

# INSIDE AG | MAY 2025

## In this Issue

- News from the College of Ag
- Accomplishments and Highlights
- Upcoming Events
- Publications and Grants



Happy commencement, Bobcats! Find everything you need to know about the 2025 commencement ceremonies at [montana.edu/commencement](https://montana.edu/commencement).

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# News from the College of Ag

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[Ingrid Peters accepted to selective research program](#)



[MSU announces candidates for spring commencement](#)



[Caroline Roeder Helle named to ag scholars program](#)



[MSU team studies heat-dwelling beetles in Yellowstone](#)



[Registration open for 406 Grazing Academy](#)



[Eleven projects receive funding from Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee](#)

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# Faculty of the Month

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Our May Faculty of the Month is Dr. Diane Charlton from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics!

Dr. Charlton was nominated for engaging with students in class, making complex topics understandable and enjoyable, and genuinely caring about her students and their success.

Congrats, Dr. Charlton!



Read more from the COA/MAES!

Interested in the latest news from the COA? Check out [montana.edu/news/agriculture](https://montana.edu/news/agriculture), Facebook @MSUCOA or Instagram @montanastateag!

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# Upcoming Events

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It's time for summer field days once again! We hope to see you around the state at our research centers. The full schedule is below, and more information can be found at [agresearch.montana.edu/fielddays.html](http://agresearch.montana.edu/fielddays.html).

- Wednesday, June 18, 11 am: SARC, Huntley
- Wednesday, June 25, 8:30 am: CARC, Moccasin
- Thursday, June 26, 10 am: WTARC, Conrad
- Wednesday, July 2, 3 pm: NARC, Havre
- Wednesday, July 9, 8 am: EARC, Sidney
- Tuesday, July 15, 8 am: Post Farm, Bozeman
- Thursday, July 17, 9 am: NWARC, Creston
- Thursday, August 14, 4:30 pm: WARC, Corvallis
- Thursday, August 28, 5 pm: BART/Horticulture Farms, Bozeman

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# Accomplishments and Highlights

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The 2025 College of Ag Awards of Excellence were announced last week: huge congratulations to our five honorees!

- Dr. Jack Brookshire (LRES): Excellence in Research and Discovery Award
- Mary Farina (LRES): NACTA Teaching Award of Excellence for Graduate Students
- Dr. Clain Jones (LRES): Meritorious Service Award
- Dr. Rob Payn (LRES): Transformational Teaching Award
- Kayce Williams (DATE): Impactful Outreach and Engagement Award

Congratulations to our colleagues who were recognized as Everyday Heroes in Research on April 21!

- Reagan Cotton, Communications Associate
- Aneliya Cox, LRES Environmental Analyst
- Dave Gettel, Farm Manager
- Mike Giroux, PSPP Department Head
- Theresa Marchwick, Budget and Fiscal Director
- Emily Williams, Compliance Manager
- Carl Yeoman, ARS Department Head

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# Publications and Grants

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## Recent Publications

- Chong, K., Chavez, M., Dersch, A., Doyle, J., Eggers, M., LaFrance, J., Lefthand, M., MacDermid, F., McAuley, C., Simonds, V., Young, S., Basu, N. "Exploring the use of the RISK21 approach for Indigenous community-based human health risk assessments: two case studies." Facets.
- Leipold, Elizabeth & Stier, Hunter & Haynam, Robert & Robison, Laura & Sullivan, Aubrey & Kaltenbach, Taylor & Dykstra, Laura & Beaver, B. & Monroe, Morgan & Jakobosky, Olivia & McNew, Lance. "An Inventory of Rangeland Wildlife in the Western United States. Rangeland Ecology & Management.

## Recent Grants

- Dr. Amanda Bradbery and Matthew Conrad (ARS) received a Bair Ranch Foundation grant.
- Dr. Andrew Felton (LRES) received NSF funding as part of a collaboration with Colorado State University.
- Dr. Jessica Kansman (PSPP) was awarded a Montana Dept. of Ag grant.
- Dr. Melissa LoPalo (DAEE) was awarded a research agreement as part of a collaboration with the University of Texas at Austin.
- Dr. Aritra Roy Choudhury (PSPP) and Dr. Nina Zidack were awarded a Montana Dept. of Ag grant.
- Dr. Patrick Secor (MCB) received Department of Defense funding as part of a collaboration with the University of Montana.
- Dr. Heidi Smith (MCB) and Dr. Christine Foreman were awarded a grant from the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust.
- Dr. Ryan Thum and Dr. Gregory Chorak (PSPP) received Department of Defense funding as part of a collaboration with the Minnesota State University, Mankato.

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