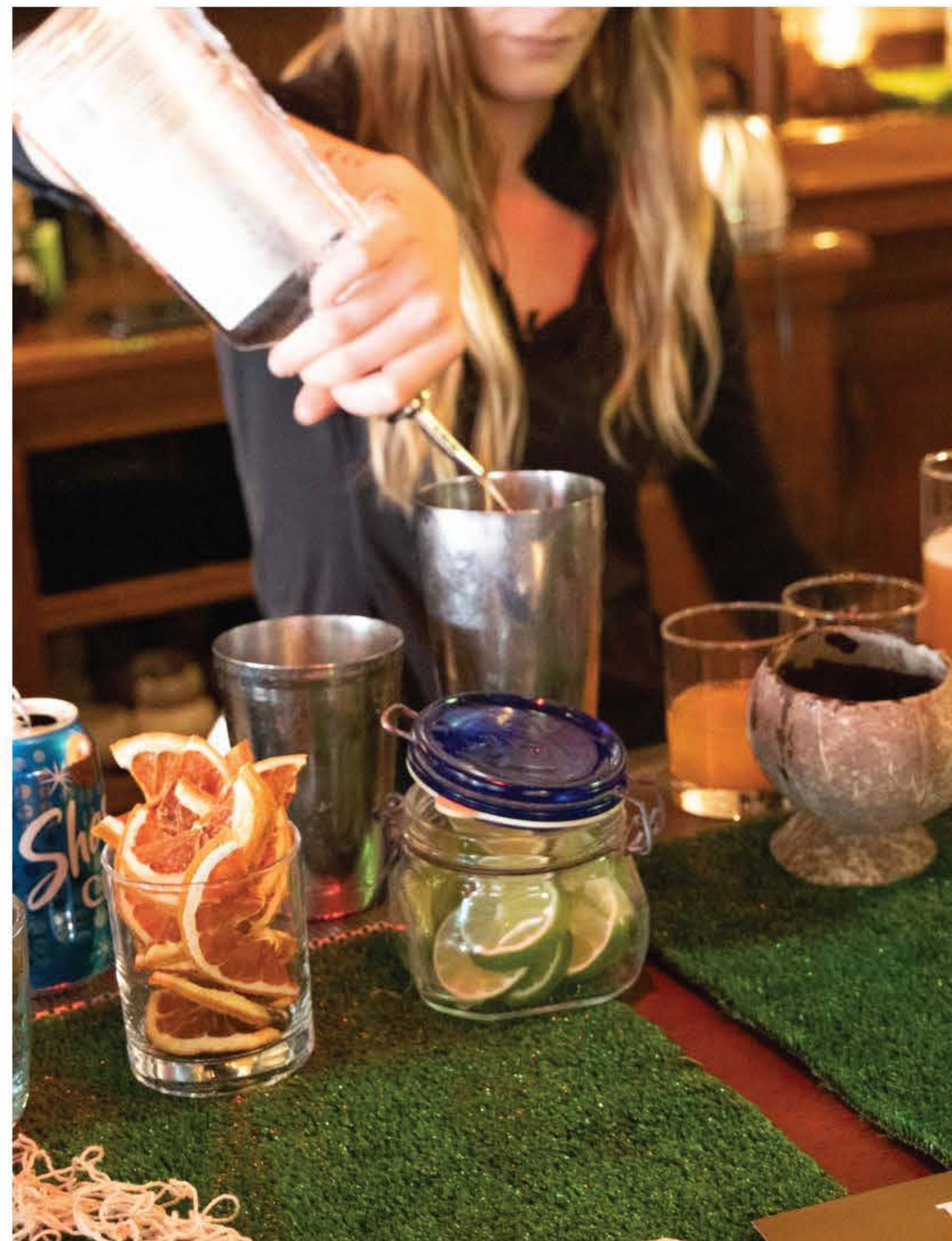




## Value-Added Ag April Feature: Montgomery Distillery

The Montana Department of Agriculture visited Montgomery Distillery in Missoula, Montana to highlight their use of family grown Montana grain, friendly atmosphere, and their focus on small batch high quality spirits.

***"We strive to highlight and celebrate those Montana businesses that are modeling innovative and creative practices to add value to their product as well as Montana agriculture. It is very impressive what Montgomery Distillery has accomplished thus far. They continue to add value to a family based ag business with Montana roots 5 generations deep,"***  
Director Clark said.







Montgomery Distillery (Missoula, MT) was established in 2012. Their family farm in Heath, Montana has been in the family going on 90 years. It sits at the geographical center of the state on one of the largest spring creeks in Montana, an ambling trout stream which also irrigates their wheat and rye.

Along with sourcing local Montana grain, Montgomery Distillery boasts being one of the few distilleries in the state to use 100% Montana ingredients in many of their spirits.

<https://www.montgomerydistillery.com/>







## Montana Wheat & Barley Update: Montana Crop Progress Report - April 2023

The past week brought colder temperatures and snowfall to many areas in the State of Montana, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

According to the National Weather Service Forecast Office, temperatures ranged from 45 degrees to 22 degrees across the State, while there was 0.01 to 2.1 inches of precipitation observed in the State for the week ending April 23, 2023.

Drought conditions improved slightly in areas experiencing moderate and severe drought. However, overall drought conditions continued to persist.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor published on April 18, 2023, 66.7 percent of the State was experiencing dry or drought conditions, down from 70.9 percent the previous week.

Twenty-six-and-a-half percent of the State was rated as abnormally dry. Thirty-five percent of the State was rated as being in moderate drought, up one percentage point from the previous week.

While 5.3 percent of the State was rated as experiencing severe drought conditions, down from 8.0 percent the previous week.

Dawson County reported that it was too wet to work in the fields. Valley County reported that they had lots of flooding and some colder weather.

Prairie County reported that they had some warmer weather over the last week, which encouraged their winter wheat to begin breaking dormancy, although reports indicated the possibility of significant amounts of winter-killed wheat.



# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS REPORT

USDA / April 23, 2023



## Spring Wheat

5% Planted

Planting Delays



## Winter Wheat

38% Good/Excellent

72% Breaking Dormancy

*Looking Very Good!*



## Barley Report

6% Planted

Planting Delays Continue



## Weather Impacts

Cool Temperatures

Increased Moisture

Too Wet For Field Work



WORKING FOR THE BEST



Crop Progress Report as of April 23rd, 2023



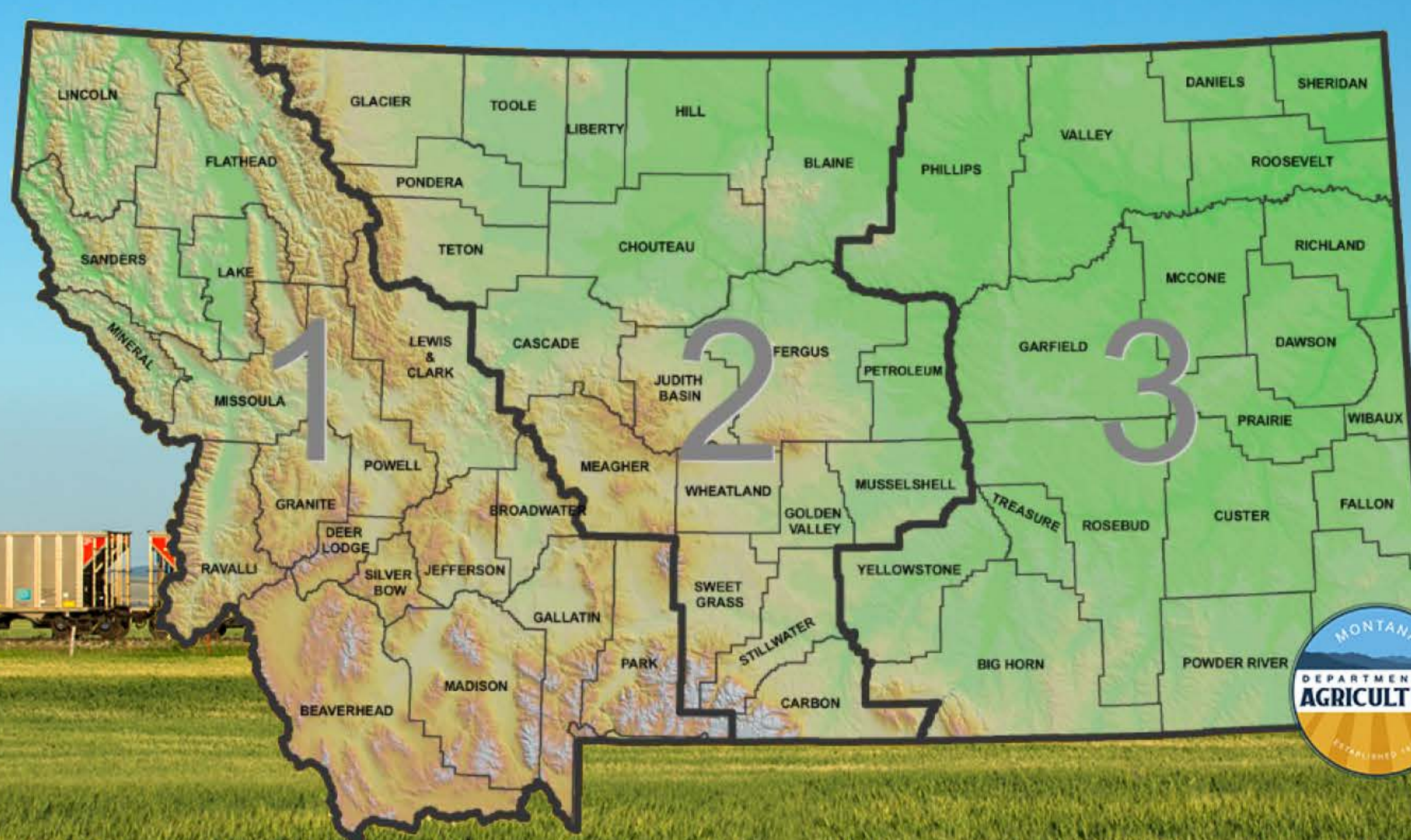


## Annual Pesticide Waste Collection Events

The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) is facilitating pesticide disposal events in its Western District (Kalispell, Hamilton, Helena, Three Forks) during the week of September 18th.

Annual pesticide waste collection events have collected close to 780,000 pounds of pesticide waste from over 1,800 participants since the program's inception in 1994.

## Waste Pesticide Disposal Districts



## 2023 Pesticide Waste Collection Dates and Locations

- Tuesday, September 19th- Kalispell, MT
- Wednesday, September 20th- Hamilton, MT
- Thursday, September 21st- Helena, MT
- Friday, September 22nd- Three Forks, MT

All Participants must pre-register by September 14, 2023 on the Montana Department of Agriculture's website: <https://agr.mt.gov/Topics/N-P/Pesticide-Pages/Pesticide-Disposal-Pages/Pesticide-Waste-Disposal-Program/Participant-Registration>

The MDA program was designed to assist individuals with disposing of any pesticides that are unusable as originally intended, or cannot be used for any other purpose, in an environmentally responsible way. In effect, the pesticide and waste disposal program protects Montana's ecosystems and groundwater, as well as families, pets, livestock and drinking water from potentially hazardous materials.

Registrations for pesticide waste collection events are accepted on a first come, first-serve basis. There is no charge for the first 200 pounds of material; amounts over 200 pounds are assessed at \$1.00 per pound, and products are weighed on site. Additional fees may apply to pesticides with dioxins or dioxin precursors.





## 2023 Ag Research Center Field Days

Through a network of seven Research Centers plus facilities and scientists at the MSU central campus in Bozeman, the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) conducts basic and applied research problems that address Montana's agricultural and natural resource economies. MAES research spans the depth and breadth of animal health, animal science, agronomy, horticulture, range sciences, agricultural economics, plant sciences, and natural resource and pest management.

Date	Time	Research Center	Location
Wednesday, June 14, 2023	11:30 a.m.	<a href="#">Southern Agriculture Research Center</a>	Huntley
Wednesday, June 28, 2023	8:15 a.m.	<a href="#">Central Agricultural Research Center</a>	Moccasin
Thursday, June 29, 2023	3:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Northern Agricultural Research Center</a>	Havre
Thursday, July 6, 2023	10:00 a.m.	<a href="#">Western Triangle Agricultural Research Center</a>	Conrad
Tuesday, July 11, 2023	8:00 a.m.	<a href="#">Eastern Agricultural Research Center</a>	Sidney
Thursday, July 13, 2023	11:00 a.m.	<a href="#">Northwestern Agricultural Research Center</a>	Creston
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	8:00 a.m.	<a href="#">Post Farm</a>	Bozeman
Thursday, July 27, 2023	4:30 p.m.	<a href="#">Western Agricultural Research Center</a>	Corvallis

More information at: <https://agresearch.montana.edu/fielddays.html>



## Montana State Grain Lab Update:

April brought quite a bit more snow and ice for Grain Lab staff to drive and work in while collecting official samples for inspection. It was yet another month with at least one day completely void of out-of-town sampling trips due to snow and ice. There is currently very good water flow through the Black Eagle Dam in Great Falls but threats of flooding have subsided along the highline sampling routes. More moisture is needed in nearly all the areas that are typically served by the Lab.





Inspectors and Samplers collected a couple hundred official samples this month with Lentils and Peas being the most common. Other samples collected included Canola, Flax, Chickpeas, and even 28 rail cars of Spring Wheat in Glasgow that was destined for Mexico. The lab inspected and graded a total of 800 official and submitted samples this month. It is our slow time of year for inspecting samples and our busy time for training, testing, equipment maintenance, and harvest preparations. Some employees are continuing to train for additional grading licenses and will be testing soon. Obtaining a grading license for just a single commodity can take from four months to over a year, depending on the commodity.

The lab's newest employees in Plentywood and Great Falls are doing very well. Dalton Embler is the Ag Tech in Plentywood who has now received his federal sampling license and is making solo trips around the area to collect official samples. Dalton is already a big help to Patti and Kailynn who have been on their own to run the lab several times this year. Stephanie Cordeiro is the new part-time administrative specialist in Great Falls. Stephanie is quickly learning her role and has managed to run the office on her own for a few days. She has also started learning other lab processes in order to assist inspectors when practical.

Kari Schiller, the Grain Lab Coordinator in Great Falls, recently attended the annual AAGIWA meeting in Vegas. The meeting was held for all state and private agencies authorized by the USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service. There were several speakers discussing what's new in grain inspection during the two-day conference. Kari had a good question and answer session with all of our federal partners in attendance and was also able to speak with some of our vendors and other inspection agencies. Sunny warm weather was a nice bonus.







## MDA's Picture of the Month

### Cow Crossing by Weston Merrill

The story behind the picture started the night before when I was checking on the cows on the Musselshell near Lavina, MT.

We were just getting started and had 10 calves or so on the ground. When feeding that evening I noticed we were missing 30-35 head of cows. The river had risen a little due to some much needed spring moisture and was high enough that I would not cross it but that didn't stop the cows. I located them on the north side of the river chasing the first sprigs of green grass. It was late in the day and nobody looked like they were going to be dropping a calf that night so I decided to tackle getting them back across the river the next morning. Mother nature had a different idea.

When I returned to the river early with the landowner and my partner in the cows, Dan Wells, it had risen over night and was now at the brim! How on earth would we get them back to the south side of the river? Plan B was trailing them to the neighbor and hauling them around through the town of Lavina to come in to the place from the south. That would've been a challenge with all of the mud. We fed the main group strategically close to the river to try and coax the girls across but to no avail. I parked the tractor with a bale at what I thought was the next best place to cross. The girls came to the waters edge but the high water deterred them from taking the swim. We decided to leave the tractor there and make the trek around to the railroad access on the north side of the river and see if I could push the cows across. I really didn't expect this to work.....cows can be stubborn when you want them to cross a small creek let alone a river that was full. However, this was Plan A and we were going to give it a shot!

As we pulled up to the cows standing on the bank we got out of the side by side to gently nudge them across the river. There were not having it and began to get anxious.....we backed off and let them dictate the next move. They started east back toward where we fed the cows on just across the river. I instructed Dan to take a wide berth and get around them so they couldn't just keep going east. He did a great job and stopped their movement just as they got across from the main herd. It was a miracle as the lead cow decided to leap from the bank to cross the river! She was followed by the next cow and so on.....as you can see from the picture they literally had to swim. The power of the herd is amazing, once the lead cow went every other cow followed in behind her.



## MDA On the Road & Where to Catch Us

- Argentina Inbound Trade Mission - Various Locations, MT | April 29 - May 7
- Montana Ranch Tour - Big Fork, MT | May 4
- Western Ag & Environmental Law Conference - Reno, NV | May 4-5
- Western Plant Board Annual Meeting - Reno, NV | May 1-5
- MWBC @ Gallatin Farm Fair - Bozeman, MT | May 9 - 11
- ASB Field Staff Meeting - Butte, MT | May 11
- MWBC Meeting with Pasta Montana - Great Falls, MT | May 12
- Hard Red Spring Wheat Meeting - Fargo, ND | May 16
- NASS Meeting - Billings, MT | May 16
- Chilean Inbound Trade Mission - Various Locations, MT | May 13 - 21





## What We Have Been (responsibly) Drinking Lately:

We like to get our “Drink of the Month” into different hands around the department.

Local legend and Rural Development, Farm & Ranch Loan Manager, Walt Anseth, took the time to share with us his, “No Frill, No Flare” choice for April.

“To say I’m old school might be an understatement.

I am a boring beer drinker. The simpler the better. That is why I stick to Coors Light.

On a hot summer day, it hits the spot. Or in the case of the past 6 months of winter, it will too.

No frill no flare. **Cowboy style!**”

During the June 2021 value-added visit to Miller-Coors Elevator in Power, MT, participants learned that 1 in every 3 cans of Coors Light uses Montana malt barley. Proudly supporting Montana farmers.



## What We've Been Listening To Recently:



Chief Financial Officer, Cody Pearce's self titled, "Cody Ellsworth Carter Syder Pearce" Playlist for your May listening pleasure.

1. Dwight Yoakam - Streets of Bakersfield
2. The Chicks - Wide Open Spaces
3. Brooks & Dunn - Red Dirt Road
4. Merle Haggard - Big City
5. Lauren Alaina - Road Less Traveled
6. Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson - Good Hearted Woman
7. Maren Morris - My Church
8. Tim McGraw - The Cowboy in Me
9. Miranda Lambert - The House That Built Me
10. Florida Georgia Line, Tim McGraw - May We All



## We'd Love Your Feedback



Agriculture and in specific, Montana Agriculture is all about community. We thought, one does not have to be directly involved with agriculture to be apart of this community. Thus, our external facing monthly newsletter was created. It is meant to inform, inspire, educate, and reach our agricultural community hand out to whomever would like to be a part of the happenings here at the MDA.

Like to see a section that we didn't cover this month? Let us know! We'd love to hear from you.

Until then, happy May Friends!