



## MDA Highlights SporeAttic Gourmet Mushroom Farm in Bozeman, Montana

Director Clark and representatives from the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) continued their focus on highlighting the diversity in Montana's agricultural ecosystem yesterday where they visited SporeAttic, a gourmet mushroom farm in Bozeman, Montana.

SporeAttic came to market in October of 2020. In the past three years, founder and owner Ben Deuling and has become known around the local community and beyond for his gourmet specialty mushrooms. Just a year after running the farm, SporeAttic was producing and selling up to 500 lbs. of mushrooms a week to local chefs, grocery stores, and at farmer's markets.

With focuses on efficiency, staff, and expansion, they have been able to produce nearly 1000 lbs. of mushrooms a week that are delivered to various customers around the Bozeman and Big Sky area.



*“Mushroom farming is a very DIY venture,”* said Deuling. *“We have been able to build an amazing community here in Bozeman that is so supportive which has encouraged our expansion.”* SporeAttic partnered with Three Hearts Farm to build their mushroom cultivation facility that has been crucial to their success.



Director Clark spoke with Deuling about future expansion plans, current bottlenecks, and the local appetite for these specialty gourmet mushrooms. *“We are consistently impressed with the ag innovation across Montana. From mushroom farmers to large conventional operations, Montana has a diverse agricultural ecosystem, and our producers of all kinds continue to push the envelope,”* said Director Clark.



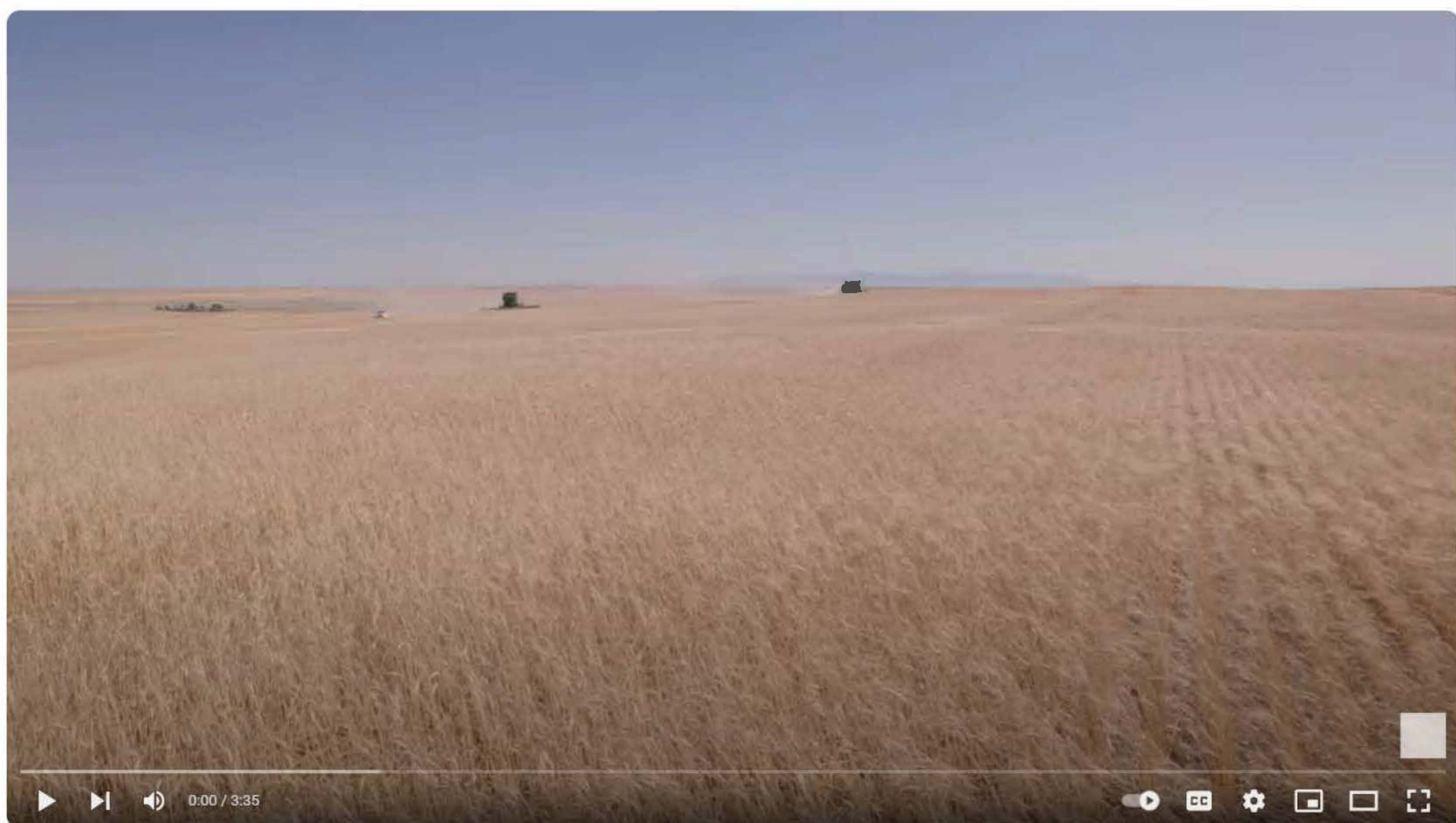
Learn more at: <https://sporeattic.com/>



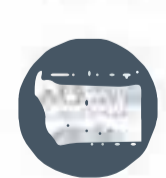
## Montana Wheat & Barley Update: *Working for the Best*

Part of the mission for the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee (MWBC) is to cultivate markets by building trade relationships, through educational outreach, and displaying Montana values. This December, they launched their new, “Working for the Best” video to assist in their promotional and trade activities.

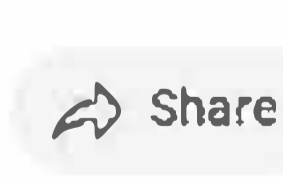
Give it a look below!



Working for the Best

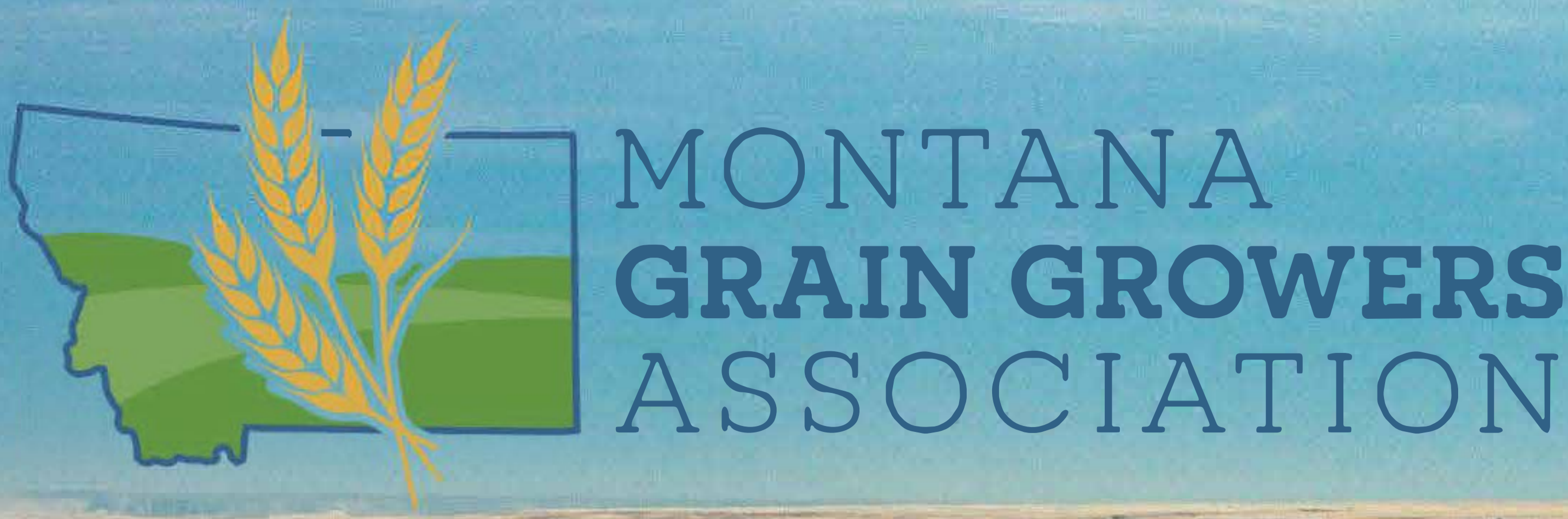


Montana Wheat & Barley Committee  
319 subscribers



Watch “Working for the Best” on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPB4vjB7kTU>



## MGGA Nominates Nathan Keane to National Association of Wheat Growers

Montana Grain Growers Association nominated current Past President Nathan Keane from Loma, to the National Association of Wheat Growers as Secretary.

Over the years, while at Montana Grain Growers Association, Keane has served as a board member, chaired the Domestic Policy Committee, chaired the 2022 Annual Convention & Trade Show, and just wrapped up his Presidential year with a trip with Governor Gianforte to Taiwan earlier this fall.

During his time as a board member of the National Association of Wheat Growers, Nathan has served on the Environment and Research Committee, and currently sits on the Domestic and Trade Policy Committee, Executive Committee and the Special Climate and Sustainability Committee. Over the last two years, he has been able to bring forward Montana based policies and challenges and been part of shaping National Association of Wheat Growers policy.



Montana Grain Growers Association proudly nominates Past President Nathan Keane as Secretary of the National Association of Wheat Growers. He will campaign through the spring and an election will be completed in March at Annual Convention during Commodity Classic in Houston, Texas. *"It has been an honor to work with such a strong leader who is passionate about farming and ag policy,"* Montana Grain Growers Association President Heilig said. *"Nathan has led a strong charge that has positively impacted not only the association but farm policy for Montana farmers. We look forward to Nathan being able to help shape national policy for farmers across the country,"* said Heilig.



## Governor Gianforte Encourages Support for Montana Farmers and Ranchers with Disabilities

On the 10th day of his 12 Days of Giving campaign, Governor Greg Gianforte today encouraged Montanans to support farmers and ranchers living with a disability or illness through the Cutting Fences Foundation (CFF).

“Montana farmers and ranchers feed the world and make our communities stronger,” Gov. Gianforte said. “As our 12 Days of Giving continues, I encourage Montanans to support the Cutting Fences Foundation as they come alongside our producers living with a disability or illness. Together, we can eliminate barriers for farmers, ranchers, and veterans in agriculture.”

Founded in 2021 by Kendra Lewis, CFF is dedicated to serving Montana farmers, ranchers, and veterans in agriculture who are living with a disability or illness through innovative, client-centered, holistic programs.

*“I feel so grateful to get the opportunity to serve a very underserved population and meet their unique needs through resources that were not previously offered in our state,”* said CFF Founder Kendra Lewis. *“None of this would be possible without the support of all of our funders, followers, community partners, and the amazing support that has come from our Montana agricultural community. Thank you all for helping us, help others!”*

Through its AgEquipt Loan Closet, CFF connects producers with specialized, agricultural-specific adaptive equipment, like an Action Trackchair.

Lewis also hosts a podcast through the foundation, inviting farmers, ranchers, and veterans onto the podcast to share how they overcame a hardship, whether that be a farming accident or mental health struggle.

To learn more and donate to the Cutting Fences Foundation, Montanans may visit [cuttingfencesfoundation.net](https://cuttingfencesfoundation.net).



## Montana Department of Agriculture Seeking Seasonal Potato Inspectors

The Montana Department of Agriculture is looking for seasonal potato inspectors interested in working with Agriculture Producers. These positions will begin working in Mid-February and work through May. Hours vary between 10 to 40 hours a week with mileage reimbursement for travel to the jobsite and return. Inspectors will be working outside in the weather with Montana farmers examining potato samples.

Inspector positions are available in Manhattan, Toston, Townsend, Dillon, Twin Bridges, Ronan, and Kalispell.

To apply visit [agr.mt.gov](https://agr.mt.gov) or visit the link listed below.

<https://agr.mt.gov/News/MDA-Seeking-Seasonal-Potato-Inspectors-Dec-2023>

Inspectors play a vital role in assuring the superior quality that Montana seed potatoes are known for throughout the world.



## **MDA On the Road & Where to Catch Us**

- Green Expo - Billings, MT | Jan. 3 - 5
- Sugar Beet & Malt Barley Symposium - Billings, MT | Jan. 9 - 10
- Barley Improvement Conference - San Diego, CA | Jan. 10 - 11
- Young Ag Couples Annual Conference - Helena, MT | Jan. 17 - 18
- U.S. Wheat Board Meeting - Washington, DC | Jan. 22 - 26
- AMTOPP Conference - Anaconda, MT | Jan. 24 - 26
- MABA Annual Conference - Great Falls, MT | Jan. 24 - 26
- Billings Chamber Ag Appreciation Celebration - Billings, MT | Jan. 26
- PNW Wheat Quality Council Meeting - Boise, ID | Jan. 31 - Feb. 2

# Leadership Class of 2024



## Montana Farm Bureau Federation Announces ACE Leadership Class of 2024

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation ACE Leadership Class of 2024 has been finalized. Congratulations to our Communications Officer, Logan Kruse, on his selection for the class of '24.

1. Trina Jo Bradley, Valier
2. Buddy Cheff, Ronan
3. Gary Heibertshausen, Alzada
4. Nick Jerke, Clyde Park
5. Logan Kruse, Helena
6. Meghan Lehman, Joliet
7. Todd Lackman, Miles City
8. Jeremiah Peterson, Bozeman
9. Gwynn Simeniuk, Glasgow
10. Ty Young, Missoula



 **MONTANA  
FARM BUREAU  
FOUNDATION**  
*Investing in the Future of Montana Agriculture*





## **Help Montana State University's College of Agriculture, Montana Agricultural Experiment Station identify and prioritize its research projects.**

The Montana State University (MSU) College of Agriculture, Montana Agricultural Experiment Station is conducting a research survey to learn about what research topics are of the most interest to you and other Montana residents so can meet your needs. MSU thanks you in advance for your participation!

Please follow the link below to the survey:

<https://montana.qualtrics.com/>





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

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

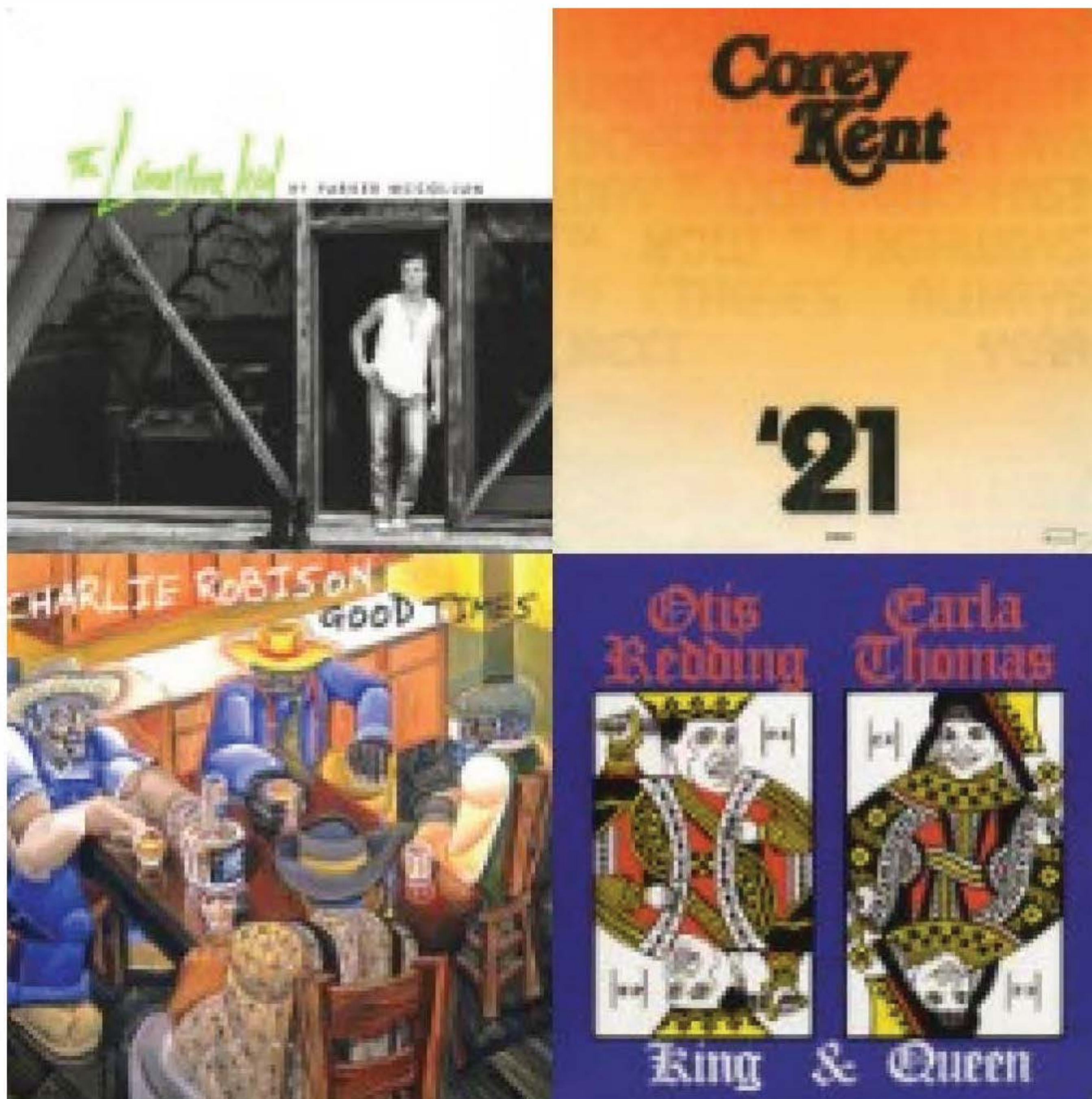
After a month of Christmas parties, gathering with family, and celebrating, there is a thing called “Dry January”. For those out there that need a bit of non-alcoholic drink inspiration while participating in “Dry January”, we’re here for you.

### “The Agua Fresca”

- Muddled Cucumber
  - Lemon
  - Mint
  - Honey
- Optional Ginger Ale



## What We've Been Listening To Recently:



Get Your 2024 Spirit On:

*Happy New Year '24*

1. New Year's Day - Charlie Robison
2. New Year's Resolution - Otis Redding
3. Happy New Year - Parker McCollum
4. There's Always Next Year - Corey Kent
5. Walkin' After Midnight - Patsy Cline
6. Maybe Next Year - Corey Smith
7. Neon Moon - Brooks & Dunn
8. Keep 'Em On They Toes - Brent Cobb
9. Where Rainbows Never Die - The Steeldrivers
10. Let The Rain Come Down - Brent Cobb

## 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 New Year Friends!