**Agricultural Sciences Division Goal**

To provide agricultural producers and consumers, commodity and environmental protection through the administration of the Montana laws and rules in the areas of pesticides, groundwater monitoring, noxious weed control, feeds, fertilizers, seed, anhydrous ammonia, grain commodity dealers, commodity warehousemen, nurseries, produce, mint, honey bees, alfalfa leafcutting bees and other services including organic certification, pest management consulting, laboratory analysis, pest surveys, export certification and quarantines.

**Agricultural Services Bureau Objectives by Program**

**Alfalfa Leafcutting Bee Registration and Certification Program**

* Provide timely and efficient laboratory services to alfalfa seed growers.
* Register alfalfa leafcutting bee beekeepers to protect producers.
* Analyze 29 leafcutting bee samples annually for bee health and presence of diseases and parasites.

**Apiculture Program**

* Protect the apiary and pollination industry by minimizing the spread of pests and diseases of honeybees.
* Protect the nectar and pollen supply through registration and inspection of apiaries.
* Register 6,464 apiary site locations per year.
* Conduct 25 apiary colony health inspections per year.

**Education and Assessment Program**

* Provide training and certification for pesticide applicators.
* Provide technical assistance for vertebrate pest management issues faced by producers and land managers on a local, regional and statewide scale.
* Provide initial pesticide applicator training to 150-200 new pesticide applicators.
* Provide over 20 continuing education virtual trainings and awarding 2,165 applicator credits.

**Groundwater Management Program**

* Monitor groundwater and the environment for adverse effects from the use or misuse of agricultural chemicals.
* Provide for education and training of agricultural product applicators and the public regarding groundwater protection, agricultural chemical use, and the use of alternative agricultural methods.
* Monitor 27 permanent groundwater monitoring wells.

**Licensing and Registration Program**

* Provide application and licensing assistance to pesticide applicators.
* Provide registration of pesticide products.
* License 11,628 pesticide applicators.
* License 12,271 pesticide products.

**Noxious Weed Management Program**

* Assist county weed districts, local governments, tribes and landowners in halting the spread of listed weeds through management of the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund and other weed funds.
* Provide technical expertise and general assistance on noxious weed information and noxious weed management techniques.
* Work with university researchers, educators and others to expand weed control options and coordinate biological weed control efforts.
* Award over $2 million on Noxious Weed Management Trust fund grants to all 56 counties and 5 tribal partners.

**Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Program**

* Prevent the spread of noxious weeds by coordinating efforts to grow and certify forage that is free of regionally designated noxious weeds and seeds.
* Promote forage products that are free of Montana designated noxious weed seeds and regionally designated noxious weeds and seeds.
* Certify 8,000-10,000 acres of certified weed free forage.

**Nursery Program**

* Protect consumers by inspecting and assuring the quality of nursery stock.
* Minimize the risk of interstate and intrastate movement of pests and diseases on nursery stock.
* License over 950 plant nurseries.

**Pesticide Management Program**

* Ensure that pesticides are available for agricultural production and public health needs.
* Ensure compliance with the Montana Pesticides Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.
* License 3,233 pesticide businesses.

**Pesticide Disposal and Pesticide Container Recycling Programs**

* Provide opportunities for applicators and the public to dispose of waste pesticides.
* Conduct a pesticide container recycling program to reduce landfill demand.
* Provide a means for recycling of container types for which an acceptable disposal method is not otherwise available.
* Recycle 25,000-40,000 pounds of pesticide container plastic.

**Commodity Service Bureau Objectives by Program**

**Agricultural Commodity Dealer and Commodity Warehouse Program**

* Mitigate possible financial loss for agricultural producers when marketing commodities.
* Ensure compliance with the Montana Agricultural Warehouse Standards Act.
* Ensure the security of Montana grown commodities held in safekeeping for Montana producers and owners.
* License 275 Commodity Dealers and Warehouses.

**Anhydrous Ammonia Program**

* Promote the effective and safe use of anhydrous ammonia by persons handling the product and for surrounding communities.
* Review and approve new sites for anhydrous ammonia facilities.

**Commercial Feed Program**

* Promote the safety and effectiveness of commercial feeds and feed ingredients for livestock and companion animals.
* Ensure that consumers receive only quality feed products made from safe and approved feed ingredients and that nutritional claims are met.
* Ensure that commercial feeds are properly labeled so that consumers are adequately informed.
* License 11,021 specialty and pet feed products.
* License 1,154 feed dealers and manufacturers.

**Commercial Fertilizer Program**

* Promote the safety and effectiveness of commercial fertilizers.
* Ensure that consumers receive only quality fertilizer products made from safe and approved ingredients and that nutrient claims are met.
* Ensure that commercial fertilizers are properly labeled so that consumers are adequately informed.
* License 5,683 specialty fertilizer and soil amendment products.
* License 658 Fertilizer dealers/manufacturers.

**Organic Program**

* Provide professional, efficient and objective certification services to producers and handlers of organic products.
* Facilitate the growth and success of organic agriculture in Montana.
* Disseminate appropriate information to Montana organic growers and handlers.
* Certify 310 organic handlers and producers.

**Produce Program**

* Protect consumers by assuring that produce is properly labeled and graded.
* Facilitate the export of Montana grown produce.
* License 283 produce dealers.
* Certify over 32,000,000 pounds of seed potatoes.
* Provide Produce Safety grower trainings.

**Seed Program**

* Protect purchasers of seed by ensuring that seed is truthfully labeled and meets germination and purity standards.
* Resolve disputes in cases of non-performance of agricultural seed.
* Prevent the spread of restricted and noxious weed seeds when agricultural seeds are sold.
* License 731 seed dealers.

**License and Registration Program**

* Provide assistance and ensure entities license, register products and pay assessments as statutorily required for the feed, fertilizer, produce and seed programs.

**Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program**

* Protect Montana agriculture from invasive pests.
* Preserve markets and facilitate the marketing of commodities.
* Prevent economic loss through monitoring and detection of pests.
* Conduct over 2,000 annual pest survey unique data points.

**Export Certification Program**

* Minimize the risk of international movement of pests by providing export certification services.
* Facilitate the export of Montana agricultural commodities.
* Issue over 1,400 federal phytosanitary certificates for international exports.
* Issue over 2,000 certificates of origin for grain to Canada.

**Laboratory Bureau Objectives**

**Agricultural Commodity Dealer and Commodity Warehouse Program**

* Provide reliable, efficient analytical testing services in support of Montana agriculture.
* Serve the analytical testing needs of the department's feed, fertilizer, pesticide enforcement and agriculture chemical ground water programs and Montana State University Agriculture Experiment Stations.
* Provide over 60,000 unique chemical compound results annually.