



MONTANA FARM BUREAU News Brief

We Care for the Country

March 2022

TOP STORIES



(Left to right): Jeff Ruffatto, Josh Senecal, and Russ and Lorie Miner discuss campaign strategy in an exercise during the MFBF Candidate Seminar held mid-February.

Candidate seminar trains for election success

The Montana Farm Bureau Candidate Training Seminar provided 19 prospective elected office candidates the information needed to run a successful campaign. The comprehensive seminar, held February 10-11 in Helena, covered everything from selecting your campaign theme and setting up your campaign structure to managing money and winning. It was designed for candidates, their spouses, managers and individuals interested in running for a political office.

Facilitator Randy Dwyer, director of advocacy and grassroots for the American Farm Bureau Federation, led the group in the training, which included a simulation to gain experience in running a campaign and making decisions. The training was developed with input from political consultants and staff from both major political parties.

Josh Senecal, president of Northwest Counties Farm Bureau, is considering throwing his hat in the ring for Lake County Commissioner. "I wanted to prepare myself to do the best that I can do campaigning, and have a strong foot forward, be collected in my thoughts, and gain an understanding of how to run a campaign."

Attendees at the seminar ranged from House and Senate candidates for the Montana Legislature to county commissioners and sheriff, along with their spouses, campaign managers and their treasurers.

"It is important to have good leaders in Montana at local, state and federal levels," said MFBF Director of State Governmental Affairs Rachel Cone. "By hosting the Candidate Training Seminar, Montana Farm Bureau is proud to help leaders get prepared to run for office."

REAL Montana application time

Resource Education and Agriculture Leadership (REAL) Montana is looking for applicants for their next program. The comprehensive two-year program offers in-depth education and training in the agriculture and natural resource industries. REAL Montana works to address this leadership shortage in the natural resource industry—including agriculture—through high-quality leadership and industry training.

To be eligible for selection, each applicant must earn a substantial percentage of his/her livelihood from a natural resource sector in Montana. Selection is competitive and all decisions will be made by members of the REAL Montana Advisory Board.

All applications must include two letters of recommendation and an employer authorization form if not self-employed, submitted separately. All application materials must be submitted by March 31, 2022.

For more information and to apply visit <https://realmontana.org/>.



News Brief Plus

Want more information regarding articles in this *News Brief*? Check out the *News Brief Plus* online. The March 2022 *News Brief Plus* contains:

- CI - 121 information
- Scholarships available
- Speech contest
- CDL/ELDT exemptions
- Well-owner tip sheet

Visit mfbf.org/News/News-Brief.

Scholarships available

The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation and the Montana Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee are offering several scholarships for students pursuing higher education. The scholarships include two \$1500 scholarships from WLC. The Foundation offers the \$1500 Bernard Greufe Honor Scholarship; the \$1000 Collegiate YF&R Scholarship; and the \$1500 Future of Ag Scholarship through a generous donation from Seed Source in Toston.

Students need to sign in to the Montana Farm Bureau scholarship portal, which is available by visiting mfbf.org/Programs/Scholarships. All scholarships are due April 1.

For more information call 406-587-3153 or email scottk@mfbf.org.

Speech Contest time

Montana Farm Bureau Foundation is holding their 2022 Youth Speech Contest which is open to students in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. Contestants must submit a transcript of their speech by March 15, 2022, which will be judged prior to the convention. The top twenty contestants will be invited to compete by presenting their speech March 31 from 8 a.m. – noon at the FFA Convention in Bozeman. Cash prizes range from \$100-\$400.

For more information and an application, contact Scott Kulbeck, scottk@mfbf.org, 406-587-3153, or go to mfbf.org/foundation.

CI-121 tax challenges

MFBB encourages its members to oppose CI-121 and advocate to decline to sign this ballot initiative. Although the organization recognizes the state of Montana's complicated tax structure, amending the constitution at the expense of Montana's small businesses, farmers and ranchers is not the solution to handle this complex issue.

CI-121 not only threatens current main street small businesses and agriculture but also future investments in those sectors when it is needed most.

Read more about the concerns regarding CI-121 at mfbf.org/news.

Welcome new county Farm Bureau members

Being a voting member of the state's largest general agricultural organization means you have a voice at your county, state and national Farm Bureaus as well representation in Helena and Washington, D.C. It's important to stay involved in your Farm Bureau organization to make a difference and ensure your concerns on agricultural issues are heard and addressed. Thank you to our new members and to those who recruited them. Keep up the good work. There is strength in numbers.

Broadwater County – Travis and Sierra Blatter; *Carbon-Stillwater County* – Brad Barker • Noel Keogh, Key-O Inc.; *Cascade County* – Clifton and Jo Ann Eisenzimer, Obrecht & Eisenzimer Ranch • Lisa Jassen; *Chouteau County* – Robert and Veronica Davison; *Fergus County* – Billy and Natalie Butler • Gregg Morse • Angela Murnion • Rex and Lori Murnion; *Hill-Liberty-Blaine County* – Wayde and Johanna Eggleston; *McCone County* – Jim and Dawn Trotter; *Northwest Counties* – Carol Graf • Chico and Kacey Stipe • Robert Terhaar • Steve and Melissa Totzauer; *Powder River-Carter County* – Marshal Clarys; *Ravalli County* – Wyatt Moore, Wild Apple Llamas • Steven and Brenda Wilson; *Southwest Counties* – Ben Abbey • Melissa Eversfield and Connor Pardee; *Valley County* – Gifford Fjeld; *Wheatland-Golden Valley County* – Christopher Kaclik; *Yellowstone County* – Josh Neibauer • Benji VanWyk • Jonathan Welch.



Choose ag education

Working on your taxes? Choose to support ag literacy in Montana schools on your 2021 Montana tax return. These funds have the potential to provide materials and agricultural curriculum to teachers and schools across the state.

Whether you are using a tax preparer or completing the tax form yourself, check line 69c on the long tax form or 18c on the EZ form. Donating \$5, \$10 or another amount will benefit the agricultural knowledge of our youth.

This is a simple way to ensure Montana schools can educate students about agriculture, whether in the math, science or reading classes.

Montana Farm Bureau Federation is a founding member of the Montana Ag in the Classroom Foundation.

For more information on MAITC, visit <https://agr.mt.gov/Agriculture-in-the-Classroom>.

Calendar

MFBB Board Meeting
March 7-8 - Three Forks, MT

MFBB Summer Conference
June 13-15 - Fairmont Hot Springs, MT

People

Northern Ag Network interviewed Wes Jensen during at AFBF Issues Advisory Committee meetings in northern Virginia, while Randy Bogden, KMON, interviewed Nicole Rolf about the meetings. Wes Jensen was interviewed by Agri-Pulse on CRP policies.

Casey Mott was interviewed by KGHL and did a podcast with Lane Nordlund during the MATE.

MFBB President Cyndi Johnson and Susan Lake appeared in video by Senator Daines.

MFBB's Nicole Rolf interviewed with Yellowstone Public Radio on Farm Bureau's role in meat processing education in Montana. MFBB's Rachel Cone visited with Randy Bogden, KMON, on interim committee meetings in Helena.

Fergus County Farm Bureau member Chris King and his family received the District 5 Stewardship Award during the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Annual Convention in Houston.

National Ag Day

AFBF is participating in an event on the National Mall March 21-22 in celebration of Ag Day (March 22). The public is invited to explore the innovations that enable farmers to sustainably provide for a growing world. The hands-on display of modern equipment will show consumers how the latest ag equipment, crop inputs, and technology are working together to drive agriculture producing more with less.

Visit agday.org for more information.

Save money on prescriptions

When you need a prescription, look no further than the Farm Bureau Prescription Drug Discount Program.

Receive a FREE Prescription Drug Card and save at more than 68,000 national and regional pharmacies. To locate a pharmacy, print a card or look up medication pricing go to mfbf.org/member-benefits or call the MFBF office, 406-587-3153.

This is just one of the many MFBF benefits that will save you money.

Visit mfbf.org/benefits.

Ag Safety Awareness Week

Agricultural Safety Awareness Program (ASAP) Week will be celebrated March 7-11, 2022 with the theme Prepare. Prevent. Protect.

The ASAP program is a part of the Farm Bureau Health and Safety Network of professionals who share an interest in identifying and decreasing safety and health risks.

For more information and resources, visit the ASAP Page and the MFBF Facebook page during ASAP week.

MFBF comments on sage grouse

Montana Farm Bureau submitted comments in mid-February to the Bureau of Land Management, strongly encouraging the agency to consider the continuous work the state of Montana has done on behalf of sage grouse management.

In its comments, MFBF requested that the Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management acknowledge the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program in their future management decisions.

"Montana's Sage Grouse population is unique in that approximately two-thirds of the sage grouse habitat is on non-federal lands, according to a 2015 report from the BLM and USFS to the Montana Environmental Quality Council," noted MFBF President Cyndi Johnson. "The state of Montana saw fit to enact our own 'all lands, all hands' approach to managing the bird and this plan has been very successful."

She noted that studies have shown that livestock grazing does not harm habitat and are even neutral on the types of grazing systems.

"If the BLM is looking at factors to consider in preserving habitat, MFBF encourages adherence to Montana's existing program and recognition of other existing federal programs with proven success at improving sagebrush habitat," concluded Johnson.



Farm Bureau members meet with Congressmen in D.C., Montana

Montana Farm Bureau members had several opportunities to meet with their Congressional delegation during February.

Participants in the AFBF Issues Advisory Committee traveled to Washington, D.C. February 17 to meet with Senator Steve Daines and Senator Jon Tester along with staff of Representative Matt Rosendale. The members discussed inflation, input issues, shipping challenges and more.

In Montana, MFBF District Director 5 Director Darcia Patten and past District 5 Director Gary Heibertshausen attended a "Meet and Greet" February 23 with Rep. Rosendale in Broadus. They visited about the Endangered Species Act including delisting the Grizzly Bear, the concerns about the re-evaluation of sage grouse habitat, Waters of the U.S., and meth trafficking/drug use problems in Montana.

Members of the Custer-Fallon County Farm Bureau attended a roundtable in Miles City with Rep. Rosendale where they discussed a wide range of issues from drought and federal lands issues to meat processing, endangered species and WOTUS.

AFBF Issues Advisory Committee Meetings held

Montana Farm Bureau members participated in American Farm Bureau's Issues Advisory Committee meetings held February 17-18 in Arlington, Virginia. The committees provide an avenue for Farm Bureau's grassroots leaders to contribute their expertise on specific issues to the organization's policy deliberations. MFBF members serving on four of the 12 committees included: Tom DePuydt – Federal Lands; Jillien Streit – Farm Policy; Mike Murphy – Water and Wes Jensen - Market Structures. MFBF Senior Governmental Affairs Director Nicole Rolf, attended the meetings and organized visits with the Montana Congressional offices.

Chester pulse crop farmer Street praised the American Farm Bureau staff for their knowledge. "They are well-versed on all of the issues. I applaud them for doing a great job bringing a diverse group of farmers together from across the country to surface ideas and discuss how we can have a collaborative effort that covers all commodities. Our committee primarily discussed what needs to be considered for 2023 Farm Bill."

The Market Structures meeting featured speakers from National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Department of Agriculture. The committee discussed legislation regarding cattle markets and issues on transportation of goods.

"We agreed a bill needs to be developed to solve the problem of the empty containers returning to Asia after dropping off their good in U.S. ports," said Circle cattle rancher Jensen, who attended the meetings in person.

Visit mfbf.org/news for the full story.

MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
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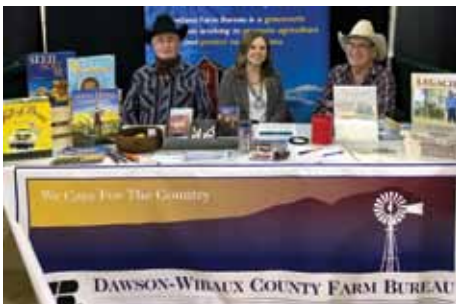
COUNTY NEWS

MATE, GATE and other activities keep county Farm Bureaus active

Ravalli County held a board meeting January 31. **Sweet Grass County** held a board meeting February 7. **Roosevelt County** held a board meeting February 9. **Dawson-Wibaux County** had a booth at the Glendive Agricultural Trade Exhibition February 11-12. The county also hosted a YF&R Social & Seminar February 11 featuring guest speaker, Bradie Schmidt who talked about using EPDs in sire selection. They also had a board meeting February 23.

Rosebud-Treasure County held a spring meeting February 15, and has a livestock and farm equipment safety program slated for March 10 in Hysham.

Northwest Counties held a budget meeting February 16.



Bernie Evans, Jesse Evans and Gene Evans at the GATE show.

Richland County held a board meeting February 17. **Yellowstone** and **Carbon-Stillwater** counties had volunteer leaders manning the Farm Bureau booth at the MATE February 17-19 in Billings. Yellowstone County held a board meeting February 22 in Billings. Several **Custer-Fallon** members participated in an Ag Roundtable with Congressman Rosendale February 23 and held a spring board meeting in Miles City March 2.

Powder River – Carter County held a board meeting in Broadus February 24.

The Miles Community College Collegiate YF&R are hosting an Etiquette Dinner in Miles City March 23.



Yellowstone County Board members Zach Weimortz and Teddi Vogel at the MFBF booth during the MATE in Billings.



Turner Farms, Northwest Counties Farm Bureau members, hosted the "Share the Love" Valentine's Day Farm-to-Table Charity Dinner with locally grown foods February 14. The dinner was the idea of Gus Turner, who has been working to raise awareness about the mental health and suicide epidemic among Montana farmers and ranchers. The idea to raise funds to combat this issue was a direct result of his research and was part of his 4-H Leadership project. Pictured are Gus, Jon and Ethan Turner at the event.

Cattle Market Seminar

Mark your calendars for the free MFBF National Affairs Update/Cattle Market Transparency webinar for MFBF members only March 16. Contact your regional manager for more details, call the MFBF office at 406-587-3153 or keep watching the MFBF Facebook page.



January 20, 2022

Montana Farm Bureau offers scholarships for higher education

The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation and the Montana Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee are offering several scholarships for students pursuing higher education.

"Our Montana Farm Bureau Foundation and Women's Leadership Committee are pleased to once again provide students with some financial assistance as they work toward furthering their education," said MFB Foundation Coordinator Scott Kulbeck.

Scholarships Available:

The Montana Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee Scholarships: Two \$1,500 scholarships are available through the sponsorship of the MFB Women's Leadership Committee. The scholarships are available to young men and women. The applicant must be an incoming college freshman and must be from a paid Montana Farm Bureau member family. Applications will be scored on scholastic achievement, future goals, community involvement and school activities. Many county Farm Bureaus offer scholarships and the online form for this application will allow students to apply for any county Farm Bureau scholarship for which they are eligible. Due Date - April 1, 2022.

The 2022 MFB Foundation CYF&R Scholarship: The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation will award one \$1,000 scholarship to a current member of the Collegiate Chapter of Young Farmers and Ranchers at MSU Bozeman, UM Western, Miles Community College or Dawson Community College. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist Collegiate Young Farmer and Rancher members in pursuing a degree from an accredited institute of higher education and enrolled at that institution for the Fall 2022 semester. Due Date – April 1, 2022.

The 2022 Bernard Greufe Honor Scholarship: This \$1500 scholarship assists Montana high school students in paying for higher education. The applicant must be pursuing a degree from an accredited institute of higher education, although the award is not limited to students seeking a degree or career in agriculture. Due Date - April 1, 2022.

The 2022 Future of Agriculture Honor Scholarship: This \$1500 scholarship is administered by the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation. 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. Due Date – April 1, 2022.



MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Ag NewsWire

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February 17, 2022

MFB Foundation holds Youth Speech Contest

Bozeman, MONTANA—Montana Farm Bureau Foundation announces their 2022 Youth Speech Contest which is open to students in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. Contestants must submit a transcript of their speech by March 15, 2022, which will be judged prior to the convention. The top twenty contestants will be invited to compete by presenting their speech March 31 from 8 a.m. – noon at the FFA Convention in Bozeman.

“One of our Foundation's most important goals is to aid in the agricultural education and the leadership development of Montana's youth, and this speech contest fits that goal. We are offering great prizes to make this an exciting opportunity,” noted MFB Foundation Coordinator Scott Kulbeck.

Speech topic: Supply chain problems and labor shortages have shined a spotlight on the need for and importance of careers in agriculture, food processing, freight transportation and vocational trades. Why is there currently such a shortage of people working towards a career in those areas and what can be done to address this issue? Consider the following:

- Do public opinions toward vocational trades have a negative impact on the educational and career choices for high school students?
- What are the advantages of choosing to attend a vocational trade school or to pursue a trade apprenticeship over a college degree?
- What can high school teachers and guidance counselors do to provide students with a broad view of options for their future that includes vocational trades alongside university education options?

The prepared speech needs to be between 2.5 - 4 minutes in length. FFA members, 4-H members and any other student in Montana are eligible to enter the contest. Registration and a copy of the speech must be received by the Montana Farm Bureau Federation office by March 15, 2022. Prizes: are: 1st place = \$400, 2nd = \$300, 3rd = \$200, 4th = \$100 and 5th = \$50.

For more information and an application, contact Scott Kulbeck, scottk@mfbf.org, 406-587-3153, or go to mfbf.org/foundation.

###

KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES. DECLINE TO SIGN CI-121.



CI-121 will impose unnecessary and confusing changes in our Constitution, punishing seniors, young families, small businesses, farmers, and ranchers.



**BAD FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

CI-121 dramatically alters our Montana Constitution.

- Leaders in Montana need to address our taxes, but altering our state's Constitution is not the way to do it.
- Once in the Constitution, this terrible tax policy will be almost impossible to remove and will hurt working Montanans.
- State leaders should do the jobs they are elected to do, and not ask us to vote on rigid constitutional language that only creates more problems for future generations.



**BAD FOR
MONTANA FAMILIES**

CI-121 penalizes new homeowners, young families, and seniors.

- Neighbors with identical properties will pay radically different taxes even though they get the exact same services.
- Young families looking for a new home to raise their children and seniors looking to downsize will all have to pay more.



**BAD FOR MONTANA
FARMERS, RANCHERS,
AND SMALL BUSINESSES**

CI-121 will hit Montana's farmers, ranchers, and small businesses hard – and help wealthy out of staters.

- When property taxes change, the tax burden is shifted. That means increasing taxes on agriculture property and small businesses.
- While wealthy out of staters profit off of their new tax breaks, farmers and small business owners will pay the price.
- We need to stand by our small businesses and farmers who keep our economy going.

A Look Back At February

-Jason Laird

Here at the Montana Wheat and Barely Committee we stayed busy during the month of February. We didn't find ourselves out of the state as much as we did in January, but none the less we were able to attend some notable events.

To start the month off Cassidy and myself attended the Grain Craft Growers Meeting in Great Falls. This was a great opportunity to learn more about what Grain Craft is looking for in terms of wheat quality. They also spoke on the milling differences of various wheat varieties.

The Northern Crop Institute hosted their annual Food Barley Course. Sam and I attended the virtual event which consisted of presentations and live question and answer sessions. This course certainly helped to broaden our understanding regarding the possibilities of food barley.

All three of us attended the U.S. Dry Pea and Lentil Research Review meeting in Bozeman. Our goal for attending this meeting was to see how other checkoff organizations handle research reviews. This also gave us insight as to the research priorities of pulse crop producers.

Sam and I attended the Golden Triangle Barley Conference in Conrad. The meeting provided a great overview of the barley industry throughout the state as well as overseas. Over 80 people attended this presentation.

Cassidy did make it out of the state this month and attended the Wheat Quality Council meeting in Kansas City. The meeting provided great information as to the over all quality of U.S. wheat.

And to wrap up, talk about a wild temperature ride last month! Throughout the state we saw temperatures well into the 50s and as low as 30 below. I'm not sure if Mother Nature has a sense of humor or felt we needed a reminder of just how inconsistent our weather can be here in Montana.

Have a happy and prosperous March!

We Want You... To Name the New MSU Crop Varieties!



Nearly every year, the Montana State University Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology Department releases new public crop varieties. The goal of the new varieties is to continue improving upon a long legacy of research and crop development in the state. A good portion of the funding for these research projects comes from your checkoff dollars.

The Montana Wheat & Barley Committee and Montana State University Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology have teamed up to add a bit more excitement to this year's plant variety releases. We have compiled a list of possible names for the four new wheat and barley varieties and are asking for the public's help in naming them. Some of the names are clever while others honor industry legends or

locations in Montana. The voting will remain open until March 31st, 2022. Following the vote, we will share the results.

To learn more about these varieties, [Click Here!](#)

Scan this QR code to vote or [Click Here!](#)



Buckwheat: A Hazard to Montana's Export Markets



As farmers prepare for spring planting, the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee is reminding producers to ensure that wheat shipments destined for export are buckwheat-free. In light of the ongoing global pandemic, food safety has become one of the most important factors for purchasers of ingredients. Montana exports 60-80% of its wheat to countries located in the Pacific Rim. Since Asian countries are large importers of Montana wheat, it is important that producers and handlers understand the serious health risk and potential economic impact posed by buckwheat.

Tame buckwheat is a deadly allergen in Asian countries. It is often compared to peanut allergies, carrying different levels of reaction severity, ranging from mild to extreme. The United States has taken precautionary measures to provide allergen safety in labeling, such as zero tolerance for unlabeled allergen exposure, which are the same efforts taken for exporting food ingredients.

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) has provided guidelines on this issue:

- Use of buckwheat must be excluded from cover crops plantings in rotation or adjacent to fields with wheat production or abstain from growing wheat as a commodity for 2 calendar years after planting buckwheat

There is ZERO tolerance for export elevator deliveries exposed to buckwheat. Following an exposure, grain elevators may extend their rejection to refuse future deliveries from certain producers, meaning it is crucial that producers do not expose their operation to buckwheat in any form.

To protect and foster the health and prosperity of the Montana's wheat and barley industry, the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee is committed to educating producers about the dangers of buckwheat in a small grains rotation and surveying cover crop mixes across the state, including volunteer situations.

Montana State University Durum Breeding Program 2022 Objectives

-Sam Anderson

Funded by the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee since 2017, Dr. Mike Giroux's durum program has a goal of developing durum varieties that are adapted to Montana's growing conditions. Dr. Giroux and MSU Research Associate Andy Hogg work to develop durum for the highly diverse growing regions of Montana.

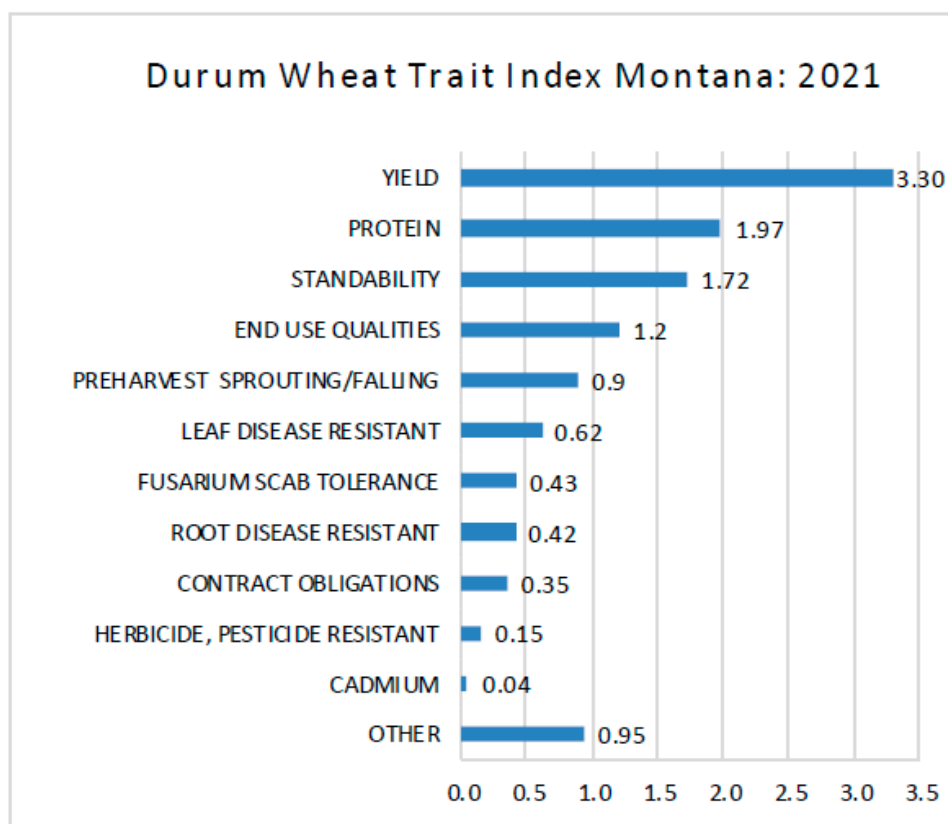
The durum lines in development are grown in replicated trials. The trials are conducted at the Montana Agricultural Experiment Stations in areas where durum is grown. Some trials are also grown at off station plots and planted and harvested by the Northern and Eastern Ag Experiment Station faculty and staff.

Seeds harvested from lines in the early and later stages of cultivar development are then tested at the appropriate product quality levels. Lines in the earliest stages of development are assessed by measuring seed color, seed size parameters, protein content, and protein strength. Lines in the later stage of development are advanced to milling quality tests along with larger scale protein strength tests.



Dr. Giroux's program is focused on the breeding objectives that are closely aligned with what Montana producers want in a durum variety. The most important traits to growers are yield, protein, standability, and end use qualities. Dr. Giroux's program is relatively new but has already released three varieties, the standard height variety Lustre, and two in 2022, the standard height MTD18348 and semi-dwarf MTD18313. The quick turnaround to release competitive varieties is a significant accomplishment and reflects Dr. Giroux and Research Associate Hogg's enthusiasm for conducting research and releasing varieties that can benefit growers.

"The new durum releases MTD18348 and MTD18313 have excellent yield under dryland conditions, good disease resistance, pasta color and good protein strength," said Dr. Mike Giroux, Professor and Head of the Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology Department at Montana State University. "The durum program is now offering alternative tools for producers such as the semi-dwarf line MTD18313 which offers earlier flowering and maturity along with excellent standability and yield. MTD18348 offers higher yield under dryland conditions than currently grown varieties and excellent product quality."



Durum Breeding Objectives

1. Coordinate the durum intrastate yield trials.
2. Develop new breeding populations and conduct early generation durum seed quality testing.
 - a. Measure product quality traits including seed size, protein content, protein strength, seed, and meal color.
 - b. Selection for added value traits including pasta color retention, low cadmium, and increased pasta firmness.
3. Carry out breeding projects to select high yielding durum with excellent product quality adapted to Montana growing environments.
 - a. Integrate improved sources of disease resistance and product quality.

Develop and test semi-dwarf wheat with increased height, yield, tillering, large seeds, and high protein content.

Get to know your directors?



District 5

Charles Bumgarner of Great Falls, Montana

1st term ends June 1, 2021

ph: 406.788.1216 | bumranch@gmail.com

Charlie is a fourth-generation farmer who farms near Belt, where he raises wheat, barley, hay, peas, chickpeas and lentils. He and his wife Karla have four children, Tyler, Kelsey, Abby, and Ellyn. Bumgarner has also served as Chairman of the Belt School Board, and as a Director and Officer for both the Montana Grain Growers Association and National Association of Wheat Growers. Charlie serves on the Wheat Marketing Center Board, U.S Grains Council, MSU Advisory Committee, and the National Barley Growers.

WELL OWNER TIP SHEET

A private well owner newsletter brought to you by NGWA and WellOwner.org



February 2022

WellOwner.org is the perfect one-stop resource for information relating to private water well systems and groundwater. Visit WellOwner.org to find educational resources, tips, and search tools to find a qualified contractor in your area.

The site has an easy-to-navigate format to find the same educational guidance, tips, and materials you've come to rely on for all of your water well needs.

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: Test, Tend, Treat/GWAW

Did you know? In addition to our [Find-a-Contractor](#) search tool, WellOwner.org offers tips on [how to find a qualified contractor in your area](#), [what to ask before hiring a professional](#), and [what to expect in a written contract](#).

To make it easier for residential well owners, we created the tip sheet below.

Prior to selecting a water well contractor, it is wise to obtain information about several contractors in the area before making a choice.







Use the [downloadable sheet](#) on the right as a guide when selecting the right contractor for you.

Remember: make sure to ask if the professional is NGWA certified. NGWA certification designations include:

- Certified Well Driller (CWD) – Encompasses general industry knowledge, as well as practice and expertise in at least one drilling method.
- Certified Pump Installer (CPI) – Encompasses general industry knowledge and practice and expertise in water systems.
- Master Groundwater Contractor (MGWC) – Demonstrates a high level of competency in both drilling operations and water systems.



HOW TO SELECT A CONTRACTOR

1. If your state licenses contractors, make sure you select a licensed contractor to perform the work. 
2. Is the contractor a member of the National Ground Water Association and/or certified by NGWA? Certification by or membership in NGWA indicates the contractor's investment in professionalism by joining an association dedicated to supporting and enhancing the expertise of members through continuing education and information exchange. 
3. What records will the contractor give you upon the construction of a well (i.e., a well log, well construction report)? 
4. Does the contractor have adequate liability and worker's compensation insurance to protect you? 
5. Ask the contractor for references from previous customers. 
6. Will the contractor furnish a written contract, specifying the terms and conditions of the job? 

READY TO HIRE?

GO TO **WELLOWNER.ORG/FIND-A-CONTRACTOR** TODAY



WellOwner.org is supported by the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP.org), as part of the USEPA funded program "Improving Water Quality through Training and Technical Assistance to Private Well Owners."



SAVE THE DATE!

National Groundwater Awareness Week will be

March 6-12, 2022.

#GWAU serves as an annual reminder for water well owners to test, tend, and treat their private water systems.

Other resources you can find on WellOwner.org:

- Downloadable Well Owners Guide with instructions on how to construct, test, treat, and inspect your water well
 - A Homeowner's Maintenance Checklist to keep your water well in great shape
 - A walkthrough of what should be covered during your annual water well checkup
 - Suggested qualifications to look for when hiring a groundwater professional
-

Questions or concerns about your private water well?

Refer to WellOwner.org for more information on testing, treating, and maintaining your water well.

