



Montana Farm Bureau Federation's ACE Leadership Program is designed to empower Farm Bureau members to be confident, effective leaders in their county Farm Bureau and local communities. Rural Montana needs strong leadership. We need school board members, local government officials and energetic county Farm Bureau volunteers. ACE participants will refine and establish premiere leadership skills to prepare them for their next leadership step.

2026 ACE CALENDAR

During this year-long program, participants will attend six in-person seminars focused on enhancing advocacy skills and leadership development. Class members will also participate in a Farm Bureau book club reading the MFBF history book, *Legacies*. The dates for the 2026 program are:

January 21-22, Bozeman
Leadership Development

March 25-26, Helena
Issues Advocacy & Legislative Affairs

May 20-21, Bozeman
Working with the Media & Communicating with Consumers

June 15-17, Kalispell
Rural Development & Coalition Building at MFBF Summer Conference

August 19-20, Bozeman
Grassroots Engagement

November 15-18, Billings
ACE Program Graduation at MFBF Annual Convention

QUESTIONS?

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

ACE participants will receive in-depth leadership development training along with practical application strategies. More than that, ACE participants will learn to identify the needs of their own communities and the role they, and Farm Bureau, have in serving those needs. Without a vibrant, healthy grassroots foundation we cannot profoundly affect change on the policy issues impacting agriculture.

The focus of the program is built around 3 primary objectives...

1. Developing Leaders
2. Engaging Local Communities
3. Issues Advocacy

Upon completion of the program, graduates will have gained skills and understanding in the following areas...

- Advocacy
- Active Listening
- Public Speaking
- Coalition Building
- Industry Issues & Public Policy
- Conflict Management
- Communicating with Media and Non-Ag Audiences

PROGRAM DETAILS & ELIGIBILITY

- Applications are available on mfbf.org and are due by **December 8, 2025**.
- Applicant must be a voting member in good standing with their county Farm Bureau.
- Applicant must be willing to meet all time commitments associated with the program, listed to the left.
- Participation is limited to 10 individuals. The 2026 Class will be announced December 2025.
- Selected participants are required to pay a \$500 tuition fee. *You are encouraged to reach out to your county Farm Bureau and seek sponsorship.*
- Selected participants are required to sign, date and return commitment form plus tuition fee by December 31, 2025.
- Lodging and some meals will be provided during seminars.

Application



Name: _____

County Farm Bureau: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

How long have you been a Farm Bureau member?

Tell us about any past Farm Bureau and non-Farm Bureau leadership experience you have.

Why do you believe you are a good candidate for ACE?

What successes do you hope to achieve by participating in ACE? What are your own personal/professional goals that you hope to build on through this experience?

In what ways do you plan to apply new skills learned through this program to become a better advocate and leader for Farm Bureau and Montana agriculture?

This program focuses on developing leadership and advocacy skills like effective communication, active listening, working with elected officials and non-ag audiences. What leadership and advocacy skills are most important for you to gain in this program?

ACE participants are expected to participate in all 6 trainings over the course of one year, are you able to commit to that schedule?

Who encouraged you to apply for this program? (If applicable)