

SUMMER 2018

 MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Spokesman

WE CARE FOR THE COUNTRY



YOUNG FARMERS STRIVE TO BREED GREAT CATTLE

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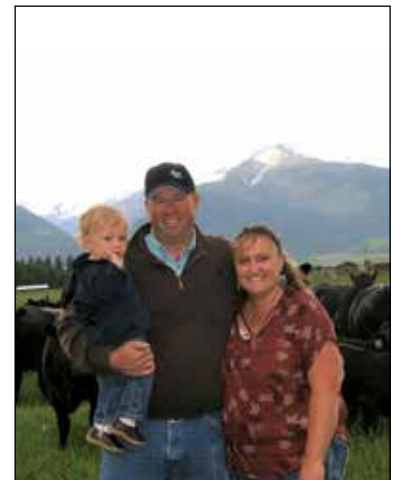
WE CARE FOR THE COUNTRY

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ON THE COVER:

Lacey and Chad Sutherlin with son Cayden on the ranch near Stevensville.

Photo: Rebecca Colnar

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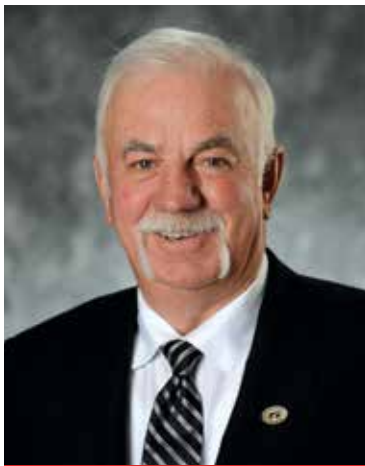


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Hans McPherson
President, Montana Farm
Bureau Federation

“ I invite everyone to share the Farm Bureau message and recruit new friends to join us at this most exciting time. ”

Generational commitment, dedication and engagement

At the time I'm writing this editorial we have just finished a very successful summer conference in Fairmont Hot Springs. We had very productive board meetings, excellent foundation meetings, wonderful speakers and great committee meetings.

I am grateful for a fantastic Board of Directors who came in a day early for a strategic planning session to planning our next hundred years. I'm appreciative of the delegates who chose these district leaders to serve on the board. Every one of our board members is dedicated, engaged and actively participates in the board discussions.

We have a fabulous Montana Farm Bureau Foundation board with committed individuals who give their all. We have undertaken a monumental task of raising \$100,000 to reinvest in Montana communities for economic stimulus. I'm overwhelmed at the generosity of our Montana Farm Bureau members, and even several of our Farm Bureau staff, in supporting very worthy cause. (See page 30 for more details and donation information.)

As we look forward to the next 100 years of Montana Farm Bureau it's exciting and stimulating to look back at our previous 100 years of the dedication and commitment our forefathers had in keeping this organization vital and strong in its fledgling years. I have a crisp \$100 bill for anyone who can spend 30 seconds around Laura Nelson and not be excited about the history and the fun facts

that she's covering about our organization and its history.

As I looked at the members attending our summer conference, I realized how many of us are multi- generational Farm Bureau families. It is exciting to see the future in the Montana Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers, Collegiate Farm Bureau, and in the FFA/4H that we strongly support.

I realize with the growth of Farm Bureau there are not many more new members that are multi-generational members; it is our challenge to stimulate the activity and growth in our organization to continue to make multi-generational commitments for the next

one hundred years.

As we approach the county Farm Bureau annual meeting season, let's renew our commitment to be engaged and active in our Farm Bureau organizations throughout the state.

Thank you for the tremendous opportunity to be your state president at this exciting time in our history.

I invite everyone to look into the history of your county

Farm Bureau. I'm sure you will find it has tremendous ties to your community history.

I invite everyone to share the Farm Bureau message and recruit new friends to join us at this most exciting time. If I don't see you at your county annual meeting in September, I look forward to visiting with all of you in November at our annual convention at the Northern and Doubletree Hotels in Billings. The schedule has changed, so mark your calendar: the dates are November 7-10, which is a Wednesday to Saturday. See you there!



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Anti-mining initiative not based in reality

As is sometimes the situation, issues outside of the agricultural spectrum that have the potential to affect jobs and the economy in our rural communities come into play in Montana politics.

Our natural resource industries including agriculture are intimately connected in weaving the economic fiber of rural and suburban Montana. Laws and rules that affect one industry can play a role in employment and the economy of other citizens in the area. This brings us to Initiative 186, the mining initiative purported to protect Montana's water that requires the Department of Environmental Quality to deny a permit for any new hardrock mines in Montana unless the reclamation plan provides clear and convincing evidence that the mine will not require perpetual treatment of water polluted by acid mine drainage or other contaminants.

As with many initiatives, it is what is not written in I-186 that affects its final outcome. Proponents for I-186 would have you believe that the citizens of Montana have footed the bill for prior cleanups of hard rock mines. They posit that as mining companies go out of business, or leave the state, the State of Montana is left holding the bag on cleanup and water quality treatment. According to testimony given at the Environmental Quality Council by Department of Environmental Quality personnel, no public money has been spent on mine cleanup. A levy is charged against mining companies to cover ongoing cleanup. In essence, Montana mining companies are paying for the cleanup of mines that are no longer operating or out of business. The initiative states that it will require clear and convincing evidence that a mine will NOT require perpetual treatment of water polluted by mines. Proving a negative is nearly impossible and 'clear and convincing'

is an extremely high standard of proof. I-186 is meant to stop mining, adds confusion to our laws, and will breed lawsuits. Proponents attempt to mislead Montana voters into believing that our mining industry needs more regulation, but that just isn't so.

According to Dave Galt with Stop I-186, a review of mining laws shows that Montana's laws are among the most stringent in the country. The initiative completely ignores the modernization of Montana's mining laws and the rigorous regulatory process that members of the mining industry must go through to obtain a permit.

Montana mining contributes nearly \$42 million dollars in annual tax revenue, which supports local education, infrastructure and law enforcement, among other things. Mining has infused the Montana economy with about \$1.83 billion in output. These dollars are what keeps the lights on in many of our rural communities.

Why should any of this matter to folks involved in Montana agriculture? Montana's rural economy is struggling. Our tax system was built on production. The money that mining pays in taxes supplies the dollars that keep our schools open and our roads in drivable condition. When we limit the continuation or growth of a segment of that tax base, we strangle our small towns.

Mining, like every other industry including agriculture, has changed over the years. Improvements in technology in all resource industries have capitalized on what we have learned in past. Modern mining can exist in Montana and does so under extremely stringent environmental laws. There are few Montanans more interested in keeping our water clean than agriculture. I-186 is ambiguous, unnecessary and will stop all mining in the state with little or no improvement in the environment.



John Youngberg
Executive Vice President, MFBF

“ Mining has infused the Montana economy with about \$1.83 billion in output. These dollars are what keeps the lights on in many of our rural communities. ”





Zippy Duvall
President, American Farm
Bureau Federation

“Farmers and ranchers are facing the fifth straight year of lower net farm income, and without relief from mounting trade tensions and regulatory burdens, or the certainty of farm programs and a stable workforce, many family farms may be left unable to withstand the storm’s fury.”

A Great Economic Storm is Brewing in Farm Country

A good many storms have come through Washington, D.C., already this summer. Local rivers flooded, and some days the Capitol dome could barely be seen through the haze. No sooner would one storm clear out but another would take its place. Yet every time I see those clouds roll in over our nation’s capital, I am reminded of a greater, economic storm brewing in farm country.

The clouds gathering over rural America look ready to burst at any moment. Farmers and ranchers are facing the fifth straight year of lower net farm income, and without relief from mounting trade tensions and regulatory burdens, or the certainty of farm programs and a stable work workforce, many family farms may be left unable to withstand the storm’s fury.

Thankfully the sun has broken through on occasion, like with the House passing its 2018 farm bill last week. We also expect the Senate to bring its version of the farm bill to a vote. The leadership of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees have been true to their word in delivering a 2018 farm bill before the current one expires. A lot of hard work and give-and-take have gone into moving this process forward, and we are eager to get a final bill across the finish line and to the President’s desk for his signature. If I were a member of Congress, I wouldn’t want to go back and face my rural constituents his fall without the farm bill being a done deal.

We had hoped for another break in the clouds on the horizon—this time for immigration reform. When Chairman Goodlatte brought forward his AG Act farm labor bill last week, it contained many of the revisions Farm Bureau had been calling for and could have opened the door for meaningful reform to give farmers better access to the workforce they need. While that bill failed on the House floor, we thought we had a second chance at progress when House leadership added the AG Act provisions to a second major immigration bill soon to be considered. For certain, the farm labor provisions needed further improvement, but the proposed bill represented the most meaningful reform for farm labor to come to the House floor in years—and agriculture had a clear voice in the process. Unfortunately, those ag provisions were stripped from the bill at the last minute. This was a frustrating

turn of events for agriculture, to be sure. The farm workforce shortage is one of the greatest challenges agriculture faces, and farmers and ranchers deserve better from our lawmakers. Opportunities for reform should not be so rare, and we hope our lawmakers will see the importance of coming together to find solutions to our most complex problems. We will continue striving to achieve some much-needed progress on ag labor.

Finally, the storm that seems to be gathering the most intensity over farm country these days comes from trade winds as retaliatory tariffs have begun to sweep in. Farmers and ranchers need swift solutions to our current trade tensions, to bring certainty and fairness to our international markets. We depend on the global marketplace to keep agriculture thriving in this country, and many farmers planted in faith that there would be a market for their crops this fall. Agriculture exports about 25 percent of our products by value each year: we need trade deals that build on that growth. The current trade storm is already hitting crop, dairy and livestock prices with markets reacting to retaliatory tariffs on agriculture. As of last week, corn and soybean futures fell to their lowest levels of the year, down 51 cents and \$1.42 per bushel. Dairy product prices have fallen by more than 10 percent over the last month, and lean hog and live cattle futures have lost 8 to 10 percent of their value since the beginning of the year. U.S. farmers and ranchers need a ray of hope to break through these storm clouds soon. While agriculture’s overall debt-to-asset level is below the historical average, farm debt levels are already at a record high and interest rates are climbing. We need resolution with our trading partners—especially our nearest neighbors in North America—and relief from the impact of tariffs before this storm wipes out farm families struggling to hold on.

While no one can predict how these storms will play out over the rest of the summer, I have faith that farmers and ranchers will continue to band together and press forward. We will continue to speak boldly on behalf of agriculture, because our life’s work is worth protecting. We will come alongside our neighbors in good times and bad, and we will pray for the storm clouds finally to break.





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Hello? 9-1-1 Dispatch...

BY MARIAH SHAMMEL

Sometimes we know too much. Too many details about a friend who did a lot of things she shouldn't have done; too many secrets you're "never supposed to tell anyone," too much of what's going on around the world. And with technology the way it is now, there's no end to what we can know, whether we want to or not.

Between being snowed in for a week, calving and our Little Lady having influenza for ten days, there was a period this past spring when I hadn't made it into town for over three weeks. When I finally did, it was kind of a big deal. Our grocery list was as long as my arm, the list for our vet was going to fill what little room I had left in the Suburban and Lizzie hadn't been to preschool in ages so she was like a box of fireworks ready to explode in the backseat.

After dropping our preschooler off I was making a run for the grocery store when I got a text from Favorite Farmer that read, "Need help now! Come ASAP." Knowing my better half is much more liable to under-exaggerate situations than overdo them, it didn't take me long to come to the conclusion that something was terribly wrong. I immediately texted back, "Are you hurt? What is going on?" I knew he was out feeding cows by himself and the ice was inches thick with frigid temps so my mind started rolling through all of the terrible scenarios that could possibly be happening. I called and texted several more times but no response. I got really worried and when ten minutes went by, I texted, "Hello!! If you don't respond in the next five minutes, I'm going to call the Sheriff!!" The text immediately said, "delivered" at the bottom of it so I knew the text had gone through and as long as he was conscious, could read it.

And this is where that knowing too much thing comes into play. If I hadn't seen that "delivered" tag, I would have chalked it up to bad reception and assumed he was fine, just not getting my messages. But that didn't happen.

Mariah and Lyle Shammel on the ranch.



Now don't get me wrong, sometimes it's nice to have too much information but sometimes it just makes things that much more difficult. During the ultrasounds of our impending bundles of joy, we always tried to get all the information we could. Sure, it's nerve-racking but between doctors being able to fix so many problems before the baby is even born and knowing the doctors will be fully prepared for any possible issues upon delivery, we wanted everyone to be as well-informed as possible. On the other hand, in a world where videos and pictures can go viral in a matter of seconds, it's easy to get way too much information on people, places and events around the world that aren't exactly appropriate for a house full of inquisitive little ears and eyes. I'm not saying we should ignore what's going on elsewhere because ignorance doesn't solve anything but there is a time and place for everything and Favorite Farmer and I would rather do things on our own terms than have the kids see things with no discretion whatsoever.

So, when I saw that "delivered" tag and still didn't get a response, I just knew Favorite Farmer was dying. I called every neighbor I could think of but nobody was home. I ended up calling the sheriff while I bee-lined it for home. The dispatcher told me she would try to make contact with him, whom I assured was pointless because he wasn't responding to his own wife so good luck with that. It was pretty clear she thought I was crazy but I knew Favorite Farmer would thwart my efforts in involving others if it wasn't necessary.

Five minutes later the dispatcher called to tell me she had made contact. With my heart thumping in fear of what was coming next, she said, "He's fine; apparently you guys have some cows running down the road and he thought you could get back in time to stop them before they hit the highway." I did the fastest U-turn in history, and tried to find the breath I'd been holding for the last twenty minutes, irate that I had already done "his" items on my to-do list and now had limited time to do mine.

By the time I got home that day, I acknowledged (only to myself, of course) that I had relied way too much on that word "delivered" and let my emotions run away with it but in a possible life and death situation, what's a person to do? It's easy to turn the news off or shut the phone down but when people you love get involved, we do what we think is best with whatever information we have—whether it's too much or not.

Aside from a few eye rolls and sarcastic comments, I didn't say much about the incident (nor did he) but when it was printed in the local paper with all the other emergency calls that had recently been made, I couldn't help but laugh...and make a few more subtle remarks. He insists he didn't get those messages from me but either way, I'm pretty sure he won't be sending me texts in that context anytime soon. I'm also pretty sure he knows that even if I had been able to get home in time to help, it's more likely I would have helped the cows run a little faster than get them stopped.



Every Summer has a Story

Don't make yours unforgettable for the wrong reasons

There are numerous tips for traveling safely, but one of the greatest joys of summer vacations is coming home to a house that is in the same shape as when you left for your fun trip.

Here are some tips for improving the chances of your homecoming being a restful experience. The best advice is to not draw attention that you might be out of town for more than a few hours.

- ✓ **Leave the drapes exactly as they are on an average day.** A sure signal that no one is home is when the drapes are closed tight for a period of time, especially if they are never closed.
- ✓ **Don't leave the lights on 24 hours a day unless that is your normal routine.** The best option is to purchase a light timer AND check the light bulbs. The timer or lights on full time does nothing if the bulb burns out.

- ✓ **Have someone come by and take your mail and newspapers into the house.**

You can also contact the Postal Service or newspaper deliveryman to stop delivery when you are away. Most trips are for a few days or a couple weeks and for some people they don't want to go through the process of stopping deliveries. Leave instructions of what to do in the event of an emergency with your home.

- ✓ Remember that where we live, even in summer, the temperatures can drop unexpectedly, and the wind is unpredictable. **Take precautions for your water pipes and windows to prevent damage to the interior of your home.**
- ✓ **Let a trusted neighbor know that you are gone.** This person may not be the one you choose as a house sitter, but they can keep an eye on flyers left on

your gate, packages on your doorstep and unusual activity.


- ✓ **Provide a key to your dwelling and autos to someone reliable.** Any circumstance can arise where the car needs moved or access to your dwelling is necessary. If you have a spare key in a hiding place, move the hiding place before you travel.
- ✓ **Turn off your alarm clocks or clock radios, turn the volume down on your phone ringer, and check the batteries in your smoke and other alarms.** When the battery is low, most alarms send off a shrill, loud warning.
- ✓ **Don't announce on social media that you are leaving town for an extended period of time.** In addition, if you change your answering message on your home phone, don't say you are out of town.



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Meet District 1 Director **Craig Blevins**

Ravalli, Northwest Counties Farm Bureaus rancher, vet tech and more

Craig Blevins wears many hats at his ranch in Ronan. He owns Rafter E Angus, he works as a vet tech for his wife Beth at All Creatures Mobile Vet Clinic, he serves as the new District 1 MFBF Director and wears the Northwest Counties Farm Bureau president hat.

Craig is no stranger to agriculture growing up on a ranch in Ronan with his parents and three brothers. "When we moved to Ronan in 1961, we had milk cows, chickens and cattle. Because milk started to get very regulated and made milk production more difficult and expensive, we decided to raise commercial beef cattle only," Blevins explains. "In 1975 my dad purchased a couple of registered bulls and in 1977, we added registered heifers."

When Craig married Beth in 1991, the couple worked towards getting their own ranch, and bought the Rafter E brand for cattle from Bob Syvrud, a local vet. Craig had taken an agricultural short course at Montana State University where he studied animal science, economics, meat cutting and competed on the



livestock judging team in 1980-81. That education served him well as he continued to grow his cattle herd.

Rafter E Angus begins calving the first of February and tries to be done in 90 days. "In addition, we have a small fall herd which starts calving around the end of August through October," Blevins says. "With fall calving, the bull calves are a little bigger come spring. We can put them in rougher country and range country. We sell our bulls and heifers private treaty."

In addition, the enterprising couple sells grain-fed locker beef. "People like it because they can't get that caliber of product in the store," the rancher says.

"We got involved with the Montana Farm Bureau when Bill and Helen Meadows talked to us about the Federation and policy development, and asked us to come a Farm Bureau meeting," Craig explains. "That was at least 20 years ago. We really enjoy the camaraderie in Farm Bureau and the fact that farmers and ranchers from across the state come together and discuss issues



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Beth (left) and Craig Blevins, along with Northwest Counties Farm Bureau member Margaret Poole, flipped more than 400 burgers at Polson Ag Day.



important to agriculture. We might not always come out agreeing, but at least we bring it to the annual meeting and we can vote on it. Issues brought up are important to every day life on the farm and ranch."

Since he was elected to the board this past November, Craig says he's still getting a feel for it, but feels strongly that he wants to tell more people about Farm Bureau and their work on behalf of agriculture. Although he had been leaving most of the digital advocacy to Beth, Craig explains his involvement with advocacy comes with helping at fourth grade Ag Days, as well as hosting a dinner at the Lake County Fair. He and Beth also serve to help their community by volunteering for the ranch rodeo in early August in Ronan.

He agrees that one of the challenges in agriculture is teaching people—especially kids—about agriculture which is why he helps at the fourth-grade ag day. He says it's important to tell consumers that what we are growing on our farms and ranches is healthy and superior to what you can get from other countries.

"Last year a young kid came over during the fair and said he didn't want an apple because it had chemicals on it. I told him if he washed it, it would be free of everything. He said he grew up being told chemicals could kill you. I asked if he would rather eat a nice apple or one with worms," Craig noted. "He told me he never thought about it that way."

He believes being involved in a leadership role in Farm Bureau is critical and it's important to develop leaders at the grassroots level.

Daughter, Michaela, and son, Ethan, helped on the ranch while growing up. Michaela was especially involved in 4-H. She graduated in 2018 with an animal science/ranch management degree and is working at Huntley at ORigen, a cattle genetics company. Their son, Ethan, will be a junior at Montana Tech.

"I believe having them help us on the ranch from a young age have given them an excellent work ethic," the proud father says.

Craig is impressed that MFBF as well as AFBF will celebrate their centennials in 2019. "It's great that the Farm Bureau organization

goes back that far and has representation in Washington, D.C. I'm looking forward to serving on the board and playing an active role in Farm Bureau."



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DeeAnn Cranmore, Ravalli County Agent's motto: Help Me Help You

BY REBECCA COLNAR

Many people think insurance agents simply sell policies and handle claims, but to DeeAnn Cranmore based in western Montana, the relationship agents have with their clients is so much more.

"It's essential to be involved in your community. With an organization like Farm Bureau, it's very important to be a part of the county organization," says DeeAnn Cranmore, with 22 years as a Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Agent. "My husband's grandmother was the president of the Ravalli County Farm Bureau in the 1970s. Early in my career I attended a Ravalli County annual meeting and saw the unique relationship between the insurance company and the federation. I believe we can go further and faster if we come together. I realized early on that the federation and insurance companies can be a very strong combined force."

“It's essential to be involved in your community. With an organization like Farm Bureau, it's very important to be a part of the county organization.”

Cranmore, who started out as an Allstate Insurance Agent, explains what really drew her to MWFBMIC was that they were a regional player that offered a relationship-based business, and she could know everyone at the headquarters in Laramie who had an impact on her business.

"I hope we never lose that salt-of-the-Earth mentality we have at Mountain West," says Cranmore. "I value and treasure that we start our meetings with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance."

She and her staff keep busy at her office in Hamilton, plus MFBF President Hans



DeeAnn Cranmore has a long history with Farm Bureau.

MW Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company

McPherson is always seeking to grow Farm Bureau membership. "Hans will call me and tell me who would be interested in a Farm Bureau membership and insurance. Those folks will not only purchase insurance, but become a member of the federation as well. Insurance is a great segue between Mountain West and the Farm Bureau."

DeeAnn can't stress enough the importance of the agent/client relationship. "It's a working partnership. It's critical to have an evaluation and discussion about insurance needs," she says. "In my conversation with my insureds, I put a big emphasis on liability and managing deductibles. We spend a lot of time on what is not covered and how someone could handle a loss if it occurred. It's bad to only find out about your coverage at the time of a loss."

Cranmore adds that as far as estate planning and insurance goes, it's complicated and tricky. "When it comes to planning, the saying goes that you don't want to die too soon or live too long.

It's important to have a balanced diet of insurance products to help identify the risk and navigate the waters of that risk. I always say, 'Help me help you.'

She is married with three grown children and one grandchild which she says, "Adds a cool factor to family gatherings."

Being involved in the community is not only part of her service as an agent, but also she enjoys helping. She serves in Rotary, 4-H, FFA and her church. She spent the last 22 years sponsoring the buyers photos for the 4-H and FFA Livestock sale. "I'm very supportive of kids and kids' programs, because they are our future," she says.

Teamwork rates at the top of her list for getting things done. She is thrilled to add a former FFA instructor, long-time Farm Bureau member and, yes, sheep shearer to her team. With the school year wrapped up, Brandon Braaten will join her in Hamilton as the new associate agent. "He has a head for agriculture and kids, which align really well in my world. I look forward to his contribution to our team."





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Stations

Nemetz Communications
Nordlund Communications
Northern Hotel
Northwest Counties Farm Bureau
PEDE and Associates Real Estate
Phillips and Valley County Farm Bureaus
Powder River-Carter County Farm Bureau
Ravalli County Farm Bureau
Sandfire Resources America Inc. – Black
Butte Copper Project
Southwest Counties Farm Bureau
Wayne and Jenifer Lower
Wes and Cheryl Jensen
Yellowstone County Farm Bureau
Women's Leadership Committee

MFBF Summer Conference Lunch Sponsor

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2018 MONTANA FARM BUREAU SUMMER CONFERENCE

JUNE 12-14 * FAIRMONT HOT SPRINGS

Montana Farm Bureau members discussed issues and advocacy during the Montana Farm Bureau Summer Conference June 12-14 in Fairmont Hot Springs. The Summer Conference is a time when advisory committees meet to discuss current agricultural issues and concerns and surface new ideas for policy development.

Three workshop topics covered a gamut of subjects: The Issues workshop speakers covered three items of interest—trucking regulations, the farm bill and Farm Service programs. The Industry workshop covered the rural economy with interesting demographics and a round-up of Extension programs including water quality testing and soil moisture testing. The Advocacy session offered a panel on working with the media and included print and social media as well as a broadcast option.

Angela Marshall Hoffmann, deputy director of Farmers for Free Trade, spoke during the opening session. Hoffmann told members that trade negotiations are part of the process and urged farmers and ranchers to speak up and make their voices heard about how trade impacts them. Lunch speaker William Perry Pendley, president, Mountain States Legal Foundation cited a variety of cases MSLF has taken on which run the gamut from grizzly bears to gun rights, property rights to environmental laws.

Whether agricultural concerns revolve around livestock health issues, the farm bill, noxious weeds or taxes, members of the Montana Farm Bureau advisory committees had plenty to visit about during the summer conference. More than 170 members met to discuss issues that affect them and developed Farm Bureau policy for 2019.

Wednesday evening's Foundation Fundraiser named "Spring Thaw" included a live auction for baskets full of great merchandise donated by District and County Farm Bureaus, a "heads and tails" game, bidding on who had the worst winter coveralls and a call for donations for the 1K club. The mission of the 1K Club is part of a centennial initiative, a \$100,000 investment towards community improvement projects in 2019. The Foundation raised \$35,000 during the Summer Conference.

Thursday's activities included tours or hitting the links for the MFB Foundation Golf Scramble. The tours included a large part of Butte history with an extensive visit to the Berkeley Pit where the group learned about reclamation attempts on vegetation near the pit; a mine tour at the World Museum of Mines where members walked into the abandoned Orphan Girl Mine; a visit to the Headframe Distillery to learn how Montana grains become quality spirits; and a look at the Silver Bow County Restoration Project along Silver Bow Creek.

Speakers



Angela Marshall Hoffmann, Farmers for Free Trade, visits about trade tariffs with Ag Broadcaster Lane Nordlund.

Mountain States Legal Foundation President William Perry Pendley and past MFBF President Dave McClure.



Advisory Committee Meetings



Diane Ahlgren, member of the Montana Sage-Grouse Oversight Team, only landowner on MSGOT, at the Natural Environmental Resources Committee.



Gail Vennes, chair of the Animal Health Committee, addresses concerns about brucellosis.



The Montana Ag Safety training covered ATV accident 'prevention and braiding liability issues.

The Foundation Golf Scramble



Hans and Suzanne McPherson on the links.



Winning team at the Golf Scramble.

Foundation Fundraiser “Spring Thaw”



The Gasper family shows you're never too young to enjoy a Foundation Fundraiser.

Tours



In the depths of the old Orphan Girl mine, World Mining Museum.



The group at the Berkley Pit overlook.



At Headframe Spirits in uptown Butte, learning how Montana grains are used in the fermentation and distilling process.



Bill Bergin shows the set of coveralls he received when his were voted as “worst winter.”



Theo Yanzick inspect coveralls to see which looks the most abused.



Young farmers and ranchers enjoy the event.



Carole Plymale, Broadwater County, checks out the district baskets for auction.

Young ranchers find success with cattle breeding program

Chad and Lacey Sutherlin manage an intensive cattle breeding program

BY REBECCA COLNAR

Chad Sutherlin loves ranching in Stevensville, a western Montana town sitting in the Bitterroot Valley at the base of the Bitterroot Mountain Range. During the summer months the grass is plentiful and the live water abundant, and he and his wife, Lacey, keep busy with their cattle, farming and young son.

Chad grew up in the Valley, graduated from Stevensville High School and was raised farming and ranching with his parents Bob and Laurie at Sutherlin Farms Red Angus. Today, not only is he involved in ag with his parents raising Registered Red Angus but he and Lacey own and operate 3C Cattle. They are a diversified operation that raises Registered Red and Black Angus cattle as well as small grains and hay.

Lacey was born in Whitefish, and although she wasn't raised on a ranch, she had uncles who owned commercial ranches and had gleaned plenty of cattle experience. "Through high school and college, I worked for Mytty Angus," she explains. "I first attended Northwest College in Powell, then went to MSU Bozeman. I got an Associate's degree in



Lacey, Chad and Cayden Sutherlin.

PHOTO COURTESY REBECCA COLNAR

Ag business from Northwest and had a dual major in Animal Science and Ag Communications at MSU. While in college, I continued honing my cattle skills by serving on a livestock judging team at both

NWC and MSU."

Her interest in cattle production led her to work for ORigen, which is a breeder-to-breeder genetic service company. She started in distribution, then moved into marketing, working with customers and managing the bull inventory and collection plans. Before she left ORigen to head to ABS Global she was the marketing director.

Today, Lacey serves as sales team leader managing 13 representatives for ABS Global covering, Montana, Northern Idaho and Washington. Lacey strives to help her representatives and cattle producers achieve their genetic goals to better their operations via a solid AI Program.

After they were married in 2012, the couple transitioned to Chad's grandparents' place which sits on the bench above Stevensville—the reason for adding Black Angus to the cattle operation. In addition to having the homeplace, they took over some leases from grandpa and bought some ground that was connected to their place. They laugh together about the name for their Cattle operation because they're



not sure exactly why they named it Three C Cattle, except it originated as Chad's Red Angus breeder code.

"We have a two-day bull sale the first Friday and Saturday of March," Chad explains, "We'll sell our red bulls with Sutherlin Farms on Friday and our black bulls with partners in the Bulls of the Bitterroot Sale on Saturday and we market commercial heifers in both sales"

The couple backgrounds all of their bulls for the sale at the Sutherlin Farms Feedlot, and do plenty of culling, which they will first do on birthweight and later on weaning weight. They look for good

“ We complement each other pretty well as a team and just try to make sure we are marketing the high-quality cattle to our customers. ”

structure, feet and legs. Chad pays close attention to phenotype and structure while Lacey focuses on genetics and performance. Lacey says: "We complement each other pretty well as a team and just try to make sure we are marketing the high-quality cattle to our customers."

All of the Three C cows and replacement heifers are bred initially using artificial insemination, as well as 300-400 head of Sutherlin Farms replacement heifers and cows. "We use AI because we can pick sires with



Estrotech patches alert the breeder that cows are in heat.

PHOTO BY SUTHERLIN FAMILY

superior genetics that are performance oriented without sacrificing phenotype. Essentially it gives every cow in our herd a chance to be bred on the first day of the breeding season. We want to breed for consistency," explains Lacey. To have a successful AI program you have to pay attention to detail and make sure all the steps are done correctly. The cows are synched through an AI Protocol. Most of them are initiated with GnRH, followed by Prostaglandin which causes them to show estrus and then the cows are bred via heat detection and/or timed AI. When doing a heat detection protocol the cows are bred 12 hours after standing heat.

"To decrease the amount of time and labor for a project most producers are using a fixed-time AI protocol, meaning

cows are bred on an average heat," explains Lacey. "For cows, usually you want to AI them 60-66 hours and heifers roughly 52-56 hours after they have been given the prostaglandin. It's important to plan ahead and make a schedule as the protocols range from 36 days down to 8 days. We are lucky to have a double breeding barn as it allows us to breed two cows at once. All successful AI breeding programs are followed by a powerful sound set of clean-up bulls that follow the same qualities that you are wanting out of your AI program. Chad and I leave our bulls in for about 45 days after they are Artificially Inseminated."

One of the drawbacks of ranching in western Montana is the lack of wide open spaces prevalent in the eastern part of



3C bulls, heifer and calves in their lush pasture outside of Stevensville. Ranching in western Montana usually comes with neighbors.

PHOTO BY REBECCA COLNAR



the state. "Pasture is hard to come by and parcels of land are continually getting reduced to smaller and smaller acreages," says Chad. "It's hard to take equipment down the highway with increased traffic. The upside, however, is our weather is a lot milder than in other parts of the state. We're buffered by the mountains and severe cold is short-lived if we get it. There is good irrigation water and the ground is productive."

3C Cattle is a diversified operation raising cattle and growing/ selling small grains. Sutherlin Farms grows close to 1000 acres of hay, as well as corn and oats for their cattle and uses rotational grazing in the irrigated pastures. They feed distiller's grain with corn and oats as part of the ration in the feedlot. The commodity crop the Sutherlins produce to sell is hard red spring wheat which gets shipped to Butte.

Lacey says one of the challenges in today's agricultural scene is



Lacey Sutherlin breeds a cow using artificial insemination.

PHOTO BY SUTHERLIN FAMILY

communicating with consumers. "You spend your life providing safe and nutritious products for consumers, and it is a challenge to educate them on what ranchers and farmers need to feed a growing population. Take GMOs for example. We need to educate consumers to trust the research and understand they're not harmful. Local and homegrown products are great, but they're not going to feed the world at the rate the population is growing."

Chad chimes in that weeds are a huge factor in this area and many people

moving in don't or won't spray, so weeds take over. It's all he can do to combat the weeds in his fields, so it's necessary to use Roundup to kill the weeds and grow GMO Roundup Ready Alfalfa.

Both praise the MFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers program. Lacey serves as a District Chair and also as the Ravalli County President. "I had a summer job with Dee Ann Cranmore (Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company.) and that's where I found out about the county Farm Bureau. It's a great way for young people to network. We've met other young ranchers through it who have bought our bulls," Lacey says. "The YF&R Ag Tour is a good way to see what others do. It's provides us with a great way to advocate for farmers and ranchers."

Chad admits it can be difficult to ranch and farm full-time yet find time to advocate not only to consumers but for each other. "Farm Bureau is a strong organization that does a lot of advocating, has a strong legislative team and a good program to educate and inform young producers."

The young couple hopes young son, Cayden, wants to continue the ranching tradition. They have reasons to be optimistic. "His first word was 'moo' and as soon as he could walk, he wanted to run over to the tractors," Chad says. "That's a good sign."



3C ranch hands Tuck and Reno. (left) Cayden loves tractors. (right)

PHOTOS BY SUTHERLIN FAMILY





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The Bays and the bees:

Improving pollinator habitat while growing a cottage business

BY REBECCA COLNAR



A view from the Johnston Ranch.

Checking the frame for honey.

PHOTO BY NRCS

Justin and Kavita Bay, professional beekeepers, along with their children, own and operate Rivulet Apiaries near Rivulet, Montana. If your GPS can find it (good luck), it's about 45 miles west of Missoula nestled in the mountains.

Kavita became interested in bees when her husband, Justin, had bees for a hobby. "Eventually he talked me into buying a small apiary out of Darby," Kavita said "We learn a little more every year from other beekeepers, through observation, trial and error, and lots of reading and research."

Like many other agricultural enterprises, over the 10 years they have had bees, the Bays kept adding to their hobby with more hives and additional land. Last year they purchased an additional 10 acres.

As the appreciation of the little insect



Justin and Kavita Bay, along with their two children Cy and Sujatha, own Rivulet Apiaries and Hindu Hillbilly Farms near Rivulet, Mont.

PHOTO BY NRCS

increased, so did their interest in starting a business. Today, the Bays are full-time beekeepers with 200 hives, and Kavita explains that it's hard to know just how many bees are in each hive since they used different hives for different purposes.

"The bees produce honey all summer and we extract it in the early fall," she says. Since the Bays keep their bees at home year-round (some beekeepers will send their hive to warmer climates to pollinate other crops), Kavita explained they stay in their hive and keep warm by forming a ball. The queen quits producing until spring arrives and there is once again a good food source."

The Bays, who are Northwest County Farm Bureau members, along with their



Sujatha Bay. PHOTO BY NRCS

two children really enjoy beekeeping. Kavita noted, "Bees are fascinating creatures and I love watching them work. I enjoy that our tasks change from season to season. I appreciate the cycle because it's never monotonous or mundane."

Justin is enthusiastic about bees as well. "Having bees and hives, you are more aware of the land, moisture, what's blooming and what plants are in your area. They're the most interesting insect in the world. In a lot of ways, they are like livestock. If you want to have 60 hives, you have to keep diseases in check, keep watch for parasites and you might even have to feed them."

Kavita added, "Bees do require a lot of care and attention, which a lot of people don't realize. We don't just set them out



there and then rob the hives in the fall."

Rivulet Apiaries offers products they market under the catchy name Hindu Hillbilly. Kavita laughs when she explains the name originated with a friend who, since Justin was from Tennessee and Kavita had Indian roots, got married. The creative name stuck, and today the brand name is used for their honey skin care products. They produce beeswax luminaries and, of course, delicious raw honey.

When she's not working with the bees, Kavita packs up her SUV and heads to several farmers' markets including Missoula, the Clarks Fork Market, and the Alberton Farmers' Market.

Improving land, helping pollinators

Last year when the Bays purchased the adjoining 10 acres, they realized it needed improvement. The property had previously been logged, but the acreage was now old, tame pasture and

regenerated Ponderosa pine.

"The trees were neglected and the soil needed improvement," said Justin. "It was not a healthy forest."

Kavita added, "It certainly does need soil improvement. It's really compacted soil."

In their quest to improve their new purchase, the Bays inquired who might have good ideas. A friend at a farmers' market who told Kavita that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) had an initiative they might be interested in learning more about. The Bays contacted the NRCS field office in Missoula where they worked with fellow beekeeper and NRCS district conservationist, John Bowe.

Justin and Kavita signed up for the honey bee pollinator initiative under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The purpose of the special initiative is to help landowners combat declines in honey bee populations by implementing conservation practices that provide forage



Hindu Hillbilly products on display at the Farmers' Market. (above) Kavita Bay at the Alberton Farmers' Market sells Rivulet Apiaries Honey, Hindu Hillbilly honey-based skin care products and delicious honey lemonade. (above right)

PHOTOS BY REBECCA COLNAR

for honey bees. These same practices also enhance habitat for other pollinators and wildlife.

Three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. More than 3,500 species of native bees help increase crop yields. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths, birds and bats, and beetles and other insects.

In recent years, changes in colony health and fluctuations in bee numbers have caused concern. Multiple influences have challenged hive health and honeybee populations including the parasitic varroa mite (largest contributor to bee loss); disease, loss of forage diversity, pesticides, adverse weather conditions, and bee nutrition. However, Neonicotinoid insecticides aren't the problem for bees that activists have made them out to be. In fact, years of monitoring show proper use of neonicotinoids doesn't harm bees, and according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, bee colonies numbers are on the increase.



"The honey bee pollinator initiative is working with private landowners such as Justin and Kavita to help enhance pollinator habitat, restoring unproductive sites, and increasing the overall habitat for pollinator use," said Bowe.

"We're just in the beginning stages," said Kavita. "John is very receptive and available. I feel like we have somebody walking us through the process, so we don't have to guess."

To improve habitat for the apiary's honey bees as well as native pollinators like butterflies and hummingbirds, the pasture site will be seeded with a mix of species that bloom throughout the growing season so that pollinators always have forage. The overgrown forestland will be thinned to improve the productivity of the understory vegetation, which is utilized by pollinators as well as many other

animals that have been spotted such as wild turkeys, white-tailed deer, and elk.

These practices have other collateral benefits. The increased ground cover will lead to a reduced potential for soil erosion as well as increased soil health and soil organic matter. The increased competition will help reduce noxious weeds, which will be further controlled by hand-pulling and mowing. The forest thinning will also reduce hazardous fuel.

"We do a lot of this work routinely, but are gaining a better understanding of what really benefits pollinators helps us take our assistance to the next level," said Bowe.

"Getting this grant is really going to allow us to do the work that we were only dreaming of doing and to be able to do it quicker and to have a lot of guidance, so we can be successful in our goals," said Kavita. "It has opened up doors that were not there for us."

"Had we been trying to do it on our own, we wouldn't have had the resources, the technical help, or the funds to look at it as one big project, which will make it more effective," adds Justin.

The Bays haven't only expanded their acreage, they are building a shop that will allow them to expand from a cottage business into the wholesale market. "It'll open up a whole new market for us and we're pretty excited about that," said Kavita.

Thanks to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for their contribution to this article. Learn more about the Bays and their bees on the NRCS YouTube video "Conservation for the Future, Kavita and Justin Bay."

Want to bee scene?

Interested in having bees? "I would buy a nucleus hive from a local beekeeper if possible," apiarist Kavita Bay says. "Starting with two hives is good so you have resources to pull from should you need them."

She advises joining a local beekeeping club because you will have other people to share information and experiences, which is very valuable.

"It's a steep learning curve, and keeping bees healthy these days is not easy, but if you spend the time and energy it takes to do a good job, it is such a rewarding experience," Kavita says.



Leading for the Future

The YF&R Program helps young members hone their leadership and communications skills for the future of Montana's ag industry. The YF&R Discussion Meet, Excellence in Ag and Achievement Awards are all opportunities for young members to showcase their skills and win big. The winner of the 2018 Discussion Meet will be taking home a new Polaris Ranger 570! Go to mfbf.org to find out more.

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For more information on the YF&R Program and how to get involved, go to www.mfbf.org or contact Sue Ann Streufert at sueanns@mfbf.org, (406) 587-3153.

COUNTY NEWS

The **Lewis & Clark County Farm Bureau** held their second School Ag Day May 15 at Prickly Pear Angus in East Helena. Since this was the second year for the event, Lewis & Clark County Secretary Loretta Burnham said they knew the ropes this time. "We had a better grasp and better ideas," said Burnham. "There were 45 volunteers at 15 stations with 135 kids from East Helena. Our goal was to have kids understand where bacon, milk, steak and corn come from. In addition, this serves as an excellent opportunity not only to teach students about agriculture but cultivate thoughts for them to pursue a career in agriculture. We hosted a television reporter who stayed all day. She was totally intrigued with it and said the conversations she had with the presenters about agriculture will stay with her always."

Stations included soils, weeds, machinery, horses, beef, pork, lamb and wool, chickens and rabbits. Kids also enjoyed the branding station, a ride out to the field to see pivot irrigation as well as a wheat grinding station and forestry information.



Chouteau County Farm Bureau hosted an ag safety fair for the county schools which included a railroad safety demo, ATV gear and size safety and a tour of the local fire station. On June 23, county Farm Bureau members hosted a pancake breakfast and handed out 1500 bottles of water during a parade in Fort Benton.

Fergus County Farm Bureau, with a county Farm Bureau program grant from the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, sponsored Montana's Longest Table June 23 in Lewistown. Two-hundred people participated in the Montana-style supper that allows town and country residents to celebrate together. The continuous table showcases food samples from local restaurants using commodities grown in Montana. Local producers and products, a petting zoo and Kiddie Corral are all a part of the exciting event.



Cascade County Farm Bureau supplied water bottles advertising Farm Bureau and our insurance agents for an Electric City FFA fundraiser and the Cascade County 4-H Show and Sale. They supported the College of Providence Rodeo Team, the Golden Triangle Preview Show, and the Cascade County 4-H Foundation with monetary donations.

Ravalli County Farm Bureau held an ATV safety training at the Hamilton Farm Fair. **Hill-Liberty-Blaine County Farm Bureau** hosted an afternoon for the local school with several ag safety and agriculture-related stations including ATV safety, which included photos of a boy who was not wearing safety gear and had been seriously injured in a dirt bike wreck in Chester. The boy's mother had asked for people to see what can happen when they don't take safety precautions, like not wearing a helmet. **Cascade, Front Range and Broadwater County Farm Bureaus** all held Ag/ATV Safety trainings for their community Ag Days.

Fifth and sixth-grade students from Roundup, Melstone, Ryegate and Broadview attended the educational Outdoor Classroom in Roundup. Jennifer Bergin and Kris Descheemaeker of **Musselshell and Fergus County Farm Bureaus** gave a presentation on ATV Safety. Along with explaining the proper fitting of the child to the ATV, they discussed common sense rules and showed pictures of fatal accidents involving kids and ATVs. Lindsey Fox, Musselshell County board member and ag teacher from Roundup High School, reported on the Balanced Food Plate, then had the kids make ice cream, by tossing a plastic bag full of ingredients back and forth.

High School rodeo cowboys and cowgirls traveled from all over Montana to Big Timber May 27 & 28 to compete in the **Sweet Grass County Farm Bureau** sponsored High School Rodeo. "This group of rodeo families were by far the most gracious, polite and appreciative of our efforts. We had 441 individual entries, up from 340 last year" stated Ronda Johnston, SGFB Secretary/Treasurer. The rodeo is a fundraiser to support the Sweet Grass County Farm Bureau Scholarship Fund. County Farm Bureau members pitch in where needed to keep the two-day event running smoothly.

Rosebud/Treasure County Farm Bureau presented a check for \$2500 from the MFB Foundation Fire Relief Fund to the Rosebud County Volunteer Fire Department. The **Powder River/Carter and Custer/Fallon County Farm Bureaus** presented

their MFB Foundation Fire Relief Fund checks earlier this year. The money enables the local fire departments to purchase safety equipment and make repairs on equipment used for fighting fires in rural Montana.



Custer-Fallon County Farm Bureau held a summer meeting June 28 in Miles City.

Dawson-Wibaux County Farm Bureau hosted a picnic July 8 at Jaycee West Park. Candidates for county commissioner along with candidates for the state House seat spoke at the event.

Northwest Counties Farm Bureau held an ATV Safety Demonstration and cooked 400 hamburgers for the Polson Ag Day.

Powder River/Carter County Farm Bureau is hosting the Alive @25 driving program from 1 p.m.- 5 p.m. Thursday, August 9 at the Broadus Fire Hall. The county Farm Bureau will host an ATV safety training August 10 at the Powder River County Fair along with an informational booth. There will also be a Young Farmers and Ranchers Meet & Greet at the park that same day at 4 p.m.



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Young Farmer and Rancher News

Ag Tour covers diverse look at Sidney agriculture

Young people interested in expanding their knowledge about agriculture headed to Sidney for the MFBF Young Farmers & Ranchers Ag Tour June 1-2. Tour stops included Sidney Sugars, Meadowlark Brewery, Safflower Technologies, MSU Eastern Ag Research Center, Steinbeisser Farm, and the Intake Diversion/Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project. The group even got to taste some authentic Yellowstone Caviar.

"This is the fourth year that our YF&R Committee has held an Ag Tour. We wanted to bring people to the eastern side of the state, especially to highlight what is going on with the Intake Diversion/Lower Yellowstone Project," said Ben Johnson, who serves as District 6 Chair of the YF&R Committee. "We learned about the situation with the pallid sturgeon, which is an endangered species; why it's an endangered species while the paddle fish is plentiful; and how lawsuits to change the Intake Diversion/Yellowstone Irrigation Project could affect the environment and economy of the entire valley."

The huge concern for people living in the now-fertile valley is lawsuits by an environmental group to stop the building of fish ladders, and drastically change the efficacy of the Intake Dam, which would devastate the area.

"This irrigation project has turned high plains dessert into fertile low lands that support wildlife, farming and community wells," Johnson noted. "There are thousands of acres affected by this amazing irrigation project, which has had a positive environmental and economic effect on the entire area."

This is also the area where many paddlefish are harvested for their eggs, which compete on the scene for caviar.

Kim Gibbs, an instructor at Miles City Community College who helped plan the tour, found the Sidney Sugars processing plant to be especially fascinating. "It was amazing to see how they took the beets from a field and turned that raw product into a commodity we use every day," Gibbs said. "An average sugar beet from this valley weighs five pounds and yields two cups of sugar. The plant ships their sugar in anything from a 50-pound sack to a railroad car, destined for the large cereal companies. The processing plant is extremely busy during beet harvest season which run from August through March 1."

Although Sidney Sugars is only one of two sugar processing plants not run as a co-op, that could change soon as farmers feel if they own the plant, they can make the necessary improvements.

Gibbs enjoyed learning about safflower grown by area ag producers and distributed as bird seed through Safflower Technologies. "The majority of seed is for the wild bird food



Learning about Safflower Technologies birdseed.

market. They contract for a lot of the bird seed you buy in stores. It was interesting to hear that companies are picky about bird seed color; some want tan, some want white."

A tour of Meadowlark Brewery covered how beer is made and the different roasts they use on the grain to get the flavors in beer, as well as how they use hops to add flavor.

MFBF YF&R Committee Chair Gil Gasper said the YF&R Tour allows young producers to experience what's happening in agricultural production in different parts of the state. "We're such a huge state geographically. We have Flathead cherries in the west and sugar beets in the east. This is a great way to showcase Montana agriculture and open our eyes to what's out there. We might grow different crops, but we're all tied into ag, so we have a common theme."

Hoofin' it for Hunger

Get out those running shoes and start preparing for the annual YF&R Hoofin' it for Hunger race Saturday, Oct 6 in Miles City. Sign up today for the half-marathon, 10K or 5K.

The course takes you through the beautiful grounds at Fort Keogh and there is also a one-mile walk. If even a walk sounds like it's too much—or you just can't get over to Miles City—sign up to be a virtual runner. As a virtual runner you'll still "get the T-shirt" while contributing to the Montana Food Bank Network. This will be the eighth year for Hoofin' It for Hunger, which was launched during the Montana Farm Bureau Convention in Missoula in 2011 as part of the national Young Farmers and Ranchers work with the Harvest for All program. To date, the YF&R Committee has donated enough money raised from the race to provide 132,000 meals to hungry people across the state.

Don't miss the free runner's dinner Friday evening at the Range Riders Museum. Register at www.406running.com.

For more information on the YF&R program including upcoming contests, visit www.mfbf.org/programs, check out www.facebook.com/montanafarmbureau or contact Sue Ann Streufert, 406-587-3153, sueanns@mfbf.org.

Mark your calendar for YALC

Montana's Fifteenth Annual Young Ag Leadership Conference (YALC) will take place October 5-7, 2018 at the Big Horn Resort in Billings. Young people involved and interested in agriculture, ages 18-40, are invited to attend this one-of-a-kind conference where leadership, personal development, education and networking take center stage.

This year's agenda boasts top-notch speakers, including advocate for agriculture, "Big Sky Farmer", Michelle Jones. There will also be cutting-edge workshops, exciting entertainment and an Entrepreneur Spotlight of local business folks. Look for conference details, including registration information, to be released later this summer. For questions regarding the 2018 Young Ag Leadership Conference, contact Rikki Swant at (406) 231-4422 or rikkis@mfbf.org.



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Kudos for the *MFBF Spokesman*

The *Montana Farm Bureau Spokesman* has won a Golden ARC Award for Best Magazine. The Golden ARC Awards contest, presented by the Ag Relations Council, honors the stellar work created by professionals in the agricultural industry. The article *Montana on Fire: The Awful Summer of 2017* by *Spokesman* editor Rebecca Colnar, won Best Feature Story in the American Farm Bureau Communications Awards.





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Scholarships

Women's Leadership Committee Scholarships

The Montana Farm Bureau WLC presented two \$1000 scholarships to two deserving students: Mamie Hertel from Lewistown and Laine Hill from Townsend. Mamie plans to attend Montana State University-Bozeman and earn a degree in Business Finance. Laine plans to attend the pre-veterinary program at MSU.

Foundation Scholarships

The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation has presented three scholarships to deserving students: Madeline Jarvis won the \$1500 Bernard Greufe Honor Scholarship; Ashton Handy won the \$1500 Future of Ag Honor Scholarship and Kyler Maharg won the \$1,000 Collegiate YF&R Scholarship.

Madeline Jarvis will be a freshman at University of Montana in Missoula majoring in music education with a minor in elementary education. The Bernard Honor Scholarship is presented to a student planning higher education who has shown high academic achievements, character and endeavor.



The Lewis & Clark County Farm Bureau board presents the MFBF Collegiate Farm Bureau Award to Kyler Maharg.

Kyler Maharg, recipient of the Collegiate Young Farmer and Rancher Scholarship, will be a sophomore at MSU-Bozeman majoring in animal science with a minor in small business management. This scholarship is given by the Foundation to a member of a collegiate YF&R program (MSU, UM Western and MCC).

Ashton Handy received the Future of Ag Honor Scholarship. Ashton will be a sophomore majoring in ag business with a minor in agricultural marketing. The Future of Agriculture Honor Scholarship Application is administered by the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation through generous donations from Seed Source, Inc. of Toston, MT. The scholarship is awarded for the Fall 2018 semester. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist students towards the completion of a degree in a field pertaining to agriculture. A special emphasis will be given to applicants who have shown ingenuity in agricultural production and advancement of small scale agriculture.

County Farm Bureau Scholarships

Each year, **Carbon-Stillwater Counties Farm Bureau** awards two scholarships to deserving applicants, one in each county. Katelin Aisenbrey was the recipient for Carbon County. Katie attended high school in Bridger and plans to attend Northwest



Katelin Aisenbrey with Carbon/Stillwater County FB President Rhonda Hergenrider.



Destiny Ayers with Carbon/Stillwater County FB Secretary Carla Lawrence.

College in Powell, WY, majoring in Ag Business, with a minor in Agro-ecology. Destiny Ayers was the recipient for Stillwater County. Destiny attended high school in Reed Point. Destiny plans to attend Montana State University, majoring in Agriculture/Plant Sciences. Bailey Veteto a 2018 graduate of Sweet Grass County High School, was selected to receive a \$1000 scholarship from **Sweet Grass County Farm Bureau** Federation and Randy Moore, local Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance agent. Bailey will attend Montana State University this fall majoring in animal science with a minor emphasis on genetic research. Bailey ultimately plans to work with animal genetic research beneficial to the fields of medicine and agriculture. She is the daughter of Farm Bureau members Justin and Jill Bailey.

Yellowstone County Farm Bureau awarded two scholarships: Cody Shick received \$1000 and Garrett Bromenshenk, \$500.

Musselshell County Farm Bureau presented a scholarship to Shayla Hough, daughter of Rebecca Benson. She will be attending the Vet Tech program at UM-Western this fall.

Cascade County Farm Bureau gave two \$1000 scholarships: One to Kelli Ober, a senior from Cascade High School, who plans to attend MSU Bozeman and Gweneth LaValley, a senior at Great Falls High School, who plans to attend a university.



American Farm Bureau Federation®

2018 Summer Cookout

TOTAL \$55.07

Down less than 1% compared to a year ago.



Source/Graphic: American Farm Bureau Federation® newroom.fb.org



Women's Leadership Committee

PHOTO Contest

Entry deadline November 2

The contest theme for 2018 is "Stuck in a Rut."

The committee encourages members to enter photos that capture what the theme means to them.

Contest Prize

First prize is \$100, second prize \$75, and third prize \$50.

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

"STUCK IN A RUT"

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation Women's Leadership Committee Photo Contest will be held during the MFBF annual convention November 7-10 in at the Northern and Doubletree Hotels in downtown Billings. Photos will be on display and voted on by popular vote. The winners (first, second, and third prize) will be announced at the Awards Banquet, Friday, November 9.

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.
- No more than three photos per 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 2018.

QUESTION ?

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Contact Alena Standley

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Montana Farm Bureau Foundation Centennial Community Initiative

2019 will mark the 100th birthday for our parent organization, Montana Farm Bureau Federation. Our Foundation Board of Directors is excited to announce the MFBFo Centennial Community Initiative to celebrate our first 100 years and renew our commitment to the betterment of rural Montana. This centennial initiative will result in a \$100,000 investment towards community improvement projects in Montana during 2019.

These community improvement projects will make a difference in local communities and create long lasting impact. It is our hope that communities use these grants to leverage additional funding for larger projects that impact their local economy and create jobs.

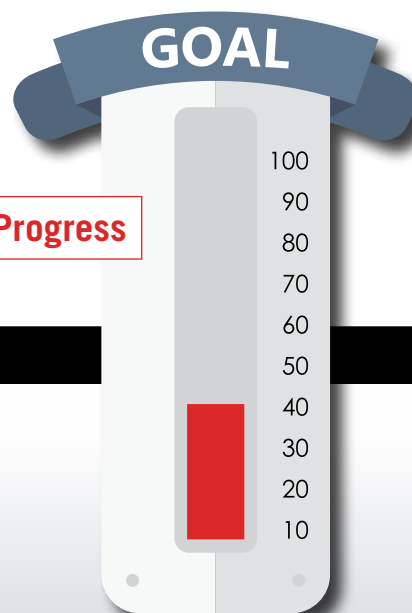
Here are just a few examples of projects that could be funded through the Centennial Community Initiative:

- Creating a business plan that will allow a new rural business to attract start-up capital.
- Provide matching grant money for large economic development projects.
- Purchase equipment needed for a new rural business.
- Community improvement projects that attract new businesses or new residents.

How can you help? If you agree with the Foundation Board and feel this is a worthy concept, you can help make it happen. Our Foundation has created a new \$1K Club to help with this initiative.



It would only take 100 members willing to donate \$1,000 to reach our goal. We can even break out your \$1K Club donation into monthly installments. Call Foundation Coordinator, Scott Kulbeck, at 406.587.3153 or go to <https://mfbf.org/foundation> for more information.



\$1K Club Progress

MFB Foundation \$1K Club Donors

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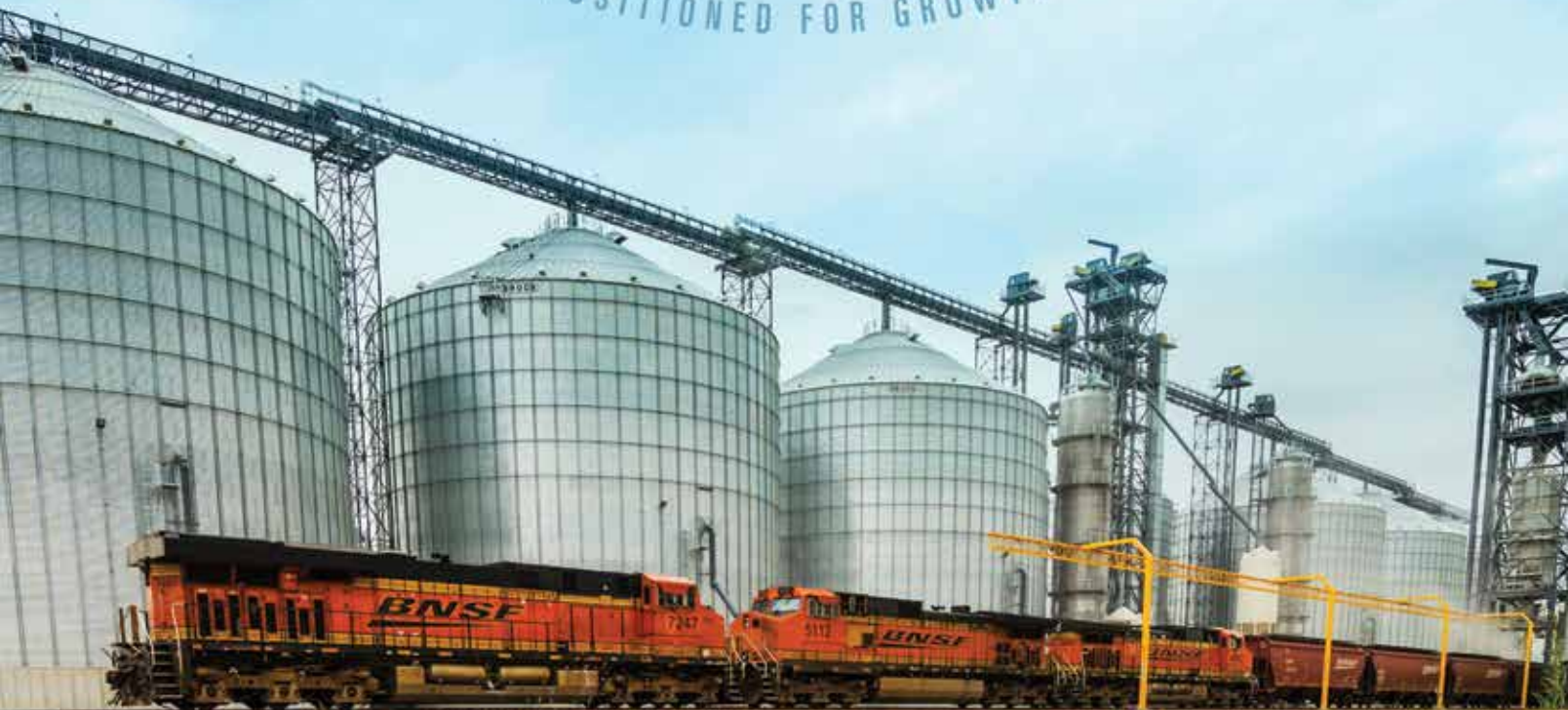
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