

INSIDE AG | AUGUST 2025

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A Message from the Dean

Dear friends,

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful Montana summer. Summer is the season field work for our researchers as well as our field days. I want to thank our wonderful staff who organize the field days, our faculty and student presenters, and the community members who show up to learn about the research we do. You have my sincere gratitude for engaging with our research so enthusiastically. We have two more field days left: **Western Ag Research Center in Corvallis on August 14** and the **BART farm in Bozeman on August 28**. We hope to see you there!



We have many good things happening in the College. I am excited to report that we have two new department heads, **Dr. Tim DelCurto** (ARS) and **Dr. Ryan Thum** (PSPP). My sincere thanks to the former department heads, Dr. Carl Yeoman and Dr. Mike Giroux, for the leadership they provided. We also have a new endowed chair in plant science – **Dr. Blake Wiedenheft** of MCB. Congratulations, all!

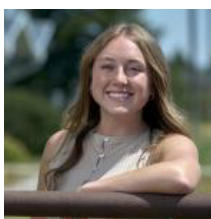
The College is getting ready to welcome a new batch of students and welcome back our students and faculty who went away for the summer. Please join us for a **welcome back ice cream social on August 26 at 3:30 p.m.** Looking forward to welcoming everyone to a new academic year!

Sreekala Bajwa

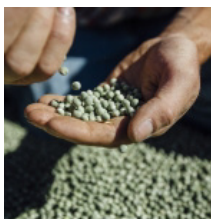
News from the College of Ag



Expanding Montana's precision ag: Anish Sapkota studies water, soil and more in agricultural systems



With prestigious fellowship, Katie Delker pursues dream of serving rural communities through veterinary medicine



Eastern Montana farmers needed for new pulse crop survey program



Chaofu Lu receives Fulbright for research in France



Technology transfer helps maximize impact of MSU cultivars



Nominations open for annual Outstanding Ag Leader award

Accomplishments and Highlights

Congratulations to LRES department head **Bob Peterson**, who has been named as a 2025 Fellow of the Entomological Society of America! [Read more about the honor here.](#)

Recent ARS research has been receiving great media attention! Work by **Lance McNew** was [featured in Mountain Journal](#), while work from **Sam Wyffels** was [featured in Progressive Cattle](#).

Congratulations to ARS's **Carl Yeoman**, who has been promoted to MSU Associate Vice President for Research!

Lance McNew and Megan Van Emon have been promoted to full professors in the ARS department. Many congratulations!

Wishing a very happy retirement to **Susan Cooper**, Business Operations Manager in Animal & Range Sciences. You will be missed!



Upcoming Events

Eva Grimme, Sarah Eilers and Abi Saeed will host an annual **Turf to Trees Workshop August 13-14**. Spots are still available for interested Extension agents, Master Gardeners and horticulture enthusiasts! [Registration is available here.](#)

The first day of the fall semester is **Wednesday, August 20!** The COA ice cream social will be at **3:30 p.m. on August 26** – please plan to attend!

Towne's Harvest Garden is hosting a farm stand **every Thursday from 4-6 p.m.** at the farm at 2730 W Garfield, with fresh, organic produce and flowers available. It is open to the public and cash, card and compelling trades are accepted. The farm stand will run through August 21 at the farm and will switch to campus on September 4.



FARM STAND!

Come support the MSU student run veggie farm and stock up on fresh, certified organic produce grown right here in Bozeman!

**Open every Thursday
Starting July 17th
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
2730 W Garfield St.**

SEE YOU THERE!



Locally, Sustainably and Educationally Grown



Recent Events

Dr. Jane Ann Boles of ARS organized a two-day charcuterie short course aimed at meat industry professionals last month. Along with Boles, leading the workshop were North Carolina State University's Dana Hanson and Jonathan Campbell, scientific outreach and technical support specialist with Kerres USA. Attendees gained hands-on experience making salami, made on-site visits, evaluated meat products and learned safety practices of dry-cured products and production equipment. Chef Alex Hrabovsky, instructor in the Gallatin College culinary department, shared his charcuterie preparation and pairing expertise during a tasting event.



Recent Events



The COA and Extension hosted a **field day at Red Bluff Research Ranch** on June 4. Faculty, staff, students and producers presented their research and experiences managing rangeland vegetation. Topics included cheatgrass management, forage production, grass identification, mapping vegetation using drones and nutritional quality of perennial forages. Over 50 people attended including ranchers, state and federal land management agencies, non-profit organizations and Extension faculty. Participants reported learning new skills that they can apply to their production system or educational program.

The Department of Agricultural and Technology Education hosted a **Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education Institute** July 7-11. Twenty-two ag ed teachers from 14 states completed the certification, which designs inquiry-based curriculum for middle and high school classrooms and prepares students for college and careers.

DATE also hosted the first **eDucATE Academy with future students** in July! eDucATE is designed to explore career opportunities associated with an ag ed degree. Future students explored opportunities on campus, engaged with ag ed professionals, and developed relationships with current MSU student mentors.

Publications and Grants

Recent Publications

- Samuel T. Koeshall, Perry R. Miller, Clain A. Jones, Kevin W. Wanner, Jeffrey A. Holmes: “Insecticides in field pea benefit grain yield and protein concentration,” *Agronomy Journal*.
- Xu, Q., Authi, K.S., Kirpotina, L.N., Schepetkin, I.A., Quinn, M.T., and Cilibrizzi, A. “Development of Small-molecule Fluorescent Probes Targeting Neutrophils via N-formyl Peptide Receptors,” *RSC Med. Chem.*
- Uvarov, A.V., Schepetkin, I.A., Quinn, M.T., and Khlebnikov, A.I. “Tricyclic Isatin Derivatives as Anti-Inflammatory Compounds with High Kinase Binding Affinity,” *Molecules*.
- Briand, G. “Economics in the News.” KDP paperback. July 2025.
- Tucker Lytton, Noah Davis, Kaylen A Stearns, Gavin Haines, Sam Wyffels, Tim DelCurto. “PS-19 Precision agriculture in beef cattle production: Using GPS and activity monitors to assess beef bull behavior,” *Journal of Animal Science*.
- Katrina J Friede, Hannah DelCurto-Wyffels, Tim DelCurto, Megan L Van Emon, Hannah Speer, Darrin L Boss, Sam Wyffels. “162 Effects of cattle hide color and changing environmental conditions at northern latitudes on feeder cattle performance and behavior,” *Journal of Animal Science*.
- Kaylen A Stearns , Hannah DelCurto-Wyffels , Sam Wyffels , Megan L Van Emon , Taylre Sitz , Lauren Bigler , Tim DelCurto. “188 Relationship of yearling Angus bull pulmonary arterial pressure estimates with production, maternal, and carcass Expected Progeny Differences,” *Journal of Animal Science*.
- Noah Davis, Tucker Lytton, Kaylen A Stearns, Gavin Haines, Sam Wyffels, Tim DelCurto. “152 Movement patterns of beef bulls during the breeding season in Southcentral Montana,” *Journal of Animal Science*.

Publications and Grants

Recent Publications

- Jacqueline Pondolfino, Noah Davis, Tim DelCurto, Sam Wyffels. “175 Salt-limited trace mineral and/or protein supplement intake behavior and subsequent performance of yearling heifers grazing summer/early fall dryland pastures,” Journal of Animal Science.
- Cooper W Simmons , Caroline Gatschet , Noah Davis , Thomas Hamilton , Jeremiah Peterson , Kaylen A Stearns , Gavin Haines , Madysn Mangum , Tucker Lytton , Emily Partee, Paul Nugent , Brett Griesbaum , Sam Wyffels , Tim DelCurto. “106 Influence of timing of grazing during the growing season on forage utilization, foraging efficiency, botanical composition, and diet quality in semi-arid rangelands,” Journal of Animal Science
- Morgan J. Solomon, Kent A. Fricke, Carter Kruse, Lance B. McNew. “Ensembled evaluations of habitat suitability for prioritizing lesser prairie-chicken conservation,” Ecosphere.

Recent Grants

- Dr. Chengci Chen (DRC) was awarded funding from the Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee.
- Dr. Marilyn Dalen (DRC) was awarded funding from the Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee.
- Dr. Stephanie Ewing (LRES) was awarded funding from the Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee.
- Dr. Mike Giroux (PSPP) was awarded funding from the Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee.
- Dr. Joe Jensen (DRC) was awarded funding from the Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee.
- Dr. Clain Jones (LRES) was awarded funding from the Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee.

Publications and Grants

Recent Grants

- Dr. Jennifer Lachowiec (PSPP) was awarded funding from the Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee.
- Dr. Perry Miller (LRES) was awarded funding from the Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee.
- Dr. Paul Nugent (LRES), Dr. Anish Sapkota (LRES), and Dr. Sam Wyffels (ARS) were awarded US Department of Commerce funds as part of a collaboration with the University of Montana.
- Dr. Geoffrey Poole (LRES) received a contract from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.
- Dr. Patrick Secor (MCB) was awarded funding from the University of Utah.
- Dr. Jamie Sherman (PSPP) was awarded funding from the Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee.
- Dr. Adam Sigler (LRES) was awarded funding from the Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee.
- Dr. Joao Souza (LRES) was awarded funding from the Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee.
- Dr. Seth Walk (MCB) received USDA funding as part of a collaboration with Northwestern University.
- Dr. Daniel Atwater (ARS) and Dr. Eric Belasco (DAEE) received a Bair Ranch Foundation grant.
- Dr. Alyssa Evans (MCB) was awarded NIH funding through Montana INBRE.
- Dr. Stephanie Ewing (LRES) received a US Geological Survey grant.
- Dr. Michael Giroux and Douglas Holen (PSPP) were awarded a Montana Department of Agriculture grant.
- Dr. Jeffrey Littlefield (LRES) received a US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service grant.

Publications and Grants

Recent Grants

- Dr. Jeff Mosley (ARS) was awarded a Nature Conservancy grant.
- Dr. Craig Ogilvie (Physics), Dr. Jennifer Thomson (ARS), Dr. Jean Dixon (Earth Sciences), Dr. Jeff Heys (Chemical & Biological Engineering), and Dr. David Cherry (College of Letters & Science) were awarded an NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program grant.
- Dr. Christopher Organ (Earth Sciences) and Dr. Dana Rashid (MCB) were awarded NIH funding through Montana INBRE.
- Dr. Albert Parker (Mathematical Sciences) and Dr. Heidi Smith (MCB) were awarded an NSF grant.
- Dr. Carly Urban (DAEE) received a Next Gen Personal Finance research agreement.

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