



Montana Department of Agriculture Celebrates Quinn Institute Ribbon Cutting in Big Sandy

Director Clark and representatives from the Montana Department of Agriculture continued their focus on highlighting the diversity in Montana’s agricultural ecosystem earlier this week where they joined Bob Quinn to celebrate the grand opening and ribbon cutting at the [Quinn Institute](#) in Big Sandy.

“We need more Bob Quinns in this world,” said Director Christy Clark. “Bob is a true innovator that pushes the boundaries of agriculture. Farmer led research is critical to advancing the ag industry and promotes sustainable yet context-specific solutions.”



The [Quinn Institute](#) combines agricultural research, education, and health care to demonstrate and analyze the connection between good food and good health. Their mission is “to scale up the number of successful regenerative organic producers and demonstrate that agriculture can be both profitable and a force for good.”

Established by Bob Quinn, a 4th generation farmer, scientist, author, and advocate for sustainable farming practices, the Quinn Institute is a “culmination of my life’s work,” said Quinn.

The 700-acres of donated land will serve as the regenerative, organic research spread for various agricultural systems including dryland cropping rotations, native pasture, livestock, and more.

Director Clark and participants took a field tour to learn more about reclaiming saline seeps, dryland cropping, and weed monitoring. The Montana Department of Agriculture applauds Bob Quinn and his commitment to agriculture and community.

Learn more at: <https://quinninstitute.org/>



Montana Department of Agriculture Announces Board Appointments

The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) today announced appointments to the Montana Pulse Crop Committee (MPCC) and Montana Wheat and Barley Committee (MWBC).

The following appointments were announced to the five-member governor appointed Montana Pulse Crop Committee board:

- Chad Forest, Richland: Eastern District. His term will run through July 1, 2027.
- Todd Hansen, Gildford (reappointed): Member At-Large. His term will run through July 1, 2027.
- Brian Aklestad, Vida (reappointed): Member At-Large. His term will run through July 1, 2027.

The Montana Pulse Crop Committee's mission is to Invest in and deliver support for marketing, research, education, and policy development programming that improves return on investment for the pulse producers of Montana.

The following appointments were announced to the seven-member governor appointed Montana Wheat and Barley Committee board:

- Cindy McKamey, Cascade: District V. Her term will run through June 1, 2027.
- Courtney Herzog, Rapelje: District VI. His term will run through June 1, 2027.
- Terry Angvick, Plentywood (reappointed): District I. His term will run through June 1, 2027.

The Montana Wheat & Barley Committee is made up of seven board members appointed by the governor of Montana. These members must be actively involved in farming while they represent producers in seven districts across Montana. In addition to these seven voting directors, there are three non-voting members: Montana's director of the State Department of Agriculture, Montana State University's dean of the College of Agriculture, and a representative of the Montana grain trade.



Montana Department of Agriculture Announces \$21 Million Investment in Montana’s Agricultural Lands

The MDA and Governor Gianforte last week announced the State of Montana received a nearly \$50 million investment in Montana’s working and natural lands from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Montana is one of just 25 recipients across the nation to be awarded funding.

“We’re known in Montana for our innovative spirit and our strong history of conservation,” Gov. Gianforte said. “I’m grateful we worked together to secure this historic investment to improve the resilience of our forests, agriculture industry, and waterways through innovative, incentive-based projects.”

Last year, Gov. Gianforte secured \$3 million in federal planning funds, and charged the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to identify and develop project concepts through a broad public process. As a result of the planning, state agencies will now receive \$49,769,891 to implement many of the projects identified through the process. These projects will boost Montana’s resilience, reduce emissions, and support thriving Montana communities through innovation, not regulation.

Through the investment, the Montana departments of Agriculture (MDA), Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) will support reforestation and wildfire mitigation, the expansion of urban and community forests, coal seam fire identification and mitigation, the reduction of nutrient pollution and nuisance algal blooms, adaptive strategies to improve soil health through grazing management, and incentivize innovation in the cattle and beef industry.

State agency directors welcomed the news and are eager to deliver innovative solutions. “As stewards of our natural resources, DNRC implements forest management that is vital to protect and restore ecosystems while building resiliency to drought and wildfire risk,” said DNRC Director Amanda Kaster. “These funds will bolster our established seedling and forest management programs, while also providing new resources to manage coal seam fires facing Eastern Montana.”

“Montana's farmers and ranchers deserve so much credit for responsibly stewarding Montana's agricultural landscapes, and we are very pleased the importance of producer led conservation practices are recognized,” said MDA Director Christy Clark. “The department, along with our industry partners, are eager participate in this effort to further the implementation of innovative ideas and new technology in agriculture.”

“All Montanans know what it feels like to watch our big skies turn smoky during summer months,” said DEQ Director Sonja Nowakowski. “I am excited to put this funding to work for Montana – to implement projects that will protect our most vulnerable residents from smoke and harmful algae, and help our communities continue to thrive.”

For more information on the program, including a summary of the successful projects, see [here](#).



MDA Reminds Producers to Inform State Hail Insurance Program Following Hail Loss

Deadline to Submit Claims is October 1st, 2024

Bearing in mind recent storms throughout the state, the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) is reminding producers that when there is a hail loss, it is the participating producers’ responsibility to inform the [Hail Insurance Program](#) of the loss within 14 days of the storm. Producers can call, email, or mail/fax in their completed loss forms. Applications for [State Hail Insurance Policy](#) are available through MDA’s [State Hail Insurance Program](#).

Producers can insure crops against hail damage at the maximum coverage rate of \$75 per acre for dryland and \$114 per acre for irrigated land. Rates charged are a percentage of the insured amount and vary by county. A detailed list of rates by county and crop can be found [online](#) by visiting the MDA website. State policies are available for purchase until August 15, 2024.

Producers who previously purchased state hail insurance will receive applications in the mail. Application forms are also available [online](#) or by calling the MDA office. Staff are available to process policies, file claims, and help answer any questions producers may have regarding coverage options. Completed forms can be emailed, mailed, faxed, or used as a reference when contacting the office by phone.

Contact Information:

Montana State Hail Insurance Program
P.O. Box 200201
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: (406) 444-5429
Email: agrhail@mt.gov
Toll Free: 1 (844) 515-1571
Fax: (406) 444-9442

Loss claims are due to the office by October 1, 2024, and must be submitted within two weeks of the hail damage occurrence. Forms are available [online](#) or by request.



MDA to Host Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture Annual Conference 2024

Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA) is comprised of the Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors of Agriculture from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Samoa, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Director Clark, this years WASDA President, is excited to welcome the yearly regional meeting to Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish, Montana in July of 2025. Give our WASDA promo video a look below!



Montana Department of Agriculture - WASDA 2025 Promo - Feeding our Communities, Fueling the Economy

 Montana Department of Agriculture
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More information at: <https://www.nasda.org/about-nasda/regional-associations/wasda/>



MDA On the Road & Where to Catch Us

- WUSATA Spirits Trade Mission - Tokyo, Japan | August 4 - 10
- CAS Prep Pesticide Labels Course - Fort Collins, CO | August 4 - 9
- AAPFCO Annual Summer Meeting - San Antonio, TX | August 4 - 6
- SPC Korean Inbound Trade Team - Great Falls, MT | August 6 - 8
- Nisshin Inbound Trade Team - Great Falls, MT | August 10
- HOLA Montana Inbound Trade Mission - Montana | August 19 - 23
- Japanese Inbound Trade Team - Great Falls, MT | August 25 - 28
- BART / Horticulture Farms Field Day - Bozeman, MT | August 29



Montana Department of Agriculture Announces 2024 Fall Pesticide Waste Collection Events

The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) is facilitating pesticide disposal events in its Central District during the week of September 16th, 2024.

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.

“Montana has very limited options to get rid of pesticide products,” said Carli Davis of the MDA’s Pesticide Disposal and Container Recycling Programs. “This program is one way of assuring the waste product is properly disposed in a manner that is also environmentally friendly.”

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.

2024 Pesticide Waste Collection Dates and Locations:

- Tuesday, September 17th – Havre, MT
- Wednesday, September 18th – Great Falls, MT
- Thursday, September 19th – Lewistown, MT
- Friday, September 20th – Columbus, MT

The pre-registration deadline is September 9th, 2024. 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.

Please visit the Montana Waste Pesticide Disposal Program page or click [HERE](#) to register. For more information, please visit agr.mt.gov/Pesticide-Waste-Disposal-Program or contact Carli Davis at (406) 465-0531.



Montana Department of Agriculture & Montana Pulse Crop Committee Visit Colombia

Words by Deputy Director, Zach Coccoli

June 17: US Embassy Briefing and meeting with Crepes and Waffles Headquarters.

*Note: Don't let the name deceive you: think Panera Bread (but a little nicer). With over 120 restaurants in six countries Crepes y Waffles established as a small French-inspired creperie in Bogota in 1980 and has since become Colombia's most popular restaurant chain and a source of inspiration for entrepreneurs seeking to effect greater societal changes. For example, the company is well known for employing single moms who are heads of households and offering benefits such as health care and housing aid. They also carefully source local ingredients from communities affected by violence and plant a tree in the area's dry tropical forest for every item ordered from the season menu. Montana makes its mark on the menu where black beluga lentils from Timeless Natural Foods in Ulm are featured in the menu's staple lentil soup. "This is no average lentil soup" recalls Deputy Director Zach Coccoli, "with robust flavors of mushroom, cilantro, and Indian curry I could eat this one every day."



June 18-21: The Alimentec Food Show provided the region's largest venue for three Montana companies (Timeless Natural Foods, Commercial Links, and Adroit Overseas) to ink new deals, reinforce existing relationships, and pursue promising leads in the active and growing South American pulse crop market.

June 22: Group site visit to the Corabastos wholesale market, a 104 acre "city within the city" where \$25 million and 10,000 tons of food are exchanged DAILY. Read more on this leg of the trip from Liz Edmundson [HERE](#).



June 23-24: Deputy Director Coccoli arrived to join the delegation en route to Medellin. In Medellin, a hosted B2B event was organized at Fuego Alto Food Experience and Team Building Kitchen. Featured prominently on the hillsides overlooking the lush Colombian countryside, this space provided an ideal venue for the company Granipack to meet with their distribution and retail sales clients, share company values, and interact directly with the Montana delegation through presentations and one-on-one conversation. We then visited an adjacent neighborhood to witness Granipack guerilla marketing efforts in full effect. Scores of enthusiastic young marketers canvassed the area, knocking on doors, to obtain survey results in exchange for a free bag of lentils! These survey results will be used to inform Granipack retail clients about the where, when, and why's of lentil consumption to further tailor in-store education and promotional activities centered around increasing consumption of this nutrient dense food!



June 25-27: In Barranquilla, (home of Shakira and Sofia Vergara) the group visit a shipping port on the Magdalena River recently 100% acquired by US capital investment group, ISquared Capital. Then after a facility tour and B2B presentation event at the Gracol company headquarters, the team joined a raucous crowd for a community event promoting healthy activities and food choices with the First Lady of Barranquilla. We handed out over 500 food packages graciously donated by Gracol and participated in a lively Zumba group fitness activity. Hear more about it from Liz Edmundson with perspective from MT Pulse Crop Committee member, Brian Aklestad [HERE](#).



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2024 EconoQuest Career Expo

EconoQuest is a ground-breaking international economic literacy program that excites high school students about real-world economics and career opportunities. The program fills a gap in statewide economic education and explores college-to-career pathways with Montana industries with a unique opportunity to engage with local companies and government leaders about economics, international trade, and workforce development.



**MONTANA WORLD
AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

ECONOQUEST CAREER EXPO

We hope you will join us at the third annual EconoQuest Career Expo at Montana State University Ballroom, engaging with MSU students and high school students from every corner of Montana. This year, companies will be able to interact with students on their EconoQuest competition projects - listen to students pitch their product on the global market!

Monday, October 28th, 2024
Montana State University Ballroom
3:00 - 5:00 PM

Companies are welcome to join the EconoQuest banquet with Consul General Gupta of India as keynote speaker.

**To register:
Contact Nikki Geiszler at
ngeiszler@montanaworldaffairs.org**





What We Have Been (responsibly) Drinking Lately:

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

After what felt like months of relentless heat, we are finally getting a bit of a break! We’re going to take an opportunity to highlight some local hydration.

The “Prickly Pear” Sparkling Water from Badlander

Sparkling water with a cactus kick made right here in Helena, MT.

Scott MacIntyre, founder of Badlander Spirits, is a Montana man through and through. He’s always worked in the bar business and so did his father before him.

He started Badlander Spirits so people could have restaurant-quality cocktails at home and in the wild. While creating the spirits, he discovered that the Rocky Mountains that run through Montana are home to some of the best alpine water so he started canning that too.

With the exception of tequila from Mexico, all ingredients including the cans come from the USA, if not Montana.

More info at: <https://www.badlander.com/>

What We've Been Listening To Recently:



For Your August Listing Needs

1. American Nights - Zach Bryan
2. Friday Night Fever - George Strait
3. Steak Night at the Prairie Rose - Silverada
4. Summer Wages - Ian Tyson
5. Bad Luck - Zach Top
6. The Great American Bar Scene - Zach Bryan
7. Wild and Blue - Brent Cobb
8. Drinkin' Dark Whiskey - The Steeldrivers
9. The Coyote & The Cowboy - Colter Wall
10. Killers of the Flower Moon - Charley Crockett

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 August Friends!