farm Bureau is working to ensure that farmers and ranchers make an impact at the polls in two ways: encouraging them to vote and helping them to be informed voters.

I don't have to tell you that the next election, coming up this November 3, just six and a half weeks from now, is a big one. Not only will voters choose the president of the United States. A third of U.S. Senate seats up for election this November, and of course all 435 U.S. House seats are up. Plus, across the country, hundreds of state and local offices are on the ballot.

Farm Bureau is working to ensure that farmers and ranchers make an impact at the polls in two ways: encouraging them to vote and helping them to be informed voters.

We recently launched our iFarmiVote toolkit with information farmers need before voting. They can register to vote and find ballot

information by using the toolkit. They can look up who their candidates are. They can even find out if their voting location, hours and requirements have changed because of the pandemic.

While on the toolkit website, farmers can pledge to vote in the 2020 elections. By taking the pledge, they show the importance of the farm vote and the power of the farmers' voice. We're asking Farm Bureau members to take that pledge and then share it on social media so their friends and followers can do the same.

Also, last week, we published President Donald Trump's and former Vice President Joe Biden's responses to 12 questions on our presidential questionnaire. We're proud that, for 40 years if not longer, presidential candidates have responded with their positions on issues that affect America's farmers and food security. We publish their answers as we receive them, unedited, so farmers and ranchers can get an unfiltered look at the candidates' platforms and make the best choice based on the issues that matter to them.

As I said in our announcement of the questionnaire answers, the views of Farm Bureau members are as diverse as the crops they grow and the animals they raise. But they have a lot in common, too: patriotism, a sense of duty, a strong work ethic and engagement in civic matters and policy advocacy. It's these values that will drive them to do the work and inform themselves on where the candidates stand—and drive them, once again, to vote at a high rate this November.





Your financial future is one of the
many things on your mind.
It's the only thing on ours.

If 2020 has taught us anything, it's the importance of being prepared for the unexpected. Could your financial future handle another year like this one? Our agents and advisors are committed to helping you gain the peace of mind that comes from knowing you're not alone in preparing for your future.

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Every Farmer Counts: Staying Safe at Railroad Crossings

BY RACHEL MALEH

Did you know that every three hours in the United States, a person or vehicle is hit by a train?

My organization, the national rail safety education nonprofit Operation Lifesaver, Inc. partners with the American Farm Bureau Federation and other groups to remind farm equipment operators to pay extra attention where field and farm access roads cross train tracks.

To raise awareness of the dangers for drivers and pedestrians and share tips for avoiding these incidents, OLI and its safety partners observed Rail Safety Week Sept. 21-27 across the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Coincidentally, Sept. 20-26 was also National Farm Safety and Health Week, and this year's theme, "Every Farmer Counts" underscored the importance of knowing what to do when crossing railroad tracks. Here's how farmers can stay safe at railroad crossings.

First, OLI urges all farmers, ranchers and their employees who must use farm rail crossings to remember that if you see tracks, think train! Trains can run on any track, at any time, in either direction. Whether in a vehicle or on foot, cross tracks only at designated crossings.

Second, always take extra precautions at private access farm crossings, which are

not equipped with warning signs, lights, bells or gates. Approximately 15 percent of all crossing collisions happen at private railroad crossings each year.

More facts:

- Railroad tracks are private property, including tracks that run through farmland. Using railroad property to hunt, fish or operate ATVs is trespassing.
- An approaching train may be closer and traveling faster than it appears.
- Tractors pulling heavy or bulky loads may take more time to clear a crossing than you anticipate. Never try to beat a train!
- Low clearance vehicles can get hung up on train tracks. If you see a low clearance warning sign before a crossing, use another route to avoid problems.
- Trains cannot stop quickly. The average freight train traveling at 55 miles per hour takes a mile or more to stop.

Below are Operation Lifesaver's "five alive" tips for equipment operators:

1. Slow down as you approach a railroad crossing.
2. Stop at least 15 feet from the crossing. Trains can overhang tracks by 3 feet or more on either side.

3. Look and Listen for a train! Open cab windows, turn off radios and fans, remove headphones.
4. Do a double take (look both ways again) before crossing.
5. GO. Once you start across the tracks do not hesitate and do not change gears.

If your vehicle gets stuck, get everyone out and far away immediately, even if you do not see a train. Use the Blue and White Emergency Notification System sign that identifies crossings to report any problems on the tracks. No sign? Dial 911.

You can help us save lives by scheduling a free safety presentation. For more information or to learn about becoming an Operation Lifesaver volunteer, visit www.oli.org.

Together, we can keep farmers – and communities – safe.

Rachel Maleh is executive director of Operation Lifesaver, Inc., the only nonprofit public safety education and awareness organization dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail crossings and preventing trespassing on or near railroad tracks. Learn more about safety around tracks and trains at www.oli.org.



Hunting Safety in Drought Areas

Hunting season is upon us. This year with the extreme drought conditions and threat of more wildfires, it is imperative that everyone enjoying being in the great outdoors take the needed precautions to practice safety to prevent wildfires.

Fall wildfires interrupt and close access to hunting areas and cause animals to move to areas that provide their basic essentials—food, water, and shelter. Most fall wildfires tend to burn at increased temperatures due to the drier conditions causing the ground to be severely scorched which stalls the native plant growth. This unfortunately allows the growth to be replaced with weeds, including cheatgrass.

Check your hunting area for fire restrictions and rules and be prepared to take immediate action in the event there is a fire. All fire status information can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>. In the

event you see smoke or fire, call 911

There are several precautions that can be taken to prevent a fire; however, your safety is also important so know the conditions and know your area including alternate routes to leave your location.

The restrictions in your area may be categorized as Stage I, II or III. It is recommended that you know the restrictions prior to traveling to your hunting spot. The restriction guidelines are found on your hunting forest website.

Some quick pointers to help prevent fires:

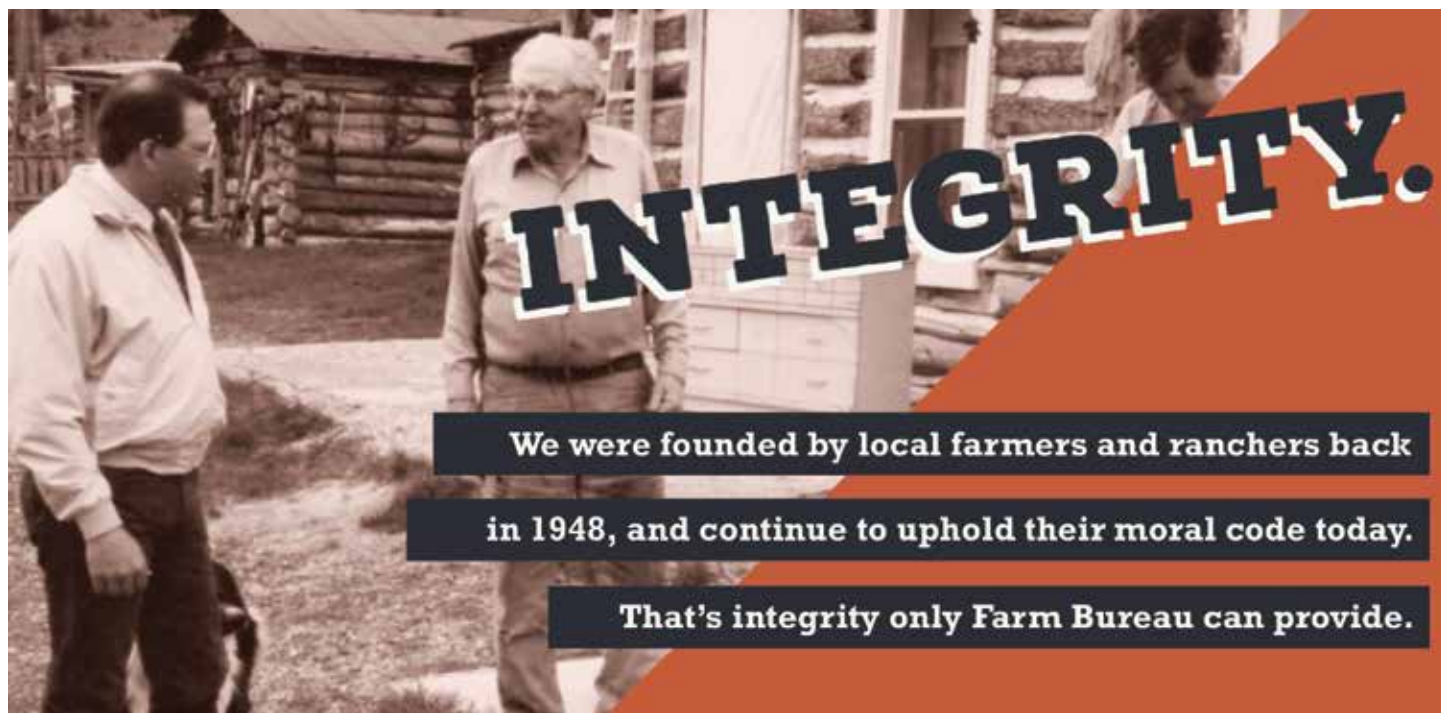
- Abide by all campfire rules including having a confined area and making sure the fire is completely out.
- Look over your vehicle and make sure nothing is dragging that can cause a spark. A common cause is the chain on your towing apparatus.
- Do not drive or park on dry grass or brush. The heat from the exhaust

pipe, muffler or catalytic converter can ignite the grass or brush.

- Check your vehicle for oil leaks to prevent the leaks from accelerating a fire.
- Make sure your chainsaw or recreational motor vehicles have spark arrestors.
- Some restrictions require smoking only in a vehicle or building; however, ensure no ashes blow outside.
- Use correct ammunition, no tracers or incendiary bullets.
- Have a shovel, water, and an extinguisher with you.

The violation of restrictions usually imposes a fine and there is the possibility that you may be held responsible for the ensuing damages. The great concern is, of course, is the potential loss to the forest, animals and possibly even human life.


Be aware and follow the restrictions!

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Mountain West Agent Jim Mires: **In for the long haul**

BY REBECCA COLNAR

In the latest Montana Farm Bureau history book, *Legacies*, one of the themes was being able to “stick” whether it referred to the fledgling Montana Farm Bureau in 1919 or farm families setting down roots. Certainly, Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company Agent Jim Mires knows all about “sticking” and setting down roots. He has been an agent and lived in Glendive for 20 years—a town he says he never wants to leave.

Mires was raised in Glasgow as was his wife Trish—he says they grew up eight houses apart. He left his hometown of Glasgow to attend college at University of Montana in Missoula in 1991.

“I was the poster child for small-town kid goes to larger ‘city.’ I had a tough time. Guess they didn’t get the memo of how great I was,” Mires recollected. “But it ended up being a good learning experience because I fought through that and grew up. It was painful at the time but later in life, you learn to appreciate it.”

Mires transferred to MSU-Havre where he earned a degree in Elementary Education. He taught in Fraser from 1995-96 and then moved with his wife and toddler, Morgan, in August 1996 for a teaching position at Washington Middle School in Glendive.

“Teaching runs in our family. Both of my parents were teachers too,” said Mires. “I grew up in it. However, I left education not because I didn’t like it, but because I wanted to make a change. I was 28 and figured if I was going to do something different, I’d best do it soon.”

Because teaching runs in his blood, Mires felt himself transitioning towards another type of teaching: being an insurance agent. Mires took over the Farm



Mountain West Agent Jim Mires and wife, Trish, with their daughter, Chloe, at Dickinson State University.

Bureau office in Glendive Sept. 1, 2020.

“I am basically teaching on a smaller, individual basis,” Mires said. “Think about it: As soon as you talk about insurance, eyes roll to the back of people’s head. Folks spend a large portion of their hard-earned money on insurance—car insurance, property insurance, life insurance, health insurance—and yet they hate dealing with it. I enjoy talking to people at any time. Most rewarding to me is helping someone by providing them with information. In this business you need to enjoy that.”

Mires said his philosophy is a natural fit with Farm Bureau. “They like us to sit at people’s kitchen tables and visit instead of being in an office. That’s the whole key because it’s better to know someone personally. I enjoy visiting with people, especially in their homes.”

The dedicated Mires has a busy agency, writing home and auto policies, as well as farm/ranch and life insurance policies.

“I’m very proud of how stable my business has been and that I’m one of the main outfits in town. There are a couple of other insurance offices here that are on their second and third generations in the

business; they do a good job with multiple generations. I like seeing that longevity. I’d like to replicate that,” he said.

With an oldest daughter married and younger son and daughter in college, Mires admitted to having an “empty nest” but says it’s allowed him to get back to coaching. Most of his community service revolves around Glendive athletics.

“When the kids were young, I coached baseball, football and wrestling—I’ve been a coach since 1994— but now I’m only at the high school. I enjoy coaching because I can still be tuned in to the school. I believe in supporting our teams. I have Farm Bureau signs all over the athletic field.”

Mires noted that even though he doesn’t have an ag background, he appreciates the work of the Dawson/Wibaux County Farm Bureau.

“The Rice, Evans and Nemitz families are wonderful people,” Mires noted. “When I first started this job, there was a lot of stress and Kenny Nemitz would always have time to visit with me. From the day I got to Glendive everyone was very welcoming and very accepting. We’re invested in this community for the long haul. I own an office, we built a house and I want to help the community thrive. There is a feeling here of people fighting to be successful as a community. I’m happy to be a part of that and continue to build it. We all need to support each other. I love living here.”

➤ Promotion Announcement

Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company’s **Travis Hewitt** has been promoted to District Claims Manager in Montana. Travis started with Mountain West in 2011 as a field adjuster in Bozeman. Travis was promoted to Claims Field Supervisor in 2019. Travis has earned his CPCU and SCLA designations.

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Meet District 8 Director **Ed Bandel**

County Farm Bureaus served: Cascade, Chouteau, Hill-Liberty-Blaine

BY REBECCA COLNAR

Montana's Golden Triangle boasts high-quality wheat and hard-working farmers. The land north of Great Falls stretches in true "amber waves of grain" north of town, where the sky is the limit. Head north from the Electric City and you'll find Floweree, home of the Bandel Farm. The Bandels have been wheat farmers since Ed Bandel's great grandmother homesteaded a small chunk of rich, fertile land in 1915. She was followed by Ed's grandfather as well as his father, who took over running the farm in the 1940s. More recently, the family has branched out into growing pulse crops like peas and chickpeas, but wheat is by far their mainstay.

"I started working on the farm full-time in 1973, the same year I joined Farm Bureau," noted Ed Bandel. "Farm Bureau has been a constant since my parents joined Montana Farm Bureau in 1954 with my dad serving on the MFBF Board of Directors."

Ed has been equally dedicated to MFBF and has served on the state board four separate times. (Board members can serve three two-year terms in a row before "terming out.") In 2019, he became a "newly elected" board member.

"The first time I served on the board, I finished out Mack Quinn's term when he was elected president. I was on the Chouteau County board at that time. I had a new baby and was just getting started in Farm Bureau," Bandel remembered. "I keep coming back to the board at different times because I love that the organization is all about grassroots—the county members have a say instead of being told what to believe. I love the process, and Farm Bureau has truly become family. Even though people come and go over the years, Farm Bureau feels like a part of you and you're a part of it. I don't know what I'd do if I wasn't involved."

Bandel shared that his impetus for returning to the board is that Farm Bureau has been his main push for the



District 8 Director Ed Bandel, who is no stranger to leadership roles in Farm Bureau, decided to expand his agricultural advocacy skills and tackle the 2020 ACE program. PHOTOS BY LAURA NELSON

last 40-plus years. "I know I don't have all of the answers, but I feel I have a lot of knowledge gleaned over the years. I can share with the younger folks coming along, especially at the county level."

Some issues—like the challenges constantly surrounding property rights and water rights, are always in the forefront. "However, farming innovations have brought new thought and new policy.

The technology has changed so much in the past 40 years. We need to stay current to know how to defend or oppose technology. For instance, there are pros and cons with using drones. When I read through our new Farm Bureau history book, *Legacies*, I found the many topics of those old newsletter clippings are relevant today. Some of the issues never go away. We don't get rid of them, but we have to keep them at bay. You must stay watchful."

Since he considers himself a "money guy," Bandel sees his role on the board as handling the "mechanics" of the organization. "I like to make sure budgets are balanced. Because I do the books for my company and other organizations, I feel somewhat qualified to ensure the organization runs in the proper manner."

Bandel and his wife, Kayla, have three grown children. Jess has come back to the farm with his family, Avery is a figure skater and coach in Minnesota and his youngest daughter, Mitzi, an ER nurse, lives in Bozeman with her family.

"I told the kids they were welcome to come back to the farm after they had their education, but I assured them it wasn't mandatory. The opportunity is here if you want it," Bandel said, then added, "You have to love farming or it would be a horrible job. Jess came back

to farm full-time in 2003 after graduating from MSU-Havre with a degree in diesel technology. He worked for a few different places before he decided to come back and farm full time. Working with my son is awesome, we're good friends, and we're currently working through the logistics of transitioning the farm to him. It's a family farm, and Jess's wife Nikki and my wife pitch in and help when needed."

The farmer urges young people to step up and become involved in agriculture and Farm Bureau.

"Farmers as a group are growing older in this nation and we need more youth to help feed people and protect our way of life," Bandel said. "Go to your county's annual Farm Bureau meeting. The best way to become involved in Farm Bureau is to jump in with both feet."

A real ACE

When Ed Bandel's son, Jess, graduated from the year-long MFBF ACE (Advocate. Communicate. Educate.) program in

Get Your Applications In

Applications for the 2021 ACE program are now being accepted. Visit www.mfbf.org or contact **Chelcie Cargill**, chelciec@mfbf.org.

2019, he strongly encouraged his father to apply. The program emphasizes leadership development, issue education and the engagement of local communities. The participants—all active farmers or ranchers—spend a year honing skill at six seminars to make a difference in people's impressions about agriculture in their local communities.

"I felt I was the old dog who couldn't be taught new tricks, but Chelcie (Cargill) with ACE said she could teach me," Ed Bandel explained. "I have very much enjoyed the training; it takes you out of your comfort zone. One reason I took the program was to help me with public speaking. In addition, we have had many excellent speakers and coaches. The first time we did mock interviews, it was interesting to see how nervous we all were. Our

coaches were hard on us, but that's the way you learn."

The farmer concedes he is at a disadvantage because he doesn't use new technology and doesn't "follow" a variety of people on different platforms. However, he still feels what the program teaches is exceptionally valuable.

"At our first meeting we had Bruce Vincent, an excellent speaker and logger who talked about the demise of the logging industry and how farmers and ranchers need to work to ensure agriculture doesn't go the way of the logging industry. He was an excellent first speaker to make us understand why it is so important to advocate for agriculture and communicate about agriculture."



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101ST MONTANA FARM BUREAU ANNUAL CONVENTION

November 10 & 11 | DoubleTree & Northern Hotels | Billings



Schedule of Events

Tuesday, November 10

All events will be held at the DoubleTree except when noted.

8:00 am	Board of Directors Meeting
9:00 am	Registration Opens at the DoubleTree
9:00-10:30 am	Young Farmer & Rancher Meeting
9:00-10:30 am	Promotion & Education Meeting
10:00 am	Credentials Committee
11:00 am	YF&R Discussion Meet, Round 1
12:00-1:30 pm	District Caucuses
	<i>*Lunches served in each caucus</i>
1:30 pm	Nominating Committee
2:00-6:00 pm	Opening General Session
	- Presentation of Colors/National Anthem
	- Pastor Tim Moullett Inspirational Message
	- President's Address
	- Audit Report
	- Insurance Company Report
	- Executive Vice President's Address
	Delegate Session
	- Roll Call of Delegates
	- Credentials Committee Report
	- Nominating Committee Report/Intros
	- By-Laws Changes
	- Inter-Organization Resolutions
	- Resolutions Session
6:30-7:30 pm	Dinner at the Northern Hotel
7:30- 8:00 pm	YF&R Discussion Meet Final Four

Wednesday, November 11

7:00 am	Light breakfast items available
8:00 am-12:00 pm	Resolution Session Continues
10:00 am	Collegiate YF&R Discussion Meet (tentative)
11:00 am	Boxed Lunch Available

The Board of Directors will meet immediately following the Resolutions Session.

MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Annual Convention

November 10 & 11 | DoubleTree & Northern Hotels | Billings

DUE OCTOBER 30

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

Tuesday Lunch \$20 x _____ = \$ _____

Tuesday Dinner \$30 x _____ = \$ _____

Wednesday Lunch \$20 x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

COVID NOTICE: We will be following the protocols set forth by the governor and county health officials. The hotels will be working hard to ensure proper disinfecting occurs for everyone's safety. If you are showing symptoms or have been in contact with someone who is, please do not attend the convention.

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 DoubleTree Hotel at (406) 252-7400 or for overflow, contact the Northern Hotel at (406) 867-6767. Request the MFBF room block for special conference rates. Book your room by **October 25!**

Please return registration form by **October 30** to:

Montana Farm Bureau Federation, 502 S. 19th Ave, Ste 104, Bozeman, MT 59718 or fax (406) 587-0319

Call the MFBF office at (406) 587-3153 or e-mail info@mfbf.org with questions.



The Cowboy Meats crew busy cutting and packaging meat.

Small meat processors thrive during pandemic

BY REBECCA COLNAR

When the pandemic hit Montana in spring 2020, many businesses closed, workers were furloughed and commerce slowed to a crawl. Something happened in America that hadn't happened in almost 100 years; store shelves had empty sections. Everyone knows paper products vanished overnight, but more concerning was a paltry supply of produce and meat. Packing plants were closing due to the virus, creating a bottleneck in the supply chain. Farmers and ranchers had no shortage of animals to be processed and grocery stores had ample case space, but with the plants closed or operating at a reduced capacity, meat became difficult to find and what was available sported a high price tag.

Then something curious happened. For years there have been many campaigns to "know your farmer" and "know where your food comes from." Even though small meat processors have been around for decades, when COVID-19

hit, consumers and ranchers started looking at processing/purchasing meat closer to home. What became especially interesting was a recent changeover of these small plants to young people who see the small packing business not only as a fulfilling career but as a way to revitalize small communities. In fact, in July 2020, four Montana meat processing facilities



Charlie Hollenbeck purchased C&K Meats in July 2020. This cooler holds custom cut meat.

changed ownership in Billings, Forsyth, Terry and Manhattan.

Stop by Cowboy Meats in Forsyth and you'll find red-haired Charlie Hollenbeck bustling around his small, newly acquired packing plant. Whether he's visiting with a customer in the retail store, discussing pork cuts with an employee or working on the computer, the 30-year-old business owner has boundless energy.

When the pandemic hit, Charlie Hollenbeck was in Sheridan, Wyoming working for JH Oilfield as a construction manager. The enterprising young rancher had been considering getting into the meat packing industry. He had been raised on a ranch in Molt, MT; then earned a degree in process plant technology from Montana State University, Billings and worked toward a degree in animal science and ag business from the University of Wyoming. After college, a stint in the then-booming oilfield in North Dakota allowed him to earn the money to buy a farm in Molt and market beef while he worked for an oil company in Billings. Then an opportunity to use his know-how in marketing and technology led him to Watford City. Following that move, Hollenbeck and his wife moved to Sheridan, Wyoming where he joined a construction business in late 2019.



"When COVID affected that business, I closed it and decided to purchase the C&K Meats in Forsyth. This plan had actually been on the back burner for about two years," Hollenbeck explained. "The seed was planted one day when I had a beef processed at C&K and started talking to the owners Kurt and Carla Gambill, who were planning to retire. I mentioned I'd be interested in becoming involved in beef processing. Closing my business due to COVID was my opportunity to make the timely purchase of this facility. We knew with COVID there was a need and we saw producers hurting. We had the right resources with enough capital to invest and the manpower and energy to run the plant."

Hollenbeck pointed out that although certain businesses saw hard times as the pandemic dragged on, business in small meat processing facilities was skyrocketing. The young entrepreneur bought the plant with the idea of not only continuing to custom process for area ranchers, but servicing institutions like prisons and schools. Currently, Cowboy Meats sends meat to schools in Hysham and Melstone and are working to get meat into Forsyth schools, as well. "Local producers have been very generous donating meat for this effort," Hollenbeck noted.

Cowboy Meats, which sits on Front Street in Forsyth, has an attractive retail area and although they still need to buy some boxed beef to fill the niches for retail, they plan to buy their meat from local producers.

"Our custom meat customers are what keep the lights on in the place. Part of our

mission is to have an outlet for farmers and ranchers as a place to process and market their animals," Hollenbeck said. "We have a meat depot license plus a custom-exempt license and on September 18 they became state inspected so they could retail local cattle."

Hollenbeck believes livestock producers need to look toward more value-added products—Montana producers send 500,000 head of dry cows each year to get processed out of state, then pay for the freight to bring the meat back on a devalued product. "We take a haircut headed down and pay a premium coming back. I'd like to see Cowboy Meats start filling that gap. At least we can lead the way."

Their cooler capacity currently is 30 head and they are building a new carcass cooler to hold an additional 60 carcasses. Cowboy Meats processes beef and hogs, as well as lamb. There are 14 employees on the payroll, with a mix of different skills.

"Some are experienced cutters, some are in training; there is a lot of young talent here," Hollenbeck said. "The CEO in me says whatever credit you receive, the team deserves it. If they walked out, we wouldn't have a plant. It's great having a young workforce because they are so eager to try new things."

While giving credit, he also praises the Gambills, who did an amazing job with the place, for making a seamless transition in owners.

Small towns appeal to the Hollenbecks. "A small town breeds opportunity. There are economic opportunities, lower costs

of living and lower cost to start-ups in areas with lighter population footprint," Hollenbeck said. "These reasons should be driving us to these areas, especially now with so much ability for remote working. We've had an easy entry into Forsyth and there is a real sense of community here."

Hollenbeck praises his experience in Montana Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers with his success today. "I was in the Final Four of the YF&R Discussion Meet in 2016. That's when Gil Gasper, who owns a small meat processing facility in Circle, won the competition and took home a Polaris Ranger. Being involved in YF&R really expanded my circle, and those contacts have proved invaluable. I'm now serving some of those friends I made."

Hollenbeck encourages booking livestock processing far in advance. "Ranchers need to make their local packing plant part of their marketing plan. Do they want to market grass fed, dry cows or fat steers? We want them to be in control of their future so the next time something like COVID hits, you already have your space reserved here and you can use the plant as part of your overall business plan."

He sees the small packing house business as a great bridge between the producer and the consumer. "I have great joy selling consumers beef, and having consumers buying local beef has been great for the ranchers. It's a hard business but with the right leadership and mentality, it's an industry that can really grow and offer stable infrastructure."

Small processors get help from government entities

As meat shortages in grocery stores caused by a bottleneck in the large meat processing sector made headlines, small processors were overwhelmed by ranchers wanting to have their animals processed, and Montana was no exception. On the state level, the Montana Department of Agriculture provided grants for improvements to facilities while on the national level, Congressmen introduced legislation to make meat processing and sales more streamlined.

The Montana Farm Bureau supported two bills of importance to livestock producers co-sponsored by Congressman Gianforte (R-MT): The Requiring Assistance to Meat Processors for Upgrading Plants (RAMP-UP Act) and the Direct Interstate Retail Exemption for Certain Transactions (DIRECT) Act. MFBF has been actively

pursuing legislation and other actions that will improve cattle markets for producers in Montana and the rest of the country.

"One huge problem in Montana is a lack of livestock processing capacity," stated MFBF National Affairs Director Nicole Rolf. "Plants across the state are significantly backed up so when a rancher gets ready to bring in a beef for processing, it may be months, or even next year, before they can get an appointment. Hogs and lambs are affected as well. This was a problem before the pandemic and it has been exacerbated by all the issues that have arisen since the coronavirus hit. Consumers got worried when they noticed store shelves getting a little bare so they started looking to buy in bulk or to buy local, which is great, but now we need to be able to deliver. There are a variety of complicating factors here, but these

two bills will help fix some of the challenges.”

The RAMP-UP Act, H.R. 7490, provides grants for small custom meat processors to become USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) inspected. This would allow more small meat processing plants to become federally inspected and the meat sold commercially. On September 3 the bill was Referred to

the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture.

“Montana has a mix of USDA-inspected, state inspected and custom exempt processing plants. The custom exempt plants or state-inspected plants are great for personal-use processing, such as when a rancher takes in a beef or a hunter has a deer cut for their own consumption,” noted Rolf. “However, state and federal law places some restrictions on the sale of meat killed at these plants. If the RAMP-UP Act

bill were to pass, more of the state-inspected and custom plants may be able to take advantage of grant money to upgrade to FSIS inspections, allowing them to sell meat across state lines. This would give Montana ranchers more outlets for their cattle.”

The DIRECT Act, HR 7425, would allow state inspected meat to

be sold across state lines via internet sales.

“We believe this legislation allows new flexibilities and marketing opportunities while protecting food safety, recall ability, and trade market access with regard to equivalency agreements,” said Rolf. “While we recognize the importance of FSIS inspection in interstate commerce and international trade, this bill is narrowly crafted and only allows the meat to be sold through e-commerce, alleviating traceability concerns.”

Montana Meat Processing Infrastructure Grants

In late September \$4.2 million in additional funds were awarded through the Montana Meat Processing Infrastructure Grant (MMPIG) program to aid small and medium-sized meat processors in responding to the COVID-19 crisis through the adaptation and advancement of meat processing infrastructure and capacity in Montana. The grant program previously awarded \$7.5 million to 62 different processors across the state in early August, making the total awards for meat processing nearly \$12 million.

The MMPIG program builds community resilience and bolsters food security statewide. Businesses are using the grants to purchase equipment to immediately increase their storage and processing capacity. Many are modifying their facilities to include slaughter floors and other business adaptations that give producers the option to sell their meat locally rather than shipping them out of state.

Funding for the MMPIG program was derived from the state’s allocation of federal relief dollars made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, with a maximum award of \$150,000. The Montana Department of Agriculture and Department of Livestock worked together to ensure projects adhered to meat processing rules and regulations.



Miles Community College launches meat processing course

With the need to process local meat at an all-time high and a workforce to help, Montana Farm Bureau, Miles City Community College and the Montana Meat Processors Association looked to develop a meat cutting course. After establishing a plan, the next step was to seek funding to make the program a reality. MCC applied for a Montana Meat Processing Infrastructure Grant and received \$117,000 that will be used for developing a workforce for Montana meat processors.

The program is one year of remote and on-line education, including the seven and a half weeks doing an internship in small packing plants. “For instance, if a student lives in Columbus, they don’t have to come to Miles City, they can live at home and attend classes online,” noted MCC Ag Instructor Kim Gibbs. Students will need to complete a seven-plus week internship working at three to four plants in the state. To date, Gibbs has received commitments to host interns from Pioneer Meats-Big Timber; Cowboy Meats-Forsyth; Lower Valley Meats-Kalispell; Power River Meats-Fallon and Ryan’s-Jordan.

The 29-credit course work includes classes on food safety, business math, elementary technical writing and biology, in

addition to the hands-on internships.

“Of course, MCC would have loved to build their own plant, but that would literally have been a million dollars. It made sense to pair students with the small processing plants across the state,” Gibbs added. “Really, it can be regarded as a seven-week job interview.”

The four-level internship program will start with Level 1 basics such as sharpening knives and cutting meat and learn the different cuts of meat. Level 4 will include running equipment, working on the kill floor and knowing all the steps in the process.

The meat processing classes kick off October 28, and anyone interested in the class can still get enrolled. Greg Gianforte participated in a round table discussion on the trades, and pledged to offer scholarship money from the Gianforte Family Foundation to students interested in this program.

“This is a certificate course you can complete and within a year be earning \$25,000-\$45,000, and with many of these smaller plants changing hands, having experience in the meat cutting business could very well lead to owning a profitable business in one of Montana’s small towns,” Gibbs noted.



The Producer Partnership continues to help the hungry

Park County Farm Bureau member Matt Pierson started Producers Partnership in April as a way to donate beef to local food banks and food pantries.

"It started with me calling area ranchers I know to see if they could donate a cull cow," said Pierson. He took the donations and meat to Brian Engle at Pioneer Meats in Big Timber and Matt Feldtman of Matt's Meats in Livingston. What started as one rancher's idea to help feed a few local folks in need has now resulted in 17,500 pounds of beef and \$65,000 raised for processing costs.

Pierson is confident The Producer Partnership is going to double that amount of beef by mid-October. In fact, they have sent 35 head to North Dakota—a donation from a rancher who sold his place—to be processed, along with a refrigerated trailer for the meat to head back to Montana.

"We're going to take all of that beef to the Montana Food Bank Network in Missoula which distributes to food banks over the state," noted Pierson. He says there is still a real need to end hunger in Montana.

"The beef is going out faster than we can keep up. We put so many pounds through the Livingston Food Resource Center and they've done an amazing job getting our beef out to people in need."

The Producer Partnership now has a board and has applied for 501 (c) 3 status. They are implementing a goal of \$250,000 in donations, hoping business and individuals might each donate \$5,000 which would cover the processing costs.

For more information visit www.producerpartnership.com or contact Matt Pierson at 406-220-7223.

The Heart P Bar is more than our brand. The Heart is a symbol of our gratitude, love and respect for the land and the food bounty it provides us every day; The P represents a collaborative partnership of generous individuals, businesses, and community leaders; and the Bar binds us all together as one state working to end hunger in Montana.



Pioneer Meats sees surge in business

Brian Engle and Pioneer Meats in Big Timber have been processing beef and creating delicious meat products for the past 16 years. When the pandemic hit, the family-run small packing plant suddenly had demand for more processing—up 100 percent.

Along with the ranchers who wanted more of their animals processed, the demand has increased from people who see this renewed interest in family farmers and ranchers to market

beef. Engle recently took a call from someone in Southeast Montana who had 50 head they wanted to have processed.

"Then I had a call from someone else who wanted us to process beef that they are going to market as Montana-grown beef even though they don't own a single hoof," Engle explained. "There's another customer who serves a virtual market. They are

a private label.

Engle said his plant is at capacity, processing about 1,300 animals this year and they are working on increasing space. "We did receive a grant from the governor, and part of that is for additional equipment to help speed up the process. We have three ocean containers integrated into the building for freezer space. So, we're increasing our freezing capacity because our freezers are so jammed right now. It will be a really good day when the contractors finally get these done."

In addition to the bolstered small packing plant economy, more people are now supporting ranchers and their home-grown beef. "I think people do have a better appreciation for local production, which is awesome for processors like myself and for producers who have a spot already established with a processor. We've taken on processing for new customers this year, but we can't take on any more."

That paves the way for new faces in the meat processing sector in Montana. Most of the existing plants could use help, and some have owners who would like to retire. Some owners have simply shut their doors not because of lack of business but because the owners wanted to retire. Those older owners did not want to put the money into upgrading the facility and did not have help so shutting the plant was their only option.

Now with the increasing keen interest in local meat and local processing, owning a small packing plant can be a great business opportunity for an energetic young person. Engle, who is active in Sweet Grass County Farm Bureau, admitted owning a processing business is a lot like ranching; it's hard work but worth it. "There are a lot of sacrifices on time and money. I've only drawn wages in the last four years, out of 16. But you work with great people and it's a good living for our family."



Brian Engle at 4-H Champion Buyers Sale.

sourcing from local Montana harvested and processed meat and will be selling it online. These are some of the creative ideas that people have now."

It's an idea whose time has come; ranchers can get their beef processed, then marketing companies buy the beef and sell it under their own label. Out of 27 beef carcasses hanging in the cooler at Pioneer Meats in late September, all but four were under

Welcome to new faces at MSU

Montana Farm Bureau would like to welcome the following:



- **Dr. Carla Sanford, Assistant Professor and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist (started May 2019)**

Her research interests include investigating maternal-fetal interactions, nutrition and therapeutic interventions in compromised pregnancies and environmental influences on fetal and placental growth, as well as assisted reproductive technologies and supplementation strategies to improve reproductive success and performance in beef cattle.

- **Dr. Sarah McCoski, Assistant Professor, Embryogenesis and Placentation (started June 2019)**

Dr. McCoski conducts research in reproductive biology. Her lab is interested in the events of embryogenesis and placentation in ruminant species, and how the environment during this window of development affects pregnancy outcomes and subsequent health of offspring. This phenomenon is commonly referred to as “developmental programming”. Dr. McCoski’s main interests include:

- Embryonic and fetal development following in vitro fertilization
- Understanding the interaction between maternal nutritional status and pregnancy outcome

- **Dr. Rachel Frost, Dan Scott Ranch Management Program Leader (started July 2019)**

Research interests are the role of private ranches in sustaining wildlife habitat and local community stability.

- **Dr. Jared Beaver, Assistant Professor and Extension Wildlife Management Specialist (started March 2020)**

Jared strives to blend wildlife research with applied management by identifying conservation opportunities which have direct relevance for private landowners and wildlife biologist responsible for conserving and managing wildlife.

- **Dr. Christian Posbergh, Assistant Professor Sheep Production (started August 2020)**

Chris is originally from a small sheep farm in New Jersey raising Romneys and Dorsets. He completed his B.S. and Ph.D. at Cornell University, both in Animal Science. His graduate work focused on small ruminant genetics and genomics.

- **Dr. Amanda Bradbery, Assistant Professor Equine Nutrition and Physiology (started August 2020)**

Dr. Bradbery’s research efforts focus on nutritional strategies to improve horse health and performance longevity, including the impact of nutraceuticals on exercise performance, growth and development, and prenatal nutrition strategies for offspring metabolic health.

- **Dr. Rodrigo Marques, Assistant Professor Ruminant Nutrition (started March 2020)**

Research interests: Dr. Marques’s research efforts focus on nutritional and management strategies to improve productivity and profitability of beef cattle operations, including the impacts of prenatal and postnatal nutrition strategies on performance, health, and reproductive responses in beef cattle. In particular, Dr. Marques’s main research interests lie in maternal nutrition of beef cattle and its impacts on offspring performance and immune parameters and nutritional and management strategies that will enhance immunity and growth of recently weaned calves.

- **Diego Almeida CJF EE, FE, TE, AWCF, Farrier School Program Director (started August 2020)**

Almeida is an AFA Certified Journeyman Farrier and holds all three endorsements offered by the association (Educator, Forging and Therapeutic Endorsements). He is also an Associate with the Worshipful Company of Farrier in England. Almeida is also an AFA Tester and Certification Instructor. He is also involved in farrier certifications across the United States and abroad. The Farrier School will begin its first session in Spring of 2021. For details about applying, see our website montana.edu/msufarrierschool or call 406-994-3722. For clientele interested in having their horses shod for a discounted rate by students, contact Diego diego.almeida@montana.edu or 708-297-7620.

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Budget Car Rental - Members 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.

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Caterpillar Inc. Benefits - 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 also receive an additional \$250 credit on work tool attachments purchased with new Cat machines. 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.

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. Call (406) 587-3153 or go to mtagrisafety.com for more information.

Delta Hotels Helena Colonial - Enjoy the rate of \$124.00/night for a standard room. 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.*

Wood-N-Woven brings value-added products to Eastern Montana

BY REBECCA COLNAR

When the Montana Farm Bureau Federation turned 100 in 2019, the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation offered grant funding for the betterment of communities around the state. With these grants the Foundation looked to increase rural prosperity and stimulate economic development by strengthening its roots and bettering small towns across Montana. The Foundation's goal was to raise \$100,000 for the grants.

"The Centennial Community Initiative was established to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs, support infrastructure improvements, increase support in community service, and provide a long-lasting impact in Montana rural areas," noted Scott Kulbeck, Foundation Coordinator. "We realize that \$100,000 is just a start in addressing rural development. Our hope is this program will be used to kick-start projects where seed money is needed to attract larger funding sources. The grant money could help in the completion of a business plan that allows an entrepreneur to secure financing or it may be a grant that is used as matching funds so that a project can attract a larger grant."

One of the grant applications receiving approval was Wood-N-Woven, an established small business in rural Terry, Montana which has been providing quality hand-crafted wood and woven products since 2002. As the business has grown over the years, the proprietors for Wood-N-Woven saw the need to create a



(Above) Wood-N-Woven owner Laina Therrien shows the antique mechanical wool carding machine purchased with some of the CCI grant money.



(Left) Cheri Reed Anderson shows some of the company's woven wool blankets.



fiber mill in Eastern Montana. To be able to expand the business, Wood-N-Woven had submitted the grant to purchase equipment and build a website.

Visiting Wood-N-Woven's workshop is like stepping back in the past; at least initially. Laina Therrien and her business partner Cheri Reed Anderson have an array of looms (several made by Therrien's husband) that are beautiful and take up a considerable amount of floor space in the large building. Bags of raw wool hang from the rafters, colorful scarves are draped over a rack and colorful spools of woolen yarn sit on an array of shelves.

Laina and Cheri had a studio in town, but had received notice in spring 2019 that they needed to vacate the space and had limited time to do so. Laina and her husband decided a wise idea would be adding onto her husband's wood workshop located by their home on the outskirts of Terry. They broke ground May 1, 2019.

"We had the building completed by November 2019, but didn't get electricity until July 1, 2020," Laina noted "We could only work until dark."

However, it was this physical expansion of the business that made the women realize that if they could locate funding, they could expand other parts of the business. The grant request included the purchase of a mechanical wool carding machine, a tumbler and website improvements.

“ The wool growers who are currently unable to sell their wool will be able to commission Wood-N-Woven to clean the wool (rove) to increase the value of the wool for sale. ”

The antique wool carding machine was sourced from a garment mill in South Carolina. "It had been sitting idle for years, so we had some work to do to it to make it functional, but now it's in use," explained Laina. "It's enabled us to take a roving (ball) of wool and turn it into yarn. Most of the yarn is generally for our own use, but we do sell some of it by the ounce. There are a number of spinners around, and Billings has a weaving guild. Before we had this machine, if we were in the middle of making a rug and needed more yarn, we'd have to wait for the mill. Now that we have the machine, we don't have to wait for a commercial mill to card it."

Another piece of equipment the women plan to purchase; or in their case, construct, using some of the grant money is a tumbler. Why a tumbler?

"The wool we use is not marketable to the big processors, as it's from a brown or black sheep, which is a color they don't want at the wool markets. We can take that wool we get from shepherds in Prairie and Dawson county, wash it with dish soap, scour it and pick the rest of the junk from it. The tumbler will get rid of any remaining vegetable matter."

With the remaining CCI grant money, Wood-N-Woven purchased a website address and increased the visibility of the new fiber mill along with all of the products currently being made for purchase.

"COVID hit us hard because most of our sales are done at Handmade Montana Markets, which were all cancelled," noted Cheri. "Having a digital marketing strategy will increase the number of people who are interested in visiting the studio in Terry Montana, enable customers to see the projects on the looms, and keep the customers coming back to commission projects with us. The fact we have can now sell online will prove very beneficial."

Their products include beautifully patterned towels, scarves, blankets and rugs, along with many other gorgeous handmade custom-made textiles.

The women reiterate that the grant has enabled them to fill a niche by taking the product considered "waste," and add value to it by being able to clean and card it easily.

"The wool growers who are currently unable to sell their wool will be able to commission Wood-N-Woven to clean the wool (rove) to increase the value of the wool for sale. With this process completed, the wool growers have created a new stream of revenue for themselves along with providing Wood-N-Woven with additional income too," Cheri explained. "Most importantly, this is money that will stay in eastern Montana and directly benefit our communities."



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Les Graham: Paving the way for ag safety

BY REBECCA COLNAR

Any farmer or rancher who has attended an ag safety training undoubtedly knows Les Graham. The easy-going, friendly Graham has spent countless hours and thousands of miles (often 50,000 per year) traveling to farms and ranches, sharing the importance of keeping yourself, your family and your employees safe on the job. Recently, Graham retired from his long-time service with the Montana Ag Safety Program.

The Ag Safety Program got underway when the 1993 Montana State Legislature passed the Montana Safety Culture Act (MSCA) which “encouraged workers and employers to create and implement a philosophy of workplace safety.” It is the intent of the act to raise workplace safety to a preeminent position in the minds of all Montana’s workers and employers. Keep in mind if you have one employee, you have to pay into the workers’ compensation fund.

Graham had worked for the Montana Department of Livestock for 17 years, first as the administrator for the brands division and ending his tenure there as executive officer in 1992. When he left the department, he began contract lobbying for several agricultural organizations. When the MSCA passed, the Montana Farm Bureau and Montana Stockgrowers decided to set up the Montana Ag Safety Program. Today, seven agricultural organizations work with the program.

Graham remembers meeting with the facilitators of the ag safety programs that Colorado State University and the Kansas Cattle Feeders had developed and collected their important ideas and information.

“Our original focus was to tell people the Safety Culture Act had passed and if you employ even one person, you were expected to comply with the act. Six requirements are part of the training program combined with recommendations.

“About ten years into the training, Gene Surber began assisting me with the program. He helped for five years, then when he retired, Jim Larson stepped in,” said Graham. “We visited hundreds of farms and ranches, giving workshops by request.”

Time changes and so have some of the



Les Graham, former director of the Montana Ag Safety Program, prides himself on not only sharing information to keep farmers and ranchers safe, but also for kidding around, as seen here in 2013.

concerns. “All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and Utility Vehicles (UTVs) are a big issue now. We see many injuries and deaths from operating those machines. Something else that has changed is being cognitive about safety during weed spraying. A lot of people used to just go out and spray weeds, but now there are trainings that show how to spray more safely and effectively. Thanks to our new Director of Ag Safety Austin Grazier, our website now has safety information about calving, fencing, grain bins, you name it.”

Graham admits that, in general, farm equipment has become safer. “Tractors used to not have hood covers. Tractors now have handles so a farmer can use the safe three-point grip to get off and on equipment. The Power Take-Offs (PTOs) have covers and other safety features. Unfortunately, today, ATVs are the most dangerous, especially because many people drive them too fast and don’t heed the safety precautions.”

One of the key points is the monetary consequences as well as the psychology of protecting your family and workers. A ranch owner who gets injured and doesn’t have workers’ compensation may be out of a lot of money if they don’t have a plan of what to do when they get injured. “Have a financial plan in place in case of an accident. Follow the same protocol as you would for an employee. Family safety is very important,” Graham advised.

Shared stories often drive a point home

whether it’s based on an ATV accident, corral work accident or grain bin catastrophe.

“Sharing those personal stories is really important,” Graham noted. “We will share, but of course, also protect those farmers and ranchers who had the incident.”

The Ag Safety Program provides small cards to write down emergency numbers as well as the longitude and latitude of your farm or ranch should a helicopter need to land. It’s recommended to have one by every phone in the house or barn, as well as keep with or on your cell phone.

“One rancher told me that although the family members were raised on a remote ranch, when there was a serious accident in a corral, the daughter called 911 and suddenly couldn’t remember the name of the ranch, where it was located or the directions to get there,” Graham shared. In moments of crisis, sometimes the brain just shuts down. Having a handy card with critical phone numbers is key to getting help to the exact location.

The hard-working Graham, whether giving presentation at a conference or on a ranch, loved every minute of the work.

“I think we made a big difference creating a safety culture which included a keen awareness about safety,” Graham said. “Of course, the very best part of the job was the people I have met in my 25 years of doing this. I always looked forward meeting them and spending time with them. They have truly been great.”





Cultivating a culture of safety

My name is Austin Grazier and as the new Director of Agriculture Safety, I will be coordinating the Montana Agriculture Safety Program. Recently Les Graham, after a long and successful career coordinating this program, decided to retire. I hope to be able to continue his success and grow the program.

I grew up on a horse boarding facility west of Golden, CO where my passion for agriculture began. I recently graduated from Montana State University with two Bachelor of Science degrees; one in Agricultural Business-Farm and Ranch Management and the other in Animal Science. I am blessed to have been given this opportunity to continue my involvement with agriculture and I look forward to working with producers across the state.

The Montana Agriculture Safety Program is an agreement between the Montana State Fund and seven agriculture organizations across the state: Montana Wool Growers Association, Montana Grain Growers Association, Montana Pork Producers Council, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, Montana Cattlemen's Association, Montana Stockgrowers Association and Montana Organic Association. It is a program designed to *cultivate a culture of safety* within the high-risk industry that is agriculture. It is for agriculture producers who have employees, who wish to reduce insurance claims and increase work place safety. The program is at no cost to the producer but only requires the operation be in compliance with the Montana Safety Culture Act of 1993.

My job as the Director of Agriculture Safety is to help agriculture operations design and implement a safety program that suits their specific needs. I recognize that every operation is different so there is not one cookie-cutter plan that addresses all the concerns and needs of each farm or ranch. I like to emphasize that my job is to help members of the program increase safety on their farms and ranches, not to enforce or impose rules and regulations.

I am working on bringing the Montana Agriculture Safety Program into the 21st century. I plan to provide program members with up to date information via the updated website, provide online quarterly newsletters and offer farm/ranch visits as requested. With the increased communication, an updated website, and by increasing knowledge of how the program can benefit your agricultural operation, I will grow the program and increase the likelihood of a partial premium return on program members' Montana State Fund Worker's Compensation plan.

This time of year is especially busy for most agriculture operations. It is important to not get in too much of a rush and jeopardize safety. Taking the time to inspect, repair, and maintain equipment is crucial to a successful harvest. However, just like the machines, you need to take care of yourself. Remember the farm cannot run without you. Here are some quick tips to have a safe and successful fall.

Feel free to call or email with any questions, 406-587-3153 or austing@mtagrisafety.com.

Fall Safety Tips

- Ensure all equipment is in good repair
- Take the time to discuss safety with your children
 - Where are the no-go zones?
 - How to be safe around large farm equipment and livestock
- Let family members know about what is happening on the farm or ranch and where you are going to be
- When shipping cattle, be sure to work calmly and quietly
 - Only allow authorized personnel in corrals
 - Do not load too many cattle per trailer

For more safety information be sure to check out the Montana Agriculture Safety Program website: www.mtagrisafety.com.



Austin Grazier is the new ag safety director for the Montana Ag Safety Program.

COUNTY NEWS

When September rolls around everyone knows it's county annual meeting time. This year added the additional challenge of county members coming together during the pandemic, but most counties still opted to hold in-person meetings. The county annual meetings are a time when members discuss and develop resolutions that will be voted on at the Montana Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in November. The county annual meetings are truly proof of the grassroots process that defines Farm Bureau.

Big Horn County

voted to buy Legacies books for their local museum, library and long-time Gold Century Club member Bob's Auto Parts.



Jim Hagenbarth spoke to **Broadwater County** regarding weather modification and cloud seeding.



Rosebud County President Clay Redding and Secretary/Treasurer Greg Lackman.



The **Chouteau** County Board met before their joint annual meeting with Hill/Liberty/Blaine.



Phillips County President Tom DePuydt and Joy DePuydt show the new banner.

Custer-Fallon County Farm Bureau held their meeting outdoors at the Gibbs residence.



The members of the **Wheatland/Golden Valley Farm Bureau** shared recipes for a county cookbook during their annual meeting.



Lewis & Clark County held their meeting in county president Karl Christian's new shop. The event was well-attended with several speakers.



Meagher County met at the rustic Martinsdale Bar.

People



Honorary American FFA Degree

The late **G. Lee Boyer** of Bridger has been selected to receive the Honorary American FFA Degree. Boyer was elected as District 8 Director to the Montana Farm Bureau Board November 2016 and served in that capacity until he passed away in 2020. This award is given to those who advance agricultural education and FFA through outstanding personal commitment. The National FFA Organization works to enhance the lives of youth through agricultural education. The Honorary American FFA Degree is an opportunity to recognize those who have gone beyond valuable daily contributions to make an extraordinary long-term difference in the lives of students, inspiring confidence in a new generation of agriculturists. Members of the National FFA Organization's board of directors approved the nomination. Boyer will receive the award during the 2020 National FFA Convention & Expo, to be held virtually, in October. All recipients receive a plaque and medal, and their names will be permanently recorded as recipients of the highest FFA honor.



Montana Farm Bureau is proud to endorse the following candidates for their commitment to agriculture and rural Montana. These candidates have proven that their votes and values align with Farm Bureau's and we hope they'll receive your vote on Election Day.

Statewide Candidates

Governor & Lt. Governor

- Greg Gianforte & Kristen Juras

Secretary of State

- Christi Jacobsen

Attorney General

- Austin Knudsen

State Auditor

- Troy Downing

Supt. of Public Instruction

- Elsie Amtzen

Senate Candidates

- SD 6 - Greg Hertz
- SD 7 - Bob Brown
- SD 10 - Steve Fitzpatrick
- SD 15 - Ryan Osmundson
- SD 17 - Mike Lang
- SD 18 - Steve Hinebaugh
- SD 21 - Jason D. Small
- SD 26 - Chris Friedel
- SD 35 - Walt Sales
- SD 36 - Jeff Welborn
- SD 39 - Gordon Pierson
- SD 40 - Terry J. Gauthier
- SD 47 - Dan Salomon

House Candidates

- HD 1 - Steve Gunderson
- HD 7 - Frank Garner
- HD 8 - John Fuller
- HD 14 - Denley M. Loge
- HD 17 - Ross H. Fitzgerald
- HD 18 - Llew Jones
- HD 19 - Wendy McKamey
- HD 20 - Fred Anderson
- HD 21 - Ed Buttrey
- HD 24 - Steven Galloway
- HD 25 - Steve Gist
- HD 27 - Josh J. Kassmier
- HD 30 - E. Wylie Galt
- HD 32 - G. Bruce Meyers
- HD 33 - Casey Knudsen
- HD 34 - Rhonda Knudsen
- HD 38 - Kenneth L. Holmlund
- HD 39 - Geraldine Custer
- HD 51 - Frank Fleming
- HD 52 - Jimmy Patelis
- HD 55 - Vince Ricci
- HD 59 - Marty Malone
- HD 70 - Julie Dooling
- HD 71 - Kenneth M. Walsh
- HD 72 - Tom Welch
- HD 80 - Becky Beard
- HD 86 - David Bedey
- HD 88 - Sharon Greef
- HD 92 - Mike Hopkins

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

Young Farmer and Rancher News

Win a Polaris Ranger in the YF&R Discussion Meet

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation is urging young agriculturalists between ages 18-35 to compete in the MFBF Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet Tuesday, November 10 during the MFBF 101st Annual Convention in Billings. For the sixth year, Montana Polaris is the sponsor of the YF&R Discussion Meet, awarding a Ranger® Side by Side UTV to the winner of the competition. The convention has been scaled back this year; however, the Discussion Meet will be held in person.

The Discussion Meet contest is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each participant. This



The 2019 Discussion Meet Winner Rocky Forseth, center, with Kyle Hoover, district retail manager, Polaris, left, and Chad Adams, Yellowstone Polaris.

competition is evaluated on an exchange of ideas and information on a pre-determined topic and is an excellent way for young people to learn more about agricultural issues. The judges are looking for the contestant that offers cooperation and communication while analysing agricultural problems and developing solutions. (See questions below.)

"We thank our Montana Polaris dealers for their continued support of our young farmer and rancher program as well as their recognition and appreciation for all farmers and ranchers who grow our food and fiber," said YF&R Committee Chair J.M. Peck. "We encourage young farmers and ranchers to participate in the 2020 Discussion Meet which provides a great

way to learn more about agriculture as well as provides an excellent chance to take home a Ranger."

Kyle Hoover, district retail manager, Polaris, noted, "Polaris and the sponsoring Polaris dealers of Montana are very excited to once again partner with the Montana Farm Bureau and their Young Farmer and Rancher Program. Giving back and supporting our local agricultural economies in our great state is an absolute win-win for all of us."

Not only will the winner of the Montana Discussion Meet receive a Polaris, but the chance to compete in the national YF&R Discussion Meet (whether in-person or virtual to be determined) and the chance to win a new Ford truck.

Thanks to these participating Polaris dealers for supporting our Young Farmers and Ranchers: Gallatin Recreation, Bozeman; Helena Cycle, Helena; Yellowstone Polaris, Billings; Beaverhead Motors, Dillon; Riverside Marine & Cycle, Miles City; Montana Power Products, Ronan; Jesco Marine, Kalispell; Redline Sports, Inc, Butte; Lewistown Honda & Polaris, Lewistown; and Hi-line Polaris, Havre; Sports City Cyclery, Great Falls and Kurt's Polaris, Missoula. Be sure to stop by their dealerships to say thank you for supporting the Montana Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers, and check out their inventory.

For more information on the YF&R Program and the YF&R Discussion Meet, visit mfbf.org/programs/Young-Farmers-Ranchers or call Sue Ann Streufert, 406-587-3153.

Discussion Meet Questions

1. International trade is important to agriculture. We must continue working to build strong relations with existing customers while seeking out new trade partners to strengthen market stability. How can we enhance existing, and establish new and diverse foreign trading partners?
2. Connectivity underpins the modern economy. What mix of investment and policy initiatives can provide reliable broadband access to farmers,

ranchers and rural America?

3. The increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters creates additional risk for farmers and ranchers. What tools and production practices can be engaged to reduce climate and weather risks?
4. The decline in rural populations is accelerated by a poor farm economy. What solutions would enhance the vibrancy and economic sustainability of agriculture and rural communities?
5. Is big data a big solution or big exposure? Technology tools are often cited as a method of increasing productivity and profitability, but there are liabilities that go along with technology. As young farmers and ranchers we are often first adopters. How do we ensure clear understanding of the risks and rewards of big data and smart farming?



Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers still fighting hunger in Montana

For the past nine years, the Montana Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee has raised more than \$56,000 for the Montana Food Bank Network through the Hoofin' it for Hunger race. The food bank donation followed the YF&R Committee's commitment to help provide food for those in need. Although the continuing COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the committee cancelling the race, the YF&R Committee has fortified their resolve to still raise money for the MFBN.

"I applaud our committee for making this tough decision," said YF&R Chair J.M. Peck. "We considered many factors including that Fort Keogh Ag Research Station was still closed to the general public. However, we talked about our

concern that with a cancelled race, we wouldn't have our usual donation for the Montana Food Bank Network."

The committee has been asking Hoofin' it for Hunger sponsors to donate directly to the Food Bank in lieu of their sponsorship, and runners can easily donate. County Farm Bureaus are being asked to consider making a donation, as well.

"Our race has a great following and we're hoping everyone who ran or anyone who has sponsored the race can make a donation," said Peck. "The fact is MFBN needs help more than ever with many people losing their jobs due to COVID-19. The race was started to show that feeding people in need goes hand-in-hand with agriculture."

Larger cities in Montana have seen up to a 300 percent increase in families needing food assistance and an increasing number of younger families have also been needing food assistance. With meat and

fresh vegetables being in high demand, local farmers and ranchers have helped with the food supply at the MFBN.

According to the MFBN, Grocery Rescue has historically helped fill in the gaps, but since the onslaught of COVID-19, more families are grocery shopping resulting in food being bought instead of donated. Fortunately, because of programs like the USDA Farmers to Families Food Boxes, farmers and ranchers can still get their products to the public instead of having it go to waste. Montana Food Bank Network remains committed to getting fresh, quality food out to neighbors in need.

MFBN Chief Development Officer Bill Mathews added, "Even though we all understand that Hoofin' it for Hunger can't be an in-person event this year, there are many more Montanans that are at risk for food insecurity than ever before due to the pandemic. For all those who had planned to participate as a runner/walker,

virtual runner, sponsor or donor to the event, please continue to help the MFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers to reach their financial goal for Hoofin' it for Hunger and match the mission of the Montana Food Bank Network to End Hunger in Montana." Donations can be made via: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MT/MilesCity/HoofinItForHunger>. Click on "Donate Today: Help End Hunger in Montana."

To learn more about the Montana Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers visit <https://mfbf.org/programs/Young-Farmers-Ranchers>.

Scan this QR code to donate to the Montana Food Bank Network via the Run Sign Up website.



Women's Leadership Committee

PHOTO Contest

Entry Deadline: November 2

Four Categories:

- > Agriculture families/communities
- > Education and communication
- > Agriculture labor
- > Supporting the environment

Contest Prizes:

- > \$75 awarded to winners of each category.
- > Overall winner receives one-year free MFBF membership.

The winning photographs become the property of MFBF to be used for display and publicity purposes.

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation Women's Leadership Committee Photo Contest will be held during the MFBF annual convention November 10-11 at the Northern and Doubletree Hotels in downtown Billings. Photos will be voted online and at the convention for combined votes to decide the winners. The winners of each category will be announced at the convention.

Contest Rules:

- > The entrant must be a current MFBF member and their membership number must be included with their entry.
- > Open to amateur photographers only.
- > Photos must be taken by entrant.

Photos can only be submitted via email! Please email to the contest coordinator, Mary Hill, at BarJRGelbvieh@3rivers.net with the subject line MFBF PHOTO CONTEST 2020.

The Montana Department of Transportation Bridge Load Posting Program

Recent mandates from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), require the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) to place new load posting signs on bridges around the state. Based on recent safety-based bridge engineering evaluations, new vehicle types, and the updated requirements from FHWA, the new load postings will indicate the maximum amount of weight that can legally cross a bridge for different vehicle types.

What's new?

Truck manufacturers are building specialized hauling vehicles (SHVs) capable of legally carrying heavier loads than typical vehicles have in the past. These vehicles may increase stress on bridges, so current weight restrictions may not be sufficient to ensure safe operations.

FHWA has mandated that all States must include these new, short, heavy vehicles when evaluating the safe limits of bridge capacity. Accordingly, MDT is in the process of updating load ratings for 4,500 public bridges across the state, including approximately 2,500 owned by MDT. For this reason and for the safety of the traveling public, motorists will start to notice some bridges with new bridge load posting,

Load Posting Signs

Load posting, or "Weight Limit" signs indicate the maximum gross vehicle weight (GVW), including equipment or loads being towed by the vehicle, that can safely cross the bridge. Weight limit signs cannot show every possible vehicle on the road, so three standard silhouettes



are used to represent the most common truck configurations. The number of axles shown on each silhouette is only an example and is not to be interpreted as the only possibility for that vehicle type; actual axle numbers will vary. Descriptions are provided to help interpret vehicle types that are represented by each silhouette. See the brochure at the bridge load posting program webpage below.

For Additional Information

MDT is also in the process of creating interactive maps for the public's use. When the interactive maps are finalized

and posted on the program's webpage, the public will be able to look up individual bridges and their corresponding posting. As the Bridge Load Posting Program moves forward other information will also be posted on our webpage. For the most up-to-date information and additional resources, visit MDT's Bridge Load Posting Program webpage at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/business/contracting/bridge/loadrating/load-posting-program.shtml>. Or contact us at our email MDTbridgeloadposting@mt.gov.

➤ Your Help Is Needed

MDT needs your help to prevent overload and damage, maintain the integrity of the bridge, and safeguard bridge longevity.

Scan the QR Code for more information on the Montana Bridge Load Posting Program.





2021 AFBF YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

COMPETITION AWARDS



The YF&R program helps young members shape their future and American agriculture through leadership development and personal growth opportunities. Three competitions enable members to showcase their leadership experience, communication skills and successful business plans as they compete against the best of the best from each state Farm Bureau.

As part of the YF&R competitions, the top four competitors in the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Agriculture areas will receive:

**1ST
PLACE**

A New Ford Vehicle

(up to a value of \$35,000) and paid registration to the AFBF FUSION Conference in Portland, Oregon courtesy of Ford.

**2ND
PLACE**

Case IH Farmall 50A Tractor

courtesy of Case IH.

**3RD
PLACE**

Case IH 40" Combination Roll Cabinet & Top Chest

and \$500 Case IH parts card, courtesy of Case IH, a **\$2,500 Investing in Your Future cash prize**, courtesy of American Farm Bureau Insurance Services, Inc. **plus \$1,850 of Stanley Black & Decker merchandise**, courtesy of Stanley Black & Decker.

**4TH
PLACE**

Case IH 40" Combination Roll Cabinet & Top Chest

and a \$500 Case IH parts card, courtesy of Case IH.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



StanleyBlack&Decker

Mental health and suicide prevention resources available

Farm Bureau continues to encourage dialogue about rural mental health issues. Farmers and ranchers often face challenges and tough decisions that are made even more difficult due to factors they can't control like weather, commodity prices and public sentiment. American Farm Bureau has developed the Rural Resilience Program to train members how to recognize mental health stress as well as the Farm State of Mind Program. Check it out at <https://www.fb.org/programs/farm-state-of-mind/>. Remember, a healthy farm or ranch is nothing without a healthy you.

The American Farm Bureau and National Farmers Union worked together to develop the Farm Town Strong campaign to tackle opioid addiction. The opioid crisis has struck farm and ranch families much harder than the rest of rural America. Farm towns will overcome this epidemic through strong farmer-to-farmer support and the resilience of our communities. <https://farmtownstrong.org/>

Other resources available in Montana include Ask in Earnest. You don't have to be a professional mental health counselor to help save a life. Just as our name indicates, asking in earnest can make a difference. Visit <http://www.askinearnest.org/>.

MSU Extension and an associated statewide advisory council have developed an online clearinghouse of resources for a wide range of topics related to stress and mental health. The clearinghouse was created specifically for ag producers and their families, but it contains a wealth of information for anyone interested in learning more about causes of stress, stress prevention and management, and overall mental health. To access the site, visit: https://msuextension.org/wellness/stress-management/mt_farm_stress_clearing_house/

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

The Crisis Text Line- Text "mt" to 741-741

For more resources visit
mfbf.org/rural-mental-health-and-suicide-prevention.



It's election time

It's election year and Farm Bureau members are urged to learn about the issues and be sure to vote. The Farm Bureau iFarmiVote election toolkit gives you all the information you need before voting, including access to your voting status, polling place, absentee ballots and to learn more about the candidates. Due to the pandemic there are a lot of changes happening to how voting will take place. This toolkit has an entire team dedicated to keep up with changes happening state-by-state and county-by-county so that no one will be unsure of how to cast your ballot. Visit www.fb.org/advocacy/vote/

MFBF State Affairs Director Rachel Cone has conducted video interviews with all of the candidates whose policies and beliefs will affect farmers, ranchers and anyone who appreciates Montana's state land. All of these candidates serve on the State Lands Board. These include Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction and State Auditor.

Although the videos were debuted (October 5-9) before this *Spokesman* was in our members' hands, the videos are posted on the Montana Farm Bureau website, mfbf.org to help voters make educated choices. Each candidate was asked the same questions and had the same amount of time to answer. Don't miss this informative voting tool.

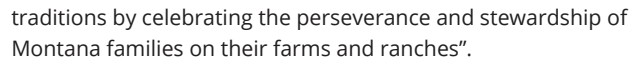
Questions? Contact Rachel Cone at 406-587-3153, rachelc@mfbf.org.

Buy your copy today!
YOUR STORIES. YOUR HISTORY.

YOUR LEGACIES.

Discover the first 100 years of your Montana Farm Bureau's values, principles and purpose at www.mfbf.org/legacies.

The Montana Historical Society's Centennial Farm and Ranch Program is available to producers whose farm has been in continuous ownership for at least 100 years and provides an opportunity for farmers to tell their story. Bruce Nelson, MHS curator, joined the Montana Farm Bureau Federation board meeting last week via Zoom to explain the program and to encourage centennial farms to register. The register would serve as an official record for the Montana Historical Society archives and allow historians to tell the farming story in our state. The Centennial Farm and Ranch program began in 2009 and the mission of the program is to "recognized our state's agricultural

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FD-302 (Rev. 10-6-95)		FD-302a (Rev. 10-6-95)	
Debra Ann Burton Spinkman Property, Statewide		Summer 2020 Arresting or Investigating Agency: San Diego County Sheriff's Department Date of Arrest or Investigation: 7/20/20 Number of Pages: 19	
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Fall 2020 | Montana Farm Bureau Spokesman

Full of Beans - Henry Ford Grows a Car — By Peggy Miller

REVIEW BY CARLA LAWRENCE, MFB WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

Henry Ford made cars. Millions of cars. But this story isn't about cars. Well...maybe just one. It's about one car and a lot of beans. *"Full of Beans"* inspires readers of all ages to think innovatively- even to build a car completely made of soybeans.

The book entitled *"Full of Beans-Henry Ford Grows a Car"*, written by Peggy Miller was awarded the 2020 Book of the Year by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture during the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in January in Austin, TX.

Although most of us know Henry Ford is famous for making Ford cars, how many of us realized that he was a farmer at heart or that he was committed to lightening the labor of farmers?

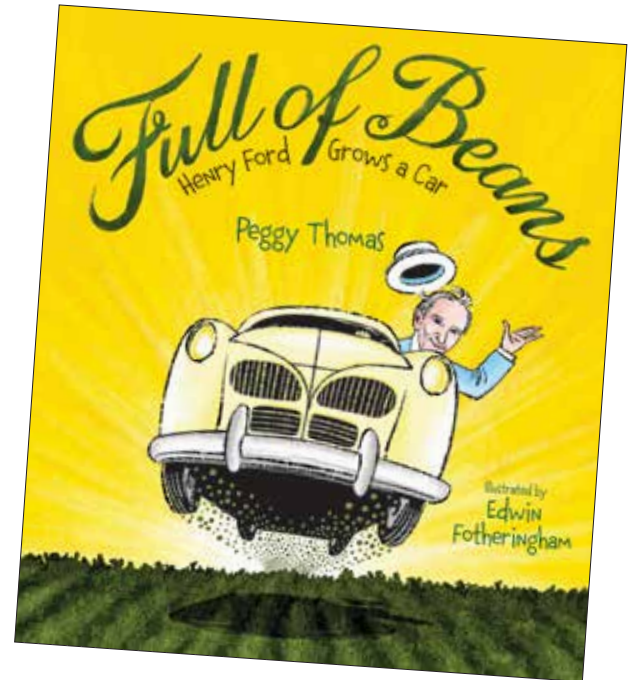
The author provides a chronological sequence of events, which led to Henry Ford working with soybeans. First, using soybeans as a paint for the cars, then using soy beans for small plastic parts, and finally building large plastic panels to build a car. He even had his tailor make

him a suit made from spun soy protein thread woven into fabric.

The back of the of book shares a recipe for Model T crackers and how to make your own soybean plastic, as well as, additional details about Henry Ford's life.

It is a delightful book that provides the reader with interesting and engaging information. The illustrations by Edwin Fotheringham complement the authors' words and helps tell the story with colorful artwork. This book is a fun way to learn about the science of soybeans and the history of Henry Ford and is written for an audience of all ages.

Full of Beans offers an educator's guide to go with the book. The guide is formulated for grades 3-5 and students will learn about the many uses of



soybeans, plant growth, where soybeans are grown and more.

To order *Full of Beans* visit agfoundation.org. Books retail for \$18.99; discounts available on multiple book orders.



Stockman Bank opened its doors over 65 years ago with a vision to help the people, businesses and communities of Montana realize their dreams. Today, we continue to fulfill this promise with products and services uniquely designed for Montanans and a local banking experience built on relationships, integrity, expertise and results.

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE

Montana's Brand of Banking

Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender

**WHEN WE INVEST IN OUR RAILROAD,
WE INVEST IN AGRICULTURE.**



Dedicated to your growth. This is BNSF.

BNSF Railway has invested billions of dollars into our network for a reason: to help customers, including hardworking producers, thrive. We've partnered with the agricultural industry for 170 years, and we are committed to supporting them for decades to deliver capacity, flexibility and consistent service. Your growth feeds our growth now and in the future.

Grow with us at [**bnsf.com/agriculture**](https://www.bnsf.com/agriculture)





Compete and Win!

The Montana Farm Bureau YF&R Program helps young members hone their leadership and communications skills for the future of Montana's ag industry. The winner of the 2020 Discussion Meet will be taking home a new Polaris Ranger 570! Go to www.mfbf.org to find out more.

A huge thank you to our participating Polaris dealers!

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Riverside Marine and Cycle - Miles City
Sports City Cyclery - Great Falls
Yellowstone Polaris - Billings

