

# INSIDE AG | SEPTEMBER 2024

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# News from the College of Ag

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MSU sets new record in annual research expenditures at over \$257 million



MSU doctoral student uses AI to help farmers in the field



MSU honors 18 alumni with Homecoming awards



Two MSU graduate students receive NASA funding for space research



Paul E. Funk II to receive honorary doctorate at MSU's fall commencement



Magnetic resonance core facility supports researchers on campus and beyond

# News from the College of Ag



MSU researchers receive USDA grant to study benefits of haskap berries



Steer-A-Year program opens donation period for 2024-2025

## More MSU in the news:

- Many thanks to the Bitterroot Star for some great coverage of the WARC field day! Chilly weather didn't deter more than 300 attendees at the event!
- **Happy Homecoming!** Click the image below for the full lineup of events taking place on and off campus this week.

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

# COLLEGE *Homecoming* OF AG

OCTOBER 4TH & 5TH

**LECTURE AND MEET & GREET WITH DR. NOELLE COCKETT**

COLLEGE OF AG HOMECOMING AWARDEE DR. NOELLE COCKETT WILL DELIVER A LECTURE ABOUT HER CAREER AS A RESEARCH GENETICIST AND JOURNEY IN HIGHER EDUCATION, CULMINATING IN HER TENURE AS UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY'S PRESIDENT FROM 2017 -2023.

NORM ASBJORNSON HALL 165  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH | 2:30 PM

**AG PARADE PARTY**

GET IN THE HOMECOMING SPIRIT! STOP BY THE ROCKING R BAR TO PICK UP YOUR COLLEGE OF AG HOMECOMING BUTTON AND CONNECT WITH YOUR FELLOW AGGIES BEFORE THE PARADE!

ROCKING R BAR, DOWNTOWN BOZEMAN  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH | 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

MSU CHECK OUT [WWW.MSUAF.ORG/HOMECOMING](http://WWW.MSUAF.ORG/HOMECOMING)  
FOR THE FULL SCHEDULE OF MSU HOMECOMING EVENTS!



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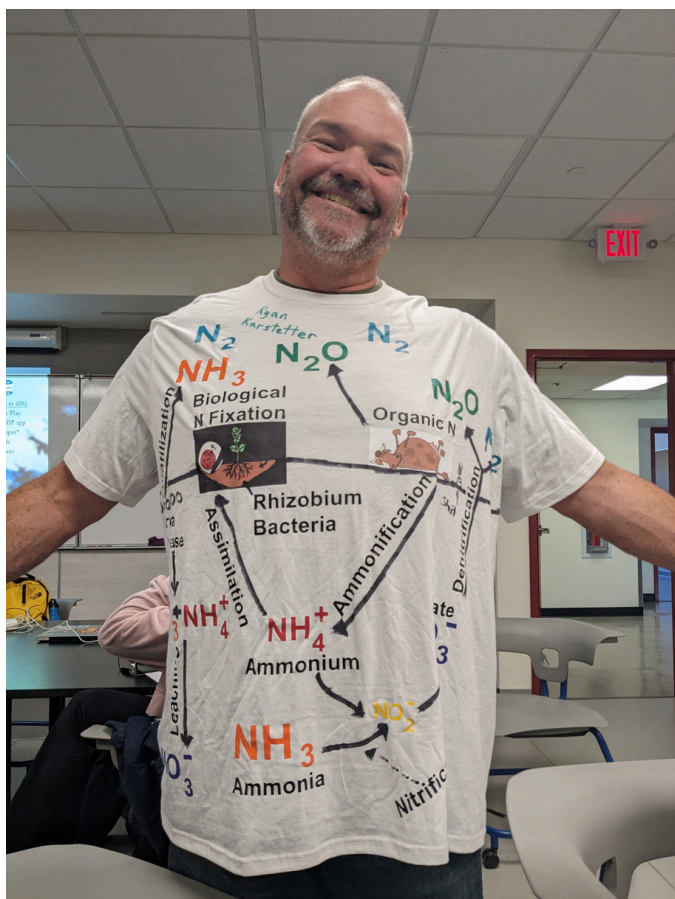
# COA Faculty of the Month

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The September faculty member of the month is **Mac Burgess of the PSPP department!**

Dr. Burgess was nominated for his commitment to helping students be involved and his willingness to go above and beyond to create an environment of belonging, including organizing trips and giving farm tours.

Congratulations, Dr. Burgess!



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# Awards and Achievements

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- Two past MSU faculty were recognized by the Bozeman Daily Chronicle in September: **Gretchen Rupp (LRES)** and **George Haynes (DAEE)** were chosen for the Ninth Annual Prime Awards, honoring those in our community who make a difference. Congratulations Gretchen and George, and thank you for your tireless support and advocacy!
- MSU faculty were recognized at the national AgInnovation meeting last month for their efforts in research and student support. Congratulations to **Blake Wiedenheft (MCB)** who was recognized with the Western Region Research Innovation Award of Excellence, and **Tracy Dougher and the Indigenous Pathways in Agriculture Program**, who received the organizations Diversity, Equity and Inclusion group award!
- **Marsha A. Goetting**, MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist, and **Jennifer Munter**, Assistant Director, MSU Extension Nutrition Education Program, were selected to present about their Alzheimer's Storybook program at the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Conference in Tucson.

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# Upcoming Events

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- It's **Homecoming Week**, Bobcats! The COA will be hosting a meet + greet with our honoree, Dr. Noelle Cockett, and a parade watch party in downtown Bozeman. The full schedule of events is available at [montana.edu/homecoming](http://montana.edu/homecoming)!
- **Bair Ranch Seminar Series**: Jameson Brennan of South Dakota State University will present "Precision Technologies on Extensive Beef Production Systems" **Oct. 10 at noon** in ABB 134 and via Webex.

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# Upcoming Events

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- The PSPP department will host MAES research seminars for anyone interested in learning about ongoing projects. The complete list of seminars is below.
  - Jessica Kansman: “Behavioral-Based Management of Insect Pests,” **Oct. 11, 3:30 p.m.**
  - Janak Joshi: “Multifaceted Approach to Mitigate Potato Diseases,” **Oct. 17, 8 a.m.**
  - Qing Yan: “Plant-Associated Bacteria and Plant Health,” **Oct. 17, 1 p.m.**
  - Jamie Sherman: “Barley Breeding and Genetics,” **Oct. 23, 1 p.m.**
  - 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.**



Save the date! Celebrate Ag 2024 will be held **Nov. 4-9** on the MSU campus. All COA faculty and staff should plan to attend. Find the full schedule and more information at [\*\*ag.montana.edu/celebrateag/\*\*](https://ag.montana.edu/celebrateag/)



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# Recent Events

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- Dr. Tracy Sterling and Dr. Diane Debinski led a 3-day immersion for doctoral students in **LRES 593: Challenges in Ecology and Environmental Science** in late September. The course provided a common starting point and cohort-building experience for students in the Ecology & Environmental Sciences cross-college PhD program. Students worked to develop the vocabulary, peer group and professional skills to support an interdisciplinary approach to challenges in ecology and environmental sciences. To further explore these issues, the course focused topics including climate change, water quantity and quality, managing landscapes for multiple objectives and systems thinking. Students attended excursions to meet with researchers, land managers, non-governmental organizations and landowners who have been tackling “grand challenges” within the Greater Yellowstone region.



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# Publications and Funding Opportunities

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## Recent Publications

- **Hayes Goosey**, Gabrielle E Blanchette, David E Naugle: “Pollinator response to livestock grazing: implications for rangeland conservation in sagebrush ecosystems,” Journal of Insect Science.
- **Jack T. Nance, Hayes B. Goosey**: “Spring Activity of Dung Beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) Associated with Cattle Dung in Central and Eastern Montana.” Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society.
- **Leipold, E. A.**, C. N. Gower, and **L. McNew**: “Using an ensemble approach to predict habitat of Dusky Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) in Montana, USA,” Avian Conservation and Ecology.
- **Christian J. Posbergh**, Asha M Miles, Natasha L Pettifor, Michael L Thonney, “Artificially reared ewes cannot be distinguished from natural reared ewes based on observed maternal behavior or lamb weaning weights,” Journal of Animal Science.

## Recent Grants

- **Anna Schweiger, Seth Walk, Stephan Warnat**: “Early prediction of maple syrup quality using carbon dynamics spectroscopy.”
- **Mosley, J.** “Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership: Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring. The Nature Conservancy.”

## Funding Opportunities

- Western SARE 2025 Graduate Student Research and Education Grant Call for Proposals **is open now**.
- Western SARE 2025 Professional + Producer Call for Proposals **closes October 22**.
- Western SARE 2025 Framer Rancher Call for Proposals **closes October 23**.
- Western SARE 2025 Local Education and Demonstration Call for Proposals **closes November 6**.
- Western SARE 2025 Professional Development Program Call for Proposals **closes November 6**.



## COA Teaching and Equipment Grants

The **2025 Teaching and Equipment Grant Program** is now accepting proposals. In order to maximize equipment needed for the summer, we will work with awardees to ensure these needs are met with FY25 funding. The funding will be for FY25 only, so equipment must be ordered by 1 June, 2025. Funding is available for both MAES and non-MAES programs. 2025 Teaching & Equipment Grant proposals must have Department Head signature prior to submission. Priority will be given to research equipment with a shared use plan in development by the time of the submission and to those with matching funds from external sources. Full details, the application form, and instructions for submission are available on the COA website.

## COA Minigrant

The **2025 Minigrant Program** is now accepting proposals. Funds are available to support capacity-building research aligned with strategic goals. These funds are intended to support new investigators, interdisciplinary exploratory research, cross-department collaborations and to encourage collaborations between on-campus faculty and Research Centers to address agriculture and natural resource related challenges. Faculty and Research Faculty who are approved by OSP to serve as a PI may submit a project proposal. Faculty from other colleges and institutions may be involved in the proposal, but funds may only be expended by and for faculty in the College of Agriculture. Proposals should directly benefit the goals of the College of Agriculture and its Strategic Plan. Preference will be given to junior TT and NTT faculty. All junior faculty are encouraged to apply to this program as a source of seed money for preliminary data collection or proof of concept to leverage for external grants. Submission deadline is Monday, October 21, 2024 Additional details and application instructions can be found on the College of Agriculture website.

**For questions or assistance with the Minigrant or Teaching and Equipment Grant programs, please contact Rebecca Falks at [Rebecca.falks@montana.edu](mailto:Rebecca.falks@montana.edu)**