

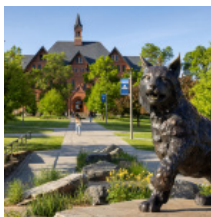
INSIDE AG | OCTOBER 2025

In this Issue

- News from the College of Ag
- Faculty of the Month
- Accomplishments and Highlights
- Notes and Announcements
- Publications and Grants



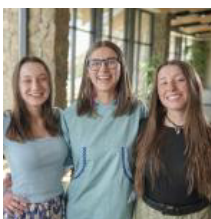
News from the College of Ag



In new research, MSU scientists explore how viruses replicate and infect



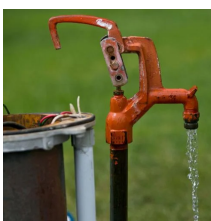
Bob Peterson named a fellow of the Entomological Society of America



College of Ag's Brookelyn Conti wins prestigious Udall Scholarship



The Bad News Bears Wildfire Fighting Team with Scott Powell (from the Spatial Signals podcast)



Deep dives: Montana State researchers create tool for testing private well water (coverage from the Bozeman Daily Chronicle)

Faculty of the Month

Our October faculty member of the month is **Dr. Anish Sapkota!**

Dr. Sapkota is an assistant professor in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, and is a key part of MSU's precision ag program.

He was nominated for his excellent research in precision irrigation and for providing extensive research opportunities for students. Congratulations, Dr. Sapkota!



Accomplishments and Highlights

Congratulations to **Dr. Lance McNew** of the Department of Animal and Range Sciences, who was recognized with a Hamerstrom Award at the Prairie Grouse Technical Council meeting in Nebraska! The award recognizes significant and long-term contributions in prairie grouse research and management. It is the highest honor awarded by the PGTC. Dr. McNew, a professor of wildlife habitat ecology, has published extensively on the ecology and management of prairie grouse. [You can learn more about his work here.](#)



Graduate students and faculty from the Department of Ag and Tech Ed attended the Western Region American Association for Agricultural Education meeting last month. Congratulations to **Macey Chance** (People's Choice Award for Outstanding Presentation), **EmmaLee Rotlisberger** (Outstanding Research Poster Abstract) and **Faith Droszcz** (Outstanding Research Poster Design) on their research awards!

Accomplishments and Highlights

Thank you to everyone who attended the COA's annual scholarship banquet earlier this month! We asked student scholarship winners to share faculty and staff who had made a particularly positive impact on their college experiences. Here are a few of our favorites:



- "**Erin Teichroew**, who is currently teaching ENSC 410, has been extremely encouraging throughout difficult learning curves, demonstrates extreme patience with her students, and has been an inspiring person to look up to as a woman in a male-dominated STEM field. Because of her example, I feel more comfortable taking up space among my male peers and feel more motivated to fully apply myself."
- "**Jennifer Weiss**, for her outstanding work in teaching herbaceous ornamentals and helping future landscape designers learn the best way to apply plants of the Rocky Mountains to future designs."
- "**Tim DelCurto**. He has been an amazing Animal Science advisor and Collegiate Stockgrowers advisor who has provided resources and opportunities that help student advance in their agricultural careers."
- (Continued on next page)

Accomplishments and Highlights

- **"Tyler Nygaard:** by far the best professor for my favorite class I will have ever taken at MSU! Tyler is very knowledgeable about bacteriology and gave me a new passion - bacteria! Tyler is very straightforward, easy to understand and personable. He doesn't make the class feel so formal that you can't get to know each other on a 1-1 basis."
- **"Dr. Emily Sewell** has positively impacted my experience by making me feel welcome from my very first day and being her bright, happy self!"
- **"Jane Boyd.** She was super welcoming and always helpful; she influenced my decision to attend Montana State University and helped me secure scholarships through CatScholarships."
- **"Dr. Tiziana Oppedisano** has had an incredibly positive influence on my experience as a student. As a mentor, she has provided me with ample opportunities to follow my interests and explore new possibilities that I hadn't considered. Her passion for agriculture and Montana growers is inspiring. Working with her has given me more confidence and assurance in my decision to pursue a career in agriculture."
- "I really appreciate **Professor Blake Wiedenheft** and his lab. I look forward to every day I get to spend in there. Thank you for your constant questioning and ability to surround yourself with awesome people."
- **"Rikki Ollinger.** She is the coordinator of Indigenous Pathways of Agriculture. Her program helps with scholarships, tutoring, and mentorship. Her door is always open to students. She is interested in her students academics and well being too."

Announcements

Wishing a very warm welcome to these new additions to the college!

- Lorinda Fields, Business Operations Manager in Animal & Range Sciences
- McKenzie Mork: Equine Operations Foreman in Animal & Range Sciences
- Whit Spain: Farrier School Coordinator in Animal & Range Sciences

Nominations for the Founders Day Faculty Awards for 2025-26 are **open until November 15**. [Award descriptions and nomination requirements are available here.](#)

Towne's Harvest Garden's annual bulk sale is happening **Thursday October 16th from 4-6pm**. All leftover produce from the season will be available at reduced prices, including winter squash onions, beets, carrots, kale and more. Located at the HORT farm barn (Towne's Harvest) 2730 W Garfield, please bring your own bags or boxes.



Publications and Grants

Recent Publications

- Jose Ricardo Lima Pinto, Sara Tianna DuPont. "Can a pest monitoring network promote the use of integrated pest management? A case study on pear psylla in the Pacific Northwest." Journal of Integrated Pest Management.
- Madhusudhan Adhikari, Sudhir Payare, Kelsey Larson and Ricardo Pinto, "Targeted Herbicide Applications in Montana Fallow Fields: Improving Efficiency and Reducing Costs." MSU Precision Ag Update October 2025.
- Hayes Goosey, "Weevils pose an early threat," Hay & Forage Grower.

Funding Opportunities

- Nominations for the MSU GRIT Grant program are open. We want to recognize the Bobcats who remind us what perseverance truly looks like. **Nominations close October 17** and are available online here.
- The Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee is now accepting proposals for 2026 funding. **Project proposal deadline: December 31.** More information is available at ag.montana.edu/mfac/.
- **Western SARE** plans to release Calls for Proposals in early October for the following programs: Research and Education (pre-proposal), Professional + Producer, Farmer/Rancher, Professional Development Program and Local Education and Demonstration. Details are available on the Western SARE website, and questions can be sent to wsare@montana.edu.

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