

INSIDE AG | DECEMBER 2025

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A Message from the Dean

Dear College of Ag family,

Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones! Thank you for another wonderful semester of teaching, supporting our students and conducting impactful research and outreach. Also, congratulations to the students who are graduating this week! It has been a busy and productive semester, and all of you should be extremely proud.

Our college had a great year in 2025. Based on fall data, we have over 2,000 majors enrolled, our second largest enrollment in history. We are making improvements in student retention and success thanks to your hard work in and outside of the classrooms. We are MSU's #1 college in research expenditures, with over \$54 M in FY25.

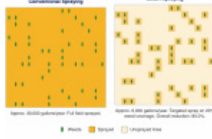
In Linfield Hall, you will see some new faces. We have Rima, our new business operations manager; Melinda, the new fiscal director; and Darrell, the new WSARE director.

In November, the board of regents approved a new minor in precision agriculture and emeritus status for three of our retired faculty. The Long Range Building Plan also has two major projects from MAES. Overall, our college is in excellent shape! I am looking forward to continued success in 2026.



Sreekala Bajwa

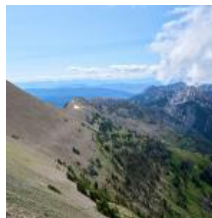
News from the College of Ag



Ricardo Pinto and Kelsey Larson develop tool to help farmers implement new tech



MSU fall commencement set for Friday, Dec. 12



Research by John Knowles examines elevation dependent warming



Eric Boyd publishes research on impact of Yellowstone earthquakes



MSU Extension members recognized for service



November Precision Ag Update: Assessment of precision ag adoption in Montana

Recent and Upcoming Events

Many thanks to all who attended the **Montana Agritourism Conference** last month on the MSU campus! We had 168 agricultural producers, organizations, faculty, students, and service providers attend. We already can't wait for next year! More information about [Montana Agritourism and the full conference agenda is available online.](#)

Registration is open for the **2026 Crop and Pest Management School**, which will be held January 14-15 in the SUB Ballrooms. [More information can be found online,](#) and [registration is available here.](#)



The postseason continues in Bozeman! The Bobcat football team will host Stephen F. Austin for the **FCS quarterfinals on Friday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.** in Bobcat Stadium. We hope to see you there! [Ticket information is available online here.](#)

Faculty of the Month

We have two faculty to recognize in this edition of Inside Ag! Our faculty of the month for November was **Dr. Michelle Flenniken** of the PSPP department. For December, the faculty of the month is **Dr. Hannah DelCurto-Wyffels** of the ARS department!



Dr. Flenniken was nominated for her continued excellence in research and teaching, with a highlight of her nomination reading simply, "She is AWESOME!!" Dr. DelCurto-Wyffels was recognized for her above-and-beyond commitment to providing hands-on experiences for students in her classes and going out of her way to help students succeed. Thank you for all you both do to ensure continued student success in our college!

Accomplishments and Highlights

Graduate student **Erin Teichroew** received a College of Agriculture Student Scholar Travel Award from the Ueland Family Endowment. Congratulations, Erin!

Dr. Adam Sigler, MSU Extension water quality specialist, received the Innovative Engagement Award at the annual Extension conference in Bozeman. He was recognized for significant and sustained engagement with Montanans in the areas of water access, availability and quality. Congratulations, Adam!

Two PSPP master's students received awards at the Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting, held in Portland, OR, November 9-10.

- **Kaelin Smith**: 1st place in the graduate 10-min presentation, Plant-Insect Ecosystem Section, Chemical Ecology 2.
- **Abigail Noel**: 2nd place in the graduate 10-min presentation, Plant-Insect Ecosystem Section, Parasitoids.

Dr. Michael Ivie (PSPP) was elected to a two year term as Councilor of The Coleopterists Society, an international organization devoted to the study of beetles. Thank you for your continued outreach, Dr. Ivie!

Reminder: with the end of the year approaching, don't forget to submit impact statements for your research projects! These short summaries help to reinforce the continued importance of agricultural sciences to governmental and funding agencies. Submission takes five minutes, and you can complete it by scanning the QR code or [visiting this webpage](#).



Accomplishments and Highlights

Dan Scott Ranch Management Program introduces Class of 2028

The DSRMP passed a milestone this fall by accepting a full slate of 10 students to the program for the first time since its inception. The students come from a variety of backgrounds, but all share a passion for ranching and a desire to grow in the knowledge and skills of the industry. The cohort spans the U.S. with students from New Jersey, California, Colorado, Minnesota, Texas, Tennessee and Canada. These students will be paired with ranch hosts for the summers of 2026 and 2027 for working internships as part of the Ranching Systems curriculum. We are so glad they have chosen MSU to continue their education!



Left to right: Sigourney Bradshaw, Max Rohling, Sam Whiteley, John Ellis, Sierra Gray, Stephanie Ullrich, Kate McFarland, Jeffrey Courchaine, Kolton Brockman and Jess Smith.

Publications and Grants

Recent Grants

- Dr. Shannon Arnold (DATE) received funding from the Montana Department of Agriculture.
- Dr. Mac Burgess (PSPP) received USDA funding as a part of a collaboration with Colorado State University.
- Dr. Diane Charlton (DAEE) received USDA funding as part of a collaboration with Oregon State University.
- Dr. Frankie Crutcher (DRC) received USDA funding from the Montana Department of Agriculture.
- Dr. Roland Ebel, Dr. Claire Luby (PSPP), and Dr. Fabian Menalled (LRES) received funding from the Montana Department of Agriculture.
- Dr. Michael Giroux (PSPP) received funding for two projects from the Montana Department of Agriculture.
- Dr. Jessica Kansman (PSPP) received funding from the Montana Department of Agriculture.
- Dr. Kelsey Larson (DAEE) was awarded funding as part of a collaboration with Johns Hopkins University.
- Dr. Uta McKelvy (PSPP) and Dr. Timothy Seipel (LRES) received funding from the Montana Department of Agriculture.
- Dr. Uta McKelvy (PSPP) and Dr. Janak Joshi (PSPP) received funding from the Montana Department of Agriculture.
- Dr. Zachariah Miller (DRC), Dr. Joao Souza (LRES), Dr. Mac Burgess (PSPP), and Dr. Fabian Menalled (LRES) received funding from the Montana Department of Agriculture.
- Dr. Carmen Murphy (PSPP) received funding from the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Publications and Grants

Recent Grants (continued)

- Dr. Ricardo Pinto (DRC), Dr. Jed Eberly (DRC), Peggy Lamb (DRC), Dr. Paul Nugent (LRES), and Dr. Timothy Seipel (LRES) received funding from the Montana Department of Agriculture.
- Dr. Anish Sapkota (LRES) and Dr. Ricardo Pinto (DRC) received funding from Montana NASA EPSCoR.
- Dr. John Knowles (LRES) received NSF funding as part of a collaboration with Chico State Enterprises.
- Dr. Lance McNew (ARS) and Dr. Jeffery Mosley (ARS) were awarded a Bair Ranch Foundation Grant.
- Dr. Zach Miller (DRC), Dr. Joao Souza (LRES), Dr. Mac Burgess (PSPP), and Dr. Fabian Menalled (LRES) received funding from the Montana Department of Agriculture.
- Dr. Andrew Swanson (DAEE) received USDA funding as part of a collaboration with the University of California Davis.

Funding Opportunities

- The Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee is now accepting proposals for 2026 funding. **Project proposal deadline: December 31.** More information is available at ag.montana.edu/mfac/.
- **Western SARE** has two grant opportunities open: the Sabbatical Research and Education program and Graduate Student Research and Education program. The deadline for both programs is **March 6, 2026**. Please check the Western SARE website for full details. If planning to submit a proposal, PIs should notify the OSP Research Administrator for Western SARE, Jennifer Nesbitt. For general inquiries, please email wsare@montana.edu.

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