

# INSIDE AG | OCTOBER 2024

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# News from the College of Ag

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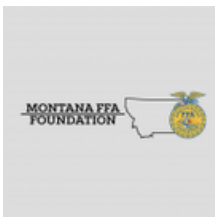
With new funding, MSU scientists study herbicide-resistant wild oats



MSU's MilTech serves U.S. military.



Tryg Koch to receive 2024 Outstanding Ag Leader award



Montana FFA Ag Expo set for Nov. 14-16 at MSU



Ag Econ conference to be held Nov. 8 as part of Celebrate Ag



MSU researchers receive grant to study Alaskan permafrost

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# News from the College of Ag

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[Expanded Celebrate Ag set for Nov. 4-9](#)



[MSU researcher explores rangeland response to heat and drought](#)

## **More MSU in the news:**

- Eric and Emma Wickens, owners of Wickens Salt Creek Ranch and MSU alumni, will be recognized with the Montana Leopold Conservation Award at the Montana Farm Bureau annual convention in November.  
**[Read more about their award here!](#)**
- Many thanks to the **[Whitefish Pilot for their coverage](#)** of producers growing haskap berries with the help of research and breeding from WARC and MSU Extension!

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# COA Faculty of the Month

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The October faculty member of the month is **Rachel Frost of the ARS department!**

Dr. Frost is the lead for the Dan Scott Ranch Management Program, and she was nominated for consistently going above and beyond as an instructor and adviser. She connects her classes with industry professionals, demonstrates a commitment to each student and tailors their educational experience to help them succeed.

Congratulations, Dr. Frost!



Celebrate Ag 2024 is nearly here! Don't forget to purchase your tickets for the Friday social and check out the full schedule of events from Nov. 4-9. Click the image for more or visit [ag.montana.edu/celebrateag](https://ag.montana.edu/celebrateag)

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# Awards and Achievements

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- **Denise De La Garza**, administrative associate in Animal & Range Sciences, received the **Director's Distinguished Staff Award** for MSU Extension.
- Numerous COA, MAES and Extension faculty and staff were recognized at **MSU's Milestones in Service** ceremony this month (including our very own **dean Dr. Sreekala Bajwa celebrating 5 years at MSU!**) Thank you to these exceptional individuals for their dedication to our university!
  - **35 years:** Bridget Westfall, PSPP; Mark Quinn, WIMU; Denise Thompson, ARS
  - **30 years:** Sandy Rahn-Gibson, Extension; Tim McDermott, LRES; Tamera Marcotte, Animal Resource Center; Jeanne Gripentrog, PSPP; Irene Decker, PSPP
  - **25 years:** Jane Wolery, Extension; Ed Schmidt, MCB; Sharla Sackman, Extension; Tracy Mosley, Extension; Peggy Lamb, NARC; Jane Ann Boles, ARS
  - **20 years:** Cecil Tharp, ARS; Jamie Sherman, PSPP; Igor Schepetkin, PSPP; Fabian Menalled, LRES; Annette Galimoto, Extension; Alan Dyer, PSPP
  - **15 years:** Lisa White, ARS; Steve Stowers, MCB; Tracy Sterling, LRES; Stacie Rath, LRES; Deborah Holman, Extension; Greg Gilpin, DAEE; Ronald Brown, EARC; Jack Brookshire, LRES; Eric Boyd, MCB
  - **10 years:** Ileana Yates-Johnson, WIMU; Heather Walk, MCB; Megan Van Emon, ARS; Jessica Torrion, DRC; Ryan Thum, PSPP; Deann Snyder, MCB; Dusty Perry, DATE; Lance McNew, ARS; Kari Lewis, Extension; Faye Jorgensen, PSPP; Eleri Haney, NARC; Thomas Gross, EARC; Eva Grimme, PSPP; Hannah DelCurto, ARS; Jackelyn Beardsley, Extension
  - **5 years:** Qing Yan, PSPP; Sam Wyffels, ARS; Mike Walach, DATE; Jennifer von Sehlen, ARS; Chloe Rice, PSPP; Joel Raisler, Ft. Keogh; Aaron Mugaas, Extension; Kaleena Miller, Extension; Sarah McCoski, ARS; Melissa LoPalo, DAEE; Christian Larson, LRES; Heather Ireland, MCB; Jenni Hammontree, CARC; Terrill Braaksma, COA; Jennifer Birdsall, LRES; Andrea Berry, Extension; Haley Barker, Extension; Sreekala Bajwa, COA; Rachel Anderson, MCB.

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# Upcoming Events

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- Members of the public are invited to a **presidential search forum** as the process of hiring MSU's next president begins. The event will be hosted **Nov. 4** on the MSU campus and more information can be found on the MSU website. A session particularly for Extension and MAES faculty and staff will be held **Nov. 5**.
- The PSPF department will host MAES research seminars for anyone interested in learning about ongoing projects.
  - Michelle Flenniken: "Sustainable Solutions to Problems Affecting Bee Health," **Oct. 29, 2:20 p.m.**
  - Ryan Thum: "Ecological Genetics of Invasive Aquatic Plants," **Nov. 1, 1 p.m.**
  - Claire Luby: "Horticultural Production Systems for Cold Climates," **Nov. 15, 1 p.m.**
  - Andreas Fischer: "Cereal and Camelina Quality and Biochemistry," **Nov. 18, 1 p.m.**
- Registration is open for the inaugural **Cattle Academy conference** set for **Nov.19-20 in Miles City**. Taylor Brown, owner of Northern Broadcasting System, will be the keynote speaker. More information about the conference and registration can be found on the event website.

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# Recent Events

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- Earlier this month, the Department of Ag & Tech Education's senior Broadfield Teaching cohort traveled to Billings to attend the **Montana Association of Career and Technical Education Conference**. Immediately following the conference, all nine students completed the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE 4 Learning) AG X certification, a national agricultural education certification program.

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# Recent Events

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The **Idaho-Montana chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects** held a conference at MSU Sept. 19-21, hosting over 100 professionals and students from MSU and the University of Idaho. MSU faculty Rebekah VanWieren and Kirsten Ostberg helped organize and present a field trip to Story Mill Community Park and campus landscape tour. Senior students presented studio projects with practitioners at a poster session. Thanks to Jennifer Thomson for kicking off the conference by giving a wonderful welcome message!



Students in Tim DelCurto's beef cattle management lab attended a foot-scoring clinic held Sept. 26 at the BART Farm. Taylre Sitz (bottom picture), a recent animal science master's graduate, led the clinic, during which students scored and recorded hoof traits, giving them hands-on experience to apply what they learned in the classroom. Sitz's master's research, "**Importance of Foot and Leg Structure for Beef Cattle in Forage-Based Production Systems**," focused on foot scoring and its importance in the selection of animals well suited for forage-based production systems. It has been downloaded more than 4,400 times.



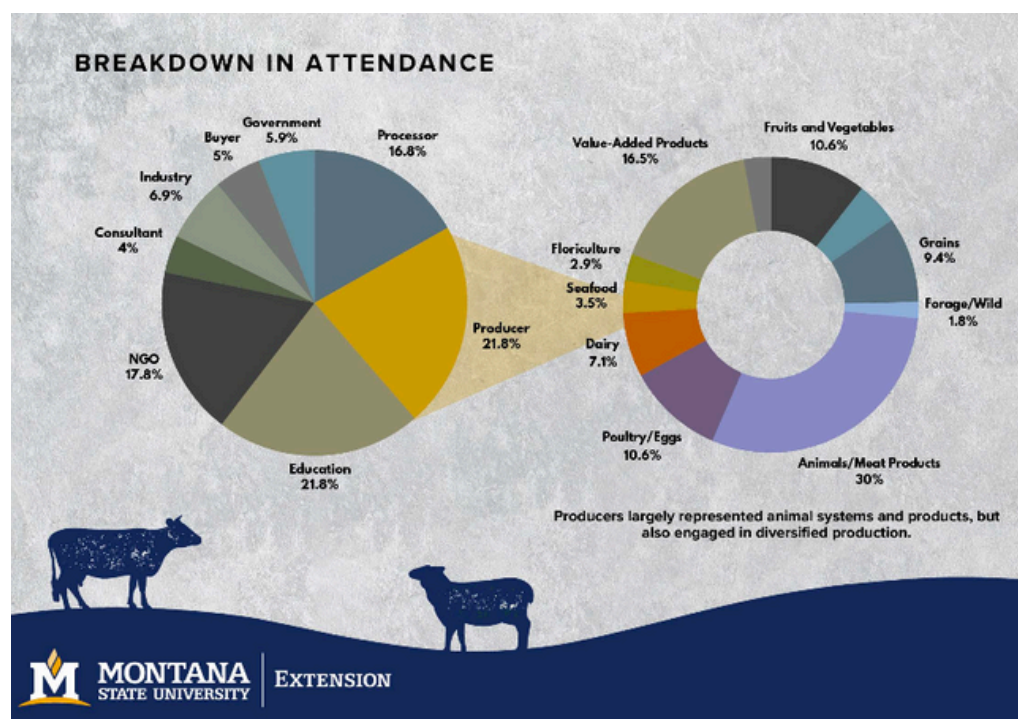
# Recent Events

## A recap of the **2024 Mountain Meat Summit** from **ARS/Extension's Tommy Bass**:

The Mountain Meat Summit brought together over 130 key figures in the local and regional meat supply chain, including chefs, processors, educators and producers. The event was dedicated to advancing market opportunities, building connections and enhancing skill development, with a strong emphasis on business-to-business collaboration. Highlights included educational tours, technical sessions and networking opportunities. We are deeply grateful to our speakers and tour hosts, who took time away from their businesses to share their wisdom and experience. Additionally, the Summit would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors. I believe we all gained valuable insights and connections that will further strengthen our meat supply chain. We hope you'll join us in Colorado in 2025!

### Stats from the Mountain Meat Summit:

- **100% of respondents** said they gained new information from the event
- **94%** said the event would help me be more effective in their jobs
- **92%** said the information they gained would help them reduce risk, save money and/or better grow their businesses





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# Publications and Funding Opportunities

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## Recent Publications

- **Aaron W. O’Harra, Kyle A. Cutting, Michael R. Frisina, Bok F. Sowell.** “Large-scale fence modifications increase nest survival in sage-grouse.”  
Published in: Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment.
- **Spears, M.; Cooper, G.; Sather, B.; Bailey, M.; Boles, J.A.; Bothner, B.; Miles, M.P.** “Comparative Impact of Organic Grass-Fed and Conventional Cattle-Feeding Systems on Beef and Human Postprandial Metabolomics—A Randomized Clinical Trial.” Published in: Metabolites.

## Recent Grants

- **Lance McNew:** “Identifying Conservation Priority Areas for Rangeland Wildlife on BLM lands in the Northern Great Plains.” Bureau of Land Management.

## Funding Opportunities

- Several calls for proposals from **Western SARE** are currently open:
  - Local Education and Demonstration Program closes **November 6.**
  - Professional Development Program closes **November 6.**
  - Sabbatical Research and Education Program closes **November 21.**
  - Graduate Student Research and Education Program closes **December 4.**