

# MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF **AGRICULTURE**



*“Serving Montana Agriculture and  
growing prosperity under the Big Sky.”*

ANNUAL PLAN

FY2026

The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) operates more than 30 programs, many funded entirely through user fees. These include regulatory programs that protect producers, consumers, and the environment, as well as development and marketing programs to foster growth in Montana agriculture. The Director's Office also serves as an advocate for Montana agriculture in national and international forums and works to make the department's programs accessible to the public. Our vision is to protect Montana producers, maintain and develop viable markets for farmers and ranchers and promote Montana's high-quality Ag products throughout the world.

## AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The **Agricultural Development Division** (ADD) is responsible for administering programs that promote and enhance Montana agriculture. Within the division are three bureaus: the Wheat and Barley Bureau, the Agricultural Finance, Trade, and Development Bureau, and the Montana State Grain Laboratory Bureau.

The **Montana Wheat and Barley Bureau** (MWBC) typically hosts 15 foreign trade delegations and 60 visitors from seven nations that have an interest in purchasing Montana grains each year. The Committee invests in research and represents producers on trade policy, transportation issues, and market development.

The **Agricultural Finance, Trade, and Development Bureau** (FTD) is responsible for market enhancement and development through direct market development activities, grants, seed capital loan investments in new and innovative products or process, marketing, and product development. Marketing and agri-business development personnel work closely with individuals and organizations to promote and enhance our agriculture industry.

The **Montana State Grain Laboratory Bureau** (SGL) completes tests for grade, protein, germination, falling numbers and vomitoxin for wheat, barley, canola, dry peas, lentils, and various other commodities. Both the Great Falls and Plentywood facilities are authorized to completed official inspections for all domestic and foreign exports as an official agency of the Federal Grain Inspection Service under the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service.

## AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES DIVISION

The **Agricultural Sciences Division** (ASD) provides agricultural, public, and environmental services and protection through administration of the Montana laws and rules. Cooperative agreements with the USDA, Food and Drug Administration and Environmental Protection Agency provide services and jurisdiction in areas of interstate and international movement of plant materials, produce and feed; enforcement of FDA rules to prevent transmission of BSE disease in cattle; and the regulation of pesticide sales, use and production in Montana. The Agricultural Sciences Division contains three bureaus.

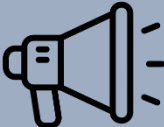
The **Agricultural Services Bureau** (ASB) provides services and enforcement of laws related to pesticide use and ground water monitoring as well as funding suppression efforts for weed control.

The **Commodity Services Bureau** (CSB) provides field inspection services and enforcement of laws and regulations related to nurseries, produce, feed, seed, fertilizer, grain, and organic certification, as well as overall management of field operations, quarantines, import and export certifications, and insect and disease surveys.

The **Analytical Laboratory Bureau** (ALL) provides chemical analytical services for feeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and cannabis out of the analytical lab in Bozeman, MT.

## CENTRAL SERVICES DIVISION

The **Central Services Division** (CSD) provides accounting, budgeting, computer programming, fiscal management, human resources, payroll and benefits, public information and communications, purchasing, property control, records management, systems analysis, training, website administration and legal support to all programs within the department.

  Strategic Outcome  #1	<b>PROMOTE MONTANA AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS</b>	
	Montana’s commodities such as wheat, barley, pulse crops, and beef are known throughout the world for their superior quality. By showcasing value-added ag businesses, expanding trade promotion activities focused on South America while continuing to foster trade delegation relationships around the globe, we will build on the promotional growth and marketing of Montana’s high-quality agriculture industry and products.	
	<b>Key Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit and showcase role of innovative value-added ag businesses. 83% achieved with 5 more media stops planned for 2025.</li> <li>• Expand Hola Montana trade promotion activities in South America. 3 new commodities/products brought to market(s) by Oct. 1, 2026.</li> <li>• Develop a holistic promotion strategy around Montana proteins. Creation of the “Montana Protein Profile” marketing and development campaign. Implementation by Dec. 31, 2025.</li> </ul>

  Strategic Outcome  #2	<b>CULTIVATE NEW INDUSTRY RELATIONSHIPS</b>	
	One of the many special characteristics about the Montana agriculture industry is the people. Through the implementation of an economic based outreach strategy, we will create and strengthen industry relationships that can directly affect our producer’s bottom lines. Furthermore, the MDA will continue to participate and lead conversations at ag-related events and conferences.	
	<b>Key Measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect with Ag businesses to explore new economic opportunities for Montana. Start conversations with 10 top executives by Dec. 31, 2025.</li> <li>• Participate in the 2016 Governor’s Local Food and Agriculture Innovation Summit. MDA has hosted every 10 years since 2006. Increase the percentage of Montana produced food consumption by 10% in 2026.</li> </ul>



## Strategic Outcome

# #3

### INCREASE SERVICE OFFERING AWARENESS

Through highlighting and showing the “boots on the ground” work of our inspectors, the department continuously works towards creating transparent awareness and offering a greater range of services. From fertilizer and feed to apiary and nursery inspection, the MDA plans to grow on our already trusted, high-quality service offerings.

#### Key Measures

- Strategically promote the Ag Sciences Division (ASD) programming. Complete 6 features on ASD programming by Dec. 31, 2025. 50% complete as of Sept. 1, 2025.