

Growing Montana

SPRING 2025



**MABA 2025
BOARD
MEMBERS**

**GREAT MONTANA
AG RALLY
GOLF SCRAMBLE**

**MONTANA
4-H FOUNDATION
UPDATES**

A Publication of
MONTANA AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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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.



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A Message from the President

I hope this message finds you all knee deep in spring work, I know at some points throughout the winter it felt that it would never get here. And now, if you are like me, you are wishing that maybe it would have delayed itself a few more weeks. Seems as if the first couple weeks are always the hardest, or maybe I am just ageing myself again.

The 2025 MABA/MGEA convention was another outstanding success. We had near record number of attendees as well as several new exhibitors. We as boards continue to work hard throughout the year to put on one of the best trade shows/educational opportunities in the West. Organizing and running an event of this size and scope is a process that takes dozens of people and thousands of hours to plan and execute. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those board and staff members who went above and beyond to make this convention a success. However, those who really deserve appreciation are all of you who braved the weather and attended the convention this year. If not for you and your support then none of what we, as an organization, do would matter. It's your continued trust in the Montana Agricultural Business Association that is the fundamental base to the its success.

As MABA moves into the new year, post-convention anyway, I would encourage you to keep an eye out for information regarding our summer golf outing. We will again be at Hickory Swings, in Great Falls on July 24th. We are always looking for suggestions as to how we can improve this event, i.e., location, format, timing, etc. I would ask that you speak with one of the board members so that we can investigate these options.

Again, thank you all for a successful 2024 and we look forward to another great year in 2025. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything MABA can do your organization. ■



Tanner R. Hoversland

President

*Montana Agricultural
Business Association*



MABA 2025 Board Members



Tanner Hoversland, President
Moore Farmers Oil

Tanner was born and raised on a farming family in Scobey, MT and graduated from 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.

Don Soper
Mountain View Co-op

Don was born and raised in Larshan, MT, a little community southeast 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. In the summer of 1995, Don got married and moved to Havre where he started his now 30-year career in the Ag Retail Industry. He is currently overseeing 2 locations for Mountain View Co-op. He has also spent the past 6 years as an MABA Board Member and looks forward to completing his last 3-year term representing Ag Retail and its members.

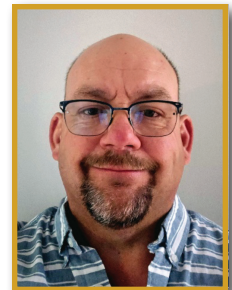


James Baguley
Corteva Agriscience

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.

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 is 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.



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.



Christian Guenther, Treasurer
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 Fehringer 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.

Gwynn Simeniuk
Agronomy Sales | PRO Co-op

I was raised on a commercial beef cattle ranch just outside Killdeer, Saskatchewan. Since that time, my work in agriculture has been south of the border in Montana. I received B.S. degrees in Agricultural Education and Animal



Science from Montana State University and later a Masters in Science Education from Western Governors University. I spent five years at the Montana FFA Foundation building leadership programming and industry partnerships in support of agricultural education students. The plains of the platinum rectangle eventually began calling to me. I returned to northeast Montana in the spring of 2022 where I joined PRO Co-op as an Agronomy Sales Rep and live in Glasgow. When my mutt, Annie, and I aren't in the field, we're often found playing amateur chemists in the kitchen trying out new baking recipes (Annie is a great taste tester) while watching football and cheering on the Cats!



Patrick Nelson
Account Manager for CHS Agronomy

My name is Patrick Nelson and I currently live in Hysham with my wife (Jayme) and our four kids (Isabel, Colter, Chase, and Easton). Outside of work we enjoy spending time chasing the kids around for numerous activities including 4-H and countless sports. Any free time we have we spend at the lake or on the farm in Eastern MT

I'm currently an Account Manager for CHS Agronomy, covering the Crop Protection business for Montana and Wyoming. Prior to this role I worked for a local cooperative for 8 years on the retail side of the business. For the past nearly decade I've had the privilege of watching several colleagues and friends serve on the MABA Board, and I feel that it is my time to step up and help out. The boards tireless efforts to strengthen our industry in MT is quite remarkable. I'm honored to help serve in those efforts!

for Montana, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. I came into an ag career in a round-about way as I didn't grow up on a farm. Instead, I found myself as a member of the FFA in high school where I started to learn about what ag in Montana is and how it impacts the lives of so many great people in our state. From there a passion grew to learn more and more about agronomy, so I attended college at Montana State University where I received my degree in Crop Science.

In 2008 I moved to the triangle area and spent 6 years working for CHS in multiple roles. It was a fantastic opportunity to actually learn about the retail agriculture industry. I had some phenomenal mentors who were willing to teach someone who didn't have a clue, so thank you to those people. I then spent 6 years at Mountain View Co-op where I managed their location in Power. It was an eye-opening experience to learn what it meant to manage people, a business, and so much more.

I look forward to meeting you and learning about what it is you do, as well as how the MABA can continue to better serve our members.

Andy Fillmore
Technical Service Representative: Montana

I grew up in Southern Minnesota and spent parts of the summer working for my dairy and sweet corn farming neighbors. That got me interested in agriculture and after high school I went to NDSU and got an undergrad and master's degree in plant science. After college I began working for a pesticide distributor called West Central/CHS and moved to Montana covering Washington, Idaho and Montana as a Technical Specialist. There I worked 9 years with adjuvants, fertilizers, nutritional's, and agronomic recommendations. In 2023 I began working for BASF as a Technical Service Representative where I conduct product development research, sales support, and technical support for our portfolio. Outside of work I enjoy being outdoors, golfing, fishing, and hunting with my bird dog.



Rory Lewis
Helena Agri-Enterprises

Rory was born and raised in Reed Point MT on a cow/calf cattle ranch where his passion for animals and landscapes set seed. From the ranch he went on to study Agricultural Business and Farm and Ranch Management at Sheridan College and finished his B.S. at Montana State University. Upon graduation in 2018, he began working as a Sales Representative for Helena Agri-Enterprises. Rory currently lives with his wife Kendra and daughter to be in Laurel.

Billi Taylor
Moore Farmers Oil

I was born and raised in Central Montana. I received a degree in Business Administration! I worked in Ag business and Mortgage lending for 18 years prior to working in the Ag community now for Moore Farmers Oil! I have worked in Denton at my current position for the last 9 years. I have enjoyed working with the Ag community from day one! The Montana way of life runs deep in my heart, I love everything Montana has to offer!

Some of my favorite things are hiking, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, skiing and camping. I am excited to keep growing and understanding all that Agriculture can teach me and share that knowledge! ■



NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Jarod Linne
Rovensa Next

Hello MABA members! I'm so grateful to have been elected to the board, and I'm looking forward to everything I can do to serve our organization. I am representing you from the Great Falls area where I live with my wife and children. I work for a bio-solutions company called Rovensa Next, where I am the area rep



Grassley, Ernst, Colleagues Push to Secure Fertilizer Access for Farmers

April 4, 2025 — Senate Agriculture Committee Member Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), a lifelong family farmer, joined Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) and a bipartisan group of House and Senate lawmakers in a letter urging Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum to reinstate potash and add phosphate – both critical fertilizer ingredients – to the U.S. Critical Minerals List.

United States Senate

The designation will support domestic production and strengthen supply chains, important steps to protecting food security and stabilizing the market for farmers. The lawmakers state that doing so will send a powerful message that the United States is serious about safeguarding the nation's food supply.

“The importance of potash to the nation's economic and national security was recognized in 2018 when DOI included potash on its list of 35 critical minerals. However, under the previous administration, the 2022 update removed potash from the list—a decision that clearly warrants reconsideration. We appreciate President Trump's support for reversing this in his March 20, 2025, executive order,” the members wrote.

The U.S. depends on imports for approximately 85 percent of its potash needs, primarily sourcing it from Canada. Worldwide, only 14 countries produce potash, with Belarus and Russia accounting for nearly 40 percent of total production. The members emphasized that the United States must address the growing risks to the potash supply chain, including a return to domestic potash production as quickly as possible.

“At the very heart of this issue are the American farmers who work tirelessly to feed Americans and much of the world. Fertilizers containing potash and phosphate are essential to maintaining soil fertility, improving crop yields, and ensuring

consistent food production. Without access to a stable and affordable supply of these minerals, farmers face higher costs, reduced yields, and increased uncertainty—challenges that threaten their livelihoods and the food security of millions of American families,” the members wrote.

“Potash and phosphate are essential to growing the food that sustains our nation, and we rely heavily on imports to get them. Global disruptions put farmers in a tough spot, driving up costs and hurting farm profitability,” said Iowa Soybean Association President Brent Swart. “Adding these minerals to the Critical Minerals List helps secure a stable, domestic supply, protecting both our farms and the wallets of everyday consumers.”

“Fertilizers, specifically potash and phosphate, are crucial tools in the toolbox that Iowa corn farmers rely on as they supply food, feed, fiber, and fuel globally,” said Iowa Corn Growers Association President and farmer from Galt, Iowa, Stu Swanson. “ICGA supports the relisting of potash and the inclusion of phosphate on the U.S. Critical Minerals List. We thank Senator Ernst for her ongoing advocacy for Iowa agriculture.”

In the Senate, additional cosigners include Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman John Boozman (R-Ark.), along with Sens. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.), Christopher Coons (D-Del.), Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.), Ted Budd (R-N.C.), Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), Jim Justice (R-W.Va.), Deb Fischer (R-Neb.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), James Risch (R-Idaho) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho).

In the House, the letter is led by Reps. Kat Cammack (R-Fla.) and Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.). Additional cosigners include Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-Penn.), Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Scott Franklin (R-Fla.), Sharice L. Davids (D-Kan.), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa), Brad Finstad (R-Minn.), Randy Feenstra (R-Iowa),

Fertilizer Access continued on page 12





Opinion: EPA Needs Critical Resources to Review and Approve Crop Protection Tools

By Terry Kippley

Here's something you won't hear very often from farmers in the coffee shop – EPA needs more money.

Let me explain. EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs regulates and registers crop protection inputs, but these products can't get to farms without OPP's review and approval. And right now, new and innovative products, as well as proven generic offerings, are delayed, sometimes for years, because the EPA doesn't have the scientists or the dollars it needs to conduct a timely review.

The regulations for approving pesticides in the U.S. are the global gold standard. A new product must be backed by more than one hundred rigorous studies conducted at EPA-approved laboratories. Only after a thorough EPA review, which takes more than two years, are new products approved. Existing products must be periodically reviewed to ensure that they meet the latest health and safety standards. Generic products, which bring competition and lower costs to farms, must be reviewed and approved.

The approval process for pesticides that meets consumers' demands for safe food while protecting the environment means that the EPA's work must be thorough, credible, predictable, and timely. Unfortunately, the EPA is unable to meet the timely and predictable part right now because it lacks the resources to make that happen. This has created a backlog of regulatory submissions waiting for EPA

approval. This shouldn't come as a surprise. EPA is being asked to do more with less, meaning that the timely approval of new products and generic competition is having a negative effect on farms.

There are several ways we're trying to fix this. For the last three years, the Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology (CPDA) and our members have been collaborating with EPA on ways to streamline the approval process without sacrificing any of its integrity. We've made progress, but more needs to be done.

We've also sought additional money for the Pesticide Program through the congressional appropriations process. That's been a steep hill to climb given today's political battles over any increases in federal spending.

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We believe this is an area where the Department of Government Efficiency or DOGE might have a role in identifying out-of-the-box efficiencies we haven't thought of. What about using AI to complete routine tasks that might take a reviewer hours or days to complete? Or bringing EPA's computer hardware and software systems up to today's standards?

CPDA continued on page 12



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At the Montana Agribusiness Foundation (MABF) we encourage and support the legends of tomorrow. We strive to provide scholarships to the next generation of Montana

agriculturalists. These scholarships are designed to aid students in achieving their educational goals and to help them prepare for their future and the future of Montana agriculture.

Go like and follow our Facebook page to stay up to date with our current happenings. Please email us at mtagribusinessfoundation@gmail.com with any questions about our foundation or about the process to donate. If you are interested in being a part of the MABF please send an email to us to get started. Thank you for your continued support of our Montana youth. ■

Nathan Brooks, MABF President

Pam Langley Memorial Scholarship

The Pam Langley Memorial Scholarship has long been an MABA activity - one that the association has been very proud to promote and support. Starting in 2017, MABA and its membership worked hard to establish the Montana Agricultural Business Foundation (MABF). The MABF was formally established in the fall of 2018 and is now in operation.



One of the benefits of MABF is that it is organized as a charitable foundation therefore removing any question regarding the appropriateness of providing scholarships to our membership and their children. In 2019, the Pam Langley Memorial

Scholarship transitioned away from MABA and to MABF for administration and granting. This is a great opportunity for MABA members to provide funding to MABF to bolster these types of activities.

The current MABF Board of Directors include Nathan Brooks, Tom Burtchett, Billi Taylor, Katie Ratzburg, Nichole Drake, Branden Stone, Amelia Siroky, Shane Barrett, and Danica Kluth. Please reach out to any of them for additional information or to provide funding for the foundation and its activities.

Please spread the word to your employees and others in your business so that this scholarship opportunity isn't missed. The deadline for applications is May 15. ■



Montana Agricultural Business Foundation SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



PAM LANGLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Deadline: May 15

There is no longer a requirement that an applicant be entering their second year – the student must be enrolling in next semester.

ELIGIBILITY:

Three \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to students in pursuit of post-secondary education. Scholarships are not limited to in-state schools or to any field of study. The applicant or legal guardian of applicant must be employed a minimum of 800 hours per calendar year or be retired from a career with a business that is currently a member of the Montana Agricultural Business Association and its adjoining states. A student receiving a scholarship may reapply for subsequent years but will not be awarded a scholarship more than twice.

SELECTION:

The selection committee policy does not advocate, permit nor practice discrimination based on sex, race, age, color, national origin or handicapping condition. The selection committee shall consist of at least three members of the MABF Board of Directors. Committee members should not have potential applicants. The president may select committee members from the general membership if necessary. Winners will be announced and funds awarded before the fall semester.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name _____

Current Phone _____

Marital Status _____ # of Dependents _____ Email: _____

Current Address _____

Permanent (home) Address _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____

Parent or Guardian Address _____

Parent or Guardian Phone _____ Parent or Guardian Email _____

Number of brothers and sisters: older _____, younger _____, # in college now _____

MABA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Parent or Guardian Employer _____

MABA Member: Yes No

MABA Employment Location _____

MABA Employment Address _____

over



PREVIOUS EDUCATION:

- 1. High School _____ Town _____
High school rank: ____ of ____ in class. Year graduated _____
- 2. Post Secondary Education (if any):
 - A. School _____ Town _____
Years completed _____ Degrees earned _____ GPA _____
 - B. School _____ Town _____
Years completed _____ Degrees earned _____ GPA _____

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 1. What has been the nature and extent of your participation in activities of: (answer for both your high school and post-secondary years; use additional sheets if needed.)
Your School:
Your Community:
- 2. List any special recognitions or awards you have received.
- 3. Why do you feel you deserve this scholarship?
- 4. What work experiences have you had?
- 5. Write a paragraph or two indicating what your career plans are.
- 6. In which School and Program do you intend to enroll in seeking this scholarship?
Name of School _____
Major _____
Option or Area of Concentration _____
- 7. Are there any other circumstances, financial or otherwise, which you would like the committee to consider as an additional reason to grant aid?

REFERENCES:

Give the names, positions and addresses of three persons (not relatives) as references. It is preferable that at least one be a person for whom you have worked.

Name and Position:	Address:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Attach two letters of recommendation, your high school and postsecondary transcripts and a photo (the winners photos will be used for publicity). Return to Scholarship Committee, PO Box 4622, Helena, MT 59604 by May 15. **Preferred method: Application materials may also be submitted to: agbusinessmt@gmail.com**

I understand that this application is for \$2,500 in aid for the next school year. Any breach in enrollment or other unsatisfactory performance in my course of study will result in cessation of aid.

Date _____ Signature of Applicant _____



MDA Ag Services Bureau Updates

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR AND DEALER TRAINING

While Spring has barely sprung, it's never too early to start thinking about pesticide categories that expire at the end of 2025: Agricultural Vertebrate Pest; M-44; Right of Way, Rangeland, Pasture & Non-Crop Pest and the Regulatory categories for Rodent, Predator and Weed Pest Control. You can check your credits on our webpage.

While we don't have our Fall recertification trainings announced at this point, they are in the works and more information and registration will be available soon at <https://agr.mt.gov/Pesticide-Training-Recertification-Program>.

With the expiring Ag Vertebrate Pest and Regulatory Rodent categories in mind, the department and five MSU Extension offices throughout the state are hosting vertebrate pest workshops to train producers, landowners, and pesticide applicators how to identify and manage damage caused by vertebrate pests. Through a combination of presentations and field experience, attendees will learn how to correctly identify the problem pest, determine an action threshold, and implement control measures. There are credits for Pesticide Dealers and other categories available.

Information on credits offered for each event and registration can be found at agr.mt.gov/Pesticide-Training-Recertification-Program; look for the "In person - Recertification Training" dropdown. Those events are:

- **May 7 Sanders County – Thompson Falls**
This class (8AM-3PM) will focus on Columbian ground squirrels, voles, pocket gophers, rock chucks, elk and deer. Lunch is included and there is a cost of \$12, which will be collected at the workshop.
- **May 8 Powell County – Deer Lodge**
This class (8AM-1PM) will focus on ground squirrels and birds. Lunch is included and there is no cost.

- **May 13 Fallon County - Baker**
This class (8AM-3PM) will focus on pocket gophers, prairie dog management, and BMP's to decrease coyote pressure. Lunch is included and there is no cost.
- **May 14 Yellowstone County – Billings**
This class (8AM-3PM) will focus on prairie dogs, pocket gophers, rabbits, and coyotes. Lunch is included and there is no cost.
- **May 15 Gallatin County – Bozeman**
This class (8AM-3PM) will focus on pocket gophers, prairie dog management, and BMP's to decrease coyote pressure. Lunch is included and there is a cost of \$20, which will be collected at the workshop.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Sustainable Ag includes Groundwater Protection, Pesticide Container Recycling and Waste Pesticide Disposal programs, which are either getting prepared for field work or already under way. Our recycling driver, Paul Johnson, whose winter job is transporting the Helena Bighorns hockey team to games round the country has returned from the Fraser Cup Finals which wrapped up their season. He's now traveling our circuit collecting your cleaned pesticide containers - the scheduled dates for container collection are available on our calendar. Waste Pesticide Disposal events started with three April dates in Kalispell, Plains and Drummond. If you missed those, there are plenty of other opportunities coming this year:

- **June 30 – Polson**
- **July 1 - Hamilton**
- **July 2 - Butte**
- **September 23- Plentywood**
- **September 24 - Glasgow**
- **September 25 - Glendive**
- **September 26 - Hardin**

Ag Services Updates continued on page 12



Ag Services Updates continued from page 11

Pre-registration deadline for June-July events is June 23, 2025; and for September events is September 16, 2025.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Our Noxious Weed program works with counties and others across the state to control listed invasive and noxious weeds. We just wrapped up the Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant hearings, which is a reimbursable grant program, providing up to \$75,000 per grant. Grant awards assist counties, landowners, local communities, researchers, and educators. Other efforts of this program include: the Invasive Species Education program, supporting education efforts across Montana and providing residents and visitors ways to prevent and manage invasive species, including noxious weeds;

the Noxious Weed Free Material Certification program providing inspections and certification of forage products such as hay, pellets and straw, as well as gravel, mulch and other construction mate-

rials; Early Detection, Rapid Response focusing on Priority 1 and 2A species and those species yet to invade Montana to keep highly invasive weeds from spreading and/or entering the state.

Their webpages are a wealth of information – check them out for best practices to prevent the spread of invasive pests before you head out this Spring for fun and adventure!

PESTICIDE COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Our pesticide compliance program has a few field office staff vacancies, and we are covering those with help from other MDA field districts and Helena staff. Don't hesitate to reach out to us in the main office if needed: (406)444-5400. Recruitment for our field agent position in Glasgow will be posted in April; please pass the word on to anyone you may know that would be interested in serving the counties of Blaine, Daniels, Dawson, Garfield, McCone, Petroleum, Phillips, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Valley and Wibaux and joining our team here at MT Dept of Ag. ■

Fertilizer Access continued from page 6

Daniel Webster (R-Fla.), Nicholas A. Langworthy (R-N.Y.), John R. Moolenaar (R-Mich.), Eric "Rick" Crawford (R-Ark.), Michael Simpson (R-Idaho), David G. Valadao (R-Calif.), Zach Nunn (R-Iowa), Eric Sorensen (D-Ill.), Mike Bost (R-Ill.), Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.), Nikki Budzinski (D-Ill.), David Rouzer (R-N.C.), Scott

DesJarlais (R-Tenn.), Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.), Tracey Mann (R-Kan.), Darin LaHood (R-Ill.), Donald Davis (D-N.C.), Gregory F. Murphy (R-N.C.) and Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.).

Full text of the letter can be found at https://www.grassley.senate.gov/download/fertilizer_letter. ■

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A well-resourced, transparent, and science-based pesticide regulatory program is critical to farmers, consumers, and crop protection businesses alike. Farmers need a steady stream of new and existing tools to address their farm-specific pest control needs. Consumers need a regulatory system that safeguards our food supply. And crop protection businesses need predictable review timelines to

make critical planning decisions that keep the supply of new and existing pesticide products available in the marketplace.

We can do all three if EPA OPP has the resources and money it needs.

Terry Kippley is president and CEO of the Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology. ■



Grain Bin Safety: Guidelines for Protecting Yourself and Your Employees

Grain bins are commonly found on farms and at agricultural facilities. While they serve an essential function for storing large quantities of grain, they also pose significant safety risks if proper precautions are not followed. Accidents in and around grain bins can result in serious injuries or fatalities. This article outlines the critical safety guidelines to minimize the risks associated with grain bin operations, referenced from OSHA Safety.



Billi Taylor

*Board Member
Montana Agricultural
Business Association*

1. THE MAIN HAZARDS

Grain bins present several hazards that workers should be aware of:

- **Entrapment and Suffocation:** Grain can quickly become a trap. When a worker enters a grain bin, the grain may shift or flow, potentially engulfing them, leading to suffocation or drowning.
- **Bin Collapse:** The weight of the stored grain can cause structural failure, leading to a collapse of the bin.
- **Falling from Heights:** Grain bins often require workers to work at significant heights, increasing the risk of falls.
- **Machinery Injuries:** Moving parts such as augers and conveyors can cause crushing or amputation injuries.
- **Toxic Atmospheres:** The accumulation of mold, dust, or gases inside the bin can pose respiratory hazards.

2. PRE-ENTRY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Before entering any grain bin, follow these important steps:

- **Lockout/Tagout:** Ensure all electrical systems and equipment feeding into the bin are properly locked out and tagged to prevent accidental startup.
- **Ventilation:** Proper ventilation is critical. Ensure the bin is well-ventilated to prevent the buildup of dangerous gases or dust that could

pose a health risk.

- **Monitor the Atmosphere:** Test for potentially hazardous gases like carbon dioxide (CO₂) or carbon monoxide (CO) before entering. Use a gas detector to assess the air quality.
- **Check Grain Condition:** Ensure the grain inside the bin is not bridged or caked, as these conditions could cause the grain to suddenly collapse or flow.

3. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Workers should always wear appropriate PPE when working with grain bins:

- **Respiratory Protection:** Dust masks or respirators should be used when working around grain dust or mold.
- **Hearing Protection:** Grain handling equipment can be noisy!
- **Eye Protection:** Safety glasses or goggles should be worn to protect from grain dust and debris.

4. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

All workers who handle grain bins should be adequately trained. This includes:

- **Recognizing Hazards:** Workers must be educated on the specific dangers associated with

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grain bin work, such as entrapment, moving equipment, and working at heights.

- **Emergency Procedures:** Training should include emergency response procedures in case of an entrapment incident, bin collapse, or other accidents. Workers should also know how to use communication devices and alarms if equipped.
- **Proper Equipment Use:** Ensure that workers understand how to safely operate equipment like augers, conveyors, and ventilation systems.

5. SAFE WORK PRACTICES INSIDE THE BIN

Once inside the grain bin, implement the following practices:

- **Do Not Enter Alone:** Always have a second person present when entering a grain bin. This person can assist in an emergency and monitor the situation outside the bin.
- **Use a Safety Harness and Lifeline:** If entering a grain bin, workers should wear a safety harness attached to a lifeline. This provides a secure way to pull the worker out in case of an emergency.
- **Avoid Walking on Grain:** Grain can shift underfoot and create dangerous quicksand-like conditions. Walk along the perimeter of the bin where the grain is more stable.
- **Move Slowly and Cautiously:** Rapid movements can disrupt the grain inside the bin and cause it to shift unexpectedly.
- **Use Grain Sweeps Safely:** Do not enter the bin while the sweep auger is operating. If grain is stuck or clogged, use a well-maintained grain vacuum to remove it.

6. PREVENTING ENTANGLEMENT IN MACHINERY

Grain handling equipment such as augers, conveyors, and grain dryers can cause serious injuries if not

handled properly:

- **Guard Moving Parts:** Ensure that all moving parts of grain handling equipment are properly guarded to prevent accidental contact.
- **Shut Down Equipment Before Working:** Always shut down and lock out machinery before performing any maintenance or adjustments.
- **Keep Clothing and Hair Secure:** Workers should avoid wearing loose clothing or jewelry that could become entangled in machinery. Long hair should be tied back.

7. FALL PROTECTION

Working at heights is a common part of grain bin operations, making fall protection essential:

- **Use Proper Fall Protection Systems:** Install guardrails, safety nets, and personal fall arrest systems (harnesses and lanyards) to protect workers when they are working at elevated heights.
- **Use Ladders and Platforms Safely:** Ensure that ladders, scaffolding, and platforms are stable and designed for the type of work being performed.
- **Inspect Equipment Regularly:** Conduct regular safety checks on all fall protection equipment to ensure it is in good working order.

8. REGULAR MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTIONS

To minimize the risks associated with grain bins, facilities should conduct regular maintenance and safety inspections:

- **Inspect Grain Bins Regularly:** Ensure that the bin structure is intact and free from signs of wear or damage.
- **Check Grain Condition:** Regularly inspect stored grain for signs of pests, mold, or deterioration that could make the grain more dangerous to handle.

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Congressional Comments

U.S. SENATOR STEVE DAINES

We're only a few months into the 119th Congress and President Trump's administration, and already there's been strong progress on behalf of Montana's farmers, ranchers and ag businesses. The Senate has worked at breakneck speed to confirm the President's cabinet nominees at essential departments for Montana. Leading the United States Department of Agriculture is Brooke Rollins, who brings a producer-first and pro-growth approach to the department. Our new U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer is committed to expanding market access for our ag producers and small business owners and Interior Secretary Doug Burgum will help support grazing and bring a commonsense approach to the Endangered Species Act. These are just a few of the leaders in President Trump's cabinet who will play an important role in policy affecting Montana agriculture and I look forward to working with them.

I'm also working hard to make sure our ag industries and small businesses aren't burdened by unfair and unnecessary taxes. One of the biggest concerns I hear from Montana business owners is the uncertainty of

U.S. SENATOR TIM SHEEHY

Thanks to the Montana Agricultural Business Association for your partnership in working to grow our economy, better steward our land, and create greater opportunity for more Montanans. Each day you help ensure that Montana's hardworking producers can get the job done and feed America.

One of America's greatest superpowers has been our ability to feed our own people and the world. Food security is national security, and bringing profitability back to ag and supporting those who help secure our nation's food supply chain are among my top priorities.

Maybe once a year you need an accountant, perhaps once a month you need a doctor, but three times a day you need a farmer and a rancher. It's

the tax code. If Congress doesn't act, families and small businesses will see a \$4.5 trillion tax increase. We can't let that happen, so I'm leading the fight to make President Trump's 2017 tax cuts permanent.

I'll also remain committed to cutting spending and abuse in the federal government, so that we can unleash the economy and create a pro-growth environment for our producers and businesses.

We need to be as passionate about cutting spending as we are about preventing tax increases, and I'll work with my colleagues to ensure we're fighting back against red-tape restrictions that limit private companies and using taxpayer dollars efficiently.

I'll continue to work hard with my colleagues in Congress and with our new administration to protect and promote Montana businesses and agriculture.



Steve Daines

*United States Senator
For the State of
Montana*

about time we put them first in our policymaking.

We must bring down prices for families and boost real wages for the hardworking Americans – farmers, ranchers, miners, loggers, truck drivers, electricians, plumbers, and carpenters – who put food on our tables and keep our economy running.

Montana producers and MABA need predictability in the regulatory and tax codes. That means



Jon Tester

*United States Senator
For the State of
Montana*

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providing permanent tax relief, reducing harmful regulations, and restoring fiscal sanity. I'm focused on cutting red tape, getting government out of the way, and fostering an environment where small businesses can create jobs and thrive under pro-growth, pro-business policies.

It's time the federal government works for, not against, the people of Montana. Most of all, we must put America first in everything we do. It's not too much for the American people to ask that their government put their interests first. That's what America First means. That's what we ought to deliver.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TROY DOWNING



Troy Downing
US Representative
For Montana
District Two

Hello! Congressman Troy Downing checking in. I appreciate the opportunity to share an update on my work with the Montana Agricultural Business Association.

In my short time in office, I have had the pleasure of meeting with many of Montana's great agricultural associations. I can confidently say that each group that I meet with brings up the importance of extending the Death Tax exemption. Immediately upon entering Congress, I have been a tireless advocate for doing just that to preserve production agriculture for our farmers' and ranchers' heirs.

I recently testified at the House Committee on Ways and Means on the importance of extending the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to ensure that the Death Tax exemption does not lapse. I am also a proud

As the administration works to rein in spending, eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, and deliver government services more efficiently, I will work with our federal partners to ensure cost-saving measures are targeted responsibly and the critical frontline services Montanans rely on are protected.

As your senator, I care deeply about serving every Montanan which is why — whether you voted for me or not — I encourage folks to reach out to my office to receive timely, high-quality constituent services as they navigate the federal government.

It's a new day in America; let's get to work.

original cosponsor of Congressman Randy Feenstra's Death Tax Repeal Act (IA-04) which would go one step further and rescind the Death Tax for good.

I have cosponsored legislation to remove the grizzly bear and gray wolf from the Endangered Species List. I have also been working with the Montana Congressional Delegation to secure funding for the Milk River Project, which would directly benefit irrigators on the Hi-Line. Another bill I cosponsored, the Family Farm and Small Business Exemption Act, would amend FAFSA to make education more accessible to the children of our producers.

I'm staying busy making sure Montana's agricultural producers have a seat at the table in Washington. If you have a question, require assistance, or would like to learn more about arranging a meeting with me or my staff, please give us a call or stop by any one of our offices in Helena, Billings, or Washington. You can also visit my website at Downing.house.gov. Every day I am humbled to serve you. It is truly the honor of a lifetime.



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE RYAN ZINKE

The Trump Administration and the 119th Congress are in full swing, and as the Representative for Montana's 1st District, I'm committed to advocating for the agriculture community and our rural way of life here in D.C. Right now, my focus is making sure your interests are represented in the ongoing budget reconciliation process, specifically securing an extension of the Death Tax exemption, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of pro-growth tax policies.

An essential part of the budget reconciliation process will be extending the 2017 tax cuts. If we fail to extend President Trump's tax cuts, on average, Montanans will face a 22% tax increase. That alone would be disastrous for hardworking families, but a reversal of these cuts would also mean the loss of the Death Tax exemption—forcing Montana farm and ranch owners to liquidate assets just to cover tax liabilities after the death of a family member.

Generational operations, many of which have been in families for over a century, would be at risk. I will not stand by and allow that to happen.

Agriculture isn't just a job in Montana—it's a family tradition and a way of life. Our farmers and ranchers have faced four years of rising costs and shifting market conditions. The last thing they need is additional tax burdens that threaten the legacy they've worked so hard to build. It's critical that we maintain tax policies that allow family-owned farms, ranches, and businesses to thrive, not just for this generation but for the ones to come. ■



Ryan Zinke
US Representative
For Montana
District One

Grain Bin Safety continued from page 14

- **Maintain Grain Handling Equipment:** Ensure that all augers, conveyors, and other grain handling equipment is properly maintained and functioning.
- **Call 911:** Check with local fire departments and or search and rescue teams to ensure properly equipped and trained in helping with rescue operation.

9. EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RESCUE PLAN

In the event of an emergency, every facility should have a clear, practiced rescue plan:

- **Rescue Team:** Identify trained personnel who can respond immediately in the event of an entrapment or other emergency.
- **Rescue Equipment:** Ensure that rescue equipment, such as harnesses, ropes, and lifting devices, is readily available and in good condition.
- **Emergency Communication:** Provide workers with reliable communication devices, such as two-way radios or alarms, to call for help in an emergency.

CONCLUSION

Grain bin safety is of utmost importance for protecting workers from serious injuries or fatalities. By following these safety guidelines—through proper training, use of safety equipment, maintaining safe work practices, and having a clear emergency response plan—workers can significantly reduce the risks associated with working in or around grain bins. Always prioritize safety to ensure that grain handling operations are performed efficiently and without harm.

Hope you have a great year farming! ■



Nozzle Selection for See & Spray Select Spot Sprayers

Spot sprays are becoming mainstream. As of 2024, John Deere's See & Spray Select, their Green-on-Brown technology, is selling well in western Canada but it's creating some confusion about how to outfit and run the system.

QUICK OVERVIEW:

See & Spray Select is available on 120' booms with either 15" or 20" spacing. It can be operated at up to 12 mph with conventional vertically oriented nozzles, or up to 16 mph with backwards oriented nozzles using a 40° adaptor available from John Deere. Optimal boom height is between 26" and 47".

Operating speed for See & Spray Select is measured at the boom. That means if an operator drives at the 12 mph limit and the boom yaws forward under normal driving or in a turn, the boom speed will exceed 12 mph and it will enter "fallback" mode. Fallback mode is intended to provide weed control when camera vision is compromised due to dust, height, or speed, and typically it means that all the nozzles in the affected boom region are turned on. To avoid unnecessary waste, an operator will want to minimize fallback mode and therefore will want to drive slower than the maximum allowed boom speed.

An operator has a choice of selecting a single-nozzle or overlapping-nozzle activation. In single nozzle mode, only the nozzle in the weed's lane is turned on. In overlapping mode, one adjacent nozzle on each side is also turned on, for security. Overlapping mode is available on most spot spray systems to compensate for spray displacement in a side-wind, for example.

Research at the University of Wisconsin has shown that the overlapping mode resulted in more consistent weed control in a side-wind.

NOZZLE SELECTION

Overlapping mode makes nozzle selection easier because the fan angle is not as critical. Nozzles are

allowed to overlap as they're supposed to on a broadcast boom, and the spray dosage is a function of nozzle size, spacing, and travel speed. It's also easier because boom height movement doesn't affect the dose, so long as the required overlap remains. But nozzle fan angles should still not be too wide. Low boom sway can result in under-dosing if there is too much overlap.

Single nozzle activation can save more product. But in this mode, nozzle fan angle is critical because it determines the band width. Unfortunately, current nozzle selection is poor – most manufacturers aren't offering any narrow-enough fan angle nozzles yet. For this reason, John Deere's nozzle recommendations are intended primarily for overlapping mode.

With single nozzle activation, the nozzle pattern (band) width needs to be fairly close to the nozzle spacing, but still have some overlap when adjacent nozzles are activated in a weed patch. The more the pattern width exceeds the nozzle spacing, the greater the underdosing in single nozzle activation compared to overlapping sprays. This conundrum is unavoidable. The closer these two values (pattern width and nozzle spacing) are to each other the better. But for this to work, boom height has to be consistent. Too low a boom creates gaps between adjacent narrow patterns. Too high and the pattern width widens, reducing the single nozzle dose. There is simply not much room for error.

BROADCASTING BACKGROUND DOSE

With See & Spray Select, the A solenoid (front nozzle in ExactApply) can be used to apply a PWM broadcast spray simultaneous to the spot spray. This feature is useful with early season application



because of just-emerged weeds that may be missed by the sensor. We might choose about 1/3 of the full rate applied this way, a dose which is sufficient to control these small weeds. With a tank mix for 10 gpa, one would spray 3 gpa with the front boom and 7 gpa with the B solenoid, the spot spray. This way the entire field receives the 3 gpa dose, while larger weeds that trigger the spot spray receive the 10 gpa dose.

The problem is again with nozzle availability. For example, 3 gpa with 15” spacing at 11 mph with PWM (broadcast mode) requires a small nozzle such as an 01 (orange) or 015 (green). These are hard to find in a low-drift version. Increasing the broadcast water volume to 5 gpa would allow an 02 (yellow) nozzle to be used. A 20” spacing would allow even larger nozzles to be used, for 3 gpa an 025 (lilac) is a possibility and this greatly improves the available choice. At 5 gpa, an 03 size is suitable, and now the John Deere LDM nozzle is an option (it is not manufactured in sizes smaller than 03).

Let’s assume a user selects 5 gpa for the broadcast based on nozzle availability. The next decision is whether to adjust the total applied volume upwards. If sticking with a 10 gpa tank mix, the spot spray would also be 5 gpa, making the broadcast 50% of the dose.

Alternatively, one could increase the spot spray volume to 10 gpa, mixing the tank for 15 gpa. This returns one to 1/3 of the total dose as broadcast, and 2/3 as a spot spray. A reason for doing this is to make nozzle size selection easier and also improving the product savings of the system.

The spot spray from the B solenoid is not PWM, which allows for a more straightforward nozzle sizing, as well as the use of air-induced tips which are available in a large number of sizes.

A summary of some possible nozzle combinations for two nozzle spacings and travel speeds is listed in Table 1.

Nozzle Spacing (inches)	Travel Speed (mph)	Applied Volume (gpa)	Broadcast Boom, “A”		Spot Spray Boom, “B”	
			Volume (gpa)	Nozzle Size (60-80% DC)	Volume (gpa)	Nozzle Size (no PWM)
15	11	10	-	-	10	025
		10	3	01	7	02
		10	5	02	5	015
15	15	10	-	-	10	04
		10	3	015	7	025
		10	5	025	5	02
15	11	15	-	-	15	04
		15	5	02	10	03
		15	7.5	03	7.5	02
15	15	15	-	-	15	05
		15	5	025	10	04
		15	7.5	04	7.5	025
20	11	10	-	-	10	04
		10	3	015	7	025
		10	5	025	5	02
15	15	10	-	-	10	05
		10	3	02	7	03
		10	5	03	5	025
20	11	15	-	-	15	05
		15	5	025	10	04
		15	7.5	04	7.5	03
15	15	15	-	-	15	08
		15	5	03	10	05
		15	7.5	05	7.5	04

Table 1: Possible nozzle sizes for overlapping mode in John Deere See & Spray Select. Note that the travel speed is lower than the maximum allowed, to accommodate boom yaw.

Nozzle Selection continued on page 20



Nozzle Selection continued from page 19

If the operator chooses single nozzle activation, the fan angle of the nozzle becomes important. To recap, one would want to have a nozzle that can do two things:

1. Cover a band that is close to the same width as the nozzle spacing when a single weed activates a single nozzle, and
2. Provide sufficient overlap when multiple adjacent nozzles are activated in a larger weed patch.

It's not possible to have a band width as narrow as the nozzle spacing and still get an overlapping pattern when it's needed. This means the dose for a single nozzle pattern will unavoidably be spread out wider, resulting in a lower dose for any weed it encounters compared to the overlapping activation. But the wider the fan angle, the wider the band and the lower the dose, resulting in possibly reduced control for single nozzle activations.

On the other hand, a narrower band limits the boom height at which an acceptable overlap can be achieved. Let's say an overlapping nozzle needs to have 30% overlap to get an acceptable spray distribution. At a 20" spacing, the band would need to be 26" wide (a 24% under-dose on a single nozzle compared to an overlapping section). Band width will change with boom height, but it depends on the fan angle. For a 60 degree fan angle, the band changes by about one inch for every inch of boom height. That means even with a modest 10" vertical movement of the boom, the dosage might change by 30%, a fair amount.

Actual changes depend on the nozzle spacing and the fan angle, but the point remains that this is a significant dosage change that could affect weed control. And this change in dose is because of boom sway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

What should a spot spray user do? One thing is clear, compromises will be necessary.

The most consistent application will be achieved with overlapping mode, but at the cost of forfeited savings. These lost savings may be recovered due to fewer weed control failures, or less need to re-spray.

On the other hand, the greatest savings will be achieved with single nozzle activation. But fan angle will need to be carefully selected and boom height consistency will be critical.

Availability of narrow fan angles is limited. Only Wilger (20, 40, and 60 degree DX), Greenleaf (40 degree Spot Fan), Arag (CFLD-CX 40 degree) and Magnojet (30 and 60 degree) offer spot spray-specific low-drift nozzles off the shelf. The availability will need to increase, not only in terms of fan angles, but also in flow rates and spray qualities. With spot sprays remaining a relatively small market this will take time. But the success of spot sprays also depends on it.

One question that only experience will answer is the relative frequency of single vs multiple nozzle activation for any given farm. If the majority of the activations are multiple nozzles, then setting up the nozzles for that situation (i.e., opting for wider fan angles that create more overlap) makes most sense.

But regardless of the choice made by the user, the need for stable booms remains paramount. This feature will be the basis on which any progress in spot spray adoption will be built. Call your dealer. Tell them how important boom stability is. ■

About Tom Wolf (Nozzle_Guy)

Tom Wolf is based in Saskatoon, SK and has 35 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.



Points to Ponder

It's often quoted that there are only two things certain in life, "death and taxes". Well, I think they may have forgotten a third certainty, and that is the consistent uncertainty in agriculture. From weather, to input prices, commodity prices, changes in national and local policies, etc., those of us involved in agriculture are constantly being dealt a new hand and often it feels like it's from a stacked deck. Unfortunately, 2025 is not going to change this narrative.

Here are a couple topics that I have been keeping an eye on that could have major implications for our industry in the coming years.

- HB 522 was introduced to the Montana House of Representatives in February of this year. The bill was drafted to protect manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers from egregious lawsuits regarding the off-label use of registered pesticides. This bill was essentially an attempt by Bayer to limit their liability on future Roundup lawsuits. Unfortunately, this bill died on the House floor, unable to secure enough votes to pass the second reading. As we all know, Roundup, and all the other iterations of glyphosate, is one of the most widely used pesticides in the world. Without legislation to limit the lawsuits as well as strengthen the idea that "the label is the law", we are at serious risk of losing this essential tool. Think about the scores of other herbicides that will need to be used to control troublesome weeds, without the presence of glyphosate. What will the carbon footprint of our producers look like without glyphosate? What will the potential environmental impacts be due to increased soil erosion? What will the true cost of production be if we were to lose an inexpensive and effective tool such as glyphosate?

HB 522 wasn't a perfect piece of legislation, but it had the potential to give Montana producers some security knowing that they could continue producing high quality commodities at a lower cost, thus ensuring Montana could compete in a global market.



Tanner Hoversland
President
Montana Agricultural
Business Association

- EPA rules regarding the Endangered Species Act and the settlement of the mega lawsuit. In very laymen terms, when the EPA settled the mega lawsuit regarding the Endangered Species Act, they were forced to develop strategies that could limit certain pesticides from being applied in specific areas. This was an exhaustive project that has taken years to complete, and in fact is not yet completed rather only a couple sections have been implemented. The developed strategies could have major impacts on you and your business. I would encourage all of us in the industry to get as educated as possible how the new rules will influence herbicide strategies moving forward.

I feel these are two of the most pressing issues Ag is facing the next couple years. Obviously, there are there concerns, tariffs, commodity prices, etc. that dominate the discussions now, and they are not any less important rather I see them as more cyclical or short-term concerns. Again, I encourage you all to reach out if there is anyway that MABA can assist you and your organization in navigating these pending challenges. ■



EPA Registers New Pesticide Metamitron and Uses a New Structured Label

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered one technical and two end use plant growth regulator products containing the new active ingredient metamitron for use on apple and pear trees. Metamitron is a chemical thinning agent applied to apple and pear tree leaves shortly after the blooming stage to thin excess fruit. This allows the remaining fruit to grow larger and may contribute to higher quality fruit and plant health giving farmers an additional tool to help manage crops and grow more food for our country.

The metamitron registrations are supported by human health and ecological risk assessments as well as a biological evaluation for the pesticide under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). No human health risks of concern were identified when metamitron is used according to the label. EPA conducted an ecological risk assessment and biological evaluation under the ESA and completed an informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). FWS concurred with EPA's determination that the use of metamitron on apples and pears being registered is not likely to adversely affect endangered species or critical habitats.

In response to stakeholder feedback regarding a lack of clear and uniform format in labels, making it difficult to efficiently locate critical information and to use this information correctly, EPA worked with the registrant, ADAMA AGAN c/o Makhteshim Agan of North America, Inc. (ADAMA), and representatives from the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) to implement a new structured label for this product. On its own initiative, WSSA has been soliciting feedback from their membership and contacts about what would make pesticide labels easier to use and presented that information as a proposal to EPA. The two end use labels being registered at this time represent the first labels implementing the vision of this proposal. These labels are one step towards increasing the clarity of pesticide labels. ■



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GREAT MONTANA AG RALLY

I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and gearing up for, or maybe by the time this is published, in the midst of a successful spring. As most know, since coming off Covid, we have run our golf tournament to help supplement MABA and the Montana Agricultural Business Foundation's ability to continue giving and running a strong organization. Through the years the tournament has grown and evolved. This year will be our 5th annual, and we will once again be working with MABF (Montana Ag Business Association Foundation), giving them the opportunity to fundraise and continue to be our giving arm for scholarships and other worthy causes.



Patrick Nelson

*Golf Committee
Montana Agricultural
Business Association*

The goal of the tournament has been to provide an opportunity for everyone to get together following our busy spring/summer season, and before the fall rush begins. Although it is impossible to find a perfect time, with things like harvest, we hope everyone can sneak away and enjoy the day on the course. A huge THANK YOU goes out to our members as it continues to be well attended and sponsored. Without you all none of this would be possible

Last year we made some changes to the tournament, and they were well received. So, we will continue to run it in the same manner that we did last year. There will be two teams per hole, and teams will exchange score cards before starting. We will flight the teams based on handicaps. We will hold the event at Hickory Swing golf course in Great Falls again. This course is close to hotels and provides a quicker pace of play than others. It will once again be a one-day event, with no Calcutta. We will conclude the tournament with awards at the course. Start getting your four-person teams organized, and your sponsorships shored up!

As a board, we feel it is very important to make this the best event possible for our members. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any compliments, concerns, or suggestions for the tournament. Stay tuned for more details on the event and we look forward to seeing everyone in Great Falls. ■





GREAT MONTANA AG RALLY

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

July 24
 7:30 AM Breakfast Available at Clubhouse
 8:00 AM Rules and Shotgun Start
 Midday Lunch at the clubhouse at the turn
 3:00 PM Purse & Hole Prize Awards at the Clubhouse

MABA Great Montana Ag Rally Golf Scramble

JULY 24, 2025 | HICKORY SWINGS GOLF COURSE
 You may register a four-man team or as an individual golfer.
 We ask that each team have at least one MABA member.

Please register on our website: mtagbiz.org

Contact Name: _____

Contact Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

TEAM OR GOLFER REGISTRATION

GOLF TEAM | Team Fee - \$450.00

4 players, includes course fee, 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, 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:

Breakfast - Provided by MABF | Lunch - Burgers at the Turn

Additional meals for guests available for purchase at the event





Great Montana Ag Rally Sponsorships

Golf tournament partners receive acknowledgment in the MABA Growing Montana Magazine and at the event. Sponsorships are first come/first served.

Please go to www.mtagbiz.org to sponsor!

You can also fill out the form below and email to: agbusinessmt@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting MABA!

COURSE SPONSORSHIPS

- Platinum Sponsor - \$1,000
- Gold Sponsor - \$750
- Silver Sponsor - \$500

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!*
- *18-hole sponsorships are available.*

DRINK TICKET SPONSORSHIP

- Golf Day Drink Tickets - \$1,500

DETAILS — *The Drink Ticket sponsor is a popular person!*

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

LUNCH SPONSORSHIP

- Golf Day Lunch - \$2,000

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.*

OTHER PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Mulligans - \$500

DETAILS

- *Mulligans: includes company name/logo on mulligan cards distributed to every team.*

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

Please submit payment to: Montana Ag Business Association | PO Box 4622 | Helena, MT 59604



MABA Hosts Ag Tech Summit, Participates in Celebrate Ag Week

The Montana Agricultural Business Association was proud to sponsor the Montana Ag Tech Innovation and Investment Summit on November 6, 2024 on the campus on Montana State University. The summit featured sessions that explored the nexus between research, innovation, and investment opportunities through a compelling sector that has the power to alter the course of the global food and agriculture system.

After snacking on locally made high-protein superfood waffles from Unwaffle courtesy of innovative Bozeman entrepreneur Erik Walnum, the day's emcee, Lane Nordlund from the Western Ag Network, welcomed attendees to MSU's Inspiration Hall for a day filled with discussion, networking, and exploration. Conference-goers heard remarks from Montana Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras; learned about recent developments in ag innovation at the academic level; and discussed their interest in the ag technology in the "Pass the Microphone" segment, including presenting their preliminary ideas for capital investment. With over 100 participants, the second Ag Tech Summit was an exciting opportunity to build community and exchange ideas, setting the stage for more discoveries across Montana's ag tech ecosystem.

Thank you to everyone who made this event a success, including Errol Rice of Pacer Capital; George Haynes and Keri Hayes from MSU; and everyone who attended and offered their perspectives.



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MABA staff also attended the MSU Extension and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics' annual Agricultural Economics Conference on Friday, November 8th.

Then on Saturday, November 9, MABA was proud to take part in the Celebrate Ag Alley Tailgate prior to the MSU Bobcats' 49-7 beatdown of the Sacramento State Hornets. The MABA team prepared and served at least 15 gallons of Bloody Mary's for stadium-goers, along with an array of garnishes like mini cheeseburgers, chicken and waffles, and shrimp skewers to satisfy any taste bud. After a slow start to the tailgate, MABA's Bloody Mary's were gone in just about an hour. A big thank you to Montana Spirits & Wine for donating three handles of Tito's Vodka, and to everyone who took part in the tailgate! Stay tuned for details of MABA's next Celebrate Ag Week activities! ■



2025 MABA/MGEA ANNUAL CONVENTION

RUDY! RUDY! RUDY!

The Annual MABA/MGEA Convention was a huge success and provided a great opportunity for MABA members to learn, share experiences, and collaborate with colleagues. We had an amazing slate of speakers that were topped off by keynote speaker Rudy Ruettiger.

The 2025 show had a large number of vendors, and we are very thankful for their commitment and engagement with MABA and our membership!



Thank you all for making the 2025 convention a huge success and we looking forward to seeing you January 21 to 23, 2026.



2025 Vendors:

ATP • Ag Processing Solutions Inc.
 Ag Spray Equipment • Albaugh LLC
 Baker Ag Services, LLC • BASF
 Bayer • Belchim Crop Protection USA
 CHS Agronomy
 Conquer Industries LLC
 Corteva Agriscience • Envu
 Federal Motor Carrier
 Safety Administration
 FEI Inc. • Fertoz Organics Inc.
 Gerber's of Montana, Inc.
 Gowan Company USA • Greyn Scale
 CO Helena AgriEnterprises
 Kahler Automation
 Kalo • Koch Agronomic Services
 Lallemand • Limagrain Cereal Seeds
 Liphatech Inc. • MABF
 Macro Source • Marcus Construction
 Miller Chemical & Fertilizer, LLC
 Montana 4H Foundation
 Montana Metal Fabrications Inc
 Montana Renewables
 Montana State Grain Lab
 Montana State University Pesticide
 Education Program
 Montana Wheat & Barley Committee
 MT Dept of AG • Murray Equipment
 Nachurs Alpine Solutions
 Naonyield • Northern Ag Network
 Northern Pulse Growers Association
 Novozymes • Nuseed
 Nutrien • Oro Agri Inc.
 PhoSul LLC • Precision Cut
 Range And Row • Sackette-Waconia
 S-M Enterprises, Inc. Howell Division
 Stueve Const. • Syngenta
 Tessengerlo Kerley, Inc.
 The Mosaic Company
 Tilleman Equipment
 Tilleman Motor Company
 Titan Machinery • Trader's Dispatch
 Two Rivers Terminal LLC
 UAS Service Corp.
 UPL NA Inc. • USDA NASS
 Valent • Visjon Biologics • Ward
 Wilbur Ellis • Winfield United

2025 Sponsors:

Event:

Lanyards
 Program Printing
 Registration Envelopes
 Pop Machine
 Coffee Station
 Wednesday AM Break
 Wednesday Lunch
 Wednesday Lunch Speaker
 Wednesday PM Break
 Wednesday Beer Reception
 Wednesday Raffle
 Thursday Prayer Breakfast
 Thursday AM Break
 Thursday Lunch
 Thursday New Ag
 Professionals Meet & Greet
 Thursday PM Popcorn Social
 Thursday Night Beer
 Thursday Night Wine
 Thursday Auction/Reception
 Friday AM Break
 Thursday Silver Evening Keynote

Sponsor:

BASF
 Prairieland Ag
 JR Simplot
 Montana Renewables
 FMC
 Corteva
 CHS Agronomy
 Itafos
 Titan Machinery
 Helena AgriEnterprises and Molson Coors
 Centrol Crop Consulting
 Fehringer Agricultural Consulting
 Ward Laboratories
 Nutrien
 BNSF
 Columbia Grain
 Busch Ag
 Bayer
 Corteva
 Titan Machinery
 Helena AgriEnterprises, Gowan, Syngenta

Additional Sponsors

Keynote Cash
 Silver \$500

Fehringer Ag
 Stueve Construction LLC, Lallemand,
 Limagrain Cereal Seeds, BNSF,
 Vive Crop Protection, Nufarm
 Wilbur Ellis, The Mosaic Company
 Prairieland Ag Inc., Atticus

Gold \$750

Platinum \$1,000



Montana Legislature Nears End Point with Minimal Agricultural Business Related Bills

By and large it has been a quiet Legislative session for Montana agriculture, and MABA members in particular. The most directly relevant bill to our members was HB 522, legislation from House Freedom Caucus Chairman and Eastern Montana farmer Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R-Circle), which would have clarified pesticide manufacturers', marketers', and sellers' duty to warn customers about risks associated with us, while providing liability to those same entities if products are duly registered with Federal agencies and properly labeled. The bill passed out of the House Agriculture Committee on a party line 10-7 vote after testimony from several MABA members in support. However, shortly before transmittal, the bill failed Second Reading on the House Floor by a 49-50 vote after one representative hit the wrong button. As such, a later move to reconsider the vote failed by a larger margin despite efforts to secure additional votes when several mostly moderate Republicans flipped to no. The bill is now dead for this session.

MABA testified in support of House Agriculture Committee Chairman Rep. Braxton Mitchell's (R-Columbia Falls) ban on lab grown meat (HB 401). This bill passed the committee 10-7 as well, and fared far better on the House Floor, winning the support of 65 members on Third Reading. It moved on to the Senate for consideration, and was heard in the Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Committee on April 1st. MABA also continued its long-standing advocacy of increasing the business equipment tax exemption when it spoke in support of SB 322 from Sen. Josh Kassmier (R-Fort Benton). That bill would raise the exemption from \$1 million to \$3 million. This bill was still working its way through the Senate as of early April.

MABA opposed legislation from Sen. Daniel Emrich (R-Great Falls) that would have created a Food Safety Panel housing at the Montana Department of Agriculture (SB 155). The bill would have established a seven-member panel to review food additives and colorings, and assess the impact combinations of such food products have on human health. While this bill was tabled in committee, the sponsor has a similar bill (LC 1430) to house the panel at the Department of Public Health and Human Services, and he could move this legislation after the break as a revenue bill, appropriating money to the department to carry out the associated work. Thus far the draft does not show an appropriation, and it has yet to be introduced.

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Legislation that would have regulated sales of certain products containing PFAs (cosmetics, children's clothing, and menstrual supplies) from Rep. Ed Stafman (D-Bozeman), HB 290, also was tabled in committee. While the items prohibited were not ag in nature, much of the testimony from proponents was related to the use of fertilizer that contains PFAs, and the sponsor threatened to expand the products contemplated in the bill to all items with PFAs. MABA did not weigh in, but monitored this bill closely. The sponsor introduced a resolution to study the issue of sludge in fertilizer during the Interim period (HJ 37); while the House Business and Labor Committee killed this bill, language to study the effects of PFAS was added to an unrelated study bill on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and water quality (HJ 44) in the House Natural Resources. Currently the language does not specifically reference biosolids, but pesticides are referenced in HJ 44. As of this writing, the bill was still working through the legislative process.

Also of note, after a spirited debate in the House Business & Labor Committee, Rep. Paul Tuss' (D-Havre) right to repair legislation (HB 390) was tabled and no further effort was made to revive it before transmittal, thus killing it. Two other right to repair bills – HB 813 and SB 509 – had hearings shortly before transmittal, but they were quickly scuttled and will not be approved this session either.

Three final late-session items come courtesy of Senator Andrea Olsen (D-Missoula): A proposal to establish a pollinator health task force (SB 541), an Interim study on market-sensitive crops and ag technology (SJ 23), and an interim study of food security and agricultural prosperity (SJ 46). These bills have been referred to the Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Committee. SJ 23 died on the Senate Floor after MABA opposed the legislation in committee, while SB 541 did not receive a hearing prior to the transmittal deadline. SJ 46, which seeks in part to examine “challenges to food security, such as soil health and pollinator decline,” was still awaiting a hearing as of this writing.

A final wrap-up of the 2025 Legislative Session will be included in the Fall 2025 MABA Newsletter. Reach out to Executive Director Chris Averill with any questions or issues of concern as we enter the Legislative Interim. ■



MABA Members Participate in National Ag Week Events in Helena

The week of March 17th was National Ag Week – with March 18th being National Ag Day – and MABA members gathered in Helena to celebrate the occasion with business meetings, and some fun.

On March 17th, MABA was joined by the Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana Grain Growers Association, and Montana Farm Bureau Federation as they hosted a St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner for legislators, agency directors and staff, and industry advocates. This is a longstanding MABA tradition, and 2025’s event was a big success.

We were fortunate to be joined by Governor Greg Gianforte; Land Board members Superintendent of Public Instruction Susie Hedalen and State Auditor James Brown; leadership and staff from the Departments of Agriculture, Environmental Quality, Natural Resources and Conservation, Fish Wildlife and Parks; and over 60 legislators, including House Speaker Brandon Ler (R-Savage) and Majority Leader Steve Fitzpatrick (R-Great Falls), as well as Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Butch Gillespie (R-Ethridge) and House Agriculture Committee Chair Braxton Mitchell (R-Columbia Falls). Beverages were covered by the Liquor Store Owners Association of Montana (LSOAM), and a delicious dinner was prepared by the team at the new Crooked Frog Restaurant inside Jorgenson’s.



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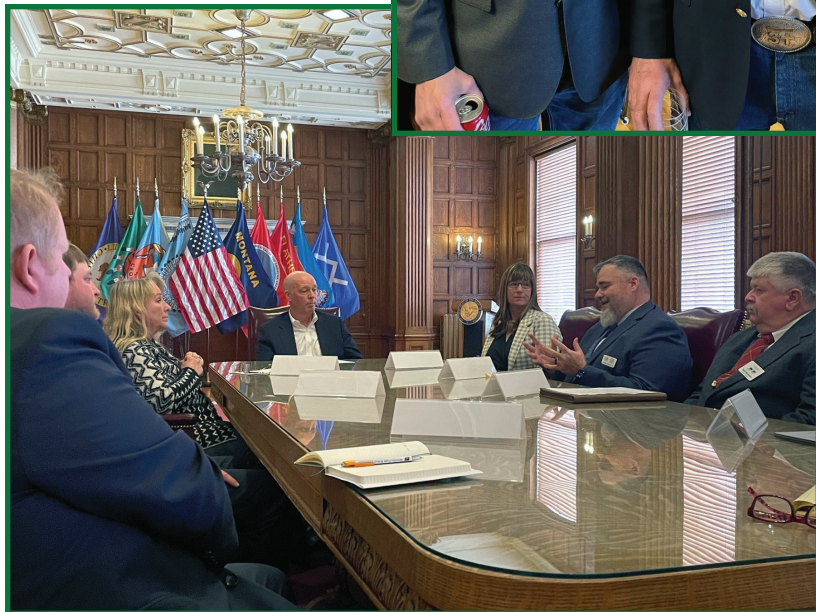
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The following day, after a monthly Board meeting, MABA was invited by the Montana Department of Agriculture to participate in the Ag Day luncheon at the State Capitol Rotunda. Legislators and lobbyists mingled over a Montana-made lunch to discuss ag policy in Montana and celebrate the state's rich agricultural heritage.

Later that day, MABA Board President Tanner Hoversland participated in a roundtable discussion with Governor Greg Gianforte and his key team members about the challenges facing agriculture in Montana, and potential solutions that the state could help implement. Among topics discussed was a request for the Governor to issue an Executive Order to temporarily exempt certain motor carriers from hours of service regulations to help meet springtime fertilizer delivery demands that help our farmers and producers have

timely access to these critical tools. As of this writing, it is anticipated that the Governor will issue this Order by mid-April. Following the roundtable, MABA Board members joined Gianforte and his staff at the Governor's residence – the historic Samuel T. Hauser House – for an Ag Day reception to wrap up a successful two days in the state capitol. ■



Trump Administration Brings Changes to Washington, Agriculture

Since the swearing in of President Donald J. Trump as the 47th President of the United States on January 20th, significant changes have come to the Federal policy, regulatory, and agency landscape. Below is a brief update on some changes that have occurred at relevant Federal agencies. Please reach out to MABA Executive Director Chris Averill should you need help connecting with officials at Federal agencies.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

In November 2024, President-Elect Trump announced that he had selected Brooke Rollins to be Secretary of Agriculture. Rollins was a veteran of the first Trump Administration, working in the Office of American Innovation, which was dedicated to implementing private sector technology solutions to improve government efficiency and responsiveness, and later the Domestic Policy Council. She grew up on a farm in Texas and later graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in agricultural development. MABA was proud to sign a letter to Senate Agriculture Committee leadership supporting Rollins' nomination in early January. Rollins was confirmed as Secretary by the United States Senate in a 72-28 vote on February 13th with both Senators Steve Daines and Tim Sheehy supporting her.

Among key appointments at USDA are the following:

Kailee Tkacz Buller Appointed as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Kailee Tkacz Buller will serve as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Most recently, Kailee served as the President & CEO of the National Oilseed Processors Association and the Edible Oil Producers Association. Previously, Kailee served as Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and held numerous leadership roles across the Department in the first Trump Administration. Governor Youngkin appointed Kailee as the 8th Congressional District Representative of the Virginia Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University at Buffalo.

Preston Parry Appointed as Deputy Chief of Staff of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Preston Parry will serve as Deputy Chief of Staff of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Preston most recently served as Strategic Assistant to the President & CEO at the America First Policy Institute. During the first Trump Administration, he was the Executive Assistant to the Director of the Domestic Policy Council, where he supported opera-

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tions and served as Policy Coordinator and primary liaison to the Office of the Staff Secretary. Previously, Preston was an Associate Director in the White House Visitors Office. A native of Tucson, Arizona, Preston holds a degree in Political Science from Utah Valley University.

Jennifer Tiller Appointed as Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary and Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services

Jennifer Tiller will serve as Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary and Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services. Most recently, Jennifer served as the Deputy Staff Director for the House Committee on Agriculture and holds graduate degrees from Marist College and Syracuse University.

Ralph Linden Appointed as Principal Deputy General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Ralph Linden will serve as the Principal Deputy General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ralph served in various capacities in the Office of the General Counsel from 1982 until 2021, including serving as an Acting Deputy General Counsel during the first Trump Administration. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame School of Law.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

On January 29th, Lee Zeldin was sworn in as the EPA Administration. According to a news release from the agency:

Administrator Zeldin has dedicated his life to public service. He is currently in his 22nd year in the United States military, having deployed to Iraq in 2006 with the Army's Elite 82nd Airborne Division and continues to serve as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. He served in the New York State Senate from 2011-2014 and later represented New York's 1st Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 2015-2023.

During his eight years in Congress, Zeldin worked across party lines to preserve the Long Island Sound and Plum Island. He supported key legislation that became historic, bipartisan success stories like the Great American Outdoors Act and Save our Seas Act to clean up plastics from our oceans. He also led the fight for Sea Grant, combated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water, voted for the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act, and supported clean energy projects on Long Island.

At just 23, Lee became the youngest attorney in New York State at the time. Born and raised in Suffolk County, New York, Lee and his wife Diana are proud parents to their twin daughters, Mikayla and Arianna.

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Since becoming Administrator, Zeldin has reoriented the agency’s mission, announced the “Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative” in early February. The plan consists of five pillars that will guide the EPA’s work over the first 100 days and beyond:

Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American

Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance

Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership

Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World

Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs

Subsequently, in March, Zeldin unveiled a plan to reconsider and roll back 31 regulatory actions, including the Technology Transition Rule, Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and the GHG Reporting Program.

Later in March, Zeldin announced the former Wyoming State Representative Cyrus M. Western had been appointed by President Trump to serve as the EPA Region 8 administrator. As regional administrator, Western will lead the implementation of the administration’s environmental agenda priorities in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and with 28 federally-recognized Tribes.

Prior to joining the EPA, Western served as the House Majority Whip in the Wyoming State House of Representatives, serving District 51. While there, he served on the Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee, chaired the Oil and Gas Bonding Working Group and was vice chair of the Tourism, Recreation and Wildlife Committee. Western holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Washington and Jefferson College in Pennsylvania, as well as a Master of Liberal Arts in Environmental Studies from the Harvard Extension School in Massachusetts.

MABA REPRESENTS MEMBERS’ VOICES IN POLICY DISCUSSIONS

The MABA staff and Board of Directors has been actively engaged in raising our members’ voices on key policy issues in both Helena and Washington, D.C. A few recent examples include:

- **Upholding a Commitment to FIFRA** – In March, MABA joined nearly 300 state and national agricultural organizations in support of a petition filed by several state attorneys general, including Montana’s Austin Knudsen, requesting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiate rulemaking to clarify that statements on pesticide labels regarding health claims that

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are inconsistent with EPA's finding would be false and misleading under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

- Seeking Science-Based Decision-making in Policy and Regulatory Matters** – In light of “recent misinterpretations of long-standing policy regarding the regulation and labeling of pesticide products, [and] as some states have begun to regulate pesticides in a manner contradicting decades of scientific guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),” MABA sent a letter to Congressional leadership urging Congress to pass the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act, bipartisan legislation which would reaffirm federal pesticide labeling uniformity and prevent states from adopting inconsistent labeling or packaging which would disrupt commerce and access to these vital tools.
- Ensuring Fair Consideration of Pesticides and Biotechnology through the “Make America Health Again” Process** - While MABA members were opposed to the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. as Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), MABA did sign on to a letter in early March seeking to work with Secretary Kennedy, Secretary Rollins, and EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin on their “Make America Healthy Again” efforts. In particular, the letter requests that Federal leaders base decisions on “the robust science- and risk-based regulatory systems to which products are already subject and the abundance of fit-for-purpose scientific literature on these matters,” such as pesticides and biotechnology innovation.
- Supporting Funding for MAES’ Value-Added Lab** – With a new Congress comes new funding opportunities, and MABA was proud to support an earmark request for Montana State University (MSU) in a letter to U.S. Senator Tim Sheehy in March. The Value-added Innovation and Technology in Agriculture Lab (VITAL) represents an important expansion of the new Montana Agriculture Experiment Station (MAES) Seed, Soil and Plant Lab, funded by the State of Montana and scheduled for construction in 2026. Providing an efficient, cutting-edge environment for developing innovative high-value commodity-based products, the additional laboratory will help create high-paying jobs and increase product sales for Montana, constituting a crucial economic stimulus for our state. The Seed, Soil, Plant Lab is in the design phase, with 80% completed, and the VITAL addition will be shovel ready should it be funded. This high-value addition will contribute to the goals of advancing science and innovation in partnership with the agriculture sector to ensure Montana’s farmers and ranchers stay competitive while strengthening state and national agricultural commodity industries and outputs. ■



Ten Ways to Mitigate Workers' Compensation Costs

A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO PROTECT YOUR WORKERS AND YOUR BOTTOM LINE

SUMMARY

- Why workers' compensation costs have risen over the years
- 10 strategies to mitigate the price of workers' compensation
- Workers' compensation FAQs

Each year, employers in the U.S. lose large amounts of money due to accidents in the workplace. This is especially true for those who operate in high-risk industries: sectors with the most vulnerabilities include construction, manufacturing, and healthcare. As a result, injuries can increase the price of workers' compensation, which can cause businesses to spend parts of their precious budget on avoidable expenses.

This blog will discuss how employers can safely keep employees on the job while reducing workers' compensation costs.

WHY WORKERS' COMPENSATION COSTS HAVE RISEN OVER THE YEARS

The nationwide workers' compensation net written premiums increased by 11% in 2023, rising to about \$47.5 billion. Workers' compensation calculations depend on employee classifications and their assigned rates. Why do employers care? Well, each incident impacts future premiums, and companies with higher injury ratings generally pay more for workers' compensation coverage. The more serious incidents that occur, the more likely it is that an organization will have to pay higher premiums for workers' compensation.

This uptick in costs is due to several factors, one of which is rising wages. Because the general cost of living is higher, some jobs have raised employee salaries. While higher salaries are great for employees' wallets, the issue is that these higher wages lead to higher indemnity costs for employers if a court warrants them.

Another reason costs have risen over the years is the changing workforce. Many older workers are

pushing retirement back past the average retirement age. The average expected retirement age among non-retirees is now 66, up from 60 in 1995. While this helps employees fund their retirement more effectively, it can cause companies to raise premiums. This is because workers who are older than 55 account for a large part of workers' compensation claims.

Additionally, medical inflation impacts the cost per claim, further driving up costs. The rising price of care for employees translates to more expensive workers' compensation claims. When the workforce doesn't receive sufficient medical attention, they're more likely to get injured and need time off.

TEN STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE THE PRICE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mitigating the price of workers' compensation helps businesses maintain financial stability. It also ensures the safety and well-being of employees. Here are a few strategies to achieve this:

1. Educate employees on workplace safety.

Companies can prioritize safety by ensuring their workforce knows how to best care for themselves and handle dangerous situations. Employers can invest in educational programs and regular safety training sessions for workers. This helps educate them about potential hazards, workplace violence, and safe work practices. Implementing employee safety measures can reduce medical costs in the long run. A safer work environment can lead to fewer accidents and lower workers' compensation claims.

2. Choose quality medical care.

Employers can also reduce costs by providing an injured worker with the best medical attention as soon as possible. This lowers the risk of team members



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suffering long-term disability or negative effects. Companies can ensure they're getting good value by reviewing their insurance coverage and working with their insurance provider to tailor coverage options.

3. Report incidents.

When injuries occur, employers should give all required documents to their insurance agent as soon as possible to process a claim. Prompt reporting and investigation can help further control claim costs.

4. Implement risk management best practices.

Companies can lower workers' compensation costs by implementing robust risk management practices by identifying and reducing workplace hazards. Employers should conduct regular risk assessments and take proactive measures to lower their risk profile.

5. Provide safety and personal protective equipment.

While not every company that uses workers' compensation is in an industry that requires safety equipment, those that are, like construction, manufacturing, and healthcare organizations, should provide their employees with personal protective equipment.

6. Focus on workplace ergonomics.

Employers can assess and improve workplace ergonomics to reduce musculoskeletal injuries. This is especially helpful for employees who use equipment or sit in an office all day. Simple adjustments to workstations and tools can make a difference in accident prevention. Companies can provide ergonomic office equipment, such as:

- A chair
- A keypad
- A mouse
- A standing mat

7. Ensure legal compliance.

It's an employer's job to stay up to date with relevant laws governing workers' compensation. Business leaders can avoid legal penalties by knowing what's expected of their company. This also helps reduce the risk of pricey lawsuits that can escalate costs.

8. Foster a healthy workplace culture.

A workplace culture focused on safety and accountability can improve employee health and well-being. Employers should build a work environment where workers feel comfortable reporting hazards. Businesses should encourage open communication and collaboration to maintain

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10 Ways continued from page 39

this type of workplace. This boosts employee morale and lowers workplace violence and indirect costs.

9. Build a back-to-work program.

Creating a back-to-work program makes it easier to transition employees after a workplace injury. The program establishes steps for employees to follow once they're able to start work again. Modified duty assignments and clear expectations can help reduce the duration of disability.

10. Consult with health insurance specialists

If employers want to reduce their workers' compensation premiums, specialists can help. They understand occupational health and safety and can help business leaders build a strong plan. Specialists can also give insights and recommendations tailored to the organization's industry.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION FAQs

Is workers' compensation insurance necessary?

Yes, workers' compensation is important for all businesses. It protects organizations from financial loss and is also required by law in most states for companies with employees. In the United States, most states mandate this type of insurance policy. (Even in states that don't have legal requirements, like Texas, businesses should still consider choosing workers' compensation insurance to ensure employee well-being.)

How much does workers' compensation insurance cost?

The price of workers' compensation depends on an organization's risk levels and location. It's also determined by external factors like:

- Medical inflation
- Rising costs

- The changing workforce

Marsh McLennan Agency works with your business to determine your needs and claims history. This ensures our team can help provide the most cost-effective and comprehensive solutions for your organization.

How can employers set up a back-to-work program?

Employers can provide a step-by-step plan for an injured employee to return to work. This keeps workers from jumping in too fast and overworking themselves. This could involve meeting workers where they are by creating modified tasks and working light-duty hours. Employers can then build on their workload and hours until they return to normal.

How we help you mitigate costs

With a more extensive view of your employee population, you can determine what needs aren't currently being met. These insights can also pinpoint what benefits could be helpful to assist your employees and mitigate workplace accidents. Workers' Health 360® gives your organization holistic, easy-to-digest insights based on:

- Medical plan data
- Pharmacy use
- Short- and long-term disability
- Workers' compensation

With guidance from Marsh McLennan Agency, you can use this data to:

- Elevate employee productivity
- Positively impact employee health and well-being
- Reduce risk exposures impacting employees

Reach out to a Marsh McLennan Agency specialist today to change the way you approach healthcare and productivity. ■



Using the Montana Pesticide Waste Disposal Program in 2025

Pesticide applicators should be aware of the 2025 Montana Pesticide Waste Disposal Program sites. Delaying removal of unused pesticide products often leads to corroded containers that pose unnecessary environmental and human health risk. By following a few simple steps applicators can ensure unused pesticides are discarded and disposed of legally and safely in 2025.

DISPOSING OF PESTICIDE WASTE

Applicators should use the Montana Pesticide and Waste Disposal Program if they have unknown pesticide products due to worn or lost product labels, unregistered pesticide products or unusable pesticides. The Montana Pesticide and Waste Disposal Program began in 1994 and has collected more than 796,000 pounds of waste pesticide from more than 1,871 participants since its onset. Common pesticide active ingredients collected include DDT, pentachlorophenol, dinoseb, and strychnine. Costs for participating in the program are significantly lower than other pesticide disposal alternatives. There is no fee for the first 200 pounds. For amounts greater than 200 pounds there is a \$1.00 per pound fee with a minimum of \$5.00. Dioxins, dioxin precursors, or any product that requires special packing may result in a higher fee.

DETAILS

The Pesticide Waste Disposal Program will accept pesticide waste at 10 locations throughout 2025. Participants may select a day and location that is convenient for them to deliver pesticide waste. These events, locations, collection days are below.

June–July Collection Events

(Pre-registration Deadline for June-July Events is June 23, 2025)

- June 30 - Polson



- July 1 - Hamilton
- July 2 - Butte

September Collection Events

(Pre-registration Deadline for September Events is September 16, 2025)

- September 23 - Plentywood
- September 24 - Glasgow
- September 25 - Glendive
- September 26 - Hardin

Participants must pre-register with the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) by filling out the online registration form. Late registrations are not considered. Acceptances are on a first-come, first-served basis. You can register online, view a list of accepted materials and other information on the MDA Pesticide Waste Disposal Program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Carli Davis for additional information regarding the MDA Pesticide Disposal and Container Recycling Programs at (406) 465-0531 or email carli.davis@mt.gov. For any other questions contact Cecil Tharp, Pesticide Education Specialist (406) 994-5067, ctharp@montana.edu. ■



STANDARD MEMBERS

Montana 4-H Foundation Updates

Jane Wolery, Foundation Executive Director | Kelsey Proue, Foundation Program Manager

The Montana 4-H Foundation is grateful for the continued support from the Montana Agricultural Business Association (MABA). We appreciate MABA efforts in continuing to grow their scholarship endowment that was first started in 2012. Currently, the MABA endowment has a total principal amount of \$64,740.88 and supports two \$750 scholarships annually. Through continued generosity and investment from MABA these scholarships will grow to serve 4-H youth for years to come.



With support from MABA, as well as other organizations, businesses and individuals, Montana 4-H Foundation ensures that 4-H, as we know it exists across Montana. Montana 4-H empowers youth to develop life, career and workforce skills that will enable them to be 'beyond ready' to succeed in an ever-changing world.

The challenges of today's world have left youth feeling pressured, lost and unprepared for the future. 4-H works to combat these despondent feelings by giving young people a sense of belonging, purpose and engagement through self-guided project curriculum, STEM education



Beyond Ready

2X
THE IMPACT
4-H'ers are 2X more likely to participate in STEM activities outside of school*

4X
THE IMPACT
4-H'ers are 4X more likely to contribute to their communities*

2X
THE IMPACT
4-H'ers are 2X more likely to make healthier choices.*

- 5 Gen Growing Solutions
- Ag Depot Inc.
- AgWest Farm Credit
- Ag Wise, Inc.
- AgXplore International, LLC
- APC Group, LLC
- Atticus, LLC
- Basin Seed, LLC
- Big Muddy Co-op
- Blake Creek Project Management
- Busch Ag Resources
- Cahill Seeds
- Circle S Seeds of Montana
- Clearview Seed
- CoBank
- Community Oil
- Corder and Associates
- Crop Vitality
- Dakota Gasification Company
- Davis Diversified Services
- Dick Irvin, Inc.
- Dry Fork Ag
- Farmers Union Oil Co. of Garfield Co.
- Fehringer Ag Consulting
- Gerbers of Montana
- Greyn Fertilizer Supply Inc.
- Harrison Elevator
- Heartland Seed Co.
- Hogan's Rancher's Ag
- Horizon Resources
- John Deere Financial
- Joyce Fuel & Feed
- KC Ag Service
- Kop-Coat
- Lake Seed
- Lakeland Feed & Supply
- Liphatech Inc.
- Logan & Hines



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Sackett Waconia
So Lo Air
Stricks Ag
Stockman Bank of Montana
Stueve Construction Co.
Tessengerlo Kerley
Town & Country Supply
Treasure State Seed
Ward Laboratories, Inc.
Westland Seed, Inc.
Wings on Wheels
Yellowstone Cattle Feeders, LLC
Yellowstone Feed, LLC
AgriBasics Fertilizer
Centrol Crop Consulting
CSWW, Inc., dba North 40 Outfitters
Farmers Union Insurance Watts-Kennedy Agencies
Lewistown Propane
PRO Coop
Rocky Mountain Supply
Taylor Aviation
Valley Farmers Supply

and service learning. Montana 4-H members engage, network, gain self-confidence and acquire the necessary life and professional skills needed to be leaders who are personally resilient with an openness for collaboration, challenge and discovery.

With generous support from donors and sponsors, the Montana 4-H Foundation provides funding for 4-H program delivery to nearly 17,000 4-H members and training for 3,000 certified volunteers. Montana 4-H and the Foundation foster opportunities for enrichment through developed curriculum, club and project meetings. The Montana 4-H Foundation, with our donors, provides scholarships to members in pursuit of higher education after high school and supports grants for youth who see a problem in their community and have a plan to solve that problem.

The Montana 4-H Foundation and program focus on facilitating “learn by doing” leadership and citizenship opportunities in addition to helping coordinate statewide conferences, contests and networking opportunities for youth to connect as they expand their education and experiences. Our purpose is to provide financial and logistical support to current 4-H members on their journeys to becoming the community leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you for your time, dedication, and passion for Montana 4-H! To learn more about our current programs visit www.montana.edu/extension/4h/ and to learn about ways you can support youth statewide, visit the Montana 4-H Foundation website at www.mt4hfoundation.org. ■



Executive Order: Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production

On March 20, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued an Executive Order (EO) titled “Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production.” In the EO, the President included Potash in the definition of critical minerals, establishing a framework to ensure that Potash and our nation’s other critical mineral resources are leveraged to create jobs and fuel American prosperity. The Executive Order is designed to help ensure a stable and abundant supply of fertilizers, which are critical to maintaining the global competitiveness of U.S. farmers and affordable food prices for U.S. consumer. An accompanying Face Sheet from the White House notes that “The Trump Administration will coordinate with private industry to ensure a stable and resilient domestic supply chain for critical materials.” The Executive Order is printed in full below.

Executive Order 14241

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose. The United States possesses vast mineral resources that can create jobs, fuel prosperity, and significantly reduce our reliance on foreign nations. Transportation, infrastructure, defense capabilities, and the next generation of technology rely upon a secure, predictable, and affordable supply of minerals. The United States was once the world’s largest producer of lucrative minerals, but overbearing Federal regulation has eroded our Nation’s mineral production. Our national and economic security are now acutely threatened by our reliance upon hostile foreign powers’ mineral production. It is imperative for our national security that the United States take immediate action to facilitate domestic mineral production to the maximum possible extent.

Sec. 2. Definitions. For the purposes of this order:

- (a) “Mineral” means a critical mineral, as defined by 30 U.S.C. 1606(a)(3), as well as urani-

um, copper, potash, gold, and any other element, compound or material as determined by the Chair of the National Energy Dominance Council (NEDC).

- (b) “Mineral production” means the mining, processing, refining, and smelting of minerals, and the production of processed critical minerals and other derivative products.
- (c) The term “processed minerals” refers to minerals that have undergone the activities that occur after mineral ore is extracted from a mine up through its conversion into a metal, metal powder, or a master alloy. These activities specifically occur beginning from the point at which ores are converted into oxide concentrates, separated into oxides, and converted into metals, metal powders, and master alloys.
- (d) The term “derivative products” includes all goods that incorporate processed minerals as inputs. These goods include semi-finished goods (such as semiconductor wafers, anodes, and cathodes) as well as final products (such as permanent magnets, motors, electric vehicles, batteries, smartphones, microprocessors, radar systems, wind turbines and their components, and advanced optical devices).

Sec. 3. Priority Projects.

- (a) Within 10 days of the date of this order, the head of each executive department and agency (agency) involved in the permitting of mineral production in the United States shall provide to the Chair of the NEDC a list of all mineral production projects for which a plan of operations, a permit application, or other application for approval has been submitted to such agency. Within 10 days of the submission of such lists, the head of each such agency shall, in coordination with the Chair of the



NEDC, identify priority projects that can be immediately approved or for which permits can be immediately issued, and take all necessary or appropriate actions within the agency's authority to expedite and issue the relevant permits or approvals.

- (b) Within 15 days of the date of this order, the Chair of the NEDC, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, shall submit to the Executive Director of the Permitting Council mineral production projects to be considered as transparency projects on the Permitting Dashboard established under section 41003 of title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Public Law 114-94, 129 Stat. 1748. Within 15 days of receiving the submission, the Executive Director shall publish any projects selected and establish schedules for expedited review.
- (c) The Chair of the NEDC, in consultation with relevant agencies, shall issue a request for information to solicit industry feedback on regulatory bottlenecks and other recommended strategies for expediting domestic mineral production.

Sec. 4. Mining Act of 1872. Within 30 days of the date of this order, the Chair of the NEDC and the Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs shall jointly prepare and submit recommendations to the President for the Congress to clarify the treatment of waste rock, tailings, and mine waste disposal under the Mining Act of 1872.

Sec. 5. Land Use for Mineral Projects.

- (a) Within 10 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of the Interior shall identify and provide the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs with a list of all Federal lands known to hold mineral deposits and reserves. The Secretary of the Interior shall prioritize mineral production and mining related purposes as the primary land uses in these areas, consistent with applicable law. Land use plans under the Federal Land

Policy and Management Act shall provide for mineral production and ancillary uses, and be amended or revised as necessary, to support the intent of this order.

- (b) Within 30 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Energy shall identify as many sites as possible on Federal land managed by their respective agencies that may be suitable for leasing or development pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2667, 42 U.S.C. 7256, or other applicable authorities, for the construction and operation of private commercial mineral production enterprises and provide such list to the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and the Chair of the NEDC. The Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Energy shall prioritize including sites on such lists on which mineral production projects could be fully permitted and operational as soon as possible and have the greatest potential effect on robustness of the domestic mineral supply chain.
- (c) The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy shall enter into extended use leases as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 2667 or by 42 U.S.C. 7256(a) respectively, or using any other authority they deem appropriate, with private entities to advance the installation of commercial mineral production enterprises on the lands identified pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. The installation of such commercial mineral production enterprises may be accomplished through development and construction or via modification of existing structures to be compatible with commercial requirements.
- (d) Within 30 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy shall coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and the head of any

Executive Orders continued on page 46



other agency that provides or can provide loans, capital assistance, technical assistance, and working capital to domestic mineral production project sponsors to ensure that all private parties who enter into lease and commercial agreements under subsection (c) of this section can utilize as many favorable terms and conditions as are available under public assistance programs for these purposes, consistent with applicable law.

Sec. 6. Accelerating Private and Public Capital Investment.

- (a) The Secretary of Defense shall utilize the National Security Capital Forum to facilitate the introduction of entities to pair private capital with commercially viable domestic mineral production projects to the maximum possible extent.
- (b) To address the national emergency declared pursuant to Executive Order 14156 of January 20, 2025 (Declaring a National Energy Emergency), I hereby waive the requirements of 50 U.S.C. 4533(a)(1) through (a)(6). By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Defense the authority of the President conferred by section 303 of the Defense Production Act (DPA) (50 U.S.C. 4533). The Secretary of Defense may use the authority under section 303 of the DPA, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Energy, the Chair of the NEDC, and the heads of other agencies as the Secretary of Defense deems appropriate, for the domestic production and facilitation of strategic resources the Secretary of Defense deems necessary or appropriate to advance domestic mineral production in the United States. Further, within 30 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of Defense shall add mineral production as a priority industrial

capability development area for the Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment Program.

- (c) Agencies that are empowered to make loans, loan guarantees, grants, equity investments, or to conclude offtake agreements to advance national security in securing vital mineral supply chains, both domestically and abroad, shall, to the extent permitted by law, take steps to rescind any policies that require an applicant to complete and submit to the agency as part of an application for such funds the disclosures that are required by Regulation S-K part 1300.
- (d) To address the national emergency declared pursuant to Executive Order 14156, I hereby waive the requirements of 50 U.S.C. 4531(d)(1)(a)(ii), 4332(d)(1)(B), and 4533(a)(1) through (a)(6). By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) the authority of the President conferred by sections 301, 302, and 303 of the DPA (50 U.S.C. 4531, 4532, and 4533), and the authority to implement the DPA in 50 U.S.C. 4554, 4555, 4556, and 4560. The CEO of the DFC may use the authority under sections 301, 302 and 303 of the DPA, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Energy, the Chair of the NEDC, and the heads of other agencies as the CEO deems appropriate, for the domestic production and facilitation of strategic resources the CEO deems necessary or appropriate to advance mineral production. The loan authority delegated by this order is limited to loans that create, maintain, protect, expand, or restore domestic mineral production. Loans, loan guarantees, and political risk insurance extended using the authority delegated by this subsection shall be made in accordance with the principles and guidelines outlined in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-11 and OMB



Circular A-129, in each case subject to such exceptions as the Director of OMB grants, and the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, as amended (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.). The CEO of the DFC, in coordination with the Director of OMB, shall adopt appropriate rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement this order in coordination with the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy.

- (e) Within 30 days of the date of this order, the CEO of the DFC and the Secretary of Defense shall develop and propose a plan to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs for the DFC to use Department of Defense investment authorities (including the DPA) and the Department of Defense Office of Strategic Capital to establish a dedicated mineral and mineral production fund for domestic investments executed by the DFC. Any such fund shall be implemented pursuant to such plan only after approval by each of the Secretary of Defense, the CEO of the DFC, and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. Pursuant to the reimbursement authorities in the Economy Act, the Secretary of Defense shall transfer to the DFC any appropriated funds from the Defense Production Act Fund or from the Office of Strategic Capital necessary to reimburse the DFC in connection with its services performed on behalf of and in coordination with the Department of Defense to implement subsection (d) of this section and this subsection. In connection with such reimbursements, the Secretary of Defense shall direct the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) to defer to the credit and underwriting policies of the DFC with respect to the use of such funds by the DFC.
- (f) Within 30 days of the date of this order, the President of the Export-Import Bank shall release recommended program guidance for the use of mineral and mineral production financing tools authorized under the Supply Chain Resiliency Initiative to secure United States offtake of global raw mineral feedstock

for domestic minerals processing, as well as under the Make More in America Initiative to support domestic mineral production.

- (g) Within 30 days of the date of this order, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Base Policy shall convene buyers of minerals and work towards an announced request for bids to supply the minerals.
- (h) Within 45 days of the date of this order, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall prepare and submit through the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy recommendations for legislation to enhance private-public capital activities to support financings to domestic small businesses engaged in mineral production. The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall further take steps to promulgate such regulations, rules, and guidance as the Administrator determines are necessary or appropriate for such purposes.

Sec. 7. General Provisions.

- (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:
 - (i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or
 - (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- (b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- (c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 20, 2025. ■





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MABA
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

15 MABA Scholarship Applications due

JUNE

11 8:00 a.m. - MABA Board Meeting
11 1:00 p.m. - Joint Meeting with MGEA Convention Planning
18 11:00 a.m. - MSU Field Day Southern Agricultural Research Center - Huntley
25 8:30 a.m. - MSU Field Day Central Agricultural Research Center - Moccasin
26 10:00 a.m. - MSU Field Day Western Agricultural Research Center - Conrad
30 Montana Pesticide Waste Disposal Event - Polson

JULY

1 Montana Pesticide Waste Disposal Event - Hamilton
2 Montana Pesticide Waste Disposal Event - Butte
2 3:00 p.m. - MSU Field Day Northern Agricultural Research Center - Havre
9 Pesticide Disposal Event - Eureka
9 8:00 a.m. - MSU Field Day Eastern Agricultural Research Center - Sidney
10 Pesticide Disposal Event - Clearwater Junction
11 Pesticide Disposal Event - Butte
15 8:00 a.m. - MSU Field Day Post Farm - Bozeman
17 MSU Field Day Northwestern Agricultural Research Center - Creston
24 MABA Golf Tournament in Great Falls

SEPTEMBER

23 Montana Pesticide Waste Disposal Event - Plentywood
24 Montana Pesticide Waste Disposal Event - Glasgow
25 Montana Pesticide Waste Disposal Event - Glendive
26 Montana Pesticide Waste Disposal Event - Hardin

NOVEMBER

TBA MSU Celebrate Ag - Bozeman Dates & Times TBA
9-15 National Split Pea Soup Week

DECEMBER

2-3 MGGA Convention & Trade Show - Great Falls

JANUARY 2026

21-23 MABA/MGEA Convention in Great Falls