



# MONTANA FARM BUREAU *News Brief*

*We Care for the Country*

September 2022

## TOP STORIES



Sugar beet farmer Leroy Gabel, far right, explains about the tuber to AFBF President Zippy and Jennifer Duvall and MFBF President Cyndi Johnson (center) during the Duvalls' visit to Montana.

### ***Duvall visits Farm Bureau members in Montana***

American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall enjoyed a tour of southern Montana's farms and ranches in mid-August. Duvall and his wife, Jennifer, started their tour in Wyoming, and the afternoon of August 11, headed to the southeastern part of the state to MFBF Vice President Gary Heibertshausen's sheep ranch in Alzada.

After a stay in Miles City, the Duvalls visited the Rolf Ranch, near Miles City, the Gabel family's sugar beet farm in Huntley and the Vogel's farm and feed lot in Ballantine.

Duvall then joined the MFBF staff and a large gathering of members at Homesteader Park in Huntley to congratulate and celebrate Yellowstone County Farm Bureau recruiting the most members in May with a staff-grilled tasty steak.

Friday the Duvalls learned about beekeeping at Drange Apiary, and enjoyed a tour of the Four Diamont Ranch near Wilsall with ranch manager and District 2 Director Jim Willis. Friday's tour concluded with a stop at Cooper Herefords in Willow Creek.

Duvall expressed amazement at the vastness of Big Sky Country. He said he learned much about the distances from ranch to ranch, how many acres it takes to survive, and the challenges that come with being a neighbor and partner of the BLM and the Forest Service.

"Those are tremendous issues that need to be looked at so the farmer, cowboy and rancher can survive out here like they have for many generations.

"I want to make sure these issues are talked about like issues in other parts of our country," Duvall said.

### **Save the date for the MFBF Convention**

Plan to head to the western part of the state for the 2022 Montana Farm Bureau Convention November 14-17 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula. It's been several years since MFBF members traveled to the Garden City to attend educational workshops, vote on policy and reconnect with friends.

Look for the convention registration form in the Fall 2022 *Spokesman* and online at [www.mfbf.org](http://www.mfbf.org).

### **Kulbeck takes reins of Montana FB**

Scott Kulbeck, a 27-year veteran of Montana Farm Bureau, has been named Executive Vice President of the Montana Farm Bureau following the retirement of John Youngberg.

Since coming onboard with MFBF, Kulbeck has served as Eastern Montana Fieldman, YF&R Coordinator, Director of Membership Development and Coordinator of the MFB Foundation.

Congratulations to Scott Kulbeck on being selected to serve MFBF membership, board and staff.

### **News Brief Plus**

Want additional information regarding articles in this publication as well as additional county Farm Bureau and ag industry news? Check out the *September News Brief Plus* online for these stories and more.

- Ag in Color Contest details
  - County FB Annual Meetings
  - Regional pesticide collection
- Visit [www.mfbf.org/news/news-brief](http://www.mfbf.org/news/news-brief).

## Windmill apps

Don't miss the opportunity for Montana Farm Bureau to recognize your county Farm Bureau's achievements. Your county deserves kudos for the time spent at fair booths, connecting with local media and reading books to school kids.

The Gold and Silver Windmill Awards, presented during MFBF's annual convention, offer recognition for Public Policy, Ag Promotion and Education, Leadership Development, Membership Development and Public Relations.

Award applications must be submitted by email, mail or via the online form to the MFBF office by October 15, 2022. To submit online or for more information visit [mfbf.org/programs/gold-and-silver-windmills](http://mfbf.org/programs/gold-and-silver-windmills).

## New voting members

*Big Horn County* – Taylor Sidwell;  
*Carbon/Stillwater County* – Monica and Roy Eisenman; *Chouteau County* – Patrick and Jennifer Rose and Marcia Holt, 4 Sisters Ranch; *Dawson/Wibaux* – Samuel and Bridget Zeimer; *Fergus County* – Michael Huff and Melissa Bohn; *Northwest Counties* – Carolyn and Jon Cruson, Monty and Twila Wadsworth, Dublin Gulch Land & Cattle; *Richland* – Robert Dean and Billie Jo Mullin; *Roosevelt County* – Tukker and Ashley Toavs; *Rosebud/Treasure* – Trent Pfaffinger; *Southwest County* – Jack Price, Price Brothers Ranch.

## Ag in Color

The Montana Farm Bureau Ag in Color Drawing Contest is now open for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Teachers who participate in this contest will submit the drawings from their classroom directly to county Farm Bureau leaders.

Drawings are due to the county Farm Bureau by December 1 with judging completed by Dec. 20. The MFBF Women's Leadership Committee will select the state winners and announce the results in February 2022.

See details, at [mfbf.org/Programs/MY-AG](http://mfbf.org/Programs/MY-AG).

## ACE applications now available online

Applications for the ACE (Advocate. Communicate. Educate.) program are now available online. Montana Farm Bureau's ACE program is designed to empower Farm Bureau members to be confident, effective leaders in their county Farm Bureau and local communities. Advocacy follows leadership and with practiced, ever-evolving leadership skills, and participants will be prepared to actively advocate on key industry issues.

Participants will learn and practice key leadership skills, public speaking, active listening, and conflict management. In addition, they will learn key techniques and strategies for working with elected officials, media and non-ag audiences.

ACE encourages participants to actively build coalitions in local communities through teaching and practicing the necessary skills base. Learning opportunities will explore how to seek out and build positive and effective coalitions and why Farm Bureau should be the catalyst to engage local communities. ACE seminars will be held in Bozeman, Helena, at the MFBF Summer Conference and the Annual Convention.

The deadline for the application, which is available at [www.mfbf.org](http://www.mfbf.org), is Dec. 1, 2022. Questions? Contact Liv Holt at [livh@mfbf.org](mailto:livh@mfbf.org) or 406-581-3996.



The 2021 Discussion Meet winner, J.M. Peck, receives the key to a Polaris Ranger.

## Talk ag and win a Polaris

It's not too early to plan to compete in the 2022 MFBF Discussion Meet held Tuesday, November 15 during the MFBF Convention in Missoula.

The Discussion Meet contest is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are expected from each competitor. It 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 ag issues.

The winner of the Discussion Meet will receive the keys to a Polaris 500 Ranger (thanks to participating Montana Polaris dealers) and an all-expense-paid trip to participate in the National Discussion Meet January 2022 in Puerto Rico.

For Discussion Meet questions, visit [www.mfbf.org/Programs/Young-Farmers-Ranchers](http://www.mfbf.org/Programs/Young-Farmers-Ranchers).

## Calendar

**MFBF Board Meeting**  
September 12-13  
Bozeman, MT

**Hoofin' it for Hunger**  
September 17  
Dillon, MT

**MFBF Annual Convention**  
November 14-17  
Missoula, MT

## People

Dan Gerig, ag liaison for Senator Steve Daines, R-MT, met with MFBF Executive VP Scott Kulbeck, Senior Governmental Affairs Director Nicole Rolf and State Governmental Affairs Director Rachel Cone, regarding the farm bill and other pertinent issues.

Nicole Rolf interviewed with the Bozeman Chronicle on the farm bill.

The Lannans, Park County Farm Bureau members, have been selected to receive the Leopold Conservation Award presented by the Sand County Foundation.

Laura Nelson, author of the Legacies book and narrator of the Legacies videos, was live on RFD-TV, sharing her knowledge about Montana Farm Bureau history. RFD-TV is airing the Legacies videos every Monday evening in September.



## ***AFBF drought survey***

Persistent drought continues to hamper farmers and ranchers in Western, Central and Southern Plains states, with far-reaching implications for farmers' and ranchers' bottom lines and food availability and affordability.

AFBF's Assessing Western Drought Conditions survey illustrates many ground-level drought impacts, including expected reduction in yields, and selling off portions of herds and flocks.

Check out [www.fb.org/market-intel](http://www.fb.org/market-intel) to find out more.

## ***Grainger saves on safety***

Farm safety is about more than just compliance. Having the right gear, supplies, and tools on hand means fewer interruptions and more productivity in the field. Being safe at work whether you're in the shop fixing faulty wiring on the trailer or in the field fixing a broken swather.

Learn about Farm Bureau's special pricing and free shipping on Grainger's catalog of first aid kits, safety accessories, and workwear at [Grainger.com/FarmBureau](http://Grainger.com/FarmBureau).

Check out all the Farm Bureau member benefits at [mfbf.org/benefits](http://mfbf.org/benefits).

## ***It's just what we do***

As Americans' ties to food production grow further removed with each generation, North Carolina farmer Kamal Bell encourages everyone to make a connection – however small – with farming and engage as the stakeholders we are in the food system.

Spurred to start farming when he learned about food deserts in college, Kamal and his wife, Amber, run Sankofa Farms in Cedar Grove, North Carolina.

Check out their sustainability video at [fb.org](http://fb.org).

## **Inflation Reduction Act**

On Aug. 12, the House passed, on a party-line vote, the \$750 billion Inflation Reduction Act after the Senate also voted along party lines to pass the bill on Aug. 7. The bill includes provisions to use fiscal year 2022 reconciliation instructions to raise revenue and the bill's stated goal is to lower prescription drug costs, fund new energy, climate, and health care initiatives and reduce budget deficits.

Provisions specific to agriculture include nearly \$40 billion for spending on programs and initiatives ranging from farm bill working lands conservation and technical assistance to renewable energy and biofuels. There are also funds provided for rural development and drought mitigation. As Congress moves on from this bill, questions are being raised about provisions that impact farm bill programs and whether or not it changes the policy conversations and/or political landscape for the 2023 farm bill.

This includes nearly \$20 billion in funding for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), plus technical assistance. American Farm Bureau economists have produced a Market-Intel report that looks closely at the legislation to see what helps and hurts agriculture.

To read the full report, visit [www.fb.org/market-intel](http://www.fb.org/market-intel).



## **MFBBF reviews Congressional wins**

Despite a difficult political environment, Farm Bureau has experienced some wins in Washington, D.C. They supported the passage of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, which passed and was signed

into law in June. The bipartisan legislation takes key steps to resolving maritime supply chain obstacles that increase costs to our U.S. agricultural exporters and preventing our farmers from getting their products overseas by providing a new oversight and enforcement authority through the Federal Maritime Commission, expanding the opportunities for shippers to solve conflicts with the ocean carriers and to increase transparency and accountability among those ocean carriers.

Farm Bureau successfully fought back multiple attempts to “pay for” large spending bills with tax provision changes that would directly impact farmers and ranchers such as the elimination of the stepped up basis, capital gains levied upon transfer, changes to the estate tax exemption, and so on. We were able to strip language from the COMPETES Act which would have banned mink farming, inserted language into the WRDA bill to prevent removal of lower Snake River Dams, and many other issues that don't necessarily make headlines.

AFBF and state Farm Bureau staff began the process of reviewing farm bill policy and priorities in October 2021 and reported their summaries to the AFBF Board of Directors in July 2022. The AFBF Board is reviewing and will “officially” release Farm Bureau's priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill after their October board meeting. MFBBF Senior Director of Governmental Affairs Nicole Rolf represented member interests in that process and thank members (Farm and Trade Committee) who shared thoughts and expertise on farm bill programming. Some areas of potential policy development have been identified, so stay tuned for AFBF to release white papers on these topics.

## **AFBF can appeal gray wolf delisting**

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision to overturn a lower court's ruling that prohibited AFBF from defending the delisting of the gray wolf in the case *Defenders of Wildlife v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*. With this reversal, AFBF will be allowed to appeal a decision from the same lower court that vacated the delisting of the gray wolf.

“AFBF appreciates the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for recognizing agriculture's interest in defending the delisting of the gray wolf. Farmers and ranchers share the goal of a healthy and thriving ecosystem, and when the gray wolf exceeded recovery goals, it became an Endangered Species Act success story.

“With populations now thriving, management of the species should be the responsibility of the states, which can more effectively determine the most appropriate actions to manage gray wolf populations.”

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## COUNTY NEWS

### Floats, floating, golf tournament and ag education

Former Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke joined **Northwest Counties** during Ronan Pioneer Days August 7. The county Farm Bureau had a float in the parade.

**Rosebud-Treasure County** held a golf tournament Saturday, August 27 at the golf course in Forsyth. Nine teams participated in the competition which offered great prizes in a variety of categories.

**Fergus County** hosted a pool party for its members and their families on August 14 at the Lewistown city pool. Kids and adults enjoyed the pool, water slides and camaraderie.



District 4 Director Casey Mott shows two curious youngsters how to milk a cow at the Ag Adventure Farm at the Montana Fair in Billings.

**Richland County** handed out 750 water bottles at the Richland County 4-H Show August 3-4 in Sidney. Each water bottle label included an interesting ag fact about Richland County.

MFBF staff members helped cook and serve excellent food at Homesteader Park in Huntley to members of the **Yellowstone County** as a reward for the county recruiting the most new members during May Membership Month. **Yellowstone County** members talked about agriculture—from cows to bees to veggies—to many attendees at the Agriculture Adventure Farm during the Montana Fair August 13-20 in Billings.



Above: Rosebud /Treasure County's golf tournament in Forsyth. Pictured are Greg and Laureen Lackman, Scott Lackman, Clay Redding and MFBF's Nicole Rolf.



The Northwest Counties float for Pioneer Days in Ronan. Pictured are Beth, Craig and Michaela Blevins, Josh Senecal, Nick and Randi Courville with special guests MFBF Vice President Gary and Joyce Heibertshausen.



Above: Kids had a blast at the Fergus County Pool Party.  
Below: Richland County VP Paula Steinbeisser and President Canyon Rehbein at the 4-H Show.





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Monday, August 15, 2022

**CONTACT:** [Carli Davis](#), Montana Department of Agriculture, (406) 465-0531

**September Waste Pesticide Disposal Events Set for Scobey, Glasgow, Miles City & Billings**

*Pre-registration deadline is September 15<sup>th</sup>*

**Helena, Mont.** – The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) is facilitating pesticide disposal events in its Eastern District (Scobey, Glasgow, Miles City, and Billings) during the week of September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Annual pesticide waste collection events have collected close to 750,000 pounds of pesticide waste from over 1,800 participants since the program's inception in 1994.

**2022 Pesticide Waste Collection Dates and Locations:**

Tuesday, September 20 <sup>th</sup>	Scobey, MT
Wednesday, September 21 <sup>st</sup>	Glasgow, MT
Thursday, September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Miles City, MT
Friday, September 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Billings, MT

The MDA program was designed to assist individuals with disposing of any pesticides that are unusable as originally intended, or cannot be used for any other purpose, in an environmentally responsible way. In effect, the pesticide and waste disposal program protects Montana's ecosystems and groundwater, as well as families, pets, livestock and drinking water from potentially hazardous materials.

Participants are encouraged to pre-register on the department's website at [agr.mt.gov/Pesticide-Waste-Disposal-Program](http://agr.mt.gov/Pesticide-Waste-Disposal-Program) by September 15, 2022. Registrations for pesticide waste collection events are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There is no charge for the first 200 pounds of material; amounts over 200 pounds are assessed at \$1.00 per pound, and products are weighed on site. Additional fees may apply to pesticides with dioxins or dioxin precursors.

The Montana Department of Agriculture is serving Montana Agriculture and growing prosperity under the Big Sky. For more information on department programs and services, visit [agr.mt.gov](http://agr.mt.gov).



**September 6, 2022**

## **Ag In Color Drawing Contest open for 2022-2023**

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

Drawings are due to the county Farm Bureau by December 1 with judging completed by Dec. 20. The winning entries will be submitted to the MFBF office. The Montana Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee will select the state winners notify teachers in February and announce the results in March 2023. Winners will receive a prize package from Montana Farm Bureau, ag accurate materials for their teacher & classmates, and a classroom pizza party.

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

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

Contest rules:

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





**September 7, 2022**

## **Montana Farm Bureau ACE Program accepting applications for 2023**

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

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

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

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

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

For additional information on ACE and an application that is due by December 1, visit <https://mfbf.org/programs/Montana-Farm-Bureau-ACE-Program>. Questions: Contact Liv Holt, [livh@mfbf.org](mailto:livh@mfbf.org), 406-581-3996.

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**September 9, 2022**

## **Kulbeck selected as executive vice president of Montana Farm Bureau**

BOZEMAN, *Montana*—Scott Kulbeck has been named executive vice president of the Montana Farm Bureau, the state's largest general agricultural organization. Kulbeck succeeds John Youngberg who retired from the position in August after 30 years with the organization.

Kulbeck grew up west of Big Sandy where his family raised dryland wheat, barley and registered Herefords. He graduated from Montana State University in 1994 with a degree in agricultural business and a minor in economics.

Kulbeck started with Montana Farm Bureau in July, 1995, first serving as eastern Montana fieldman and coordinator of Young Farmers & Ranchers program. He became the director of membership development while also serving as coordinator of the MFB Foundation. During his tenure, the MFB Foundation reached a milestone of having over \$1 million in assets. With the help of the MFB Foundation leadership, Kulbeck started and implemented the Centennial Community Initiative which raised and distributed \$100,000 for economic development in rural Montana.

"I have an unwavering belief in rural Montana and Farm Bureau's grassroots structure, and I want to see both thrive," said Kulbeck. "I believe in our mission: Farm Bureau is dedicated to preserving and improving the agriculture and natural resource industries through member involvement in education, political activities, programs and services."

Kulbeck thanks the previous leadership of the board and staff of Montana Farm Bureau for providing the financial stability the organization has today. "Our membership is increasing and our county Farm Bureaus are more active than ever," he said. "We are in a position to go on the offensive, and my goal is to do just that on behalf of our membership."

He is married to Casey Foussard Kulbeck and the couple has two sons: Zachary is studying mechanical engineering at Montana State University and Aidan is studying business management at Chandler-Gilbert Community College in Arizona.

He is an avid baseball fan and player, and enjoys camping, fishing and being involved in the St. John Vianney Parish in Belgrade.

"Scott's integrity and dedication to Montana agriculture speak volumes for the kind of leadership he will provide," said MFBF President Cyndi Johnson. "Members of Montana Farm Bureau look forward to more growth and even greater success with Scott Kulbeck leading the team of dedicated employees."

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