

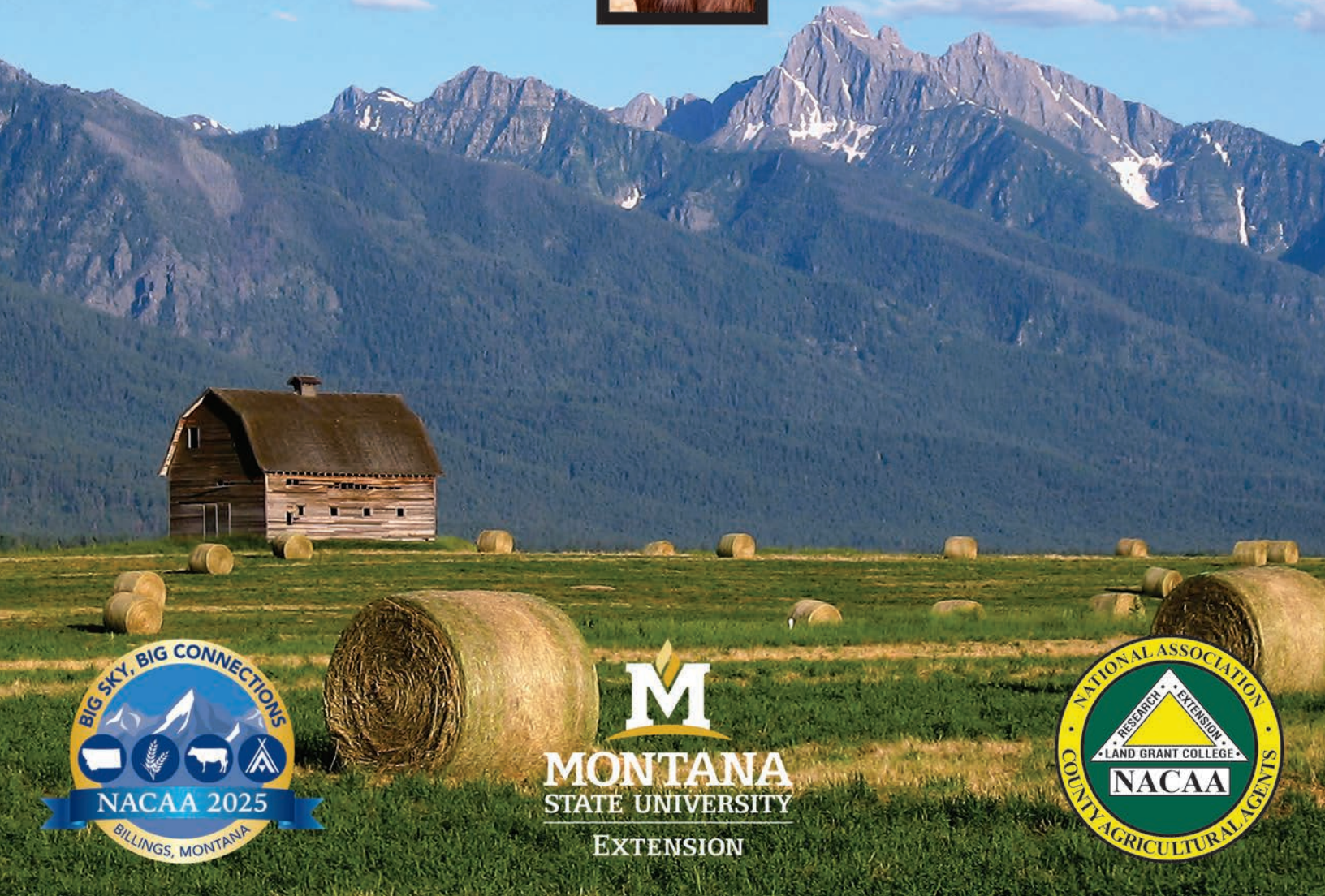
The County Agent



A publication of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents

Volume LXXXVI • No.1 • April, 2025

6584 W. Duroc Road • Maroa, IL 61756 • (217) 794-3700



President's Corner

Westward ho!

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson and Secretary of State James Monroe spearheaded what became known as the Louisiana Purchase, a historic acquisition that included much of present-day Montana. In May 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, commissioned by President Jefferson, embarked on an expedition with about 30 others to explore the newly acquired territory and chart a route to the Pacific Ocean. Their journey took them up the Missouri River, across what is now Montana and Idaho, and down the Columbia River, which forms the border between Oregon and Washington. They reached the Pacific in 1805 and began their return trip in March 1806, completing their journey in September of that year. Their expedition marked the true beginning of westward expansion in the United States. In the years that followed, the call of "Westward Ho!" echoed among pioneers in search of gold, land, and new opportunities.

I invite you to embrace that same spirit of adventure in June 2025 and make your way to Billings, Montana, for the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. My friends and colleagues of the Montana Association of County Agricultural Agents have been working tirelessly to prepare an event that showcases the very best of Montana. Fortunately, your journey to Billings will take far less time than Lewis and Clark's 862-day round trip—even if you decide to take the scenic route through Yellowstone or Glacier National Park. Billings boasts a small yet modern airport with multiple travel options to ensure a smooth trip.

The Montana Ag Agents are preparing a truly unique experience for attendees. The welcome dinner will be hosted at the Pub Station, conveniently located near the hotels, and will feature gingered tri-tip beef—a staple at Western bull sales. The farewell dinner, also at the Pub Station, will showcase locally sourced beef and lamb. And for some added fun, rumor has it there may even be a cornhole tournament at the farewell event.

To enrich your Montana experience, we encourage you to explore the diverse tour offerings. Options include a visit to Red Lodge with a two-hour horseback ride, an immersion into cowboy culture, a tour of the Little Bighorn Battlefield, and insights into Montana's thriving beef, agronomy, horticulture, and sheep and wool industries. The sons and

daughters program includes opportunities for horseback riding and river rafting, while spouses and life members will also enjoy tailored activities. There truly is something for everyone!

Attendees will notice a few changes at the 2025 AM/PIC. This year, there will be only one general session. Presentations, award breakfasts, and lunches, as well as

other functions, will be divided between two main hotels: The DoubleTree and The Northern, which are conveniently located just a short city block apart. The Distinguished Service Award (DSA) banquet will also be split, with a live video feed connecting both venues. This adjustment is necessary due to the lack of a single facility in Montana large enough to accommodate our entire group at once.

We encourage you to arrive early or stay late to explore Montana's breathtaking natural wonders. I look forward to welcoming you to Billings for the 2025 NACAA AM/PIC and sharing an unforgettable experience together!

Scott



*2024-2025 NACAA President
K. Scott Jensen*



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National Association County Agricultural Agents
Editor: Scott Hawbaker - 6584 W. Duroc Rd., Maroa, IL 61756
Phone (217) 794-3700 • Fax (217) 794-5901
E-mail: nacaemail@aol.com

Leadership Academy Updates

Laura Kenny, Northeast Vice Chair, Leadership & Administrative Skills Committee

The Leadership and Administrative Skills Committee is pleased to report the success of the inaugural cohort of the NACAA Leadership Academy. Eighteen members began the Academy at the 2023 AM/PIC and wrapped up at the 2024 AM/PIC. In the meantime, they met monthly on Zoom to learn from experts in leadership and Extension administration.

Their capstone project was to prepare group presentations on leadership topics not covered by the Academy, and to present them at the 2024 AM/PIC. Four groups delivered valuable presentations during one of the Leadership & Administrative Skills Committee breakout sessions. Several of these presentations will be repeated in the second Academy cohort.

Overall, the first cohort recommends the Leadership Academy to other members. The final evaluation showed that 100% of respondents felt it was worth their time, and 86% have made changes in their work as a result of the sessions. "Participating in the 2023-2024 Leadership Academy has been an incredible experience. Our monthly sessions were truly impactful, by providing valuable insights and practical skills. I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of such a dynamic program and look forward to seeing how it will continue to evolve and inspire future leaders in this association." - Jose D. Arocho Jimenez

After the success of the 2023-2024 cohort, we launched a second cohort which is currently enjoying the monthly sessions and preparing presentations for 2025 AM/PIC in Billings, MT. Applications for the third cohort are now open and are due May 15; consider applying if you are currently in a leadership position or have aspirations to become a leader within your state Extension and/or NACAA. It is a competitive selection process and there are limited seats in each cohort. Tentative agenda details are available on the Academy website: go.osu.edu/nacaaleadershipacademy

Passing of 1995 NACAA President - Warren Sifferath

Warren Sifferath, born on October 13, 1939, who departed from this life on August 11, 2024. He is formerly from Farmington, MN and most recently Gold Canyon, AZ. A beloved father, grandfather, husband, and brother, Warren's enduring spirit will be fondly remembered by those who knew him.



Warren is survived by his wife Sharee, son Cary (Nadia) Sifferath, daughter Nanci (Paul) Brown. He was a cherished and proud grandfather to Jennifer and Kyle Brown, who brought immense joy to him.

Warren was born and raised in Buffalo Lake, Minnesota, where he graduated high school in 1957. His lifelong passion for animals and farming led him to pursue further education at the University of Minnesota. There, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Husbandry in 1961 and then a Master of Science degree in Animal Science in 1971.

Warren had a distinguished career with the University of Minnesota Extension Service, serving as an Extension Educator and County Extension Director for Dakota County from 1962-1998. He served as President of the National Association of County Agriculture Agents in 1995, and was inducted into the NACAA Hall of Fame in 2007.

A memorial service was held October 3, 2024, at Faith United Methodist Church, 710 8th Street, Farmington, MN. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts are preferred. Memorials will be given to Minnesota State Fair Foundation, National Association of County Agricultural Agents and Dakota County Fair.

Passing of 1996-1998 NACAA Secretary - Duane Duncan

Duane G. Duncan, age 88, of Zelenople, PA, passed away the evening of Jan. 29, 2025, at Lutheran Senior Life Passavant Community in Zelenople, PA.

Born Jan. 9, 1937, in Erie, PA, he was the son of the late Glenn W. and Esther (Wilkins) Duncan.



Duane graduated from Fairview High School in Erie, PA, and Penn State. He served as a 4-H summer assistant in Lawrence County in 1957 where he met his wife Donna L. (Walters) Duncan. They were married on Oct. 4, 1958. She preceded him in death on Sept. 30, 2023.

After graduation Duane started in Adams County as Assistant County Agent mainly working with 4-H. In 1967 Duane was promoted to Cumberland County Extension Director where he continued to work with 4-H horse and dairy programs until his retirement in 2003. Duane was inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in 2013, and the NACAA Hall of Fame in 2006.

Online condolences may be offered to the family by visiting www.cunninghamfh.com

NACAA Committee Workshops to be held Virtual Pre AM/PIC

NACAA's committee structure forms the backbone of our organization. We encourage all members to get involved as State Chairs, Regional Vice Chairs, and eventually as National Committee Chairs throughout their careers.

Committee Workshops are a perfect opportunity to gather more input from all NACAA members -not just those who attend the AM/PIC. These workshops are open to all NACAA members. Do you have interest in what type of programming a committee may be planning for the upcoming year, or have interest in giving your input? This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about each committee and share your ideas and suggestions for the future direction of each committee.

Below is the schedule of the upcoming Committee Workshops along with a direct Zoom link to join in the discussion. No registration is required.

5/1/2025

Animal Science Committee Workshop - 10:00 AM CST
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81025046527>

5/2/2025

**4-H & Youth Programming Committee Workshop -
10:00 AM CST**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82434050626>

5/5/2025

**Leadership & Administrative Skills Committee Workshop -
10:00 AM CST**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87637130297>

5/5/2025

Search for Excellence Committee Workshop - 2:00 PM CST
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85843989493>

5/7/2025

Communications Committee Workshop - 2:00 PM CST
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85330417462>

5/9/2025

**Public Relations & Agricultural Awareness Committee
Workshop- 10:00 AM CST**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86796048960>

5/9/2025

**Early Career Development Committee Workshop -
2:00 PM CST**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84753276809>

5/13/2025

**Natural Resources/Aquaculture Committee Workshop -
2:00 PM CST**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86172768802>

5/14/2025

Agricultural Issues Committee Workshop - 10:00 AM CST
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81536712963>

5/15/2025

**Research & Education Posters Committee Workshop-
10:00 AM CST**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82365550957>

5/20/2025

**Agronomy & Pest Management Committee Workshop-
2:00 PM CST**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84812935533>

5/21/2025

**Sustainable Agriculture Committee Workshop -
10:00 AM CST**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87279070423>

5/21/2025

**Horticulture & Turfgrass Committee Workshop -
2:00 PM CST**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86975185294>

5/28/2025

**Agricultural Economics & Community Development
Committee Workshop - 10:00 AM CST**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86291231621>

5/28/2025

**Teaching & Educational Technologies Committee
Workshop - 2:00 PM CST**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83606395018>

5/29/2025

Scholarship Committee Workshop - 2:00 PM CST
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88981387069>

5/30/2025

**Recognition & Awards Committee Workshop -
10:00 AM CST**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85620573625>

Welcome to Montana



Shelley Mills

2025 AM/PIC Co-Chairs



Patrick Mangan



Welcome to Montana, we are so excited to be hosting again after 43 years! We couldn't have done this without our wonderful MSU Extension administration, faculty, and the fabulous colleagues in the Western Region. We are immensely grateful for all the support, be it monetarily, bodily, or emotionally. They have been our biggest cheerleaders since we tentatively offered to host 5 years ago!

We are shaking things up a bit in Montana this year. We have removed one full day from the event to focus more on professional development and member recognition. That doesn't mean we've cut out any fun!

This year the event will be split between two headquarter hotels, the Doubletree and the Northern. These two beautiful hotels are less than a block apart in the heart of Montana's largest city, Billings. Being in the heart of Billings offers opportunities to shop, dine out at great restaurants, see historical sights, and take in our fabulous June/July weather.

The AM/PIC registration will take place on the second floor of the Northern Hotel, while the scholarship auction item drop-off will be at the Doubletree. Opening Session

will take place at our beautifully remodeled Alberta Bair Theater in the heart of Billings only two to three blocks from the headquarter hotels. The Welcome to Montana and Farewell dinners will be held at the Pub Station, a local venue only two blocks away. The poster session, breaks, and hospitality will be on the 22nd floor of the Doubletree in the once exclusive Ponderosa Club with breathtaking views of the city. The professional tours will cover a wide variety of topics and sites to ensure that you get a flavor for all that is uniquely Montana.

We invite you to come early and stay late. Take time to visit our beautiful state and see all that Montana has to offer. From blue ribbon trout streams and towering mountains to the sweeping plains and Missouri river breaks. We intentionally set this meeting right before Independence Day so you could bring your family and explore during what might be a once in a lifetime chance to visit Big Sky Country.

Opening Ceremony - Sunday, June 29, 2025



The 2025 NACAA Opening Ceremony will be held at the Alberta Bair Theater beginning at 7:00 pm. The Alberta Bair Theater, in one iteration or another, has been an integral part of the cultural scene in Billings for more than 80 years.

Our opening welcome will be by Dr. Cody Stone. Through Extension in Texas and Montana, Cody has strived to improve lives and communities as an Agent, District 4-H Specialist, Regional Program Director, Volunteer Specialist, Montana 4-H Program Leader, Associate Director, and Executive Director of Montana State University Extension. Cody, wife Mary, and daughter Brinkley enjoy camping, cooking, vinyl records, and live music.





The Keynote Speaker for the NACAA Opening Ceremony will be Dwayne Fisher - Idaho.

Dwayne Fisher had the privilege of growing up in small town America, Parma, Idaho. Active in 4-H and FFA his entire life. He served as the Idaho State FFA President from 1993-94. That same year his long-time best friend, who he met at the county fair as teens, served as the Idaho State FFA Secretary. Two years after their officer service, they were married. Dwayne and Tracy are the parents of 8 kids and now enjoy grandparent life with their 8 grand kids. Dwayne graduated with his bachelor's degree from Boise State University in Marketing Management. Upon graduation they moved to his aunt and uncle's farm in Homedale, Idaho to help run the family business and raise their family. He, along with his cousin and 3 of their children or children's spouses are currently running their row crop farm and onion packing facility. Dwayne is also the VP of Marketing and partner at Champion Produce Sales. The team at Champion markets for five onion packing facilities year-round and distribute around 100 semi loads of onions each week across the nation. When not growing and selling onions, Dwayne & Tracy, along with their family run a club lamb & goat operation with 300 head of mature ewes and 40 head of does. They do extensive Embryo transfer work and market their livestock across the nation. Dwayne and Tracy are active members of their church and serve in many capacities. Dwayne is also the Vice-Chairman of the Homedale School District.



Tradeshow/Exhibits

Montana's trade show and exhibits will be held on the second and third floors of the Doubletree Hotel alongside most of our meeting rooms. Vendors will have tabletop booths in and around the meeting and dining areas. This will facilitate engagement with our sponsors and vendors and allow unique opportunities to visit with the tradeshow participants and colleagues during breaks and while the conference is being held. Your contact person for the tradeshow is Sharla Sackman sharla.sackman@montana.edu.



Sunday Evening Welcome to Montana Dinner

Situated in the heart of Billings and just a short walk (1 to 2 blocks) from the Headquarter hotels, The Pub Station is the venue for the Welcome to Montana Meal.



Experience a true Montana treat of pure Angus beef with locally produced vegetables and Montana grown wheat bread rolls. The opening meal features gingered tri-tip beef with horseradish sauce, stir fried vegetables, roasted red potatoes and a buffet of salad greens, bowtie pasta salad, fruit and fresh dinner rolls. Dessert is Montana's own Wilcoxson's Ice Cream and fruit cobbler. The vegan main course option features Farro stuffed Acorn squash and a special vegan desert option. Coffee, Iced Tea, and Lemonade are included but the venue offers a full bar for purchasing other refreshments. Dinner is scheduled to be served in shifts from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Following dinner, it's a short 8-minute walk (4 blocks) to the Alberta Bair Theater for our Opening Ceremonies beginning at 7:00 p.m. With over 40 years of experience, the cuisine offered by Yellowstone Kelly's will be a culinary experience of western culture. Their featured items are prepared using wholesome, fresh, mostly Montana ingredients.

Welcome First Timers!

The 2025 NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) First Timer Committee and Early Career Development Committees invite you to attend the 110th NACAA AM/PIC in Billings Montana. If this is your first time attending an AM/PIC, be sure to attend the First Timer Orientation and the First Timer Luncheon.

The First Timer Orientation/Social is being held on Sunday June 29th at Hooligan's, a local socializing hot spot. The orientation will help to introduce you to other new(er) Agricultural Extension professionals from across the nation. You will learn more about the National Association and how it can help you be successful in your career. You will also have an opportunity to meet and engage with other First Timers to network and possibly form lasting friendships to encourage and enhance your future NACAA AM/PIC experiences.

The First Timers Luncheon is Monday June 30th from 11:45 – 1:15 and features Montana's very own Taylor Brown. Taylor, the president of the Northern Ag Network, is widely known as one of the nation's leaders in the field of agricultural broadcasting and has played a huge role in western agriculture since he joined the Northern Ag Network as a regional farm broadcaster in 1979. Today he and his wife Shannon own the Northern Broadcasting System, and its flagship radio station KGHL (AM790 and 94.7FM) in Billings. A past National President of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting, Taylor also served 12 years as the President of the NAFB Foundation. His many achievements in the broadcasting industry include being named America's "Farm Broadcaster of the Year" and receiving the "Oscar in Agriculture" award for radio and being inducted into the NAFB Hall of Fame in 2010. Taylor was awarded an honorary doctorate from Montana State University at the fall commencement of 2021. Taylor's signature voice is widely known across the state and region.



Registering and attending a national conference can be very confusing and downright intimidating. As a first timer, you can ask questions and check with colleagues or watch the NACAA 365 webinar on attending an AM/PIC as a First Timer to learn more. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPxE8KyuQqM>. If you have any questions, please contact a First Timer Committee member or AM/PIC planning committee member. Your Montana First Timer Contact is Tyler Lane tyler.lane@montana.edu. We hope you have a stellar experience in Montana!

Monday States' Night Out and Scholarship Auction

Enjoy fine dining in each of our Headquarter Hotels with the Montana Sky restaurant in the Doubletree or Ten in the Northern or take a short walk to access a myriad of local restaurants featuring everything from sushi or steak, burgers, or pizza. Billings offers over 200 dining options across the city. Uber and Lyft are available to transport you to a more distant dining locale. If you have your own car or a rental it is very easy to navigate around Billings. If your state has a large contingency for States' Night Out, please contact us in advance (3 - 4 weeks) so we can assist you in finding a restaurant that meets your needs. Visit Billings and the Billings Chamber websites offer information about local restaurants: <https://www.visitbillings.com/foodie> or <https://business.billingschamber.com/list/ql/restaurants-food-beverages-22>.



The Scholarship Auction will be held on Monday night following State's Night Out in the Ballroom of the Doubletree. Be sure to join us for the silent and live auction. This year, in addition to our regular, exceptional auctioneer Tom Benton, Montana is thrilled to have our very own Kyle Shobe participate



as well. Kyle Shobe is a world-renowned auctioneer and entertainer. Kyle and his band, The Walk 'Em Boys will provide music and entertainment during and following the auction. Be sure to wear your cowboy boots and enjoy classic western dance music. You won't want to miss this!!

Educational Breakfast/Luncheon Opportunities

Fueling the Future: Bayer's Biofuel Crops & New Farmer Opportunities



Science For A Better Life

***Educational Breakfast sponsored by
Bayer CropScience
Monday - June 30
6:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.***

Bayer Crop Science is a committed leader in delivering innovative solutions that combine genetics, traits, crop protection chemistries, agronomic recommendations & digital solutions to help our customers manage risk, drive profitability, and deliver food for a growing global population. Today's presentation will highlight Bayer's innovation in the biofuels market. Bayer has invested in three oilseed crops aimed at creating additional value for farmers by establishing downstream collaborations with crushers and refiners to meet the growing global demand for biofuels that can be produced with lower carbon intensity scores.

Presenters:

Chad Bilby has been with Bayer Crop Science for 27 years and currently serves as the Biofuels Crop Innovation and Commercial Lead in St. Louis, MO.

Carlene Sarvas has recently joined Bayer Crop Science as the Customer Sales & Solutions Agronomist in Saskatoon, SK, Canada.

Chad Bilby grew up in a small farming community in Northwest Missouri. He graduated with a BS from Oklahoma State University, MS from the University of Missouri and MBA from Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Chad joined Monsanto in 1998 and has since held various positions in Research & Development, Marketing, Sales, Strategy, Operations, and Account Management. With the growth of digital agriculture, Chad worked with FieldView & digitally powered new business models in various roles with The Climate Corporation from 2014 to 2025. Due to the growing

global demand for biofuels and Bayer's investments in oilseed crops, he moved into his current role as the Biofuels Crop Innovation & Commercial Lead in 2025.

Carlene Sarvas recently joining Bayer CropScience Inc. in Saskatoon, SK, Canada as Customer Sales & Solutions Agronomist, following the acquisition of Camelina germplasm and variety intellectual property from Smart Earth Camelina. Prior to this, Carlene spent 14 years as the Production Lead at Smart Earth Camelina. Carlene holds a diploma in Biotechnology from SIAST Kelsey Institute and recently completed the Agronomy Certification from Olds College. Growing up on a farm and now living on acreage, she has a deep, personal connection with producers and a broad wealth of experience in both the technical and practical aspects of agriculture. Her extensive background and expertise with Camelina position her as a key contributor to advancing the role of Camelina in the biofuel industry.

SenseHub® Cow Calf, A First-of-its-kind Technology to Optimize Reproductive Management in Beef Cows



***Educational Lunch sponsored by
Merck Animal Health
Monday - June 30
11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.***

Speaker: Jessica Finck, Ph.D., Associate Director of Beef Technology Customer Success at Merck Animal Health

Merck Animal Health is shaping the future of animal health with pioneering science, technology and insights-driven solutions to bring our customers an unparalleled portfolio of choices to improve cattle care and operational efficiency. We are pleased to introduce SenseHub® Cow Calf, our latest technology solutions innovation. SenseHub Cow Calf, remote monitoring technology, is designed to help optimize breeding results with less labor for cow/calf producers, including seedstock and club calf producers, who use artificial insemination (AI) or embryo transfer (ET). Reproductive efficiency is critical, especially in high-value calves. SenseHub Cow Calf monitors behaviors that help to detect estrus, determine ideal insemination windows, and uncover potential reproductive issues faster than human observation alone.

Jessica Finck, Ph.D., is an associate director of beef technology customer success for Merck Animal Health. Jessica started with the company as a meat scientist on the Food Animal Resource Management team focusing on meat quality and consumer acceptance research in meat from animals administered animal health products. In September 2024, Jessica changed roles to become more focused on customer success with our beef technology portfolio on the Livestock Technology Solutions team.

Jessica grew up on her family's farm in Plainview, Texas. She earned her bachelor's degree in animal science from Texas A&M University; her master's degree in animal science from Texas Tech University; and a doctorate in meat science from Colorado State University. She enjoys spending time with her family, skiing, and raising her boys to be actively involved in production agriculture through the family operation.

Seating is limited to 100 participants.

Coexisting Safely: Farming and Utility Infrastructure



***Educational Lunch sponsored by
Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance
Tuesday, July 1
11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.***

The Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance (PASA) is a public awareness initiative consisting of a group of utility operators that have teamed up with the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) to help deliver safe digging messages to the ag community.

Farming is one of the most dangerous jobs in America. PASA's mission is to work with ag agents across the nation to spread awareness about safe digging practices. By working together we can help ag professionals avoid injury, environmental destruction, and financial ruin that could result from a serious utility incident. Learn how you can get involved at PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com. Seating is limited.



Distinguished Service Awards Banquet

This year's awardees will enjoy a mouth-watering meal while being honored for their work. Montana does not have a conference facility that is large enough to house the entire population of banquet goers so it will need to be split between the headquarter hotels. The National Board members, DSA's, AA's, and Hall of Fame award winners will enjoy the banquet at the Doubletree while other guests will participate from the Northern Hotel Ballroom with a video feed. The meal options will be nearly identical at both locations. As always special dietary options are available with prior notice. Please note any restrictions on your registration. Your meals contact is Jackie Pondolfino jackie.pondolfino@montana.edu.

Farewell Dinner - Wednesday

We say farewell for now to all of you at the Pub Station with sumptuous pure Montana beef and lamb donated from the Montana Beef Council and Montana Lamb Board. Agents and volunteers will be grilling dinner and serving you



a genuine Montana burger with all the fixings when your bus returns from the PI tour. The side dishes are catered once again by Yellowstone Kelly's catering; and coffee, iced tea, and lemonade are included but the venue offers a full bar for purchasing other refreshments. We are planning some fun entertainment in the form of a cornhole tournament so get a team together and be ready to rumble! Start thinking about your partner now - we will hold a battle of the States style tournament! Look for information about how to sign up your team at the on-site registration table throughout the conference.



Going to the AM/PIC (or not), Consider Bringing or Sending a Donation to the Scholarship Fund

NACAA offers many professional improvement opportunities to its members. One professional development opportunity NACAA members have is to receive a scholarship from the NACAA Education Foundation. The adage goes, "You must be in it to win it." To be eligible for a scholarship, one must contribute at least \$100 to qualify for a \$1,500 scholarship. If one contributes an additional \$100, they are eligible for up to an additional \$1,500.

There are various ways to contribute to the Foundation. One way is to donate an auction item for the NACAA Scholarship Auction. The amount that an auction item brings at the auction is credited to the donor. If you are not attending the AM/PIC but someone you know is, see if they can get your auction item to the AM/PIC.

The Scholarship Committee would like to know what you are bringing! Here is the link: <https://form.jotform.com/250774596111055> to complete a form for items you wish to donate. One form needs to be completed for each donated item.

The committee would appreciate it if you could submit your donations by June 26. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your regional Vice Chair. The regional Vice Chairs are:

North Central, Jennifer Lutes - lutesjl@missouri.edu
 Southern, Carole Knight - clh@uga.edu
 Northeast, Xuan Wei - xuanwei@umd.edu
 Western, Brooke Latack- bclatack@ucanr.edu

Additional Luncheon Opportunities

Monday, June 30, 2025 (11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.)

Search For Excellence in Crop Production

Search For Excellence in 4-H & Youth Programming

Search For Excellence in
Young Beginning & Small Farmers Luncheon

Merck Animal Health Educational Luncheon

Ag Awareness & Appreciation Award Luncheon

First Timer Luncheon

Communications/Poster Awards Luncheon (Invite Only)

Tuesday, July 1, 2025 (11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.)

Search For Excellence in
Sustainable Agriculture

Search For Excellence in
Environmental Quality, Forestry and Natural Resources

Search For Excellence in
Consumer or Commercial Horticulture

Search For Excellence in
Livestock Production Luncheon

Search For Excellence in
Farm and Ranch Business Management

Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance (PASA) Educational Luncheon

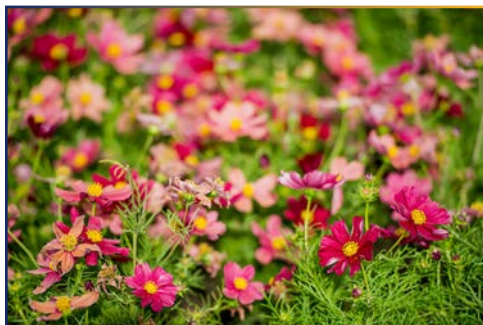
Administrators Luncheon
(for State Program Leaders and State Extension
Administrators)

2025 Pre-Tour Opportunities

Pre-tour Horticulture and Turfgrass/Sustainable Agriculture Committee

The Horticulture and Turfgrass/Sustainable Agriculture Committee Pre-tour will start in **BOZEMAN**, Montana, and end in Billings, Montana at the 2025 AMPIC Hotel and Conference site. Please be sure to make appropriate travel plans. You must book your room at C'mon Inn in Bozeman (406-587-3555) for Thursday, June 26, and Friday, June 27. The block of rooms is under NACAA. Rooms must be booked before May 23 to be in the blocked room rate. Rooms are \$250 per night, not covered by the \$100 registration fee.

Friday, June 27 portion of the tour will begin on the Montana State University (MSU) Campus at the MSU Horticulture Farm, located at the Bozeman Agricultural Research and



Teaching (BART) Farm on the west side of Bozeman, which is made up of 8 acres of diversified vegetable production and a variety of research projects. In addition to field crop plots, the Horticulture Farm includes ten high tunnels for the protected cultivation of vegetable crops. Other farm projects include a fruit orchard, an experimental vineyard, and MSU's Honey Bee Research Site and Pollinator Garden.
<https://www.montana.edu/smallfarms/>

The next stop is a tour of trees distributed throughout the Montana State University campus that chronicles the history of the westward movement. Examples of trees that Lewis and Clark documented exist alongside tree species that were introduced by the settlers. The long cold winters, short growing seasons, and low precipitation limit what can survive in a state that is divided into two distinct areas, the Rockies on the west and the Great Plains on the east.

Lunch will be provided at the Rendezvous Dining Pavilion on campus.

After lunch, we will visit the American Indian Hall - Indigenous Gardens. The American Indian Hall is surrounded by Indigenous Gardens composed of medicinal, ceremonial, and



edible plants that provide a learning landscape. Among the plants found in the gardens are foods that the peoples of the northwestern plains and northern Rockies have cultivated and traded, including corn, beans, squash, and sunflowers. The garden is a space for nurturing the recovery and continuation of cultural knowledge of food cultivation by Native students and their communities. The next stop is the Museum of the Rockies, where the City of Bozeman, Montana State University, and the Museum of the Rockies have partnered to showcase efficient irrigation techniques and low-water use plants suited to Bozeman's semi-arid climate. These plants have evolved to survive in areas of low rainfall for extended periods. They have adapted various vegetative properties to help them survive during hot dry conditions. The plants selected are hardy to this region and readily available at local nurseries. This is a perennial garden (except for the rabbitbrush) - all the plants die back to the ground each year but are long-lived and adaptable to a wide range of soils. The plentiful flowers provide a food source for many pollinating insects. Montana native drought-tolerant plants are accustomed to Bozeman's climate and survive off naturally occurring precipitation. The Montana native drought-tolerant plants featured in the demonstration garden are the most drought-resilient and have low watering requirements. Once established, these plants require 75% less water than turfgrass. We will have time to visit the Museum before dinner which features a Paleontological collection, planetarium, and other exhibits/engaging experiences.

Dinner will be included at Montana Ale House before our bus ride back to the motel.

On Saturday, June 27, we will load up the bus and head east toward Billings. On the way out of town, the first stop will highlight the retail sector of Cashman Nursery where



tour participants will view a diversity of unique plant offerings. Jerry and Jan Cashman came to Bozeman in 1975, purchased the property where Cashman Nursery is now, and built the present nursery building in 1976. But this was not the first time Cashman Nursery had a presence in Bozeman. In 1926 and 1927, Jerry's father came here selling windbreaks, fruit, and shade trees from Minnesota. Then, in the 1960s, Jerry's older brother Dan reintroduced Cashman Nursery, taking orders for trees and shrubs door to door and shipping them from his nursery in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The tour will depart Cashmans for the second stop at Blake Nursery in Big Timber, Montana. Blake Nursery also displays a diverse collection of plants. Starting in 1977, it was one of the first retail nurseries in Montana to promote native plants and continues with that emphasis today. Often these plants take less water and are more adaptable to site conditions specific to the area, such as high alkalinity, and therefore require fewer inputs.

Near Blake Nursery will be a quick stop at the Prairie Dog Town State Park. This 98-acre park offers a unique opportunity to observe the protected black-tailed prairie dog community in its natural environment.

The tour will stop for lunch and a tour of Greycliff Mill, the halfway point between Bozeman and Billings. Greycliff Mill is known for their aged cheese, a restored gristmill which has been converted into a coffee shop, and hosting numerous Farm to Table dinners.

Chief Plenty Coups State Park in Pryor is named for the last traditional chief of the Crow Nation. Chief Plenty Coups (meaning "many achievements") will be our last stop before reaching Billings. The Park has a preserved log home, a sacred spring, a farmstead/homestead apple orchard (part of the Montana Heritage Apple program), and is a National Historic Landmark.

Upon arrival in Billings, tour participants will check into the hotel, freshen up, and then walk one block to dinner at one of Billings's favorite dining establishments, Stacked: A Montana Grill.

To learn more about this tour be sure to "Save the Date" for Wednesday, March 26 at 1 pm for the 365 webinar "Why Attend the Horticulture/Sustainable Agriculture Pretour". This webinar will highlight tour stops, past tour participants' testimonials, and how to register for the tour.

Please note Day 1 has extensive walking and standing. This tour uses a non-handicapped accessible bus.

Registration Fee: \$100

Agriculture Economics Pre-Tour

Bees, Billings, Business: Exploring Agriculture & Community Development in Billings



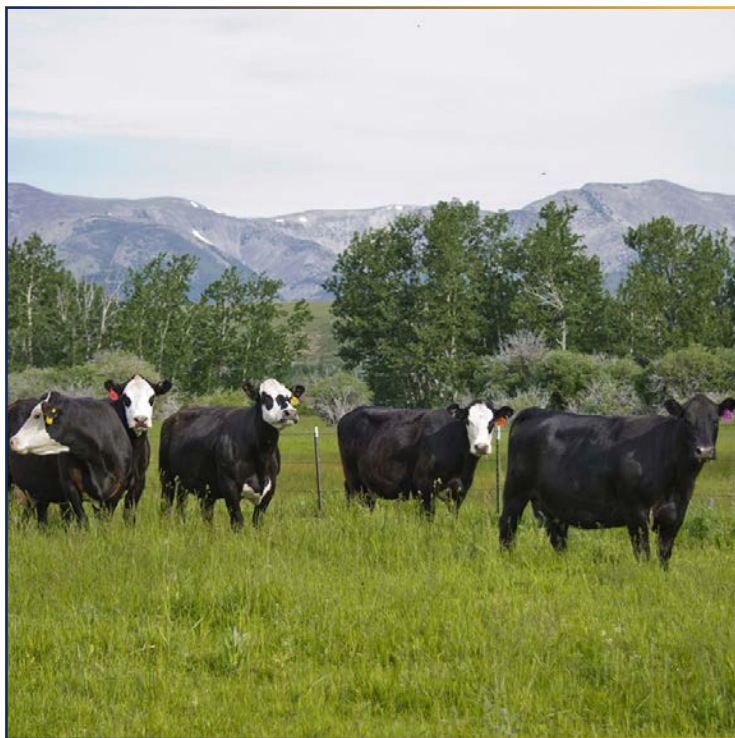
Join us for an engaging and insightful pre-conference tour that highlights the dynamic intersection of agricultural economics and community development in the Billings, Montana, area. This carefully curated itinerary showcases innovative agricultural enterprises and their contributions to the local economy and community. Start the day with a visit to Drange Apiary, a leading honeybee operation. Discover how this enterprise contributes to pollination services and agricultural productivity while supporting sustainable practices. Learn about the economics of beekeeping and the vital role honeybees play in Montana's agricultural landscape. Our second stop takes us to Mule Train Alpaca Ranch, where we'll explore the niche market of alpaca fiber production. Gain insights into how this unique enterprise adds value to the local economy through diversified income streams and sustainable land use practices. At Agri Organics, dive into the world of composting and organic waste management. This facility exemplifies how agricultural waste can be transformed into a valuable resource, creating economic opportunities while promoting environmental stewardship. In the afternoon, we will visit John H. Dover Memorial Park for beautiful strolls through the local Montana landscape. Conclude the tour at Scheels, a premier destination for outdoor and agricultural retail. Gear up in local merch, foods, and anything you need for the trails at Scheels. (It also has an indoor Ferris Wheel!!!)"

Details:

Cost: \$75 (Lunch and Supper are on your own)

Tour will leave from the Conference Hotel in Billings at 7:30am Saturday June 28th and will return to the hotel no later than 8pm that evening.

Join the Animal Science Pre Tour – A Unique Professional Development Experience!



Are you passionate about animal science and eager to expand your knowledge while networking with industry professionals? Join us for an unforgettable Animal Science Pre Tour June 27th - June 28th, 2025! We have a block of rooms reserved at the DoubleTree Hotel in Billings, MT for the night of June 26th. Please make your own reservations through the NACAA Lodging form found in this book - or the AM/PIC online registration. (To get in our block - you have to make your reservation through NACAA).

Why Attend?

- Gain exclusive behind-the-scenes access to Montana's premier ranches and livestock facilities.
- Network with industry leaders, fellow professionals, and experts in the field.
- Enhance your professional knowledge through firsthand experiences and insightful discussions.
- Enjoy breathtaking landscapes and rich agricultural heritage while touring top ranches and facilities.

Tour Highlights:

June 27th, 2025

- Kickoff: Depart from Billings, MT at 7:30 a.m.
- Experience History: Visit Montana's oldest Wool Exchange.
- Ranch Exploration: Tour American Fork Ranch, located at Two Dot, MT nestled at the base of the Crazy Mountains.
- Lunch Stop: Enjoy a meal in Melville, MT.
- Cultural Insight: Discover the Bair Ranch and Museum in Martinsdale, MT.
- Evening Stay: Relax at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, MT (\$98.00 plus tax per participant).
- Special Event: Tour the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, followed by a catered complimentary dinner included!).

June 28th, 2025

- Morning Adventure:
 - o Tour Big Sky Bison Ranch (8:30 a.m.)
 - o Visit Jacobsen Ranch
 - o Explore Bird Tail Ranch
- Lunch: Enjoy a delicious meal at Big Sky Deli.
- Afternoon:
 - o Visit Judith Basin Feedyard in Hobson, MT.
 - o Exclusive tour of the Lewistown Livestock Auction, supported by a generous \$1,500 sponsorship from Livestock Marketing Association.
- Grand Finale:
 - o Enjoy dinner at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown, MT.
 - o Return to Billings, MT, arriving around 9:00 p.m.

How to Register:

- Cost: **\$150.00** per participant.
- Deadline: **April 1 - May 15** (Early Bird registration period). Space will be limited.
- What's Included: Guided tours, networking opportunities, and a complimentary dinner at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center!
- What You Cover: Hotel and additional meal expenses.

Don't miss out on this exclusive professional development event! Spots are limited, so secure your place today.



Behind-the-Scenes Natural Resources at Yellowstone National Park

NACAA AM-PIC Natural Resource Pre-Tour Friday June 27 - Saturday 28, 2025



The Natural Resource Committee would like to invite you to our Natural Resource Pre-tour of Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone was designated as the First National Park in the US by President Grant in 1872 and is widely considered the First National Park in the world. It is a must see when visiting the West. We will see, experience and learn about the park's more than amazing natural resources, wildlife, and thermal features including Old Faithful and the Grand Prismatic Pool. We will meet and have lunch with Dr. Hillary Robinson, Deputy Chief of the US National Parks Service Yellowstone Resource Center who will provide a behind-the-scenes, science-based overview and tour of natural resources wonders and research in the park. The tour will include two long days of driving, viewing and walking. Group transportation, one night's lodging, meals and snacks will be provided. The tour is intended to be family friendly and can accommodate those who would like to travel separately in their own vehicles or who may want to stay on for another day in the park after the pre-tour. Please see detailed tour description, agenda and registration for details. For questions, contact Natural Resource Committee Chairman Jody A. Gale, jody.gale@usu.edu, 435-893-0470.

Natural Resource Pre-Tour Description and Agenda

Pre-tour participants will meet at the NACAA Conference Center in Billings, MT early on the morning of Friday, June 27th. We will drive 2 ½ hour to Gardner, MT where we will enter the massive Yellowstone National Park through the nearby North Gate. The West is a really big place, and it takes a while to get from here to there.

The first stop will be just fifteen minutes into the park at Mammoth Hot Springs. We will have lunch with Dr. Hillary Robinson, Deputy Chief of the US National Parks Service Yellowstone Center for Resources and staff who will provide a science-based overview of natural resources and research in the park. They will lead us on a tour starting at the nearby Mammoth Hot Springs. We will drive portions of the Grand Loop through Tower Junction and over Dunraven Pass to Canyon Village with tour stops along the way. We will learn about and see various park natural resource research and monitoring projects. We will make a short stop at the Overlook of the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone and visit the Norris Geyser Basin. We will learn about and likely see some of Yellowstone's majestic wildlife including bison, elk, bear and learn about the elusive wolves issue inside and outside the park.

In the evening on our way to dinner and lodging at West Yellowstone, Montana we will drive along the Madison River, which is an extraordinary cold-water fishery and wildlife viewing area.

Saturday June 28th will begin with a short drive from West Yellowstone to the Upper Geyser Basin where we will visit the Grand Prismatic Pool, watch Old Faithful erupt, and have lunch. In the afternoon we will make the 4 ½ hour drive back to Billings exiting the park through the East Gate of the park. We will take a brief break in Cody, Wyoming



and with time and interest permitting make a short, optional stop at Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

The weather in Montana is always unpredictable. Please come prepared with sturdy hiking shoes, umbrella (for rain and sun), waterproof jacket, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, and insect repellent. A pair of binoculars will aid in seeing elusive wildlife and distant vistas. It will be a very busy time of the year in the park, so patience is needed with crowds and traffic. Registration will include lodging for the night of June 27th (which is rather expensive at that time of year), group transportation, park entrance fees and some meals. If you have a National Park Pass, please bring it with you.

We look forward to seeing you in Montana, the Big Sky State. For questions, contact Natural Resource Committee Chairman Jody A. Gale, jody.gale@usu.edu, 435-893-0470.

Friday June 27

- 8:00 am Assembly and check in – Convention Center
 - 8:30 am Depart and travel – Billings to Gardner, MT.
 - 11:00 am Enter – Yellowstone National Park, North Gate
 - 11:15 am Break and tour stop – Yellowstone Center for Resources
 - 11:30 pm Behind the scenes discussion, lunch and tour – Dr. Hillary Robinson, Deputy Director, Yellowstone Center for Resources <https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/management/ycr.htm>
- Tour stops:**
Mammoth Hot Springs
Overlook of the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone
Norris Geyser Basin
Wildlife viewing along the Madison River
- 6:00 pm Lodging check in – West Yellowstone
 - 6:30 pm Dinner

Saturday June 28

- 7:00 am Breakfast – Hotel West Yellowstone
- 8:00 am Travel – West Yellowstone to Old Faithful area
- 8:15 am **Tour stops:**
Grand Prismatic Spring
Old Faithful
Yellowstone Lodge
- 12:00 noon Lunch – boxed lunch
- 1:00 pm Return travel – Billings, MT via East Gate
- 3:45 pm Break – Cody, WY
Optional Buffalo Bill Center of the West, time and interest dependent
- 4:45 pm Resume travel to Billings, MT
- 6:30 pm Conclude tour – Conference Hotel

This pre-tour is intended to be family friendly. Please note that the days will be long including time driving and walking. It may not be suitable for individuals with limited mobility.

Registration includes transportation, one night's lodging, meals, snacks, and park pass.

Individual registration is \$550/person.

Family or individual registration for those driving their own vehicle at their own expense and paying their own park entrance fee - subtract \$90 per person (\$460/person). Registration for double occupancy subtract \$150 per person (\$400/person)

Registration for families or individual DRIVING SEPERATELY that want to find their own lodging or to camp out subtract an additional \$300 per person (\$250/person).

Kids can participate only with a responsible parent, grandparent, or legal guardian. Registration fees for kids age 7+ will either be full registration fee or if the family is driving seperately - fees as listed above.

For families driving and lodging separately no charge for children age 0-6.

For families driving and lodging separately with children 7-18 \$100/child.



2025 Super Seminar Opportunities - Tuesday, July 1

Horticulture and Turfgrass Committee Super Seminar

Sponsored by Bartlett Tree Service

The Complex Tree System of Montana

Dr. Kolb has authored: "Tree care and storm damage rehabilitation across the Northern Rockies". He will bring to the table a lifelong career of experiences starting as an arborist in Milwaukee Wisconsin, a professional forester in Idaho, and a researcher across the northern Rockies, Bavaria, and Thuringia Germany.

Montana native forests have a unique and interesting ecology. That ecology might even be labeled as "natural adaptation to stress," considering the highly variable and fickle climatic extremes and wildfire history. Montana community forests rely significantly on exotic species, both from the U.S. and Europe, as well as poorly suited native species such as cottonwoods, pines, spruces, and green ash. Finally, Montana has the potential impact of a changing climate on both native forests and community forests. Participants should bring an open mind because several paradigms will be challenged as we explore solutions to our major tree challenges.

Dr. Drew Zwart is a plant pathologist and physiologist and has been on staff at the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories for 19 years. He conducts research and provides training and scientific support throughout Bartlett's western operations, including California, Oregon, Washington, Alberta, and British Columbia. Drew conducts research on plant stress physiology, and plant disease and insect concerns, with a focus on sustainable practices and climate resilience. As 'abnormal' weather conditions become more common across North America, physiological stress and stress-related disease and insect issues increase in woody plants. While treatments to suppress primary disease and insect pests are fairly straightforward, mitigating stress-related issues in the landscape can be more challenging. This presentation will provide the physiological background of what 'plant stress' really means, highlight some recent research projects regarding heat and drought stress avoidance and tolerance in woody plants, and discuss the types of secondary disease issues that are becoming more prevalent throughout North America.

Bartlett Tree Service is a provider and three-year supporter of the NACAA Horticulture and Turfgrass Committee Super Seminar. We appreciate their continued support.

Designing Educational Board Games for Agricultural Learning

Hosted by Teaching & Educational Technologies Committee

This seminar will explore the innovative use of game-based learning to enhance agricultural education, with a focus on both digital and hands-on components. Participants will gain insights into how interactive educational games can improve engagement and understanding in agricultural extension programs, particularly through digital tools and resources that supplement traditional learning methods. The session will highlight two key educational tools: Pest Friends, which incorporates integrated pest management strategies, and a newly developed Livestock Management Game, designed to teach best practices in livestock operations. Both tools feature physical and digital components, offering flexibility for educators to implement them effectively in various teaching environments. Participants will also explore the digital moderator tools and platforms that accompany these games, demonstrating how technology can streamline gameplay and learning outcomes.

The seminar will provide participants with an immersive, hands-on experience in game design concepts and digital integration, taking them through the process from initial idea to development and implementation. Attendees will:

- Learn how to incorporate game-based learning into their programs.
- Explore how digital tools can enhance educational games and improve accessibility for a broader audience.
- Participate in structured gameplay and post-game discussions to reflect on the educational value and digital aspects.

As part of the seminar, participants will receive access to both educational tools, including digital resources, providing excellent value for their future programming needs. The production cost of these resources is approximately \$75 per participant; attendees pay a **\$50 fee**, and the NACAA TET Committee will cover the remaining \$25. This shared investment ensures participant commitment while offering exceptional value, as the tools collectively exceed \$200 in retail value.

The session will be **limited to 30 participants** to allow for effective hands-on engagement and in-depth discussions about integrating both physical and digital tools into their extension programs.

This seminar offers a unique opportunity for NACAA attendees to gain practical knowledge about using game-based learning—enhanced by digital tools—to elevate agricultural education, fostering innovation and engagement in their own programs.

Leveraging AI for Extension Success: Tools, Techniques, and Insights

Hosted by Teaching and Educational Technologies & Early Career

Explore the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Extension work at this engaging super seminar during the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. This session will cover how AI can streamline workflows, including condensing complex information into accessible formats and enhancing research processes. Discover practical applications for generating media—social content, videos, and images—to elevate outreach and engagement with producers and communities. A panel of experts will share real-world use cases, offering actionable insights on integrating AI into programming while navigating common pitfalls and ethical considerations. Whether optimizing program delivery, amplifying communication, or enhancing research, AI offers immense opportunities for agriculture Extension agents. Join us to explore best practices, challenges, and innovative tools that can help you achieve greater impact in your work. This seminar is ideal for anyone looking to stay ahead in the evolving landscape of agricultural education and community resilience.

Participants will learn how AI can help them in their Extension roles, what pitfalls to avoid, navigating through ethical concerns, and what is available for AI technology. Speakers will form a Q&A panel for the last half of the super seminar where audience members are encouraged to share their experience with AI. No cost super seminar.

Limited to 100 Participants.

Climate data, tools and resources for Agriculture Extension



Hosted by the North Central Climate Collaborative

This hands-on workshop will include presentations from around the country to highlight some of the newest decision support tools and resources. The North Central Climate Collaborative (NC3) is partnering with USDA Northern Plains Climate Hub and other climate and agriculture groups for this super seminar. Participants are invited to bring their laptops, tablets or other devices to access online climate decision support tools for farmers, ranchers, horticulturalists and the Extension and outreach professionals who advise them. Focused topics will highlight some new and recently updated resources, including: Climate Ready Midwest, GrassCast, NOAA's Climate-at-a-Glance, Climate Toolbox, and other climate, weather and water data sources with agriculture in mind. Seminar participants will be invited to explore these online resources during the seminar. The goal is to inform, educate, and prepare Extension professionals for understanding climate data available in their area that can support their own programming, recommendations and communication with their clientele. Presenters will include Extension and outreach professionals from NC3, state climatologists, and other climate & agriculture specialists from across the U.S. They will be ready to address questions on specific data sources available to certain regions, commodities or production methods.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE
WWW.nacaa.com**

For the latest news & information regarding NACAA meetings, membership database updates, award submissions/recognition, NACAA Supporters and the list goes on....and on...and on!

110th Annual Meeting/Professional Improvement Conference

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM NACAA Board Meeting
 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Pre-Tours

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM NACAA Board Meeting
 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Potential Pre-tours out

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

8:00 AM - 7:00 PM Conference registration and scholarship auction drop off
 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Trade show vendor table set up
 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Poster Display setup
 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Scholarship Selection Committee meeting
 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Past Officer and Board Luncheon
 1:00 PM - 6:30 PM Trade Show floors open for visitors
 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM Leadership Academy
 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM First Lady's Meet and Greet
 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM NACAA Educational Foundation Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting
 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Life Member and Spouse Programs Orientation
 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Parent Orientation for Sons and Daughters Program
 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM First Timers Social and Orientation
 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Welcoming dinner at Pub Station
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Opening General Session
 9:00 PM Ice Cream Social
 9:00 PM - 10:30 PM Hospitality Rooms Open
 10:00 PM Montana Team Meeting

MONDAY, JUNE 30

6:30 AM - 7:00 PM Conference registration and information open
 6:30 AM - 12:00 PM Scholarship Auction item drop off
 6:30 AM - 7:45 AM Bayer Crop Science Breakfast
 6:30 AM - 7:45 AM Voting Delegate Breakfast
 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Trade Show floors open for visitors
 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Poster Judging
 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sons and Daughters Program tours organize and depart

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Professional Improvement and Extension Development Council Presentations
 Leadership and Administrative Skills
 Agricultural Issues
 Early Career Development
 4-H and Youth
 Ag Economic and Community Development
 Agronomy and Pest Management
 Animal Science
 Horticulture and Turfgrass
 Natural Resources and Aquaculture
 Sustainable Agriculture
 Teaching and Educational Technologies
 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Life Member Business Meeting
 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM Life Member and Spouses Program combined luncheon
 11:45 AM - 1:15 PM Professional Improvement and Search For Excellence Luncheons
 First Time Attendee Luncheon
 Crop Production
 Agricultural Awareness and Appreciation
 4-H and Youth Programming
 Communications/ Poster Awards
 Young, Beginning, or Small Farms/ Rancher Program
 Merck Animal Health Luncheon
 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM Life Member Tours/ Spouse Program tours organize and depart
 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Trade Talk Concurrent Sessions
 Trade talk 1
 Trade talk 2
 Trade talk 3
 Trade talk 4
 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Regional Meetings
 Southern
 North Central
 Northeast
 Western
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM State's Night Out dinner in Billings
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Montana Team dinner and meeting
 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM NACAA Scholarship Auction (Live auction starting at 8:00PM)

TUESDAY, JULY 1

6:30 AM - 6:00 PM	Conference Information Desk Open
6:45 AM - 8:00 AM	National Committee Chair/ Vice Chair Breakfast (for current and incoming)
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Achievement Award Recognition Breakfast
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Trade Show floors open for visitors
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Delegate Session
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Professional Improvement and Extension Development Council Presentations
	Leadership and Administrative Skills
	Agricultural Issues
	Early Career Development
	4-H and Youth
	Ag Economic and Community Development
	Agronomy and Pest Management
	Animal Science
	Horticulture and Turfgrass
	Natural Resources and Aquaculture
	Sustainable Agriculture
	Teaching and Educational Technologies
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Life Member and Spouse Tours Depart
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Sons and Daughters Program Tours organize and depart
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	Professional Improvement and Search For Excellence Luncheons
	Sustainable Agriculture
	Environmental Quality, Forestry and Natural Resources
	Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance
	Administrative Leaders Luncheon
	Farm and Ranch Business Management
	Consumer and Commercial Horticulture
	Livestock Production Program
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Super Seminars
	1. The Complex Tree System of Montana
	2. Designing Educational Board Games for Agricultural Learning
	3. Leveraging AI for Extension Success: Tools, Techniques, and Insights
	4. Climate data, tools and resources for Agriculture Extension

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Trade show vendor tables break down
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	NACAA Board Reception
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM	NACAA Banquet: 6:00- 8:30PM
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Sons and Daughters Dinner and activity
9:00 PM - 10:30 PM	President's Reception
10:00 PM	Montana Team Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Pre-tour breakfast
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	PD Tour day
	8:00AM- 5:00PM tours depart from beside Doubletree hotel and load buses. Tours will depart at scheduled times (see ticket)
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Farewell dinner at Pub Station:
9:00 PM	Montana Team Meeting

THURSDAY, JULY 3

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM	NACAA Board Meeting
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2025 NACAA AM/PIC Professional Improvement Tours

Water and snacks will be provided on all buses.

Tour 1: Lamb and Wool Production in Montana

Learn about lamb and wool production in Montana during this tour highlighting the opportunities and challenges of managing sheep in Montana. This tour will visit a sheep ranch in Fishtail, Montana to learn about shepherding and production of lambs, and interactions with wildlife. Tour will also visit a lamb processor and feedlot, and wool processing center. Lunch will be provided on the ranch.



we'll take a lunch break at Big Sky Grocery, a local Amish-owned store offering homemade sandwiches, chips, milkshakes, and other locally grown and made items. Please note, lunch is on your own. This tour will be a longer time on a bus to get to and from Lewistown.



Tour 2: Beef Production Tour

This tour highlights some of Montana's top beef genetics operations: Origen, Vermilion Ranch, and Midland Bull Test. Gain valuable insights into AI sire selection, elite seedstock, and bull performance testing. Learn how advanced genetics can enhance herd efficiency and profitability.



Tour 4: Ryegate Field Tour

Join us for an immersive tour showcasing the diversity of Montana's agricultural and industrial landscape. Our first stop is Quad Five, a cutting-edge company producing customized, high-quality blood products from livestock for global biomedical applications.



Next, we'll visit the Golden Valley Hutterite Colony in Ryegate, MT, where you'll explore the colony's sustainable farming practices, dairy processing, and Valley Steel business while learning about Hutterite culture. (Note: Animal barns are not part of the tour due to strict regulations.)

Tour 3: Heart of Montana Beef Production

Join us for an exciting journey to Lewistown, MT, to explore beef production in the heart of central Montana! This tour will cover a 125-mile (250-mile round trip) route, offering a deep dive into Montana's feedlots, seedstock operations, and the local auction yard. Stops include the Judith Basin County Farms Feedlot, Stevenson Angus Ranch, and the Lewistown Livestock Auction. Between stops 2 and 3,

Our final stop is Ramage Farms, a family-run operation in south-central Montana with over 25 years of experience growing wheat, barley, canola, flax, and other small grains. You'll learn about their farming practices, equipment, and the vital role of wheat in the region.

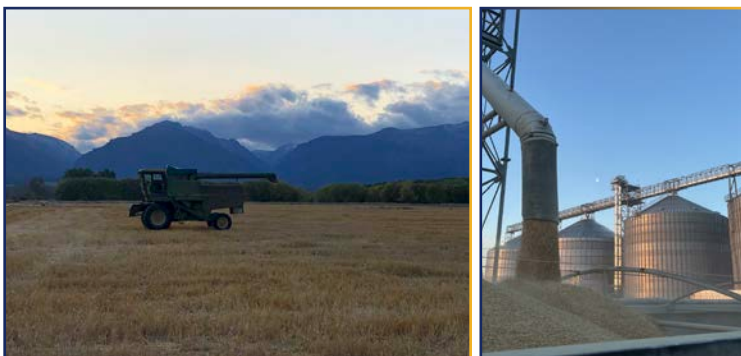
A lunch option will be available at Ryegate Bar, offering a chance to relax and reflect on the day's experiences.

Tour 5: Research into Practice With Plant Materials and Cropping Systems



This tour will visit two agricultural research facilities in the region to discuss cropping systems. The MSU Southern Agriculture Research Center in Huntley MT supports a variety of crop and research projects for MSU researchers and College of Agriculture staff. They specialize in annual crops and crop rotations. The Bridger Plant Materials Center is a USDA facility testing and developing seed sources for varieties of plants adapted to Montana and the Northern Plains. Lunch included.

Tour 6: Montana Ag Production & Processing Tour



Explore the diverse world of agriculture with a tour highlighting key crops and agronomic practices across Montana.

The tour begins at North 40 Ag, a cover crop seed, feedlot, and agronomy consulting company serving Montana, Wyoming, and North Dakota. Participants will learn about cover crop benefits, seed production operations, and innovative agronomy practices.

Next, we'll visit a Western Sugar Company sugar beet field, where attendees will gain insights into sugar beet production, company operations, and crop management techniques.

The final stop is Molson Coors Barley Siloing and Logistics, offering an inside look at the journey of barley from farm to brewery. This guided tour will showcase advanced siloing processes, storage techniques, and logistics operations that ensure top-quality barley for large-scale brewing.

This tour provides a comprehensive view of Montana's agricultural production, from field to final product. Lunch included.

Tour 7: Montana Livestock & Ag Innovation Tour

Join us for an in-depth tour showcasing Montana's leadership in livestock genetics, meat production, and animal nutrition.



We'll start at PEAK, a global leader in beef and dairy cattle genetics, specializing in high-fertility bovine semen, advanced laboratory practices, and cutting-edge research in cattle management.

Next, we'll visit Marbled Meat Co, a family-owned feedlot, processor, and meat-packing operation with Angus cattle genetics tracing back 12 generations. Learn how they breed for specific traits like marbling and ribeye size to produce premium-quality beef.

This tour offers a unique look at the future of livestock genetics, meat production, and animal nutrition. Lunch included.

Tour 8: From Swanky Roots to Native Roots Horticultural Tour

Tour participants will visit an aquaponics grower in the Billings area to learn more about her system and how she supplies greens and other vegetables to the local area market. The tour will then head to the



Yellowstone Arboretum, part of Zoo Montana, for a tour and talk highlighting native plants found in the region. Participants will have free time to explore the botanical garden and arboretum at the end of the tour. Participants will buy their own lunch at a local brewery on this tour.

Additional \$20 fee per person for tour admission.

Tour 9: Woody Invasive Species in the Community

Easy two mile walking tour through a county park to review a woody noxious weed cleanup project along the Yellowstone River. Helping protect riparian areas is vital to protecting Montana's biodiversity, and creates safer areas for community recreation. Lunch provided. **Limited to 30.**



Tour 10: Explore the Beartooth Plateau

This tour will travel along the Beartooth highway, stopping along several overlooks and pullouts to view the Beartooth Plateau. Recognized as America's most scenic highway, this trip will take participants up into the alpine country of the Absarokee Mountains and allow for views across Yellowstone National Park. The tour will then head to Red Lodge, to explore this small mountain town. A local guide will give you information and answer questions about the area on the bus. Participants will explore the town of Red Lodge and get lunch on their own as part of this tour.



Tour 11: Horseback Riding

Join Elk River Outfitters for a trail ride through the foothills of the Absaroka Mountains and borderlands of Yellowstone National Park. The two-hour ride will move through forests and sageland steppes, and get you a Montana horseback riding adventure. Morning or afternoon ride. When not riding, get lunch and explore Red Lodge, Montana, a

mountain resort town with plenty of cafes, shops, and beautiful vistas. Participants will buy their own lunch in Red Lodge. **An extra fee of \$110 charged for the horseback ride.**



Tour 12: So You Want to Be a Cowboy

Visit a couple of western wear and saddlery specialty shops to learn about how they craft high quality cowboy and cowgirl wear. At each stop, time will be given to do some shopping in order to outfit yourself with your own western wear from your head (custom fitted cowboy hat) to your toes (cowboy boots) and everything in between. Perhaps you want some specialty tack to outfit your horse or supplies for all your animal needs? This will be included along the way as well!



Tour 13: Barley and Brews

This walking tour will visit local Billings breweries, cider houses, and distilleries to sample products and understand how brewers and distillers are using local agricultural products to create tasty value-added products. Must be 21+ years old for this tour. Walking is required. Lunch will be on your own.



Tour 14: Indigenous and Cultural History of southern Montana

Steeped in history, Southeastern Montana has many points of historical interest near Billings such as: Chief Plenty Coups State Park, Canyon Creek Battlefield, and Yellowstone Kelly Interpretive Center. Learn about Indigenous cultures, early settlers, and western characters in this tour.



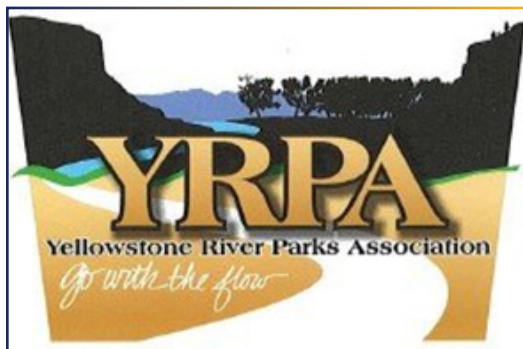
Tour 15: Community and Agriculture

Visit Special K Ranch to see a working ranch that provides homes for adults who have developmental disabilities. Special K ranch not only produces local, healthy food for their residents, but it also grows and provides garden vegetable and flower starts to greenhouses and nurseries across Montana. Tour will visit Montana Silversmith factory and store to learn more about Montana silver and this famous belt buckle business.



Tour 16: Yellowstone River Parks Association

Join the Yellowstone River Parks Association (YRPA) for an outing of birding and conservation education. YRPA is a non-profit involved in improving parks and trails along the beautiful Yellowstone River Greenway by providing community



conservation and education opportunities. Program specialists will lead a easy to moderate hike to view wildlife along the river, and provide a short presentation about past and present work being done along the Yellowstone River. Lunch provided.

Tour 17: International Science & Conservation Center, Montana Zoo and Action Toys

Join us for a diverse and engaging tour that blends science, conservation, and agricultural heritage.



We'll start at the International Science and Conservation Center, where you'll learn about their global efforts in wildlife fertility control. With over 30 years of experience, they work with federal agencies and NGOs to implement fertility control programs for wild horses, deer, bison, and zoo animals.

Next, we'll explore the Zoo Montana and Arboretum, offering a closer look at diverse wildlife species and beautiful plant collections, highlighting conservation and environmental stewardship.

We'll wrap up with a visit to Action Toys, a family-owned store in Billings specializing in farm toy tractors, construction machinery, farm animal collectibles, and more—perfect for both kids and adult enthusiasts.

This tour offers a unique mix of wildlife science, natural beauty, and agricultural nostalgia.

Lunch included.

Additional fee of \$10 per participant charged.

Life Member & Spouse/Guest Program

NACAA and Montana wish a special welcome to life members, spouses, and other guests. Again this year, the Life Members and Spouses Programs will participate together in a shared hospitality room, workshops, and tours.

Sunday, June 29

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Life Members and Spouses Hospitality Room
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Life Members and Spouses Welcome and Orientation – Welcome to Montana hospitality and overview of week

Monday, June 30

8:00 am – 4:00 pm Hospitality Room Skyview Room
10:00 am – 11:30 Life Member Business Meeting Skyview Room
11:45 am – 1:15 pm Life member/Spouses Luncheon; Randy Rieman, “Charlie Russell’s Letters and Notes”. Skyview Room



About the presentation:

Most Montanans know of Charlie Russell, the great cowboy artist who fell in love with the American Old West and chronicled its final days in his paintings. But few know that he was also a prolific correspondent who wrote beautifully illustrated and humorous letters to friends far and wide. More than 400 of those letters are known to historians, most notably compiled by Brian Dippie in Charles M. Russell, Word Painter. Randy Rieman has been an avid student of the life and works of C.M. Russell for nearly 5 decades. For the past 10 years, he has been bringing Charlie’s letters to life at cowboy gatherings around the West, revealing the heart and soul of the artist himself.

Bio:

Randy Rieman is a lifelong cowboy who began his career on cow-calf operations and grazing associations in the Gallatin Valley in Montana, some 45 years ago. His passion



for the working cow horse took him to a large stocker operation on the San Benito Cattle Company, a Spanish land grant ranch in California’s Salinas Valley. He later spent a decade as the colt starter for the Parker Ranch in Hawaii, one of the largest privately-owned cattle ranches in the United States. Throughout his career, Randy has also been known as a musician and sought-after reciter of classic cowboy poetry, who has performed at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering since its beginnings. Today, he continues his work with horses and people from his home base in Choteau, Montana, which he shares with his partner, Jenn Swanson.

Life Member/Spouses Tours:

1:30 PM – 4:00 PM Tour # 1 Yellowstone County Museum

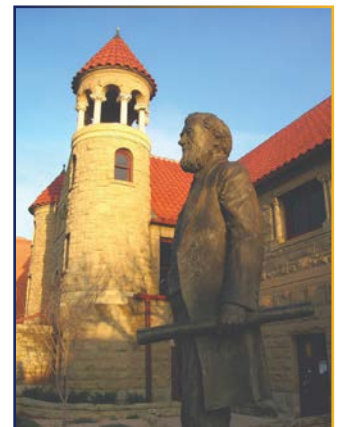
Come join a walking tour of Billings focusing on the development of the railway and its influence on the expansion of Billings. Explore the stories of the growth and changes that occurred in this town as it developed into a true community. This tour will be mainly walking along the streets of Billings with few places to sit down, so please take this into consideration. <https://www.ycmhistory.org/>



1:30 pm – 4:00 pm Tour # 2 Heritage Center

Enjoy their display of over 40,000 Western artifacts and collectibles that tell a story of the Yellowstone River Valley and the Northern High Plains. Accompanied with a walking tour of Billings, enjoy seeing the city through a different lens while hearing thrilling stories of the past. This tour will be mainly walking along the streets of Billings with few places to sit down, so please take this into consideration.

<https://www.ywhc.org/>



1:30 pm – 4:00 pm **Tour # 3 Ben Swanke Saddlery, Inc.; Buckaroo Business, “Keeping the Traditions”; and Rands Custom Hat Makers**

Visit with Western saddle makers and see how a saddle comes together from the shop-made tree to the finished Western custom saddle. Next door at “Buckaroo Business” shop to your heart’s content for cowboy tack, clothing and gear! Much of the tack (bridles and reins, spur straps, cowboy gear of all types) in this shop is made on-site. Always wanted a custom made, perfectly sized Western hat? Rands Custom Hat Makers is the place for you! See all steps in the hat making process and then, for those interested, get measured for your specific hat size and shape! All stops are within the city of Billings; travel time by bus or van will be very short. <https://www.benswankesaddlery.com/> <http://www.randhats.com/>

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm **Tour # 4 “Marbled Meat Company”, “Montana Premium Beef” and “Ranch House Meats”**

This tour features three examples of Montana ‘ranch to plate’, direct marketing small business enterprises that grow, finish, process and market some of the best beef and pork available anywhere! Located close to Billings, the travel time will be only about a half hour each way. Tour participants will have the opportunity to meet and interact with company representatives, learn about how they got started and how they have developed their businesses. Travel time will be very short; all representatives will likely gather at one location since they all know each other and work collaboratively even though they are competitors in the market. Depending on product availability, taste testing will whet your appetite for State’s Night Out! Participant limit is 35. <https://marbled.com/> <https://montanapremiumbeef.com/> <https://ranchhousemeat.com/>

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm **Tour # 5, At “Pictograph State Park”**

Tour participants will have the opportunity to view over 100 Native American pictographs and rock paintings on the walls of three natural caves. Some of these remarkable artworks are over 2,000 years old, offering a glimpse into the rich history of humanity in south-central Montana. First discovered in 1936, the caves have yielded approximately 30,000 artifacts. Participants will arrive by bus and walk



a 3/4-mile trail connecting the caves to the parking area, which includes a Visitor Center and seating areas. Binoculars are recommended to enhance your view of the rock paintings. Limit of 18 participants. Please note that the trails are not wheelchair accessible. Trail is maintained but comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Located less than 10 miles from Billings, the travel time will be short. <https://fwp.mt.gov/stateparks/pictograph-cave/>

Evening: States Night Out; Scholarship Auction

Tuesday, July 1

8:00 am – 4:00 pm Hospitality room

Life Member/Spouses Tours:

8:00 am – 4:00 pm **Tour #1 Greycliff Mill/ Montana Silversmith/ Special K Ranch**

Greycliff Mill – Immerse yourself in history at this beautifully restored gristmill, where tradition meets craftsmanship. Savor freshly made food and enjoy a one-of-a-kind experience sampling Montana-made, cave-aged cheeses straight from their exclusive cheese cave. Please note, while all buildings are ADA accessible, the walking paths are gravel. 11 Greycliff Creek Ln, Greycliff, MT 59033



Special K Ranch – Discover a truly inspiring place where adult individuals with developmental disabilities live, learn, and thrive through meaningful work. From gardening and livestock care to ecological restoration and service contracting, this remarkable community is dedicated to fostering independence and purpose.



Montana Silversmiths – Witness the artistry behind some of the finest western jewelry and buckles in the country.

Get an exclusive look at how these iconic silver creations are crafted, from intricate belt buckles to stunning jewelry pieces that embody the spirit of the West.

Lunch will be on your own at the Grey Cliff Mill.

8:00 am – 4:00 pm **Tour # 2 Southern Ag Research Center and Molson's Coors/ Vermillion**

MSU Southern Agricultural Research Center – Discover how cutting-edge research is shaping the future of farming! With 462 acres in the heart of the Huntley-Worden Irrigation District, this center conducts vital trials in spring and winter wheat, corn, barley, and sugar beets—helping local producers tackle real-world challenges. Please note some paths are gravel.

Molson Coors Beverage Company – Take a behind-the-scenes tour of how raw agricultural products are transformed into one of the world's most recognized beverages. Learn the process from grain to glass!

Vermillion Ranch – End the day at a premier Montana Black Angus cattle operation, where top-quality feed leads to exceptional cattle. Experience firsthand the passion and dedication behind raising some of the best Angus beef in the industry. Lunch is provided

8:00 am – 4:00 pm **Tour # 3: Big Horn County Museum and Heritage Center, Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument and Pompey's Pillar National Monument**

Travelling by motor coach, stop # 1 will be the Big Horn County Museum and Heritage Center which is the interim home for some Little Big Horn Battlefield features. Stop #2, is where units of the 7th US Cavalry were engaged by warriors of the Lakota Sioux, Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes on June 25, 1876. Tour participants will have time to view the battlefield, perhaps do some limited walking, and see the entire battlefield area from the bus. **Lunch will be on you own** at the nearby Custer Battlefield Trading Post and Café, a locally owned and operated long-time favorite. After lunch, Stop #3 is Pompey's Pillar National Monument where the engraving by Captain Clark is the only remaining physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The pillar, named after the child, Pompey, son of Sacagawea, who was born while enroute on the Expedition, also features over 5,000 other etchings, petroglyphs and pictographs by native peoples,

fur trappers, military expeditions, railroad workers and early settlers. Amenities at this stop include rest rooms, an interpretive center and gift shop. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended and individual tour admission fees do not apply.

8:00 am – 4:00 pm **Tour # 4: Red Lodge**

One of the gateways to Yellowstone National Park via the Beartooth Highway, Red Lodge is a quaint, smaller Montana town that caters to Park travelers and winter skiers. You'll have lots of time to visit the shops and museums, and have lunch on your own at an eatery of your choice. There are lots of places to sit and relax but comfortable walking shoes are recommended. While enroute, view the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone valley and the Beartooth Mountain Range, home of Granite Peak, the highest point in Montana. From a distance, you can also see the Pryor Mountains, home to Montana's only herd of wild Mustangs. Depending on the condition of the Beartooth Highway and presence or absence of snow, travel to one of the first overlooks on the Beartooth Highway may be an option. In any case, it will be a relaxing day in a smaller Montana town! Travel time from Billings to Red Lodge is about one hour.

Evening: Annual DSA Awards Banquet

Wednesday, July 2

Professional Improvement Tours



Sons and Daughters Program

The Sons and Daughters Program tours will offer youth participants two days of wild adventures in the mountains and rivers of Montana! From horseback trail rides for the older youth, to a whitewater rafting adventure for the younger kids, to a trip to the splash water park, both days of the program will be filled with opportunities to see and experience Montana's landscapes. **Age limits to participate are 8-18. For children 7 and under - they must be accompanied by parent (paid adult registration).**

Monday - June 30 Activities:

We will get up early and hit the road for a full day of adventure. Younger participants will head out to the mountain town of Red Lodge, Montana for a four-hour rafting trip down the Stillwater River. Expert guides will teach youth about boating and water safety and take them on a ride through spectacular scenery along the shoulders of Yellowstone National Park.



Older youth participants will go to a nearby trail riding outfitter in Red Lodge to learn more about horses, their importance to Montana culture, and head out for a horseback ride across the rangelands and forests.

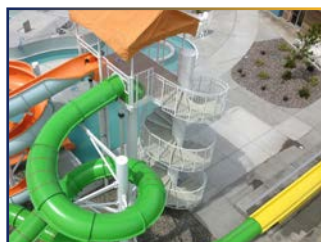


Tuesday - July 1 Activities:

Tuesday will be another long day full of activities. Youth will start off at The Montana Audubon Center, learning about eastern Montana's plants and animals.



After lunch, there is a chance to frolic in the waters of the Oasis Water Park for slides, pools, and a lazy river.



Participants will return back home in time to clean up and head upstairs to the Sons and

Daughters closing celebration, enjoying burgers, movies, games, and other fun activities while the adults attend the banquet and ceremony.

Agenda:

Sunday June, 29

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Sons and Daughters Program Meet and Greet - Northern Hotel

Monday June 30

8:00 AM Participants gather
Doubletree Hotel - Ballroom A

8:30 AM Buses depart- travel to Red Lodge, MT
Doubletree Hotel - Ballroom A

10:30 AM - 3:00PM Littles- Arrive at Absaroka River Adventures
Lunch and River Adventure
Red Lodge, MT

10:30 AM - 3:00 PM Bigs- Arrive at Elk River Outfitters
Lunch and horseback ride
Red Lodge, MT

5:00 PM Approximate arrival for Sons and Daughters Programs back to hotel
Doubletree Hotel

Tuesday July 1

9:00 AM Participants gather
Doubletree Hotel - Ballroom A

9:30 AM Buses depart
Doubletree Hotel - Ballroom A

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Learning Activities and tour of the Montana Audubon Center
Lunch at Montana Audubon Center

12:00 - 1:30 PM Depart for Oasis Water Park

1:30 PM Water time at Oasis Water Park

2:00 PM - 4:30 PM Depart for hotel Oasis Water Park

4:30 PM Arrive at hotel - Doubletree Hotel

5:00 PM Gather for Sons and Daughters evening dinner and activity
Doubletree Skyview Rooms

6:00 PM End of Sons and Daughters program evening activity
Doubletree Skyview Rooms

8:00 PM

Traveling to Montana

The Headquarter hotels are situated in the center of downtown Billings and most everything you will need is within walking distance. Most of the walking distances are much shorter than we experience at a large convention center!

Montana plans to have a welcoming committee at the Logan International airport to facilitate your arrival. It is a short 7-minute drive to the headquarter hotels from the airport and only a 15-to-20-minute drive to the outlying hotels. Complimentary airport shuttles are available from each of the Headquarter hotels and many of our outlying hotels. Buses from outlying hotels will be regularly scheduled to transport attendees to the Doubletree and Northern (headquarter hotels) during the conference.

We are requesting additional rental cars be available at our local airport for rent while you're in Montana. Complimentary valet parking is available at the Northern and the Doubletree will stamp a voucher for registered guests at a parking garage across the street for free parking while staying in the hotel. There is a convenient sky-bridge from the parking garage to the second floor of the Doubletree. Billings is super easy to drive in even though it's our largest city with a population of about 125,000 people. We do have Uber and Lyft available as well as local bus service and taxies. For the adventuresome you can even rent a motorcycle to get around on - check it out here: <https://www.visitbillings.com/flights-transportation>

Summer in Montana is generally very pleasant but do bring a jacket for evenings out. It's not unheard of to experience temperatures in the low 40's at night in Montana even in the summer. Average daily high temperatures in June and

July are 80-89 °F with overnight lows between 50 and 59° F and the average summer humidity ranges about 41%. Neither of the Headquarter hotels has a swimming pool, but they both have fitness centers and there are fitness centers nearby. Several of the outlying hotels do have pools.

Be sure to bring comfortable walking shoes for the tours as there may be some walking involved with many of our exceptional PI tours.

Need Assistance with Making Your Travel Plans?

NACAA and the Montana Association of County Agricultural Agents have partnered with Travel Café to receive discounted rates from United, Delta and Alaska Airlines. These discounts range from 3-20% depending on availability, routes, and class of service.



In order to receive these discounts you will need to work through Travel Café as these discounts are only available through authorized travel agencies.

The process for you is quite simple. Utilize this link:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/TravelCafeIncMontanasTravelAgency/NACAA2025BillingsMontana>

The Travel Café management fee is \$50 per person to research, book, and manage in the case of flight interruption or other unavoidable circumstances.

WANT ASSISTANCE TO UNDERWRITE YOUR COSTS FOR ATTENDING THE AM/PIC? HERE'S ONE WAY TO DO THAT....PARTICIPATE IN THE NACAA INCENTIVE PROGRAM

- \$2,000 – \$4,999 level: AM/PIC registration reimbursement (Approx. value \$450) for one individual with opportunity to use it at any one of the next three AM/PICs and write-up in **The County Agent** magazine.
- \$5,000 - \$9,999: AM/PIC registration (as above) plus \$1000 for the state association in the first year of sponsorship and write-up in **The County Agent** magazine.
- Sponsorships above \$10,000: AM/PIC registration (as above) plus \$2500 for the state association in the first year of sponsorship and write-up in **The County Agent** magazine.

REGISTRATION FORM

NACAA ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE

June 29 - July 2 - Billings, Montana

Registration forms must be postmarked on or before May 15, 2025: Late fee is \$100 - **Return ALL forms together.**

Please fill out all forms completely. Enclose proper payment where needed.

On-site Registration will be in the Northern Hotel, Billings, MT.

For Insurance Liability reasons -
Name Tags will be required at ALL EVENTS
(meal functions, bus trips,
conference sessions - everything).
NO EXCEPTIONS

SEND FORMS AND PAYMENT TO:
NACAA
6584 W. Duroc Road
Maroa, IL 61756
Phone: 217-794-3700 Fax: 217-794-5901 E-mail: exec-dir@nacaa.com

PARTICIPANT'S NAME

(Last) (First)
(Preferred first name on tag if different from above) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE - daytime (____) _____ - _____

Cell Phone (____) _____ - _____

(for emergency conference contact)

E-mail address _____

Confirmations will be sent electronically for everyone (unless you are without e-mail - it will then be mailed via U.S. Mail) - by no later than June 10, 2025.

Are you an NACAA Member (Active or Life) NO

Check your region: NC NE W S

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS - Please check below if you need special assistance during the meeting.

- Accessibility needs during the meeting
- Dietary (Please contact the registration office at the above address prior to June 1st to make request or send a note with this registration).

If your spouse, child(ren), and/or guest is attending the conference, please complete:

SPOUSE NAME: _____
(Last) (First)

GUEST'S NAME _____
(Last) (First)

CHILDREN'S NAMES AND AGES (if attending):

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

LIFE MEMBER & SPOUSE/GUEST ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY - June 29, 2025

Life Member & Spouse/Guest Program Orientation
(2:00 PM to 3:00 PM) # Plan To Attend _____

MONDAY - June 30, 2025

Life Member Business Meeting
(10:00 AM to 11:30 AM) # Plan To Attend _____

Life/Spouse Luncheon (Combined)
(11:45 AM to 1:15 PM) # Plan To Attend _____

LIFE/SPOUSE/GUEST TOURS

Tour 1: Yellowstone County Museum
(1:30 PM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend _____

Tour 2: Heritage Center
(1:30 PM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend _____

Tour 3: Ben Swake Saddlere, INC, Buckaroom Business, "Keeping the Traditions"; and Rands Custom Hat Makers
(1:30 PM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend _____

Tour 4: Marbled Meat Company, Montana Premium Beef and Ranch House Meats
(1:30 PM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend _____

Tour 5: Pictograph State Park
(1:30 PM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend _____

TUESDAY - July 1, 2025

Tour 1: Greycliff Mill/Montana Silversmith/Special K Ranch
(8:00 AM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend _____

Tour 2: Southern Ag Research Center and Molson's Coors/Vermillion
(8:00 AM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend _____

Tour 3: Big Horn County Museum and Heritage Center, Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument and Pompey's Pillar National Monument
(8:00 AM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend _____

Tour 4: Red Lodge
(8:00 AM to 4:00 PM) # Plan To Attend _____

REGISTRATION FEE INFORMATION

Check ALL Blocks That Apply to You

Participant's Name _____

	Last Name	First Name			
NACAA Member	Agent Fee # Attending	Spouse/Guest Fee # Attending			Total Fees to be Paid
First Time Attending Member (5 yrs. or less) employed after 7/1/2020	(\$285.00 x _____)	+	(\$335.00 x _____)	=	\$ _____
Regular Member	(\$535.00 x _____)	+	(\$335.00 x _____)	=	\$ _____
Life Member	(\$335.00 x _____)	+	(\$335.00 x _____)	=	\$ _____
OTHERS					
Sons & Daughters	(\$335.00 x _____) <i>(participating in activities)</i>			=	\$ _____
Visitor	(\$535.00 x _____)	+	(\$335.00 x _____)	=	\$ _____
Univ. or USDA Administrator	(\$535.00 x _____)	+	(\$335.00 x _____)	=	\$ _____
Guest of NACAA President	(Waived x _____)	+	(Waived x _____)	=	\$ _____
National Donor/Exhibitors	(Waived x _____)	+	(Waived x _____)	=	\$ _____
Past National Board Luncheon (\$35 x No. of People _____)				=	\$ _____
Ag Economics Pre-Tour (\$75 x Number of People _____)				=	\$ _____
Horticulture & Turfgrass/Sustainable Ag Pre-Tour (\$100 x No. of People _____)				=	\$ _____
Animal Science Pre-Tour (\$150 x Number of People _____)				=	\$ _____
Natural Resources Pre-Tour (\$550/\$460/\$400/\$250/\$100/Free) (x No. of People _____)				=	\$ _____
- depending on individual choice selected - see pg. 15)					

TOUR FEES

(Tour 8 - \$20 x No. of People _____) Tour 11 - \$110 X No. of People _____
 Tour 17 - \$10 x No. of People _____ = \$ _____

Super Seminar Fee

Designing Educational Board Games for Agricultural Learning
 (\$50 x No. of People _____) = \$ _____

PART-TIME ATTENDANCE

Number Attending Each Day: Sun____; Mon____; Tues____; Wed____
 Daily Fee (\$300 x No. of Days____x No. of People____) = \$ _____

Attending only Tuesday Night Banquet: (\$80 x No. of People____)
 (Cost is already included in full registration - this is only for non-registrants or daily registrants) = \$ _____

Late Fee: Applies to all registrants listed above whose registration form and fees are postmarked after May 15, 2025 - \$100 per individual) = \$ _____

Facilities Fee (FOR ALL ACTIVE AND LIFE MEMBERS NOT REQUESTING LODGING):
 NACAA has initiated a facilities fee for this Conference. There is no fee if you book a hotel through NACAA on this registration form = \$ _____
 If you are an Active or Life Member and do not plan to stay at one of the contracted hotels, a \$250 fee will be administered.

REGISTRATION FORMS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED IF FEES ARE NOT PAID AT THE TIME OF REGISTERING (I.E. WAITING FOR SECONDARY FUNDING). IF A PERSONAL CHECK/COUNTY CHECK OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION IS NOT SENT WITH THE REGISTRATION - YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE PLACED ON HOLD UNTIL THE MONIES ARE RECEIVED.

IF PAID BY CREDIT CARD:

___MasterCard ___VISA ___Discover Card ___American Express - No other cards will be accepted.

Person's Name on Credit Card _____; Expiration Date _____

Card Number _____; (List all numbers 16 digits - 15 for AMEX) Security Code _____

Address of Credit Card Billing Statement if different than address given on Personal Information

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Signature _____

(IF CARD INFORMATION IS INCORRECT OR NOT ACCEPTED DURING THE CARD APPROVAL PROCESS, YOUR REGISTRATION WILL BE DELAYED)

CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

There shall be a **75%** refund of registration fee when a request is made before June 13 (no later than 16 days before the AM/PIC begins). Between June 14 and June 28th (prior to the start of the AM/PIC) there shall be a **25%** refund. No refunds will be given if a request is made after the beginning of the AM/PIC. Appeals due to emergency will be handled on a case by case basis by the NACAA Board with a maximum of 90% reimbursed. **Requests must be made in writing** to NACAA, Attn: Scott Hawbaker, 6584 W. Duroc Road, Maroa, IL 61756 or e-mail to: nacaemail@aol.com. **Pre-Tours are non-refundable.** Refund for part-time attendance is the same, except there will be no refund for the banquet. Members and guests eligible for fee waivers will be refunded upon verification by the National Board of Directors.

SUPER SEMINARS

TUESDAY, July 1, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

THE COMPLEX TREE SYSTEM OF MONTANA

Do you wish to register for this Super Seminar?
___ Yes How many people ___

DESIGNING EDUCATIONAL BOARD GAMES FOR AGRICULTURAL LEARNING

Do you wish to register for this Super Seminar?
(Extra \$50 fee on previous page)
___ Yes How many people ___

LEVERAGING AI FOR EXTENSION SUCCESS: TOOLS, TECHNIQUES, AND INSIGHTS

Do you wish to register for this Super Seminar?
___ Yes How many people ___

CLIMATE DATA, TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR AGRICULTURE EXTENSION

Do you wish to register for this Super Seminar?
___ Yes How many people ___

PRE-TOURS

HORTICULTURE & TURFGRASS/SUSTAINABLE AG PRE-TOUR

(Cost \$100 - lodging not included)
(How many people plan to attend ___)
Name(s): _____

BEEES, BILLINGS, BUSINESS AGRICULTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(Cost \$75 - lodging not included)
Name(s): _____

ANIMAL SCIENCE PRE-TOUR

(Cost \$150- lodging not included)
(How many people plan to attend ___)
Name(s): _____

NATURAL RESOURCES PRE-TOUR

(Cost \$550/\$460/\$400/\$250/\$100/Free - depending on individual choice selected - see pg. 15)
(How many people plan to attend ___)
Name(s): _____

Application for Pre-Tours:

On a separate paper - please answer the following questions and submit with your registration forms:

Include:

1. Why you wish to attend the Pre-Tour.
2. How you intend to use the tour information in your educational programs.
3. Describe your major program emphasis within Extension.

Many of the rural locations being visited during Pre-Tours may require substantial walking along uneven terrains, and may not be ADA compliant. Individuals with mobility issues are encouraged to discuss participation with your physician prior to registering.

Mode of Transportation to AM/PIC

In order for NACAA to better plan, please let us know whether you plan to drive or fly to Billings.

Drive Fly

First Timer Orientation

Sunday - June 29, 2025 - 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Do you plan to attend: Yes No

#

Award Luncheons/Educational Seminars

Several luncheon opportunities are listed for your consideration.

Lunch will be provided by NACAA (and sponsors) for Award related luncheons on Monday-Tuesday until the maximum number is met. **You must register for a meal related event in order to eat.** Those not attending award luncheons or other educational meal functions, will be on their own. **Seating is limited at each of the functions.** Other Ag Industry sponsored luncheons are also listed but will be on a first come/first served basis. Tickets are limited to each function based on sponsorship funding. See below for available functions. **Since seating is limited, and on-line registration is also taking place, it's possible the functions will be full for those submitting a hard copy registration.**

MEALS/EVENTS

Registration includes meal tickets, however tickets must be requested or will not be provided in your registration packet or available on-site. **Tickets are not available for non-registrants. The only ticket available a-la-carte is the Annual Banquet on Tuesday evening (for non registrants).**

Sunday Evening - Welcome Dinner at Pub Station

Wednesday Tour Day Breakfast

Wednesday Farewell Dinner at Pub Station

#

ANNUAL BANQUET

Tuesday Evening July 1. Full Registrations include a ticket (but you still need to register for it - one will not be given to you unless you register) Daily registrations DO NOT include a banquet ticket - must be purchased separately - extra tickets for this event are available for purchase - see payment form).

Do you plan to attend: Yes No

#

Other Meal Functions

Sunday, June 29 (11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.)

___ Past National Board Luncheon (\$35/person - fee on main registration page)
Which office did you hold: President Treasurer Secretary Director

Monday, June 30 (6:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.)

___ Crop Protection Innovation - Where Does it Begin? **Breakfast**
(sponsored by Bayer CropScience)

Monday, June 30 (11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m)

___ SFE - Crop Production Luncheon
___ SFE - 4-H & Youth Programming Luncheon
___ SFE - Young Beginning & Small Farmers Luncheon
___ Merck Animal Health Educational Luncheon
___ Ag Awareness & Appreciation Award Luncheon
___ First Timer Luncheon (Spouses of First Timers are welcome)

Tuesday, July 1 (6:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.)

___ National Committee Members **Breakfast**
(Current and Incoming - 6:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.)

Tuesday, July 1 (11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.)

___ SFE - Sustainable Ag- Luncheon
___ SFE - Environmental Quality, Forestry and Nat. Resources Luncheon
___ SFE - Consumer or Commercial Horticulture Luncheon
___ SFE - Livestock Production Luncheon
___ SFE - Farm and Ranch Business Mgmt. Luncheon
___ Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance Educational Luncheon
___ Administrative Leaders Luncheon and Meeting (11:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for State Program Leaders, Extension Directors, Dean)

Note: Achievement Award Breakfast (Tuesday), Communications Award/Poster Winner Luncheon* (Monday), Voting Delegates Breakfast (Monday) - reservations are all handled by the National Committee Chairs/Officers - by invitation. If you are attending one of these functions - please do not register for concurrent events listed above.

SON'S AND DAUGHTER'S PROGRAMS

See Program for Details

PARTICIPANT'S Name _____
Last Name First Name *Agent or Life Members name if not the same Last Name*

Son's and daughter's registration will be held at the main registration desk at the Northern Hotel. Activities will begin with the orientation meeting prior to the Opening Ceremonies Sunday, June 29. Adult chaperones must be registered for the meeting. This year's program is designed for youth ages 8 - 18. Youth 7 and under may participate only if accompanied by a parent or guardian that is registered for the events. All costs are included in the registration fee, including lunch. NACAA is unable to provide day care services for children.

PLEASE LIST THE NAME, AGE, AND T-SHIRT SIZE (DESIGNATE YOUTH OR ADULT SIZE) OF YOUR CHILDREN ATTENDING THE PROGRAMS. A = Adult, Y = Youth; XL = extra large, L = large, M = medium, S = small, XS = extra small. Extra large is only available in adults and extra small only in youth. If your child needs a youth large T-shirt, write YL in the space provided.

		T-Shirt				T-Shirt		
(Name)	Age	Size	Height	(Name)	Age	Size	Height	
Child # 1 _____	_____	_____	_____	Child # 3 _____	_____	_____	_____	
Child # 2 _____	_____	_____	_____	Child # 4 _____	_____	_____	_____	

NOTE: Adults (with an Active/Spouse paid registration) are welcome to attend and will be asked to assist as chaperones. Adults must accompany their children ages 7 and under on any activity. Please list any adults who will chaperone. Only sons & daughters and adult chaperones will be eligible for a T-Shirt.

(Name)	T-Shirt	Size	Height	(Name)	T-Shirt	Size
Adult # 1 _____	_____	_____	_____	Adult # 2 _____	_____	_____

Please indicate the child and adult number from the above list that will be attending Son's & Daughter's Program.

THE EVENTS LISTED BELOW ARE CATEGORIZED BY AGE - (LITTLES) - AGES 8-12 - (BIGS) - AGES 13-18
 IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT THE PROGRAMMING IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR THOSE AGE RANGES. IF FAMILIES ARE WANTING TO GO TOGETHER - YOU WILL NEED TO CONTACT KIMBERLY RICHARDSON (CONTACT INFO BELOW) TO DETERMINE IF IT IS POSSIBLE.

	# Youth	# Adults	Youth & Adult's Name (s)
<u>SUNDAY, JUNE 29</u>			
Orientation	_____	_____	_____

<u>MONDAY, JUNE 30</u>			
LITTLES - RAFTING TRIP DOWN STILLWATER RIVER	_____	_____	_____
(Ages 8-12)	_____	_____	_____

BIGS - HORSEBACK RIDING (Ages 13-18)	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

<u>TUESDAY, JULY 1</u>			
MONTANA AUDUBON CENTER & OASIS WATER PARK	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____
Farewell Party (Includes Evening Meal)	_____	_____	_____
(NOT ATTENDING DSA BANQUET)			_____

SON'S & DAUGHTER'S MEDICAL RELEASE FORM: Medical release forms will be required for all youth participants. Please complete the document found online at: <https://www.nacaa.com/uploads/userfiles/files/Medical%20REV%202015%203.pdf> WITH THIS REGISTRATION FORM - OR E-MAIL TO: KIMBERLY.RICHARDSON@MONTANA.EDU

IF YOU NEED ANY TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM OR HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PHYSICAL ACCESS PROVIDED, PLEASE CONTACT KIMBERLY RICHARDSON AT 406-381-8274 OR SOPHIE KOLB AT 406-210-7257 BY JUNE 10, 2025.

Life Member Corner

“BIG SKY, BIG CONNECTIONS!” On behalf of the Host State Life Member Committee, “Welcome NACAA Life Members!” to the 2025 NACAA AM/PIC in Billings, Montana! I start my brief article with the theme for the 2025 AM/PIC since that has occupied a bit of my time for the last couple of years.

After leaving the Army in April, 1975, I began my MSU Extension career as one of the MSU/Yellowstone County (Billings) Extension Agents till March, 1983, when I moved to Lewistown for the Extension job in Fergus County. After leaving the MSU/Fergus County Extension Office in 2005, I served as the Central Region Department Head and Special Projects Coordinator until June 30, 2013. After a few months of often delayed projects around home, I began my after-retirement job as a farm/ranch and residential realtor in November, 2013.

Along with real estate, I’m kept fairly busy doing “Opinions of Value” for farm/ranch families who are needing to settle an estate or wanting to do estate planning. Many of the inquiries I receive, though, come from accountants/CPA’s and attorneys here in the central Montana area. I cannot refer to my ‘opinions’ as appraisals because I am not a licensed appraiser even though my valuation opinions are usually very close to actual appraisal figures. Most of the families I work with in this regard are former 4-H families and producers with whom I worked with for over twenty years. The “strings” that follow us from when we were Extension Agents are many and quite strong! It is good to continue to have contact with those folks; hard to say “no”.

Beyond that, I have spent/spend a fair bit of time with community involvement such as the local hospital board, one of the bank advisory committees, founding board member and chair of our Fergus County Disaster Relief Fund, Kiwanis member and frequent volunteer 4-H project fair judge. The highlight for Cathy and I, though, has been family and



**Dave Phillips,
Host State Co-Chair, Life Member Committee, 2025 NACAA
AM/PIC
NACAA President, 1990**

becoming great grandparents to Leah Lorraine (5), Luxx John (3) and Layne David (4 months). The kids and their parents operate a cow-calf operation (Black Angus and Red Angus) near Baker, Montana, which is very near the Montana-North Dakota border in southeastern Montana. The kids, with help from this GgPa, are getting into Red Angus!

I’m looking forward to seeing you in late June/early July! In 1982, the last time we hosted NACAA in Montana, we headquartered in Billings in September. I’m fairly confident that we will not have 12 to 14 inches of wet snow overnight this time around! As the hosts that year, we did lots of last minute adjusting and scrambling!



Thank You - NACAA Sponsors/Donors



Science For A Better Life



INTERESTED IN VIEWING ALL AWARD WINNERS (STATE/REGIONAL/NATIONAL)?

GO TO

<https://www.nacaa.com/award-winners>



Proceedings & Photos of the 2025 AM/PIC will be posted at the conclusion of the AM/PIC at

<https://www.nacaa.com/am-pics/billings-2025>

NOW'S THE TIME TO REGISTER

JUNE 29 - JULY 2, 2025

BILLINGS, MONTANA



The County Agent

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
The County Agent - NACAA, 6584 W. Duroc Rd.,
 Maroa, IL 61756 - Attn: Scott Hawbaker

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE DATES



2025

Billings, Montana.....June 29-July 2

2026

Denver, Colorado.....July 8-12

2027

St. Paul, Minnesota.....September 12-16

2028

Atlanta, Georgia.....August 6-10

Upcoming Issues of The County Agent Magazine

June, 2025

Open Topic

Deadline for articles: May 15, 2025

Mail Date: June 10, 2025

October, 2025

AM/PIC Recap

Deadline for articles: August 15, 2025

Mail Date: September 1, 2025

December, 2025

Awards/Committee Edition

Deadline for articles: November 20, 2025

Mail Date: December 28, 2025



Utility Easements

Buried utilities can be found beyond the right-of-way on private property, such as when a landowner sells a utility easement. Always contact 811 before any ground disturbing activities take place.

Contact
 Whitney@AligningChange.com
 to request FREE Safety Guides



More resources at www.PipelineAgSafetyAlliance.com