



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Montana Agricultural Business Association and the Montana Grain Elevator Association have announced that Krista Lee Evans of Helena has been hired as Executive Director for both organizations.

Ms. Evans has operated her Natural Resource Policy consulting business, Blake Creek Project Management for the past three years. She is a graduate of Montana State University-Bozeman with a degree in Agricultural Business and minors in Economics and Range Science.

“Ms. Evans has clearly established herself as a respected advocate for agricultural opportunities in Montana and her breadth of knowledge in the agricultural policy and regulatory arena will be a great asset to our organization,” said Ryan Holt, President of MABA. “We are pleased that Krista has agreed to work with our organization at a time when challenges to operating an agricultural business in Montana continue to grow.” The Montana Agricultural Business Association is a nonprofit organization representing over 250 locations in the state. These locations vary from farm supply outlets and seed plants to crop consultants and aerial applicators of crop protection and plant food products. The group also represents transporters of agricultural products, equipment manufacturers and sales companies and others associated with agricultural business. The goal of the Association is to serve its members who provide services and products to Montana agricultural producers and to “Grow Montana”.

The Montana Grain Elevator Association’s mission is to provide a forum for all facets of the Montana Grain Industry to discuss common issues and when appropriate take action. The Association provides networking opportunities for professionals in the grain industry and serves as a resource for members and others about the grain industry. Paul Clark, MGEA President said, “Ms. Evans’ ability to work with a large number of interests to bring agreement on complex issues makes her a perfect fit for our organization. She understands the challenges that our membership is faced with on a daily basis and will work tirelessly to advocate for and protect our interests.”

Ms. Evans said, “I am honored that MABA and MGEA have given me the opportunity to work with their Associations. Agricultural businesses in Montana need to be confident that we will continue to represent our members in the Montana Legislature and with our Congressional delegation, provide educational opportunities and that they will be able to continue the operation of their businesses in these sometimes challenging yet opportunity filled times. As Executive Director, I stand ready to help members however I can. I have great respect for both Associations and their commitment to providing the resources that allow Montana’s agriculture producers to provide our state, country, and world with a safe, reliable food supply. I am committed to helping to keep agricultural business a vital part of Montana’s economy. ”

Ms. Evans previously served as a legislative research analyst and committee staff person for the Montana Legislature where her experiences included staffing the House and Senate Natural Resource Committees and the House Agricultural Committee. She also staffed the interim Environmental Quality Council and Water Policy Interim Committees. Prior to her work with the Legislature Ms. Evans was with the Natural Resource Conservation Service as a Resource Conservationist.