

SPRING 2023

# Growing Montana



MABA 2023  
**BOARD  
MEMBERS**

GREAT MONTANA  
**AG RALLY  
GOLF SCRAMBLE**

DRONE  
SPRAYERS –  
**ARE WE READY?**

*A Publication of*  
**MONTANA AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

# TABLE of CONTENTS

President’s Message..... 3

MABA 2023 Board Members ..... 4

Farming for the Future..... 6

Fertilizer Advisory Committee Awards ..... 8

Montana Food and Ag Development Centers ..... 9

Drinking and Driving .....10

Congressional Comments..... 11

Points to Ponder.....13

Ag Container Recycling Council.....14

Drone Sprayers – Are We Ready?.....16

EPA Posts Draft Biological Opinion..... 20

CDL Legislation ..... 23

National Ag Day..... 24

Great Montana Ag Rally Golf Scramble & Sponsorships.... 25

Calendar of Events ..... 28

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

<p><b>Montana Agricultural Business Assoc.</b>          PO Box 7325          Helena, MT 59604          (406) 439-2215          agbusinessmt@gmail.com          www.mtagbiz.org          www.facebook.com/MontanaAgriculturalBusinessAssociation/#</p>	<p><b>Krista Lee Evans</b>          Blake Creek Project Management, Inc.          PO Box 7325          Helena, MT 59604          (406) 439-2215</p>
---	---

# MABA OBJECTIVES:

- To encourage the proper use of all pesticides, plant food, seeds and other agricultural products.
- To promote educational programs to bring together those who are associated with the aforementioned practices and uses.
- To provide a means for an exchange of information and ideas among persons associated with agricultural business.
- To encourage and support research and educational programs.
- To cooperate with local, state, regional and national agencies, both public and private, in the solution of problems and/or in the proposal of legislation relating to all such practices.
- To sponsor desirable laws and law changes that would be beneficial to the Association and its members.
- To serve as a clearing house for the legislative requests of various organizations regarding programs affecting the Association.



**Jake Yates, President**

Nutrien | Billings  
(406) 696-7942 • jake.yates@nutrien.com  
At Large, Term Expires 2024

**Tanner R. Hoversland, Vice President**

Moore Farmers Oil | Moore, MT  
(406) 374-2555 • mfochem@mtintouch.net  
At Large, Term Expires 2024

**Johnnie Scott, Secretary**

Syngenta Crop Protection | Great Falls  
(406) 453-5004 • johnnie.scott@syngenta.com  
At Large, Term Expires 2023

**Marcus Weatherhead, Treasurer**

Corteva | Worden  
(406) 690-3946 • Marcus.weatherhead@corteva.com  
At Large, Term Expires 2024

**James Baguley**

Corteva Agriscience | Whitefish  
(406) 407-0827 • james.allan.baguley@corteva.com  
At Large, Term Expires 2023

**Tim Tackes**

KALO, Inc | Stevensville  
(406) 370-7253 • ttackes@kalo.com  
At Large, Term Expires 2023

**Dan Brattain**

Helena Agri Enterprises | Great Falls  
(406) 781-0530 • brattaind@helenaagri.com  
At Large, Term Expires 2025

**Don Soper**

CHS Big Sky | Havre  
(406) 265-2275 • donald.soper@chsinc.com  
At Large, Term Expires 2025

**Burl Brawley**

Helena Agri Enterprises | Great Falls  
(406) 216-2100 • BrawleyB@helenaagri.com  
At Large, Term Expires 2025

**Ryan Helmer**

Wilbur Ellis | Vaughn  
(406) 650-1134 • rhelmer@wilburellis.com  
At Large, Term Expires 2024

**Luke Neal**

Rocky Mountain Supply | Belgrade  
(406) 660-0098 • lukeneal@rmsi.coop  
At Large, Term Expires 2025

**Christian Guenther**

CHS Big Sky | Moccasin  
406-380-1742 • Christian.guenther@chsinc.com  
At Large, Term Expires 2026

**Dr. Sreekala Bajwa**

Vice President of Agriculture, MSU  
Dean and Director, College of Agriculture  
and Experiment Stations, MSU | Bozeman  
(406) 994-3681 • agdean@montana.edu  
Advisory

**Dr. Clain Jones**

Montana State University | Bozeman  
406-994-6076 (o) • 406-994-3933 (f)  
clainj@montana.edu  
Advisory

**Krista Lee Evans**

MABA | Helena  
406-439-2215 • mabamgea@gmail.com  
Executive Director

## A Message from the President

This may get repetitive, but I have to say THANK YOU to everyone for your participation and support of the MABA annual convention. We had great overall attendance this year and the vendors were also up vs last year. We cannot have a successful event without all of you! The auction as usual was a tremendous success and we were able to continue our support of the FFA foundation and 4-H foundation through our endowed scholarships. I hope you all enjoyed and were able to take away a bit of knowledge from the classes. I have confidence the success of this event will carry into our Golf Scramble in July. Keep an eye out for information and details as it will be here before we know it. I look forward to seeing each of you there!

Each week I review the U.S. Drought Monitor map online and I have to say it is a relief to look at the map of Montana this week and not see any red. Seeing 2022 in the rearview mirror is a welcome sight for sure. I know we have a way to go in areas, but this is a positive start to 2023. I have said it more than once, but I am proud of our industry and how we are able to battle through adversity every year and come out stronger and wiser. I feel the Ag industry always has and will continue to learn from our mistakes and the challenges life throws at us. But remember you are not alone in these battles and its ok to reach out for help if you need it!! As an industry and as friends we need to look out for one another and support one another through tough times. I am thankful for the moisture and the success it will bring to our industry.

Being a legislative year, Krista has been busy in Helena working for and representing our association. In March we co-hosted with Stockgrowers and Farm Bureau a St. Patrick's Day dinner in Helena. The Governor and First Lady attended along with senators and representatives. Everyone "enjoyed" corn beef and cabbage and took advantage of the opportunity to visit and network. It was a great evening and a success for the agriculture industry. Our board continues to work hard and strive for improvement wherever we can. Please let us know if there are any issues or if you have questions or comments. We want to hear from you and how we can help you.

As always, look out for one another and stay SAFE! ■



**Jake Yates**

*President*

*Montana Agricultural  
Business Association*

# MABA 2023 Board Members



**Jake Yates, President**  
*Nutrien*

Jake is a Regional Sales Manager in the West for Nutrien where he is responsible for wholesale fertilizer sales in Montana, South Idaho, Utah and Wyoming.

Before working for Agrium/Nutrien he completed the General Manger Trainee Program with CHS and Prairie Lakes Co-op in Minnesota. He moved back to Montana and went to work for Town & Country Supply first as a CES (Certified Energy Specialist) and then as an Agronomy Location Manager.

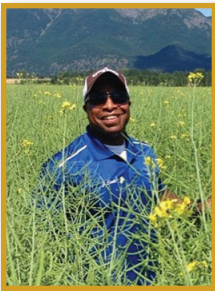
Jake currently lives in Billings, MT with wife Keri, sons Bridger and Jaxon and daughter Robbi. He is a graduate of Chinook High School (GO Sugar Beeters!) and graduated with a degree in Ag Business from Montana State University (Go CATS!!).



**Tanner Hoversland, Vice President**  
*Moore Farmers Oil*

Tanner was born and raised on a farming family in Scobey, MT and graduated Scobey High School in 1996. Attended Carroll College and graduated with a B.A. in History, then continuing his education at Montana State University-Bozeman receiving a B.S. in Agricultural Economics. Tanner worked

for the J.R. Simplot Company for five years in Caldwell, ID and Grand Forks, ND. Yearning to be closer to family, Tanner accepted an Agronomist/Sales position with Moore Farmers Oil in 2008 and is currently the Agronomy Manager. Tanner lives in Lewistown with his wife Kelsi, son Keegan and daughters Kit and Renzi.



**Johnnie Scott, Secretary**  
*Syngenta Crop Protection*

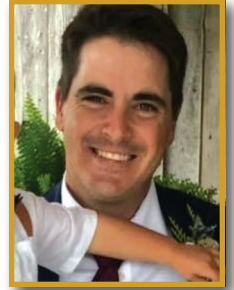
Johnnie Scott works in northern MT as a sales rep for Syngenta Crop Protection. He holds a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness from Texas A&M-Commerce. Although a native Texan, Johnnie is very passionate about Montana Agriculture. He has been fortunate to work in the industry across several states including: Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi,

and Montana. He is always up for new challenges, and works diligently to promote and advance agriculture.

**Marcus Weatherhead, Treasurer**  
*Corteva*

Marcus is a West Virginia University graduate who has had several roles within retail agronomy in the southern Montana market. He has most recently taken a position with Corteva as a Strategic Account Manager. He currently lives in Huntley Montana with his wife Teale Weatherhead and 2 boys Nolan Weatherhead (5) and Reed Weatherhead (3).

Marcus really enjoys contributing to MABA with his perspective and experience from a large retailer, cooperative and manufacturing.



**Dan Brattain**  
*Helena Agri-Enterprises LLC*

Dan grew up in Great Falls Montana helping on his family's ranch and graduated from CMR High School in 2007. He attended Montana State University-Bozeman from 2007-2012 and graduated with a B.S. in Agriculture Business and a minor in economics. After college Dan worked for CHS in Kalispell as an agronomy sales representative from 2012 to the end of 2014. At the beginning of 2015 he started at Kernaghan's Service, Inc. in Great Falls as their agronomy sales representative. At the beginning of 2019 Kernaghan's Service was acquired by Helena Agri-Enterprises LLC. Dan is currently still the agronomy sales representative for Helena Agri-Enterprises Great Falls retail and is helping on his family ranch with both his parents, wife, and daughter Teagan.



**Burl Brawley**  
*Helena Agri Enterprises LLC*

Burl was born and raised in Great Falls MT. He has spent most of his career in the Ag Industry in Montana. Burl has worked in Ag Chemical retail and the majority of his career has been spent in the Wholesale Ag Chemical Business. Burl has spent time as a Truck Driver, Logistics Manager, Outside sales and most recently he is the Location Sales Coordinator for Helena Agri Enterprises LLC at their new facility in Great Falls MT.



**Ryan Helmer**  
*Wilbur Ellis*

Ryan grew up in Minnesota before studying Ag Business at Montana State. He then farmed and ranched fulltime for 6 years south of Wolf Point. Ryan started working for Wilbur-Ellis Company in 2012 after a short stint



at Agland Coop in Wolf Point. Ryan specializes in Precision Agronomy and Field Technology. Ryan lives north of Sun River with his wife Megan and daughters Grace, Paige and Claire. His family raises black angus cattle with partners in the Geraldine area. Ryan and his family love to hunt, fish, spend time outdoors and enjoy Montana agriculture.



**Don Soper**  
*CHS Big Sky*

Don was born and raised in Larslan MT, a little community south east of Opheim MT where His family farmed and ranched. Don graduated from Opheim High School in 1989. Don then decided to see the country and started a stint on the custom harvesting circuit with his uncle's combining business.

After 3 years Don moved back to Montana to start his agronomy career. He went to work for Valco Agri-Services in Glasgow Mt. in 1993.

Don moved to Havre the summer of 1995 and started working for an independent agronomy company. After spending 14 years there, Don moved on in his endeavors, and started a new job in agronomy sales for CHS in 2009, where he is currently residing.

His wife has been a school teacher in Box Elder since 1998. Hobbies include, camping, and spending as much time as possible at their family cabin in Eureka MT.



**Tim Takes**  
*KALO Inc.*

Tim was born and raised on a farm in Power MT. He attended Northern MT College and obtained a degree in Ag-Business. After college he worked a year for USDA Soil Conservation Service in Havre. He decided government work was not for him and began his ag business career with Harvest States as a pesticide applicator in the Billings area. In

1995, he moved to Stevensville, where he currently resides, to be a field agronomist for Farmers Exchange - CHS. Afterwards, he spent 9 years managing the agronomy division of CHS Mountain West. In 2011, he made the move to the wholesale side of ag business and worked for CHS Wholesale Crop Nutrients supplying fertilizer to ag retailers in MT, ID, WA, OR, and UT. Following company restructuring and a departure from CHS after 24 years, he spent a year working outside of the ag industry. Feeling that ag had always been his professional calling, in 2019 he became the Northwest Area Manager for KALO, an adjuvant company, where he helped test and bring new technology to Ag retailers across the northwest to improve the performance of their crop protection products. Tim has and still does spend time sitting on other ag based organizations and boards including Ravalli Co Weed Board, Montana Weed

Control Association, CPDA ( Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology), and Far West Ag Business association. He married with a son and daughter. He spends his free time working and playing golf at the local course, fishing, camping, hiking and enjoying all the great outdoors of western Montana has to offer.

**James Baguley**  
*Corteva Agriscience*

James Baguley grew up on a small fruit production operation in west Michigan. While attending Michigan State, James began his work in the ag chemical industry with BASF. Working in Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Montana and South Dakota for BASF. In the winter of 2017, James had the opportunity to return to Montana's agriculture industry with Corteva AgriScience as the Territory Manager for Western Montana.

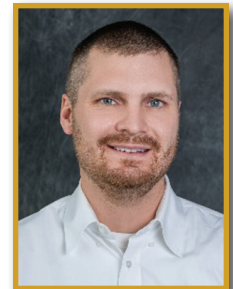


**Luke Neal**  
*Rocky Mountain Supply*

Luke is the Agronomy Division manager for Rocky Mountain Supply. He has been with the company since 2019.

Before working for Rocky Mountain Supply, he worked for three other co-ops in Washington, North Dakota and Montana. He has worked in the Ag retail industry since 2010.

Luke is originally from Augusta MT, where he was raised on a ranch 6 miles west of Augusta. He graduated from UMW-Dillon.



## NEW BOARD MEMBER

**Christian Guenther**  
*Agronomy Sales Representative for CHS-Big Sky*

Graduated from Montana State University with a degree in Crop Science. While in college worked a summer internship with Fehring Ag Consulting, and after graduation it became a full time position. Covered from Central to South-east MT and occasionally out of the state for projects. Received job opportunity with Valley Farmers Supply as a sales agronomist in 2020 based out of Worden, Hysham area. In 2023 accepted position with CHS.

Reside outside of Moccasin, MT with wife Taylor as we prefer our time outdoors hunting, fishing, and hiking as free time allows. ■



# FARMING FOR THE FUTURE: High Value, Small Acreage Crops Benefit Farmers and Communities

By Dr. Zach Miller, Associate Professor and Superintendent MSU-Western Ag Research Center



The MSU Western Agriculture Research Center is part of the Montana State University Agricultural Experiment Station network. Established in 1893 by the state legislature to “to conduct and promote studies, scientific investigations and experiments relating to agriculture, natural resources, and rural life, and to diffuse information thereby acquired among the people of Montana.” But what does that mean exactly?

The MSU Research Centers provide research-based and unbiased assistance to farmers and ranchers so that they can have more productive and profitable farms. Each Center focuses on regional agricultural issues. While the Bitterroot valley had unique agricultural opportunities, the MSU-Western Ag. Research Center’s work with fruit and vegetable crops is finding a ready audience across the state.

The Center work focuses on higher-value crops that can be grown profitably on smaller acreages. Much of this research focuses on fruits and vegetables. These specialty crops can provide higher value per acre than typical farm crops like grain and hay which are typically less than \$1000 an acre. Revenues of \$3,000 to \$5,000 per acre are typical for these specialty crops. Farms that can add value to their crops through processing into juices, jams, wines, or cider can realize even higher sales per acre. In the case of Willow Mountain Winery and Vineyard in the Bitterroot gross revenues are projected to be \$7,000 per acre for the grapes, but \$50,000 per acre for the wine, or over \$1 million annually on this 20-acre vineyard.

However, starting a farm, especially an orchard or vineyard, requires a large investment, ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000 per acre and does not include the cost of the land. In addition, perennial crops will not produce much of a crop for the first few years, so there’s a slow return on that investment. To ensure success and a return on this investment, growers need to know that what they’re planting will be productive and profitable. The Ag. Center helps these growers identify which types of specialty crops can thrive in Montana’s varied climates and how to manage these crops and their pests successfully. The Western Ag. Research Center partners with MSU-Extension faculty and professors from across MSU and the country meet these find solutions and share them with growers across the region.

Fruit and vegetable farms are more than farms. They are small businesses. To capture the value of specialty crop, most farms sell produce and their value-added products directly to consumers. This requires marketing and business planning and often additional licensing. Local economic develop-



ment centers, State Food and Ag Development Centers, and Non-profits like the Community Food and Agriculture Coalition in Missoula provide support to farms and farm businesses and work with the Ag. Center to meet the needs of these growers.

While the risks can be daunting, there are many opportunities. Interest in locally-produced, healthy foods has exploded in the last decade. According to a recent market analysis published in Fortune magazine, fruits have risen to the second most popular food item in the U.S. with annual sales topping \$3 billion dollars in 2013. Sales of U.S. organic products topped \$62 billion in 2020. Annually, over 10

million tourists visit the state, spending nearly \$4 billion dollars. Montana fruit and vegetable growers have a unique market opportunity through agro-tourism and synergies between Montana's two leading industries, agriculture and tourism.

Specialty crops can help to preserve some of the state's most productive agricultural land. The valleys of Montana from the Yellowstone, the Gallatin, Flathead, to the Bitterroot combine favorable climates and ample irrigation water. These areas also have substantial population growth and development. Based on current growth rates, a recent study suggests that the population of the Gallatin valley will equal Salt Lake City in 20 years and Minneapolis, nearly a half million, by 2065. Fruit and vegetable farms can benefit from this growth since it's more potential customers and preserve working agricultural lands since these types of farms can be profitable on smaller acreages.

Orchards, vineyards, and vegetable farms are labor intensive which is both a challenge and opportunity. Farmers need to know how many hours it will take to manage and harvest these crops. The MSU-Western Ag. Center research includes an emphasis on labor and labor efficiency. Labor is a good thing too, as it means more jobs per acre than a ranch or grain farm.

Enterprising farmers are showing that these crops have potential in Montana. Our state has become the leading producer of organic grains with more certified organic acres than any state but California. Local vegetable growers see increasing demand. Many farms are smelling profits in locally grown flowers. The Montana Grape and Winery Association has over 100 members representing the over 50 vineyards and nearly 20 wineries in the state. Montana-made hard cider is poised for similar growth. Nationally, the cider industry has grown 900% since 2011. During the past 10 years, eight commercial cideries have opened for business and more are on the way.

Neighboring states have seen investments in specialty crop production transform into thriving industries and Montana is beginning to see growth



*Farming for the Future continued on page 10*

# Fertilizer Advisory Committee Awards Announced

The Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee met on campus February 1 to contemplate research proposals for fiscal year 2024. For this period the committee’s research priority areas were: nutrients related to oilseeds; precision nutrient management in forages; strategies for amending chloride deficiencies and economics; and potash management in high potassium and low chloride soils. Board chair Chris Larson said that the decisions made by this year’s board will increase the sustainability of our cropping systems by supporting a diversity of fertilizer research in crops and forages as well as continuing support for the Environmental Analytical Laboratory, a key resource for soil and water analysis at MSU. A proposal by Hayes Goosey will investigate questions producers

have about sulfur use in forages to reduce the risk of nitrate toxicity. Adam Sigler will work with producers to adjust irrigation scheduling to reduce nitrate leaching and reduce water loss. The funds support continuing research as well as several new investigators at Montana State University.

MABA has two representatives on the Fertilizer Advisory Committee – Ryan Lammers and Brad Weaver.

Those selected for funding in FY24 are as follows. Information and history of the Montana Fertilizer Advisory Committee can be found at: [agriculture.montana.edu/mfac/index.html](http://agriculture.montana.edu/mfac/index.html). ■

MSU Research Lead	Proposal	FY24 Funding
Chen	Sugarbeet nutrient uptake and partitioning in relation to root yield and sucrose concentration – Year 2	27,416
Ewing	Research Analytical Chemist, Environmental Analytical Laboratory – Year 11	35,000
Giroux	Testing Dibutylthiophosphate as a Seed Treatment to Boost Plant Growth and Reduce Overall Fertilizer Use	67,100
Goosey	Assessing Sulfur Fertilization as a Means to Improve Statewide Forage Quality and Value by Reducing Nitrate Accumulations in Cereal Forages – Year 2	62,693
Jones	Sulfur source and rate effects on yield and quality of wheat, pea, and canola – Year 2	36,528
Lamb	Is there a Legacy Effect of Deep Application Phosphorus in No-Till Systems? (Year 6 of 6, Crop Years 2018 through 2023, 2 Trial Cycles)	24,053
Miller	pH remediation by perennial forages following 18yr of N management in alternative crop rotations	26,643
Miller	Winter canola seeding date and fertilizer application timing in Montana	35,446
Rakkar	Efficacy of liming products to remediate soil acidity and improved crop yields	17,170
Sherman	Relationship between fertility and water management, production and quality of advanced spring forage, feed and malt barley lines – year 2	52,400
Sigler	Quantifying nitrate leaching	35,958
Torrion	Nitrogen requirement for sustained yield and optimal quality of cool-season perennial forages – Year 2	48,862
Mondal	Examining the role of chloride in occurrence of physiological leaf spot in winter wheat	26,000
Torrion	Optimizing nitrogen inputs for varying plant populations and market classes of winter wheat	16,579
	<b>Total \$\$ funded</b>	<b>\$511,848</b>



# Montana Food and Ag Development Centers, Industry Reps Gather to Talk Value-Added Ag



The department's pesticide training and development team hosted its annual Initial Core Training Series through March and April in Billings, Missoula, and Great Falls. The series was well attended, with Missoula and Billings at capacity. Attendees included employees from commercial and private industry as well as state and federal agencies. The initial core training prepares individuals for the national core exam, the first hurdle in obtaining a pesticide applicator or dealer license.

The pesticide training and development program will now shift gears and focus on recertification trainings for this coming fall. MDA anticipates offering both in person and live webinar options across the state. Fall trainings will focus on applicator categories expiring at the end of 2023 such as Seed Treatment and Industrial, Structural, and Institutional as well core competencies pertinent to all applicators.

This winter the pesticide training program welcomed new team members Matt Deaton, Lori Leaf, and Beth Thomas. Please feel free to reach out to them if you have any questions about upcoming trainings or would like to host an event for pesticide applicator credits. They look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at trainings this fall.

Our Pesticide Field Staff gained several new members in the last year: Jake Degenstien is in the Great Falls District 3 office, serving Cascade, Chouteau, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Pondera, Teton and Toole counties. Caitlyn Forrester is the new District 5 Billings field agent, covering the counties of Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, Custer, Fallon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Powder River, Rosebud, Stillwater, Treasure, and Yellowstone. Our main office in Helena welcomes Catie Opar as the District 6 agent, working in Broadwater, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, and Meagher counties. Lastly, in Kalispell District 7, field agent Kate Schelbert covers the counties of Flathead, Lake,

Lincoln, and Sanders. MDA field offices continue to provide manual sales, applicator and dealer testing, inspections, and compliance assistance for pesticide activities.

Please contact your local office in advance for appointments: [agr.mt.gov/About/Office-Locations/ASB-Field-Offices](http://agr.mt.gov/About/Office-Locations/ASB-Field-Offices). ■



TOP PHOTO: Training attendees in Billings work through an exercise demonstrating the importance of accurate measurements and differences in dry formulation densities.

BOTTOM PHOTO: Jake Degenstien, MDA field agent in the Great Falls office, discusses the importance of emergency and incident response planning with attendees in Missoula.

## Drinking and Driving



**Luke Neal**

**Board Member**  
Montana Agricultural  
Business Association

I believe almost every company in the Ag industry goes over safety training. Some annually, monthly and maybe even some weekly. Common titles for these topics are, Slip Trips and Falls, or Workplace Fatigue, or Employee Stress. Of course, almost any place with a company vehicle has a policy in place to prevent drinking and driving. However, often there are times where this is overlooked when it should not be.

I don't know how many events I have been to over my career where I have witnessed people leaving in company or personal vehicles after consuming alcohol. These events have been company events, association golf tournaments, seminars and banquets, and even simple lunches or dinners with customers or sales representatives. I think this is something managers and supervisors need to keep an eye on. But by saying keep an eye on, I mean maybe take another approach than the common approach of, "If they are in their personal truck it is none of my business", or

"Don't get caught in the company one or you are in trouble". Instead, I challenge supervisors to not only look at this as an issue of the physical safety of the employees or others on the road, but from a fiscal take as well. What is the cost of having to fire a good agronomist because they got a DUI in a company vehicle? What is the cost of training a new one to replace? How long will this take? What is the cost for company insurance if they get one in their personal vehicle? Will they have a CDL to help when needed?

Now I would like to compare those cost I have listed above, to the cost of your company covering the bill for a taxi or Uber ride home. Is this the companies responsibility to cover these cost? Probably not. However, there are times where it might be the more responsible thing to do, and you are possibly leading by example, on taking drinking and driving seriously. That one Uber ride that prevented a DUI may have saved the company more than the cost of the months safety training. Maybe some companies will not allow this, so I challenge you supervisors to maybe run this up your chain of command, or at least challenge yourself to think a little differently than in the past to keep our employees and drivers safe. ■

### *Farming for the Future* continued from page 7

in this direction in, with rapidly increasing vegetable farms, farmers markets, orchards and vineyards. The MSU-Western Agricultural Research Center and its partners are working to support current and future farmers build more profitable farm enterprises and healthy rural communities.

Montana is poised to make a significant and much needed investment in MSU-Western Ag and the farms and businesses that it serves. The state legislature has allocate funds for a new research and teaching facility will consist of 3 modern labs, offices, a conference meeting room, cold storage room, seed and equipment storage.

This will replace the current labs that are housed in old farm houses & a horse barn that were built over 80 years ago that are outdated, unsafe & undersized for research purposes. MSU-Foundation is currently looking for donations to complete the \$300,000 of community matching funds required to start this project.

**Donation link:** <https://www.msuaaf.org/give-warac>  
**Checks:** MSU Alumni Foundation and write in memo: 93627 – Western Ag Research Center Improvements.

**Mailing address:** MSU Alumni Foundation, PO Box 172750, Bozeman, MT 59717. ■



# Congressional Comments

## U.S. SENATOR STEVE DAINES

As discussions regarding the 2023 Farm Bill are ramping up, I am meeting with Montanans to hear their concerns and priorities that need to be addressed in the upcoming Farm Bill to ensure the voice of Montana ag is heard loud and clear in our nation's capital.

I will continue to advocate for drought and disaster relief programs that will assist Montanans in the wake of natural disasters. Severe drought, flooding and wildfires have the ability to upend generations of Montana ag producers' tireless work in a moment's notice. These hardworking men and women help feed people throughout the world and they deserve a fair shot at maintaining their livelihood.

I'm also supporting an effort to overturn President Biden's burdensome Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule that severely infringes on Montanans' private property rights and was glad to see it recently pass the U.S. Senate with my strong support. This example of federal overreach interferes with Montanans' abilities to do business, and it's time this

## U.S. SENATOR JON TESTER

As a third generation Montana farmer, I know that clean water and clean air are critical to our economy and way of life in the Treasure State – but when rules and regulations come from Washington D.C. that aim to protect our clean water and air, they also have to work for folks in ag.

The Biden Administration's most recent Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule didn't do that, which is why after extensive conversations with farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, and other stakeholders, I voted against it.

Clean water is simply too important to our state's economy and the health of our communities to get this wrong.

injustice comes to an end.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced they will be proceeding with Governor Gianforte's petition to delist grizzly bears in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) in northwest Montana. A comprehensive status review of the grizzly bear will be conducted, and I am hopeful that management of the species will finally be returned to the State of Montana. The grizzly bear population has made a full and robust comeback, and it's time to follow the science and implement commonsense conservation policies.

I appreciate the Montana Agricultural Business Association's tireless voice on behalf of Montana agribusiness professionals, and I will continue to work with each of you to help ensure the success and viability of the Treasure State's number one economic driver for generations to come.



**Steve Daines**

*United States Senator  
For the State of  
Montana*



**Jon Tester**

*United States Senator  
For the State of  
Montana*

The Supreme Court is due to issue a ruling this summer which may include guidance on a new WOTUS rule, and we'll have to continue to work together to make sure that any new WOTUS rule works for America too.

I'll stand up to anyone that tries to impose one-size-fits-all solutions on rural America, regardless of political party, and I'll make sure that any potential future rule is durable, protects our clean water, and works for folks in Montana.

*Congressional Comment continued on page 12*

*Congressional Comments continued from page 11*

Strong producers make for strong agribusinesses, and I'll continue to fight on your behalf to ensure that Montana's ag economy stays strong.

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE RYAN ZINKE



**Ryan Zinke**

*US Representative  
For the State of  
Montana*

Agriculturists are the working hands of Montana that keep food on plates, clothes on backs, and shelter over our heads. Since January, we've met with foresters in Libby, sweet potato farmers at Lake Farms, state officers at Montana FFA, and community leaders fighting for crucial water rights on the Milk River Watershed project. I sat down with the Region 1 U.S. Forestry Service to get a plan in place to mitigate forest fires, get responders on the ground ahead of any flames, and find suitable homes for them to stay in. We've discussed and game-planned the best way to advocate for our state's producers to have a comprehensive and effective Farm Bill this Congress.

However, I've caught a little bit of flak from the mainstream media and radical environmentalists for speaking the truth that the federal bureaucracy is trying to end our traditional way of life. Whether it's Waters of the U.S., overreach with the Endangered Species Act, or putting bison on grazing allotments, it's clear the coastal elites and feds would rather turn Montana into one big national park than allow you to keep putting food on our tables.

Thankfully, Montana has an interesting perspective in this Congress. For the first time in decades a Montanan will sit on the House Appropriations Committee. By using the power of the purse, we can defund the resurging attempts to infringe on land that has been maintained by generations of Montanan stewards. Agriculturists across the state can lean on the fact my seat on the committee is a hard stop to harmful policies and a kick starter to funding vital programs to keep Montana agriculture alive and well. ■

# SUSTAINING MEMBERS

## 406 Agronomy

Lance Lindbloom

lance.lindbloom@406agronomy.com



## AgroLiquid

Stuart Schilling

stuart.schilling@agroliquid.com



## Albaugh LLC

Andy Hampton

brocks@albaughllc.com



Jim Schmidt

jim.s@albaughllc.com

Brock Shelton

brocks@albaughllc.com

## Asmark Institute

amber@asmark.org



## ATP Nutrition

Ryan Hansen

Ryan.hansen@atpnutritionag.com



Branden Hoheisel

bhoheisel@atpag.com

Branden Hoheisel

branden.hoheisel@atpnutritionag.com

Scott Schubert

sshubert@atpag.com

## BASF

Jason Dahl

Jason.dahl@basf.com



Kendra Legge

Kendra.legge@basf.com

Josh Reimers

joshua.reimers@basf.com

Matt Smith

joshua.reimers@basf.com

Jared Unverzagt

jared.unverzagt@basf.com



# SUSTAINING MEMBERS

## Central Life Sciences

Garret Groves  CENTRAL Life Sciences  
ggroves@central.com

## CF Industries

Brad Weaver  
bweaver@cfindustries.com



## CHS Agronomy

Julie.brayton@chsinc.com



## Corteva Range and Pasture

Clair Volk  
Claire.Volk@corteva.com



## FEI

Matt Klabo  
mklabo@feiinc.com



## Tim Larsen

lkarsky@feiinc.com

## Ben Rixe

lkarsky@feiinc.com

## Gowan

Kurt Bowman  
kbowman@gowanco.com



## Greyn Scale Company

Steve Greyn  
stevegreyn@yahoo.com



## Heartland AG Systems

Jared Kunz  
jared.kunz@heartlandag.com

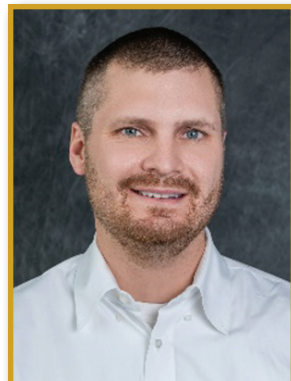
Casey Lilly  
casey.lilly@heartlandag.com



## Points to Ponder

### AG ADVANTAGES IN A DOWNTURN ECONOMY

A person cannot seem to look at their phone or turn on their TV without seeing some crazy things happening in our economy. With the recent banking problems, it has had people asking how secure are things? I would like to begin by talking about the Ag industry and the security of it in hard economic times. Now there are many things in the world economy that impact Ag. However, the Ag industry is fairly secure compared to banking, construction, energy and auto. The one thing that can be counted on with the Ag industry, is that farmers are going to farm. Crop prices may be great or poor, but farmers are still going to plant. This gives the stability needed to the Ag industry, especially in the Ag retail.



**Luke Neal**

*Board Member  
Montana Agricultural  
Business Association*

Historically when recessions have hit, grain prices have done fairly well. Input cost have varied in these hard times. In the early 70's as unemployment rose, so did the wheat prices. Another great wheat price spike happened around 2008, which most still remember the resection and rise in unemployment.

In times like these I think Ag business should be evaluating their employees and be thinking ahead on possibilities, on recruiting long term employees. If the economy slows down, there could be plenty of truck drivers, construction, and oil field workers, who could be looking for a stable form of employment that keeps them close to home. For the last five to ten years the Ag industry has been having a hard time filling all the open positions they have, because of all the job openings out there. Construction and oilfields especially have been paying wages that are often tough for Ag companies to compete with. But, if a turn in the economy happens, it also might be the opportunity to find "new blood" in your workforce. Employees who are willing to make a little less than construction, and over the road jobs, to have stability, and be able to come home at night to their families. ■

# SUSTAINING MEMBERS

## Ag Container Recycling Council

The Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC) is the trade association of the ag chemicals industry, responsible for supporting the collection and proper recycling of ag containers nationwide. The program currently operates in 46 states and collects ALL types of ag chemical containers including pesticides, animal health, specialty pest control, micronutrient, biologicals, fertilizer, and/or adjuvant product containers. Over the past 30 years, the ACRC program has collected and recycled over 240,000,000 pounds of container plastic! The program is fully funded by its member companies who are the manufacturers of these products. Collection of containers takes place through ACRCs network of contractors.

ACRC has recently seen concerns in various states with our container acceptance requirements. ACRC would like to stress that the container inspection and cleaning criteria used by ACRC contractors, is not the contractors standard, but is the ACRC standard which is ultimately the EPA standard. This standard was established in the EPA 2006 Container and Containment Rule, requiring 99.99% removal of each active ingredient. A simple way to articulate this standard is “CLEAN means CLEAN, with NO residue seen.” Staining is fine, but residue is not. We acknowledge that enforcement of this standard by our contractors requires ongoing training and communication due to staff turnover. Ongoing training and communication is also required at the end user level (farmers and professional applicators).

ACRCs goal is and will continue to be, to enforce the above inspection standards, not lower them. As soon as we lower the standard, we jeopardize the program and the health and safety of all involved. Specific environmental, health and safety (EHS) risks include EHS hazards at collection areas (trailers, staff, soil, groundwater), EHS hazards to downstream parties (contractors, plastic processors, and plastic end users), EHS risks to non-grower collection site owners (retailers, landfills, recycling centers), EHS risks in transportation, and financial impact through inability to recycle and sell the plastic. Regarding caps and labels, removal and disposal of these has been the responsibility of the end user, not the contractor, throughout the life of the ACRC program. This requirement is critical to the efficiency of our collection and inspection process. Booklet labels and caps should be discarded but base labels may remain. Because ACRC contractors cannot be sure what type of product was in each container, ALL containers must be properly triple or pressure rinsed prior to collection. This includes non-pesticide products.

While the above may seem like difficult requirements to meet, we

### Helena Agri Enterprises - Retail 1

**Todd Barnett**  
barnettt@helenaagri.com

**Anthony Barrett**  
barretta@helenaagri.com



**Lee Holliday**  
leeh@helenaagri.com

**Lenny Kortess**  
kortessl@helenaagri.com

**Rhonda Lee**  
leer@helenaagri.com

**Rory Lewis**  
lewisr2@helenaagri.com

**Barry Marsh**  
marshb@helenaagri.com

**Brandon Byington**  
byingtonb@helenaagri.com

**Jerys Enget**  
engetj@helenaagri.com

**Shane Ereth**  
ereths@helenaagri.com

**Jake Godfrey**  
godfreyd@helenaagri.com

**Paul King**  
kingp@helenaagri.com

**Thomas Lee**  
Leet@helenaagri.com

.....

### Helena Agri Enterprises - Retail 2

**Bill McKinley**  
mckinleyw@helenaagri.com

**Dan Brattain**  
brattaind@helenaagri.com



**Burl Brawley**  
BrawleyB@helenaagri.com

**James Cook**  
cookhj@helenaagri.com

**Amy Erichsen**  
erichsena@helenaagri.com



# SUSTAINING MEMBERS

**Karissa Floerchinger**  
floerchingerk@helenaagri.com

**Tom Gatzemeier**  
gatzemeiert@helenaagri.com

**Gordon Hawks**  
hawksg@helenaagri.com

**Jeff Rearden**  
reardenj@helenaagri.com

**Mason Shaw**  
shawm@helenaagri.com

**Troy Thomas**  
thomastm@helenaagri.com

**Tyler Viste**  
vistet@helenaagri.com

**Helena Agri Enterprises - Wholesale**

Brooks Hammel  
floerchingerk@helenaagri.com



**Hub Intl Mountain States, LTD**

Mike Inman  
mike.inman@hubinternational.com



**Hub Intl of Montana**

Kevin Dotseth  
gary.mcferrin@hubinternational.com



**Brandon Riska**  
brandon.riska@hubinternational.com

**Intl Raw Materials Ltd**

Brooke McMullin  
cmcr@irm.com



**Intrepid**

JA Beall  
ja.beall@intrepidpotash.com



know from experience in states all across the country, that these standards are reasonable and readily achievable. ACRC has many collection sites that continually demonstrate the ability to meet these standards with minimal (0 – 10%) rejects. You will help foster the long term success of the ACRC program, by reinforcing our education and training efforts to achieve these same results at ALL collection sites in the coming season. We encourage you to check out the ACRC website, and the attachments to this email, for educational details about rinsing. Several best practices include 1) rinsing at the time of use 2) triple or pressure rinsing until rinsate is water clear and 3) field applying the rinsate. Remember, CLEAN means CLEAN, with NO residue seen!

Lastly, ACRC would like to recognize and thank all those who are already participating in the ACRC program. We hope that continues for many years to come. If you are not currently participating, we hope you will decide to join us as we seek to help take care of your land, family, and community, by giving new life to used plastic! ■

## Compare your containers with the examples shown below.



Always follow the instructions on the label before handling any crop protection products. Wear the proper protective equipment as specified on the product label.



# Drone Sprayers — Are We Ready?

By Tom Wolf (*nozzle\_guy*)

One of the fastest moving new agricultural technologies is spray drones. Hardly a month goes by without some sort of new capability, some new features. It's truly an exciting space to watch.

As with all things, there are good news and bad news to share. First the good news.

## DRONE CAPACITY IS ON THE RISE

The early drones shipped with hoppers of 8 to 10 litres. Part of the reason was to keep weight below 25 kg. Below this weight, pilot licensing requirements and flight restrictions are easier. Anyone with a Basic RPAS license (RPAS is the official term for drones, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems) can operate drones up to 25 kg. Above this weight, one requires an Advanced license, which is much more difficult to obtain. Current drones like the DJI T40 have a hopper capacity of 40 L, allowing more area to be covered per flight.



The new DJI T40 holds 40 L of liquid and has a claimed swath width of 36 feet. (Source: DJI)

## SWATH WIDTHS ARE INCREASING WITH DRONE SIZE

The limiting factor for electric drones is still battery power. Flight times of 15 to 20 minutes are possible, depending on the ferrying distance. As a result, larger drones don't necessarily fly longer, but they spray wider, up to a claimed 30 feet for the DJI T30, and 36 feet for the T40.

## ATOMIZERS ARE IMPROVING

The trusty flat fan nozzle certainly works on a drone, but its proper operation depends on spray pressure. And spray pressure is not currently reported by drones. Instead, their application software relies on flow rate, and pressure is adjusted in the background in response to changes in travel speed, swath width, or nozzle size. Although drone flow meters are remarkably accurate, the operator could inadvertently operate the drone at a pressure that produces the wrong spray quality for the conditions.

Enter the rotary atomizer. Long a darling of the thinking applicator, these atomizers use centrifugal energy to create a spray with a tighter span, meaning fewer fine and fewer large droplets. Spray quality still depends on pressure-generated flow rate, but droplet size can additionally be altered with rotation speed. This means that if a faster travel speed increases the spray pressure, the effect on spray quality can be counteracted with a changed rotational speed to keep everything more uniform.



Rotary atomizers, like this one from XAG generate more uniform droplet sizes and can alter droplet size without changing spray pressure.

## HYBRID SYSTEMS ARE ENTERING THE MARKET

Rotary wings allow for precise positioning of aircraft and they provide downwash that helps spread the



spray pattern out. Downwash also improves canopy penetration and could reduce drift, like air-assist, if used properly. But rotary wings use a lot of energy, limiting battery life. When flown at the wrong height or speed, deposit patterns, drift, and swath width will change. That has to be managed and requires experience.

In comparison, hybrid drones have fixed wings for flight and rotary wings for take-off and landing. The rotors just rotate into the position needed at the time. Fixed wing drones will fly faster, possibly improving capacity and also reducing the effect of the downwash. These systems are new, and much needs to be learned before we understand their various characteristics. But they offer a nice avenue into more productivity.



Hybrid drones like this one from Advanced Robotics can cover more ground with less turbulence than a rotary wing drone.

## DRONES ARE MULTI-PURPOSE

Virtually all drones have interchangeable wet and dry hoppers so they can be used to apply dry nutrients or seed as needed. That makes them quite versatile. But the newest spray drones have scouting-quality cameras on board and can be asked to take high resolution images while they're spraying. At the end of the mission, a very detailed picture of the crop emerges, with much higher resolution than the higher-elevation scouts produce. Other sensors on the drones can be used for variable rate application of nutrients, or even for spot spraying weed patches.



Scouting camera takes pictures while conducting a spray mission. (Source: DJI)

Now for the bad news. It's still not legal to apply mainstream pesticides using drones in Canada, and it may stay that way for a while yet.

## PESTICIDE APPLICATION BY DRONES REMAINS ILLEGAL IN CANADA

The main reason is that the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has declared drones to be unique application method, separate from ground sprays and aerial sprays from piloted aircraft. This has triggered the need for risk assessment data for spray drift, efficacy, bystander exposure, crop residue. It's a fair decision – drones produce finer sprays than any other existing system, they potentially use lower water volumes by necessity, and they create a less predictable deposit due to rotor downwash. The majority of current pesticide formulations are designed for 5 to 10 gpa, this creates a certain concentration of surfactants and products that interact with plant surfaces or that change the potency of drift. Altering this by a factor of 5 can have undesirable outcomes. Yes, aircraft also use lower volumes, but more in the area of 2 to 5 gpa. Drones could cut that in half again, and that warrants study.

## REGISTRANTS HAVEN'T RUSHED TO STUDY DRONES

Most major manufacturers of pesticides have a small

*Drone Sprayers continued on page 18*

*Drone Sprayers continued from page 17*

drone program to get their feet wet, and most have applied for Research Authorization (RA) from the PMRA to study them. But the decision to register a drone use for a pesticide has much to consider. Is it worth it to generate the required dataset for the regulators? Will drones amount to a lucrative new market for product? Do we have the resources and expertise to service this new market? The answers to such questions are clearly complex and much remains unknown. The registrants' caution is understandable.

### THERE MAY BE A SMALL PORTFOLIO OF AVAILABLE PRODUCTS

Anyone thinking that a fleet of inexpensive, nimble drones will replace their ground sprayer is banking on the registration of the products they need in their operation by the registrants. The most likely products to be registered are fungicides, for which drones would offer several advantages in canopy penetration and spraying in tight time windows due to, say, wet weather.

Another obvious use is in industrial vegetation management where rough terrain or remote locations make it difficult to use wheeled sprayers. Or vector control with larvicides, which, incidentally, comprise the first pesticide registrations for drones in Canada (two microbial mosquito larvicides were approved for drone use in October 2022).

But it seems unlikely in the short term that a producer would have their pick of products to apply by drone anytime soon. And this means that a drone would remain a supplemental tool on the farm, not the main workhorse.

### REGULATORY HURDLES ARE SUBSTANTIAL

Not only is a pilot required to be licensed to use drones, a pesticide application also requires a Specialized Flight Operations Certificate (SFOC). In general, SFOCs are required if:

- you are a foreign operator (i.e., not a Canadian citizen or permanent resident);
- you want to fly at a special aviation event or an advertised event;
- you want to fly closer to a military airport;
- you want to fly your drone beyond visual line-of-sight;
- your drone weighs over 25 kg;
- you want to fly your drone at higher altitudes;

# SUSTAINING MEMBERS

**Itafos Conda LLC**   
Ken Cihacek  
ken.cihacek@itafos.com

**Matt Conlon**  
matt.conlon@itafos.com

.....

**J.R. Simplot Company**  
Brandon De Los Reyes  
brandon.delosreyes@simplot.com

Lori Hamann   
lhamann@simplot.com

**Matt Benzel**  
matt.benzel@simplot.com

.....

**KALO**   
Ryan Lewis  
rlewis@kalo.com

**Tim Tackes**  
ttackes@kalo.com

.....

**Koch Agronomic Services** 

Tom King  
thomas.king@kochind.com

**Justin Sieck**  
justin.sieck@kochind.com

**Ty Smith**  
Ty.smith@kochind.com

**Teresa Wilson**  
teresa.wilson@kochind.com

.....

**Lallemand Plant Care**   
Robert Todd  
rtodd@lallemand.com

Gregory Walk  
gwalk@lallemand.com

**Nathan Wright**  
nwright@lallemand.com

.....



# SUSTAINING MEMBERS

## MacroSource LLC

Scott Gordon  
scott.gordon@macrosource.com



## Miller Chemical & Fertilizer, LLC

Henry Hooker  
henryhooker@millerchemical.com



## Montana Sulphur and Chemical Company

Zach Weimortz  
Zach@montanasulphur.com



## Mosaic

Lea Ann Flaagan  
leaann.flaagan@mosaicco.com



## NACHURS

Ray Morkrid  
rmorkrid@nachurs-alpine.com

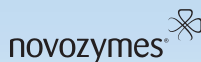


Ray Morkrid  
rmorkrid@nachurs-alpine.com

Tyler Rice  
trice@nachurs-alpine.com

## Novozymes

Chris Berg  
chjb@novozymes.com



## Oro Agri USA

Dan Galbreath  
linne.jarrod@gmail.com



## Pocock Trucking

John Pocock  
john@pococktruck.com



- you want to fly your drone carrying dangerous or hazardous payloads (e.g. chemicals);
- you want to fly more than five drones at the same time.

SFOC applications are fairly easy to fill out. Aside from identifying the drone and the pilot, the application needs the purpose of the mission, the location of the mission, and the time period of the mission. The problem is that it may take up to 30 days to hear back for simple missions, 60 days for complex mission. And if the SFOC is not granted, you can't fly. You can't decide to spray a field at the last minute.

The news is clearly a mixed bag. We have it all – exciting technology, obvious niche in the marketplace, significant regulations, slow process. In the meantime, spray drones are legal to purchase and relatively inexpensive. And we know they are being purchased. Canada doesn't have a strong compliance system within the PMRA, so it's hard to know how much pesticide spraying is being done illegally, or how perpetrators will be treated by the law.

The reputation of the industry once again rests with hope that good decisions are being made by conscientious individuals. ■

*Tom Wolf is based in Saskatoon, SK and has 33 years research experience in the spraying business. He obtained his BSA (1987) and M.Sc. (1991) in Plant Science at the University of Manitoba, and his Ph.D. (1996) in Agronomy from the Ohio State University. Tom focuses on practical advice that is research-based to improve the efficiency of producers.*



## REMEMBER . . .

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!!



**Know what's below.  
Tap, Click, or Call  
811 Before you dig.**

# EPA Posts Draft Biological Opinion for Carbaryl and Methomyl for Public Comment

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is posting and seeking public comment on the National Marine Fisheries Service’s (NMFS) draft biological opinion for the insecticides carbaryl and methomyl. Carbaryl and methomyl are insecticides used on a variety of crops, including field vegetables and orchard crops.

Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), EPA must ensure that its actions, including many pesticide registration actions, do not jeopardize federally listed endangered or threatened species, or adversely modify their designated critical habitats. When EPA determines in a biological evaluation that use of a pesticide product may affect these species or critical habitats, EPA must initiate formal consultation with NMFS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), or both (the Services). In response, the Service(s) may develop a biological opinion that determines whether the pesticide will jeopardize listed species or adversely modify critical habitats.

In March 2021, EPA completed its final biological evaluations for carbaryl and methomyl. EPA’s biological evaluations made “likely to adversely affect” determinations for 1,640 listed species and 736 designated critical habitats for carbaryl and 1,098 listed species and 736 designated critical habitats for methomyl. A “likely to adversely affect” (LAA) determination means that EPA reasonably expects that at least one individual animal or plant of any listed species may be exposed to these pesticides at a sufficient level to have an adverse effect. This is the case even if a listed species is almost recovered to a point where it may no longer need to be listed.

EPA initiated formal consultation with the Services upon completing these biological evaluations and, in response, NMFS has developed a draft biological opinion for carbaryl and methomyl.

## BIOLOGICAL OPINION AND NEXT STEPS

The draft biological opinion includes NMFS’s determinations that, under the ESA, use of carbaryl and methomyl is likely to jeopardize some listed species and adversely modify their critical habitats when used as registered. The draft biological opinion contains measures to avoid jeopardy and adverse modification, and to minimize “take,” which is incidental harm of listed species.

In its draft biological opinion, NMFS evaluated the effects of the use of


# SUSTAINING MEMBERS

**Praireland Ag**  **Praireland Ag Inc.**  
 Bringing Ag Business Together  
 Jesse Mallard  
 jessem@prairielandag.net

Troy Schrader  
 troys@prairielandag.net

**Scotts Co.**   
 Michael Diamond  
 michael.diamond@scotts.com

**Sustainable Oils**   
 Keith Horton  
 keith.horton@sus oils.com

**Syngenta Crop Protection**   
 Spencer McIntosh  
 pence r.mcintosh@syngenta.com

Johnnie Scott  
 johnnie.scott@syngenta.com

**Tessenderlo Kerly Inc - Crop Vitality**   
 Nichole Drake  
 nichole.drake@tkinet.com

**Tilleman Motor Co**  
 Craig Tilleman  
 craig@tillemanmotor.com

**UPL NA Inc**   
 Chris Barge  
 christopher.barge@upl-ltd.com

Craig Codr  
 craig.codr@upl-ltd.com

Rick Liesener  
 rick.liesener@upl-ltd.com

Steve Vining  
 steve.vining@upl-ltd.com



# SUSTAINING MEMBERS

## Verdesian Life Sciences



Brandon Neuman **VERDESIAN**  
brandon.neuman@vlsci.com

## Westbred



Nathan Clemens  
nathan.clemens@bayer.com

## Erik Fevold

erik.fevold@bayer.com

## Wilbur Ellis



Kevin Clellan  
kclellan@wilburellis.com

## Bill O'Haire

kclellan@wilburellis.com

## Joel Stokes

jstokes@wilburellis.com

## Ryan Helmer

rhelmer@wilburellis.com

## Winfield



Luke Dighans  
idighans@landolakes.com

## Jim Elliot

jelliot@landolakes.com

## Yara Belle Plaine



Dean Andersen  
dean.andersen@yara.com

pesticide products containing carbaryl and methomyl and determined that carbaryl is likely to jeopardize 37 listed species and adversely modify 36 critical habitats. Methomyl is likely to jeopardize 30 listed species and adversely modify 29 critical habitats. These findings cover only NMFS species. FWS will issue its own biological opinion addressing the listed species under their purview.

The draft biological opinion describes measures to avoid jeopardy, including a flexible list of chemical-specific measures to reduce loading of pesticides into aquatic habitats to protect them from adverse effects of pesticide exposure. It also includes measures to minimize take and impacts to critical habitats, such as the development of ESA educational materials, reporting of label compliance monitoring, and inclusion of label information about ecological incident reporting.

EPA and NMFS are particularly interested in comments on the draft biological opinion regarding:

- additional risk reduction options beyond those described in the biological opinion;
- the general feasibility of drift reduction measures based on wind direction; and
- runoff and/or spray drift reduction technologies.

After the 60-day public comment period, EPA will provide NMFS with the comments received and a summary of the comments for consideration before it finalizes the biological opinion. EPA will implement the final biological opinion.

The biological opinion is available for public comment in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0144. ■

## Become a Certified Crop Advisor





CCCA

25+ Years of Defining the Profession

COMMITMENT • EDUCATION • EXPERTISE • EXPERIENCE

Get Certified: Application forms, exam information, and other criteria are available at [www.certifiedcropadviser.org](http://www.certifiedcropadviser.org) or call 608-273-8085

Rebecca Perrin | Agriculture Advisor

U.S. EPA Region 8 | 1595 Wynkoop St | Denver, CO  
80202 | (303) 312-6311

1. **Statement by EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan on National Agriculture Day.** On March 21, 2023, in celebration of National Agriculture Day, EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan issued the following statement:

*“On this National Agriculture Day, just like every day, I’m grateful for the farmers, ranchers, and laborers who work tirelessly to produce the food, fuel and fiber that powers our Nation’s economy. The agricultural community is the backbone of this country and remains a vital partner in EPA’s mission to ensure clean air and clean water for all. We know that farmers, ranchers, and laborers, are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, and recently, the newly appointed members of EPA’s Farm, Ranch & Rural Communities Advisory Committee, held its first in-person meeting since 2016. The committee provides independent advice and recommendations on environmental issues essential to our agriculture and rural communities and reviews the agency’s policies and programs concerning agriculture and climate change. I’m looking forward to hearing from the committee over the next year about how EPA can support the agricultural community in reaching its climate mitigation and adaptation goals to ensure a more resilient food and agricultural system. The Biden-Harris Administration continues to show its commitment to strengthening the agricultural community. Both the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law have contributed billions of dollars to support climate-smart agriculture, provide relief to stressed borrowers, and bolster conservation. EPA is committed to working hand-in-hand with farmers and ranchers to protect public health and the environment.” ■*

# CORPORATE SUSTAINING MEMBERS

## Bayer

Derek Niklasen  
derek.niklasen@bayer.com



## Bayer Crop Science

Seth Anderson  
seth.anderson@bayer.com



## Roger Broadbent

roger.broadbent@bayer.com  
406-788-4251

## James Curry

george.gough@bayer.com  
530-669-6002

## Kerry Yates

kerry.yates@bayer.com  
406-727-5641

## CHS

Russell Alisch  
russell.alisch@chsinc.com  
406-265-2275



## Les Billington

les.billington@chsinc.com  
406-777-5441

## Julie Brayton

Julie.brayton@chsinc.com  
406-868-2862

## Tom Burtchett

tom.burtchett@chsinc.com  
406-231-3431

## Larry Cook

larry.cook@chsinc.com  
651-402-2065

## Jeri Engstrom

jeri.engstrom@chsinc.com  
406-654-2022

## Brian Foran

brian.foran@chsinc.com  
406-462-5428

## Gary Frisen

gary.frisen@chsinc.com  
406-567-2273

## Tom Gilead

tom.gilead@chsinc.com  
406-378-2306

## Jake Hamlin

Jake.Hamlin@chsinc.com  
651-280-7432

## Lance Johnson

lance.Johnson@chsinc.com  
406-265-2208

## Tim Kipp

Timothy.kipp@chsinc.com  
406-873-2081



# CORPORATE SUSTAINING MEMBERS

**Mark Lalum**  
mark.lalum@chsinc.com  
406-755-7400

**Ryan Lammers**  
ryan.lammers@chsinc.com  
406-265-2275

**Wendy Majerus**  
wendy.majerus@chsinc.com  
406-654-2022

**Neil Mauws**  
neil.mauws@chsinc.com  
406-622-5966

**John McFarland**  
john.mcfarland@chsinc.com  
406-667-2316

**Mark Morrell**  
mark.morrell@chsinc.com  
406-357-2280

**Dave Normandy**  
david.normandy@chsinc.com  
406-265-2275

**Garret Nygard**  
garrett.nygard@chsinc.com  
406-873-4642

**Brent Riggan**  
brent.riggan@chsinc.com  
406-759-5978

**Ken Slezak**  
kenneth.slezak@chsinc.com  
406-434-5225

**Don Soper**  
donald.soper@chsinc.com  
406-265-2275

**Jared Stenberg**  
jared.stenberg@chsinc.com  
406-379-2275

**Josh VanWechel**  
darius.wendland@chsinc.com  
406-355-4154

**Clint Volbrecht**  
clint.volbrecht@chsinc.com  
406-773-5853

**Darius Wendland**  
darius.wendland@chsinc.com  
406-355-4154

**Mary Werner**  
mary.werner@chsinc.com  
406-786-3221

.....  
**CHS Ag Partners**  
**Chase Anderson**  
chase.anderson13@chsinc.com  
406-778-2929  
.....



## CDL Legislation moving through MT Legislature

### Senate Bill 47 - Revise commercial drivers license laws to comply with federal requirements

SB47 faced a tumultuous path in the Senate with party politics and aversion to federal mandates. However, this federal requirement came about a few years ago and if Montana doesn't comply, the Montana Department of Transportation could lose nearly \$35 million per year of highway dollars that we put toward critical infrastructure. Our CDL program could also be decertified. Without a MT CDL program that's federally recognized, **no new CDLs could be given out and any existing license holders wouldn't be able to recertify**, creating even more trouble with our supply chains and even hurting schools that need school bus drivers. Attached is a letter the Governor received in January from FMCSA that mentions both of these impacts on the last page. The code that gives the federal government the authority to decertify our program is included below.

We understand the desire for less regulation, but this is a situation where the rules have already been implemented and we need to align Montana's standards to ensure our industries are protected or face serious repercussions.

MABA joined other groups including MT Chamber of Commerce, MT Trucking Association, MT Farm Bureau Federation, and MT Stock-growers Association in supporting the bill.

### 49 U.S. Code § 31312 - Decertification authority

(a) In General.—If the Secretary of Transportation determines that a State is in substantial noncompliance with this chapter, the Secretary shall issue an order to—

- (1) prohibit that State from carrying out licensing procedures under this chapter; and
- (2) prohibit that State from issuing any commercial driver's licenses until such time the Secretary determines such State is in substantial compliance with this chapter.

(b) Effect on Other States.—

A State (other than a State subject to an order under subsection (a)) may issue a non-resident commercial driver's license to an individual domiciled in a State that is prohibited from such activities under sub-

*CDL Legislation continued on page 24*

## National Ag Day

MABA participated in Ag Day at the Capitol with a booth and information shared with legislators and the public. This is a great event and gives Agriculture the opportunity to come together and share the value of what we do.

In addition, Tanner Hoversland, MABA Vice President participated in the Governor's Agriculture Round Table. Tanner was able to share MABA's concerns and thoughts with the Governor and his staff as well as other agriculture groups in Montana. ■



### *CSL Legislation continued from page 23*

section (a) if that individual meets all requirements of this chapter and the nonresident licensing requirements of the issuing State.

(c) Previously Issued Licenses.—

Nothing in this section shall be construed as invalidating or otherwise affecting commercial driver's licenses issued by a State before the date of issuance of an order under subsection (a) with respect to the State.

(Added Pub. L. 106–159, title II, § 203(a), Dec. 9, 1999, 113 Stat. 1762.) ■

# CORPORATE SUSTAINING MEMBERS

## CHS Big Sky

Christian Guenther  
 christian.guenther@chsinc.com  
 406-380-1742



## Ryan Lammers

ryan.lammers@chsinc.com  
 406-265-2275

## CHS Inc

Nicole Dockter  
 nicole.dockter@chsinc.com



## Gary Friesen

gary.friesen2@chsinc.com

## Perry Johnston

perry.johnston@chsinc.com

## Mark Tigbao

mark.tigbao@chsinc.com

## Corteva AgriSciences

James Baguley  
 james.allan.baguley@corteva.com  
 406-407-0827



## Caroline Silveira

caroline.a.silveira@corteva.com  
 916-345-0313

## Marcus Weatherhead

Marcus.weatherhead@corteva.com  
 406-690-3946

## FMC Ag Products

Sam Lincoln  
 kathryn.Ratzburg@fmc.com  
 406-331-0933



## Kathryn Ratzburg

kathryn.Ratzburg@fmc.com  
 406-320-2239

## Kirk Sager

Kirk.sager@fmc.com  
 509-770-0302

## Daniel Skoczylas

Daniel.skoczylas@fmc.com  
 509-770-0302

## Nutrien

Mike Baune  
 mike.baune@nutrien.com  
 509-551-8510



## Jake Yates

jake.yates@nutrien.com  
 406-696-7942



# CORPORATE SUSTAINING MEMBERS

## Nutrien Ag Solutions

Kelly Bronec  
kelly.bronec@nutrien.com  
406-836-0731

Mitch Ereaux  
Mitch.Ereaux@nutrien.com  
406-390-7630

Tim Hartwell  
timothy.hartwell@nutrien.com  
406-460-1153

Nathan Haynie  
Nathan.Haynie@nutrien.com  
406-647-2569

Ryan Holt  
Ryan.Holt@nutrien.com  
406-899-9635

Jeremy Jensen  
Jeremy.Jensen@nutrien.com  
208-490-6210

Dan Kolar  
dan.kolar@nutrien.com  
406-350-0456

Casey Odom  
casey.odom@nutrien.com  
406-633-3463

Austin Orcutt  
Austin.Orcutt@nutrien.com  
406-450-4897

Kristie Pulst  
kristie.pulst@nutrien.com  
406-621-0015

Jonathan Sykes  
jonathan.sykes@nutrien.com  
406-946-1277

## Syngenta Crop Protection - National

David Flakne  
dave.flakne@syngenta.com  
608-770-3525



## Western Plant Health

Renee Pinel  
reneep@healthyplants.org  
916-574-9744



## MABA Annual Golf Tournament

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well, and we have warmer temperatures by the time this reaches you. The last couple years we have had a really successful golf tournament to help supplement MABA and the MT Agricultural Business Foundation's ability to continue giving and running a strong organization. Each year our tournament has grown, and we are hopeful it continues to do so. This year will be our third annual golf tournament, and we are pleased to announce that we will once again be working with MABF (Montana Ag Business Association Foundation), giving them the opportunity to fundraise at the event as well.



**Dan Brattain**

*Golf Committee  
Montana Agricultural  
Business Association*

The purpose of the MABA Annual Golf Tournament is to offer an event to our members to break up the monotony after our spring season, but before our fall season kicks off. This event has been well sponsored, attended, and received. THANK YOU to everyone that has participated in one way or another. Stay tuned for the opportunity to register your four-person team, and to sponsor the tournament.

We received a lot of suggestions about the tournament last year and we are going to implement several of them for the 2023 tournament. There will be two teams per hole, who will switch score cards and keep track of the other team's score. There will be different flights and teams will be paired up together based on similar handicaps. We also wanted to add a little variety, so we switched courses. This course is closer to hotels and the pace of play will be faster as well.

Without you this would have been a one and done event, so thank you again. As a board, we feel it is very important to hear your suggestions, compliments, concerns, and any other ideas that you feel may add to this event. No suggestion is too small/big and will be discussed at a board meeting. Thank you all for your time and commitment to MABA.

### 2023 GOLF CALCUTTA

Date: July 26th, 2023

Time: Social Hour 5:00 pm & Calcutta 6:00 pm

Place: Hilton Garden Inn | 2520 14<sup>th</sup> Street Southwest, Great Falls MT

### 2023 GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: July 27th, 2023

Place: Hickory Swings GC | 1100 American Ave, Great Falls, MT

Breakfast: Continental breakfast at the course

Shot Gun Start: 8:30 am

Lunch: Around the Turn

Evening Social Hour & Awards: 5:00 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn



# MABA Great Montana Ag Rally Golf Scramble

July 27, 2023

You may register a four-man team or as an individual golfer.  
We ask that all players be MABA or teams sponsored by a MABA member.

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## TEAM OR GOLFER REGISTRATION

**GOLF TEAM** | Team Fee - \$600.00

*4 players, includes course fee, Calcutta Social Hour, Golf Day breakfast and Golf Day lunch*

Do you need a cart or carts? | Golf Cart Rental - \$50.00 | How many carts \_\_\_\_\_

**INDIVIDUAL GOLFER** | Individual Golfer - \$150.00

*Includes course fee, Calcutta Social Hour, Golf day breakfast and Golf day lunch*

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #1: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_

Player #2: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_

Player #3: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_

Player #4: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap \_\_\_\_\_

### Golfer Registration includes all meals:

Calcutta Social Hour | Breakfast | Lunch

### Additional meals for guests (also available for purchase at the event)

Calcutta Social Hour: \$40 | Breakfast: \$15 | Lunch: \$20

Please register on our website: [mtagbiz.org](http://mtagbiz.org)



# Great Montana Ag Rally Sponsorships

Golf tournament partners receive acknowledgment in the MABA Growing Montana Magazine and at the event.

Your company logo linked to your website is posted on the MABA website for the entire year!

Business fliers may be included in the golfer registration bags.

Please go to [www.mtagbiz.org](http://www.mtagbiz.org) to be a sponsor.

*You can also fill out the form below and email to [agbusinessmt@gmail.com](mailto:agbusinessmt@gmail.com)  
Sponsorships are first come/first served. | Thank you for supporting MABA!*

## HOLE SPONSORSHIPS

A prize valued at \$100 is awarded on the sponsor's behalf immediately following the golf tournament. The sponsor may donate the prize or pay an additional \$100 and MABA will purchase the prize.

- Hole Sponsorship - \$500       MABA Purchase Prize - \$100

### DETAILS

- Golfers will see your company name displayed at the tee box of the sponsored hole - can't miss it!
- Your company name and logo will be displayed prominently with the hole prize during the Calcutta social hour.
- 18 hole sponsorships are available.

## MEAL SPONSORSHIPS

- Calcutta Social Hour Food - \$3,500       Continental Breakfast - \$750  
 Golf Day Lunch - \$2,000       Post Tournament Social Hour Food - \$1,500

### DETAILS

- As the exclusive meal sponsor, your company's name will be displayed on a large sign at the event.
- You will have an opportunity to be introduced and say a few words at the event.

## DRINK SPONSORSHIPS

- Calcutta Evening Drink Tickets - \$1,500       Golf Day Drink Tickets - \$1,500  
 Post Tournament Drink Tickets - \$1,500

### DETAILS — *The Drink Ticket sponsors are very popular!*

- Your company logo will be displayed prominently on the drink tickets; one given to each golfer.
- Drink Ticket sponsors receive extra tickets to hand out during the event.
- Verbal Acknowledgment as drink sponsor.

## OTHER PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Post Tournament Awards - \$1,000       Team Photos - \$1,000       Mulligans - \$500  
 Putting Green - \$500       Driving Range Balls - \$500       Golf Balls - \$500

## COURSE SPONSORSHIP

- General Sponsorship - Minimum \$300

### DETAILS

- *Team Photos: includes your company name as sponsor posted on the MABA website.*
- *Mulligans: includes company name/logo on mulligan cards distributed to every team.*
- *Putting Green: includes a prominent sign at the putting green.*
- *Driving Range Balls: includes a prominent sign at the driving range.*
- *Course Sponsorship: you choose the amount of investment, \$300 and up. Course sponsors receive signage at the #1 tee box by the clubhouse.*

**Please go to [www.mtagbiz.org](http://www.mtagbiz.org) to sponsor!**

While we would prefer you sign up for a sponsorship through the website,  
hard copy forms can be returned to: [agbusinessmt@gmail.com](mailto:agbusinessmt@gmail.com)

Please submit payment to: Montana Ag Business Association | PO Box 7325 | Helena, MT 59604



P.O. Box 7325  
Helena, MT 59604

Presorted Standard  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Helena, MT 59601  
Permit No. 221

Growing Montana is paid for by the Montana Agricultural Business Association | PO Box 7325 | Helena, MT 59604

**MABA**  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JUNE**

- 6 8:00 am to 12:00 pm in Billings
- 6 Joint meeting with MGEA  
Convention Planning in Billings
- 14 MSU Field Day at Southern  
Agriculture Research Center  
11:30 a.m. in Huntley
- 19-22 Montana Seed Trade Association  
Fairmont Hot Springs,  
Fairmont, MT
- 28 MSU Field Day Central  
Agricultural Research Center  
8:15 a.m. in Moccasin
- 29 MSU Field Day Northern  
Agricultural Research Center  
3:00 p.m. in Havre

**JULY**

- 6 MSU Field Day Western Triangle  
Agricultural Research Center  
10:00 a.m. in Conrad
- 11 MSU Field Day Eastern  
Agricultural Research Center  
8:00 a.m. in Sidney
- 12 Dickinson REC 2023 Manning  
Ranch Field Day
- 13 MSU Field Day Northwestern  
Agricultural Research Center  
11:00 a.m. in Creston
- 19 MSU Field Day Post Farm  
8:00 a.m. in Bozeman
- 26-27 Golf Tournament  
in Great Falls
- 27 MSU Field Day Western  
Agricultural Research Center  
4:30 p.m. in Corvallis

**AUGUST**

- 19 National Lentil Festival,  
Pullman, WA

**OCTOBER**

- 16-19 Washinton DC

**NOVEMBER**

- 2 Ag Appreciation  
in Bozeman
- 3-5 MSU Celebrate Ag  
in Bozeman
- 12-19 National Split Pea Soup Week
- 28 Great Falls

**JANUARY 2024**

- 24-26 Convention in Great Falls