



MONTANA FARM BUREAU News Brief

We Care for the Country

November 2022

TOP STORIES



The District 6 Fall Fest saw a full house of 100 attendees October 8 at the Richland County Event Center in Sidney. Ag advocacy speaker Amanda Radke shared her insights, which was followed by live music and dancing.

District 6 holds fabulous Fall Fest in Sidney

The four counties of District 6 (Richland, Dawson-Wibaux, Prairie, and McCone) hosted their first-ever Farm Bureau Fall Fest on Saturday, October 8 in Sidney. The Fall Fest provided an opportunity for the communities in the District to commune, recruit, engage and promote Farm Bureau and agriculture in our area. With this opportunity, it was an engaging and fun evening which was inspiring and encouraging to all in attendance.

Farm Bureau Fall Fest was held at the Richland County Event Center in Sidney and was open to both members and non-members. The leadership in each county Farm Bureau in District 6 was in full support of the event. Each county generously put forward funds and volunteers for the event to help promote, plan, set-up, and take-down

the event. Of the 100 people who attended, it was close to half-and-half members and non-members.

Amanda Radke, an active agricultural advocate, gave an inspirational keynote presentation encouraging people to get involved and share the passion of agriculture with those not directly involved in the industry.

The program was concluded by drawing for door prizes, that each county had contributed, and the rest of the evening was filled with people visiting with friends old and new, live music and dancing.

The event would not have been the huge success without the outstanding support from each county Farm Bureau and the assistance received from the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation County Program Grant.

ACE deadline looms

The deadline to apply for the MFBB ACE (Advocate.Communicate.Educate) program is December 1. Members who want to learn leadership and engagement skills from the pros are urged to apply. Only ten people will be selected.

Visit www.mfbf.org/programs for information and the application.

Save the date for the YF&R Conference

Mark your calendars for the MFBB YF&R Leadership Conference, scheduled for January 27-29, 2023 at Fairmont Hot Springs. The YF&R Committee has assembled an excellent list of speakers and workshops that will be informative, engaging and fun. To date, workshops will cover vertical integration, direct-to-consumer marketing, collaborating with groups outside of agriculture and coalition building.

Watch the MFBB Winter *Spokesman* and MFBB's Facebook page for more details and registration information.

News Brief Plus

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

- Ag in Color Contest details
- ACE information release.
- AFBF Convention release
- More!

Visit www.mfbf.org/news/news-brief.

Ag Econ Conference

Several Montana Farm Bureau leaders and staff attended the 2022 Montana State University Ag Economics Conference October 21 at the Best Western GranTree Inn in Bozeman.

Presentations covered the Montana Ag Year in Review, Rebalancing Cattle Inventories After Drought, the Future of Farm Policy, a Montana Department of Ag Update and more.

The M.L. Wilson Lecture on Macroeconomic Crosswinds in U.S. Agriculture was presented by Nathan Kauffman who explained that “the ag economy is strong, but the risks are growing,” noting that expenses don’t adjust as fast as the commodity markets.

The Federal Reserve economist said that pace of economic activity of 6 percent gain in 2021 is expected drop to 4 percent in 2022.

Leopold Award

Know a Montana rancher, farmer or forestland owner who goes above and beyond in the stewardship and management of natural resources? Nominate them for the 2023 Montana Leopold Conservation Award.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes landowners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water, and wildlife habitat management on private, working land. In his influential 1949 book, “A Sand County Almanac” Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner, or landowners may nominate themselves. The application can be found at www.sandcountyfoundation.org.

NOTICE

Annual Policyholders’ Meeting
December 1, 2022 – 8:00 a.m.
Mountain West Farm Bureau
Mutual Insurance Company
Farm Bureau Center
931 Boulder Drive
Laramie, Wyoming 82070

Welcome new voting members

Big Horn County - Larry Keltner and Angie Williams; **Carbon-Stillwater County** – Richard and Nancy Cline, R Bar N Ranch LLC • Jese Stetson, Clarks Fork Land & Livestock LLC; **Cascade County** – Phillip and Elise Moodie • Danelle Toren; **Chouteau County** - William Brown • Clete Ophus, Hi-Lo Fencing LLC; **Custer-Fallon County** – Todd Lackman; **Fergus County** – Candace Bauman • Jerry and Jody Brady • Riley Colver • Dillon and Lexi Udelhoven; **Gallatin County** – Katie Cooper • Tosha Johnson • Charlie Niggles, Round Swamp Farm • Christopher Scoones • Steve Whitham, Whitham Farms LLC; **McCone County** – Brett and Haley Schillinger; **Meagher County** – Delena and Camas Teague; **Musselshell County** – David and Christine Wickhorst; **Northwest Counties** – Kenneth Braaten • Anna Costa and Hank Ready • Theodore and Yvette Dellaganna • Raymond and Gloria Floren • Paul Gebhardt • Audra Geneau and Matt Clary • Joe McGillivray • Mike McIsaac • Bart and Wendy Morris • Jerry Oler; **Prairie County** – Ian and Megan Kalfell • Timothy Popper • Douglas and Judy Singleton • Jessica Stockett • Erwin and Christine Weder; **Ravalli County** – Shannon Alexander • Narvel Blackstock, V Bar V Cattle Co LLC • Mary Meyer, Diamond D Ranch Insurance; **Richland County** – Christopher Gartner • Kelly and Nicole Keysor • Patricia Rindahl • Shane and Kaci Schantz • Dwight and Diana Thiessen; **Southwest Counties** – Max Hansen, Accruit Exchange Accommodation Services • Todd and Jennifer McKay • Jerry and Kristin Poyser • Shane Sorden; **Wheatland-Golden Valley County** – Candace Olson; **Yellowstone County** – Clarence and Julianne Hofer.



AFBF in Puerto Rico

There’s still time to register for the 104th American Farm Bureau Federation Convention January 6-11 in sunny San Juan.

If you want the inside scoop when it comes to policies and perspectives that will affect your farm or agribusiness in 2023, don’t miss this convention. This is *your* opportunity to help set the agenda for the leading voice of agriculture in Washington, D.C. Participate in educational workshops to advance your leadership skills, expand your business acumen, and gain deep insight into the trends impacting food production.

MFBF President Cyndi Johnson noted that Puerto Rico Farm Bureau President Hector Ivan Cordero reached out to all Farm Bureau presidents and expressed his excitement at hosting this year’s event.

Check it out at fb.org and contact MFBF’s Convention Coordinator Alena Standley, alenas@mfbf.org.

Calendar

MFBF Annual Convention
November 14-17
Missoula, MT

Council of Secretaries
December 6
Virtual

AFBF Annual Convention
San Juan, Puerto Rico
January 6-11, 2023

YF&R Conference
January 25-27, 2023
Fairmont Hot Springs

People

MFBF Regional Manager Liv Holt interviewed with Northern Ag Network regarding the ACE program. Regional Manager /Convention Coordinator Alena Standley provided MFBF Convention highlights to Randy Bogden, KMON.

MFBF President Cyndi Johnson, Vice President Gary Heibertshausen, Executive VP Scott Kulbeck and Senior Director of Governmental Affairs Nicole Rolf met with Montana Governor Greg Gianforte October 31 to discuss the 2023 Montana Legislative Session which begins in January 2023.

Prop 12 arguments by AFBF

The American Farm Bureau Federation and National Pork Producers Council presented oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court, challenging the ability of one state to set agricultural production standards for the entire country. The case involves California's Proposition 12 law that bans the sale of pork from hogs that don't meet the state's arbitrary production standards, even if raised outside of California.

Visit www.fb.org/newsroom.

Add value to your ranch

LandTrust is the leading recreation access network. Ranchers and farmers partner with LandTrust to safely & simply tap into recreation income through hosting people looking for outdoor recreation and agritourism activities. Montana Farm Bureau members who sign up and list their properties on LandTrust.com receive a 90% revenue share. Members also receive a waived first sportsman booking fee.

To sign up, please visit landtrust.com or call (406) 709-8450.

Livestock and the farm bill

American Farm Bureau's talented economics team takes a close look at livestock in the farm bill. Their latest Market Intel report will help readers better understand the livestock-related provisions scattered through the farm bill since 1996, what they do for U.S. livestock producers, and other risk management tools that are also available outside of the farm bill.

Read the report at www.fb.org/market-intel/livestock-and-the-farm-bill.

Ag concerned about new EPA rule

The Environmental Protection Agency announced a proposed rule to designate perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), the two most common per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), as hazardous materials under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. Farmers and ranchers do not produce PFOA or PFOS; however, these chemicals can be found in the water that has been provided to their livestock and crops. It's important that farmers are not held responsible for the presence of PFAS chemicals they did not produce or intentionally use.

Visit the fb.org to learn more about the issue and how you can speak out.



AFBF sets farm bill priorities

The American Farm Bureau Federation has released its priorities for the renewal of the farm bill. The priorities were identified by a working group of Farm Bureau members and staff from across the country. AFBF's overreacting priorities include: Continuing current farm bill program funding; Maintaining a unified farm bill that includes nutrition programs and farm programs together; Prioritizing risk management tools that include federal crop insurance and commodity programs; and ensuring adequate USDA staffing and resources to provide technical assistance.

"By combing through existing grassroots policy, and analyzing what is most important in our home states, the Farm Bill Working Group was able to highlight priority issues that will guide us through the development of the 2023 Farm Bill. Many Montana farmers are still reeling from impacts of drought and nearly everyone is susceptible to volatile commodity prices. Couple that with inflation and increased input costs and it's clear that farmers and ranchers nationwide are in need of a strong safety net. Farm Bureau is going to work with Congress to deliver an effective and timely farm bill to our members," stated Nicole Rolf, senior director of governmental affairs for Montana Farm Bureau Federation, and member of the Farm Bill Working Group.

The AFBF board of directors voted unanimously to approve the recommendations. Final approval of policy priorities will be accomplished by a vote of delegates at the AFBF Convention in Puerto Rico in January 2023.

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More News. More Details.
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Check it out.

COUNTY NEWS

Counties Farm Bureaus fill October calendar with community activities

Members of **Yellowstone County** Farm Bureau helped at Ag Days October 17-19 during the NILE at the MetraPark in Billings. New Yellowstone County member Russell Quinlan drove the shuttle tractor while Spencer Drange and District 4 Director Casey Mott made sure children stayed safely on the trolley. Other Yellowstone County members including Teddi Vogel, Rikki Swant, and Jodie Drange kept the kids moving through a variety of various stations while Courtney Kibblewhite covered the beef station.

In addition, Yellowstone County



Russell Quinlan, who piloted the tractor, with a few students during the NILE 4th Grade Ag Education Program

held a county board meeting in Billings Thursday, October 27.

Chouteau County members served hot cocoa and handed out candy and coloring pages to the eager youth of Fort Benton who participated in the 70th year of the community kids window painting night.



Pictured painting Jared Vielleux's office windows are Chouteau County members Will and Sally Scott with their kids, Lincoln and Ruth.

Sweet Grass County held a Trivia Night October 15 at the American Legion in Big Timber where attendees learned and shared interesting and fun ag facts. A second trivia night is planned for Saturday, November 12 at the American Legion. All are welcome to attend.

Richland County Farm Bureau participated in a local Trunk or Treat event October 28.



Above: MFBF Western Regional Manager Alena Standley, MWFBI District Sales Director/Central Montana Rob Schulte, Agent Jared Vielleux, MFBF District 8 Director Ed Bandel and Chouteau County Board Member, Jim Robertson, greeted the painters and passed out goodies.

Save the Date
Council of Secretaries
Tuesday, December 6
Virtual

Watch your email for more information!



September 6, 2022

Ag In Color Drawing Contest open for 2022-2023

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

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

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

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

Contest rules:

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



October 19, 2022

American Farm Bureau Convention set for Puerto Rico; registration open

The Montana Farm Bureau is encouraging its members to attend the 2023 American Farm Bureau Convention being held in-person Jan. 6-11, 2023, in sunny San Juan, Puerto Rico. AFBF assessed the status of San Juan and the convention facilities following Hurricane Fiona and determined that all are fully operational.

“Mi Familia” (My Family) is the theme of AFBF’s 104th consecutive convention, a “must attend” event that offers attendees the inside track on policies and perspectives that will affect farms, ranches and agribusinesses in 2023 and beyond.

“The 2023 American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in Puerto Rico promises opportunities and experiences Farm Bureau members haven’t had before,” said MFBF President Cyndi Johnson. “We’ll get to enjoy the tropics in January which is a big plus for those coming from Montana. Puerto Rico has a unique and culturally rich agricultural industry with many agri-tourism-related activities to participate in outside of the usual AFBF schedule of amazing workshops and inspiring speakers.”

Johnson added that the Puerto Rico Farm Bureau President Hector Ivan Cordero reached out to all Farm Bureau presidents and expressed his excitement at hosting this year’s event. “If you’ve never been to an AFBF convention, this is the one to attend,” the Conrad wheat farmer said. “If you go frequently, this is one to not miss. There’s something of value to every attendee and you will not regret the time spent attending it. Please join me in helping to make this year’s annual AFBF convention the best ever.”

“This is your opportunity to gain insights about the future of agriculture, sharpen your skills and help define the agenda in Washington,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “I look forward to seeing you in January in Puerto Rico as the Farm Bureau family gathers together at the start of another year of feeding, clothing and fueling our great nation.”

Attendees may participate in a variety of educational workshops to advance their leadership skills, expand business proficiency and gain insights from industry visionaries about food production-related policies and trends. The convention also offers the opportunity to learn about cutting-edge innovations in agriculture, hear from powerful speakers and explore a vibrant trade show with exhibitors showcasing the latest in agricultural technology, tools and services.

Workshop topics include the 2023 farm bill, policy updates, market outlooks, trade, the latest ag education resources and strategies for coping with farm stress.

More than 50% of the land in Puerto Rico is used for agriculture. An exciting aspect of this convention is the opportunity for farmers and ranchers from the 50 states to see and learn about crops and agricultural

practices unique to Puerto Rico. Information about ag and leisure tours of Puerto Rico is available on the convention website. Details about additional tours will be posted when available.

The event website is <https://annualconvention.fb.org/>. Montana Farm Bureau members must contact MFBF Convention Coordinator Alena Standley to register, alenas@mfbf.org.



September 7, 2022

Montana Farm Bureau ACE Program accepting applications for 2023

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

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

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

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

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

For additional information on ACE and an application that is due by December 1, visit <https://mfbf.org/programs/Montana-Farm-Bureau-ACE-Program>. Questions: Contact Liv Holt, livh@mfbf.org, 406-581-3996 or Sue Ann Streufert, sueanns@mfbf.org, 406-539-3690.

###

WELL OWNER TIP SHEET

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



October 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: Winter Is Coming —Tips for Protecting Your Well, Your Water, and Your Wallet This Winter

It's important to take steps to keep your well safe and operating through the winter.

Here are some winter tips from the professionals at NGWA:

Protect Your Pump

Many well systems are buried deep underground, which provides protection from the cold. But for well owners with above ground pumps, action should be taken to keep the system insulated and warm. Constructing a small insulated enclosure covering the pump will help keep the system above 32 degrees and reduce the risk of freezing and other damage. This small "well house" can save thousands of dollars in repairs and ensure a well operates throughout a cold winter. [Find a qualified contractor.](#)

Protect Your Pipes

As water freezes, it expands and can burst your pipes, leading to significant damage to your home and well. Frozen pipes are a common winter issue for homeowners, but can be avoided with a few easy steps.

- *Turn off your exterior water and blow out your pipes.*

Ideally your house will have a shut-off valve for its exterior water supply. If so, turn off any water that flows to outside irrigation systems and faucets. Once you have turned the water off, then drain the remaining water or use an air compressor to blow out the pipes. If you don't have a shut-off valve, [find a local contractor](#) for other options to shutting off exterior water.

- *Insulate your pipes.*

For houses with piping that runs through non-heated spaces like basements, we suggest insulating pipes. Wrapping pipes with rubber casings or fiberglass insulation can keep their temperature above freezing and the water flowing.

- *Inspect your pipes.*

This is a great time to do a general inspection of your water system and piping. Spotting a problem in your system now could save you from a costly problem this winter. [Find a certified contractor to schedule an inspection.](#)

Prepare for a Power Outage

While there is little that can be done by the homeowner to prevent power outages due to winter weather, there are steps to take so you have water to drink while waiting for the lights to come back on.

- Always have a portable gas generator and plenty of gas to connect to your pumping system.
- Stock up on bottled water before the winter; this way if there is a prolonged outage, you can still have clean drinking water in the house.
- [Contact a local contractor](#) to learn more about backup generators and other options to keep your water flowing during a power outage.

Visit Wellowner.org today!
