

INSIDE AG | APRIL 2024

In this Issue

- A Message from the Dean
 - News from the College of Ag
 - Announcements
 - New Faces in the COA
 - Awards and Achievements
 - Events
 - Publications and Funding Opportunities
-



A Message from the Dean

Another successful academic year is coming to an end! This year brought recognition to our college for the excellent work of our students, staff and faculty members. Congratulations to all of you for your hard work and many contributions to MSU. Also, my sincerest congratulations to all our graduates as they embark on new and exciting endeavors. I am so proud of all of you!

Thanks to the hard work of our faculty and staff, we made important gains in student retention this year and kept our enrollment steady. More importantly, the impact you all make on our graduates as mentors and teachers is invaluable in shaping their futures. Please know that your impact does not go unseen or unappreciated.

We hired another round of outstanding faculty this year and many of our new additions will start in August. During this year we have dedicated more resources than ever to supporting graduate students through assistantships, student persistence, inclusive excellence in your departments, infrastructure improvement and new research. I am looking forward to seeing how these resources continue to further our land-grant mission and student success.

If you have time this summer, please consider attending one of the MAES field days, which begin on June 20 in Havre at the Northern Ag Research Center. You can find the full schedule at agresearch.montana.edu/fielddays. Summer is also a great time to catch up on some reading, and I highly recommend “How to Know a Person” by David Brooks, which I just finished.

Wishing you all an outstanding summer!

Sreekala Bajwa



News from the College of Ag



MSU research on RNA editing illuminates possible lifesaving treatments for genetic diseases



At the Northern Ag Research Center, tried-and-true methods meet cutting-edge precision agriculture



Chaofu Lu named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science



'A pathway forward': Montana State hosts inaugural Indigenous student research celebration



MSU sets commencement ceremonies for May 10



Ten Montana State research projects receive support from Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee

News from the College of Ag



[NASA funding powers Montana State research into global biodiversity.](#)



[Montana State sends 17 student researchers to premier national research conference](#)



[Four Montana State undergrads win prestigious Goldwater scholarships](#)

More MSU in the news:

- The Bozeman Daily Chronicle covered AGED student **Brittany Mitchell's** work starting a diaper drive and diaper bank for families in need. [Check out the story here!](#)
- Tri-State Livestock News highlighted a new book by Animal and Range Sciences' **Lance McNew**, titled "Rangeland Wildlife Ecology and Conservation." [You can read the article here.](#)



New Faces in the COA

Roseann Savino, new Business Operations Manager for the agriculture dean's office, will begin in her new position in May! Welcome, Roseann, we are so happy to have you!

Awards and Achievements

It is awards season at MSU, and we have so many faculty and staff who have received well-deserved recognition this year. Faculty and staff awardees include:

MSU All-Staff Awards:

- Amy Bowser, Animal & Range Sciences – Excellence in Innovative Service
- Rachel Frost, Animal & Range Sciences – Excellence in Outreach

MSU Service Excellence Awards:

- David Baumbauer, Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology – Bobcat Lifetime Achievement Award
- Denise De La Garza, Animal & Range Sciences – Excellence in Courtesy
- Kellen Marlow, Animal & Range Sciences – Excellence in Safety

COA/MAES Awards of Excellence:

- Amy Bowser, Animal and Range Sciences: Meritorious Service Award
- Hayes Goosey, Animal and Range Sciences/Extension: NACTA Teaching Award of Merit for Faculty
- Amanda Grube, Animal & Range Sciences – NACTA Teaching Award of Merit for Graduate Students
- Perry Miller, Land Resources and Environmental Sciences – Excellence in Research and Discovery Award
- Adam Sigler, Land Resources and Environmental Sciences – Excellence in Impactful Outreach Award
- Michael Walach, Agricultural and Technology Education – Excellence in Transformative Teaching Award

Awards and Achievements

Additional Awards:

- Dustin Perry, Agricultural and Technology Education – Outstanding Research Award at the National Association of Career and Technical Education Research Conference
- Stacie Rath, Land Resources and Environmental Sciences – MSU Everyday Hero of Research and Innovation
- Blake Wiedenheft, Microbiology and Cell Biology: Regional Agricultural Research Innovation Award and Induction into the Montana BioScience Alliance Hall of Fame
- Mel Wysocki: National Academic Advising Association Region 8 Excellence in Advising Award – New Advisor

Student Awards:

- Matthew Slivka, Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology: Fourth place at the national Farm Bureau Collegiate Discussion Meet. Matthew was tasked with discussing advocacy and engagement of policy makers; sustainability in American agriculture; water rights and management; and promoting diversity in the Farm Bureau and American agriculture.
- Caitlin Mitchell, Land Resources and Environmental Sciences: American Geophysical Union Outstanding Student Presentation Award and Virginia Tech Outstanding Recent Undergraduate Alumni Award.
- Brennan Gaffney, Land Resources and Environmental Sciences: LRES Outstanding Graduating Senior Award
- Bryce Pease, Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, LRES Exceptional Service Award

Upcoming Events

- **MSU's Spring 2024 Commencement** will be held **May 10** in the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse.
- Registration is open for the 2024 **Mountain Meat Summit**, set for **May 21-23** at the AC Marriott Hotel in Bozeman. [View the agenda and register on the event website.](#)
- The 2024 **Summer Field Days** will kick off on **June 20** with the NARC field day in Havre. The full schedule is at agresearch.montana.edu/fielddays

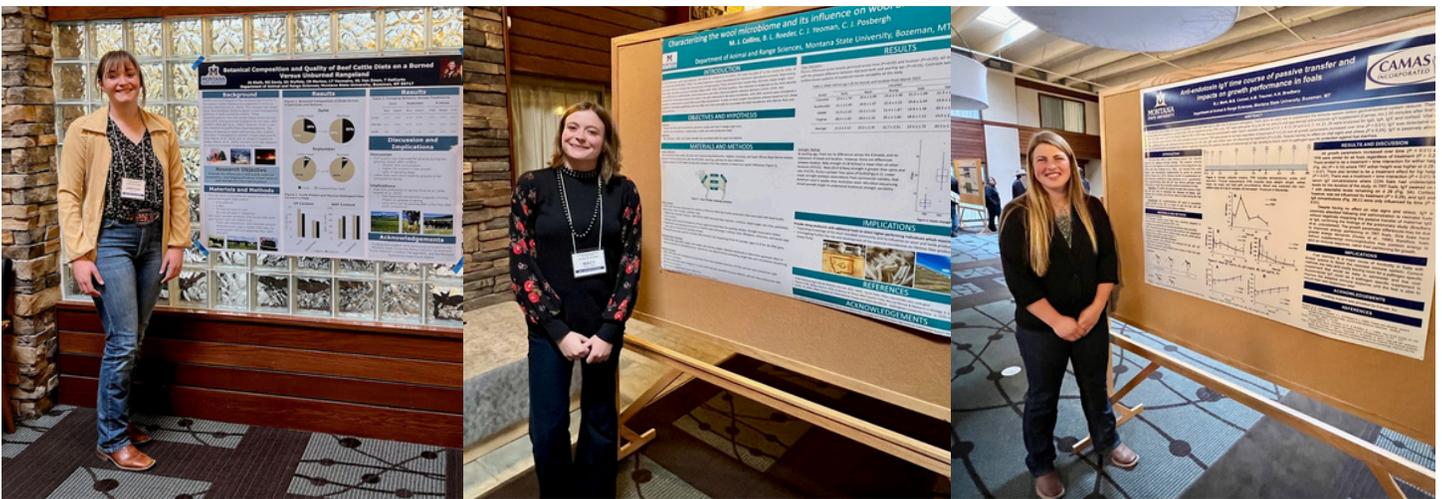
Recent Events

The PSPF department hosted a community building **Bouquet Designing** event, which was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who attended this great springtime event.

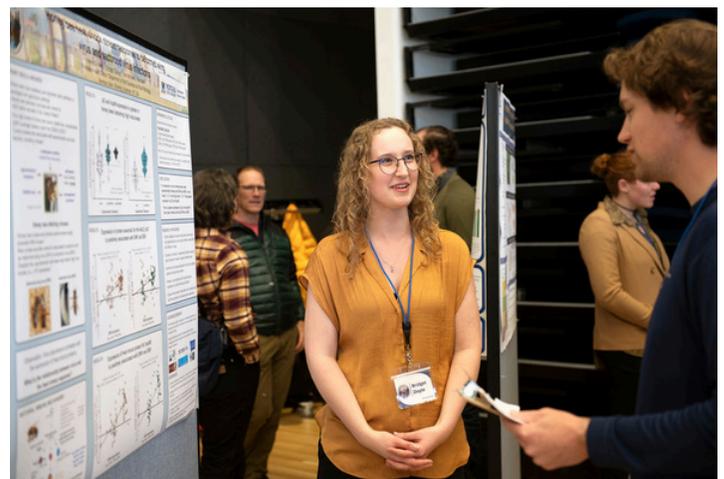


Recent Events

Graduate students from the Department of Animal and Range Sciences presented research and proposals at the Montana Nutrition Conference and Livestock Forum earlier this month. In the research division, **Janessa Kluth** took first place, **Macy Collins** took second and **McKenzie Mork** took third, and in the research proposal division **Clayton Thompson** took first place. Congratulations to our outstanding students!



The LRES and PSCP departments hosted a **collaborative research symposium** earlier this month, which included many outstanding research presentations. Thank you to LRES department head Bob Peterson for capturing images of the event.



Publications and Funding Opportunities

Recent COA/MAES publications

- A new MSU Extension magazine has been published by Marsha Goetting titled “Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias: Support for Montana Farmers and Ranchers and Their Families.” Volume 1 is designed for Montana agricultural producers facing Alzheimer’s, their families, and family caregivers to provide information that can make a positive difference in their lives. Copies can be ordered or downloaded for free on the MSU Extension website.
- Mitchell, Caitlin, Ewing, Stephanie A., Sigler, W. Adam, Jencso, Kelsey G. & Payn, Robert A. Water isotopic composition traces source and dynamics of water supply in a semi-arid agricultural landscape. Hydrological Processes.
- Lawver, B., Smalley, S.W., Perry, D. K., & Pate, M. L. Impact of sequential professional development of school-based agricultural education teachers: In-service implications for safety training. Journal of Agricultural Education.
- Perry, D. K., Smalley, S. W., Pate, M. L., & Lawver, R. G. Five-year analysis of teacher professional development. American Association for Agricultural Education Annual Conference, Manhattan, Kansas.
- Kibirige, B., Perry, D. K. & Walach, M. Continued professional development among secondary agricultural education teachers in Uganda. American Association for Agricultural Education Annual Conference, Manhattan, Kansas.
- Wang, Z.; Svyantek, A.; Miller, Z.; Watrelot, A.A. Assessment of Sequential Yeast Inoculation for Blackcurrant Wine Fermentation. Fermentation.
- Nunlist EA, Tyers D, Pils A, Sowell BF. 2023. Grizzly bears and humans at alpine moth sites in Wyoming, USA. Human-Wildlife Interactions
- Wall K, Kerth C, Miller R, Jane Boles. Sensory and volatile aromatic compound differences of paired lamb loins with 0 or 14 day dry aging. Small Ruminant Research.
- Vergara-Hernandez FB, Nielsen BD, Popovich JM Jr, Panek CL, Logan AA, Robison CI, Robison CI, Ehrhardt RA, Johnson TN, Chargo NJ, Welsh Jr. TH, Amanda N. Bradbery, Leatherwood JL, Colbath AC. Clodronate disodium does not produce measurable effects on bone metabolism in an exercising, juvenile, large animal model. PLoS ONE.

Publications and Funding Opportunities

Recent COA/MAES Grants

- Cecil Tharp, Adam Sigler. Reducing Toxics in the Upper Columbia through a new Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (PSPP). Environmental Protection Agency. 2023 – 2028

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

- **WSARE Research and Education Pre-proposal:** Projects must incorporate research and education and bring together researchers, students, professionals and producers. This grant program uses interdisciplinary approaches to advance sustainable agriculture at local and regional levels. Closing Date: May 23. [More information can be found here.](#)
- **WSARE Professional and Producer Grant Program:** Agricultural technical advisors and producers implementing projects to address needs in sustainable agriculture may apply for up to \$85,000 in funding. Projects must integrate research and education to advance the three components of sustainable agriculture- environmental, economic and social. The team should include an agricultural professional and at least three producers. Closing date: October 22. [More information can be found here.](#)
- **WSARE Sabbatical Grant Program:** These grants provide an opportunity for faculty around the world to partner with farmers, ranchers, agricultural professionals and researchers of the Western U.S. for research, education and Extension activities. Projects focused on unexplored topics in underserved communities and understudied locations are of special interest. Closing date: November 21. [More information can be found here.](#)

Inside Ag is published the last week of every month during the academic year. For submissions or feedback, contact reagan.cotton@montana.edu.