

# INSIDE AG | JUNE 2025

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Note: There will not be a newsletter in July. We will pick up again in August - feel free to send items for inclusion at any time!



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# News from the College of Ag

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[Annual field day series kicks off June 18](#)



[MSU research aims to make aerial firefighting more efficient](#)



[New graduate Zoe Seaford sets sights on doctoral work at MSU](#)



[Three MSU students receive prestigious Udall scholarships](#)



Interested in the latest news from the COA? Check out [montana.edu/news/agriculture](http://montana.edu/news/agriculture), Facebook @MSUCOA or Instagram @montanastateag!

Read more from the COA/MAES!

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# Recent Events

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The LRES department carried out another successful ENSC462 field course! In 12 days, the cohort covered almost 3,000 miles, from Challis, Idaho to the Riley Pass abandoned uranium mine near Buffalo, South Dakota. In between, the group toured Butte and the Deer Lodge Valley, ranch operations (Logan Mannix, Erik Kalsta, Glenn Elzinga, The Nature Conservancy, Diamond Cross Ranch and the Lamar Buffalo Ranch), Yellowtail Dam, Gordon Butte Pump Storage project, Bridger Plant Materials Center, and Black Butte Copper mine.

Want to support this program by sponsoring students? Just reach out to Tony Hartshorn at [soildoc@gmail.com](mailto:soildoc@gmail.com)!



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# Accomplishments and Highlights

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Congratulations to **Greg Gilpin** (DAEE) and **Chaofu Lu** (PSPP) on their recently announced Fulbright Scholar positions! Dr. Gilpin will spend the spring of 2026 in Barbados and Dr. Lu will spend that same term in France. This prestigious program will allow them to represent MSU on the global stage through extensive scholarship and teaching.

Research from the Department of Agricultural and Technology Education was named the **2025 Journal Article of the Year for the Journal of Agricultural Education!** This study examined the impact of sequential professional development on school-based agricultural teachers, with a focus on safety training. The study found that ongoing professional development significantly improved teachers' confidence and competence in delivering safety instruction, emphasizing the importance of sustained training efforts for achieving long-term instructional impact.

- Lawver, B., Smalley, S.W., Perry, D. K., & Pate, M. L. "Impact of sequential professional development of school-based agricultural education teachers: In-service implications for safety training." *Journal of Agricultural Education*.

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# Publications and Grants

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## Recent Publications

- Baumbauer, C., Baumbauer, D., Arias, A. "The effect of soil water content and crop canopy on passive UHF-RFID wireless links." *Computers and Electronics in Agriculture*.
- Parks, S., Anderson, R., & Perry, D. K. "The teaching and learning of small gas engines: A literature review." Presented at the American Association for Agricultural Education Annual Conference.
- Best, R. W., Hamilton, B. M., Coleman, B. M., Eck, C. J., Ramsey, J. W., & Sewell, E. A. "Programmatic evaluation of the Future Agricultural Education Teachers Academy." Presented at the American Association for Agricultural Education Annual Conference.
- Kaltenbach, T., J. Mosley, L.B. McNew, and J. Beaver. "Smart wildlife monitoring: can edge AI mitigate environmental effects on camera trap performance?" *Wildlife Society Bulletin*.
- McNew, L.B., J. Hanlon, and I. Buzytsky. "The performance of drones and artificial intelligence for monitoring sage-grouse at leks." *Wildlife Biology*.
- Leipold, E.A., C. Gower, and L.B. McNew. "Maximizing the detection probabilities of dusky grouse for population monitoring." *Wildlife Biology*.
- Leipold, E.A., H. Stier, R.T. Haynam, A. Sullivan, T. Kaltenbach, L. Dykstra, B. Beaver, M. Monroe, O. Jakobosky, and L.B. McNew. "An inventory of rangeland wildlife in the western United States." *Rangeland Ecology and Management*.
- Cornelissen, T., Silveira, F.A.O., Gomes, S.V., Lopez-Goldar, X., Martin-Eberhardt, S. and Wetzal, W. "Signaling defenses with color: a meta-analysis of leaf color variation, palatability, and herbivore damage." *New Phytol*.

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