MONTANA Farm Bureau News Brief

TOP STORIES

November 2026

## New Farm Bureau CYF&R Chapter Established at Carroll College

A new Collegiate Young Farmer & Rancher (CYF&R) Farm Bureau chapter has recently been established at Carroll College, creating opportunities for students to connect with Montana's agricultural industry, develop leadership skills, and prepare for careers across agriculture sectors.

Carroll College CYF&R President, Reagan Long, noted the need for an agriculture specific collegiate group in Helena. "We created the Carroll College CYF&R chapter to give students an opportunity to get together, collaborate with like-minded individuals, and ultimately give the students here a voice in their agricultural community," said Reagan.

Reagan also mentioned chapter leaders have plans for the year ahead, including attending Montana Farm Bureau county board meetings, touring local operations and agricultural businesses, as well as hosting speakers focused on career opportunities and community involvement.

"Our collegiate YF&R chapters have proved to be an excellent pipeline of future Montana Farm Bureau and statewide ag leaders. The launch of a Collegiate YF&R Farm Bureau chapter at Carroll College is an exciting step for the capital city," said Cyndi Johnson, President of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation.

## Back-to-School Bundles Bring Agriculture to the Classroom in Cascade

Designed to help teachers incorporate agriculture into everyday learning, each bundle included a welcome letter introducing the Foundation's agriculture education resources, an agriculture-themed book, a teacher guide complete with lesson plans and classroom activities, and a set of 30 matching "Ag Mags." These educational newspapers are tailored for elementary-aged students and provide engaging, age-appropriate content that highlights various agricultural commodities through stories, facts, and hands-on activities.

Committee members dedicated their time to assembling each bundle with the goal of helping teachers bring real-world agriculture lesson into their classrooms and helping students better understand where their food, fiber, and fuel come from. By providing ready-to-use educational materials, the committee hopes to make it easier for teachers to connect agricultural concepts to lessons in reading, science, social studies, and other subjects. Jeanne McKamey, chair of the Cascade County Women's Leadership Committee, along with fellow committee members, personally assembled the bundles and delivered them to teachers during the first week of school. Their efforts were warmly received and served as an opportunity to introduce educators to the many free resources available through the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation.

Encouraged by the success of the project, members of the Cascade County Women's Leadership Committee plan to assemble and distribute similar bundles to additional elementary schools throughout the county this year. Looking ahead, the committee hopes to expand the program even further, ensuring that more teachers and students have access to high-quality agricultural education materials that foster a greater understanding and appreciation of Montana agriculture.



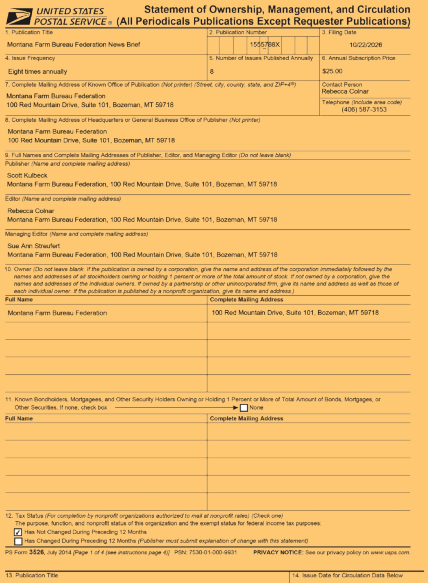

*Pictured are Jeanne McKamey and second-grade teacher Alexis Culp during the bundle delivery at Cascade School.*

# STATE NEWS

## Lt. Gov. Juras Issues EO on Dyed-Fuel

Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras issued Executive Order 11-2026 to temporarily suspend enforcement of dyed-fuel provisions for commercial motor vehicles engaging in agriculture and timber business purposes.

"Montana farmers, ranchers, and timber industry workers are feeling the squeeze at the gas pump," said Gov. Gianforte. The executive order is effective for 45 days until November 23, 2026.



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## Governor Gianforte's Trade Mission to India and Sri Lanka Puts Montana Agriculture in the Spotlight

Governor Greg Gianforte recently led a strategic trade mission to India and Sri Lanka aimed at expanding international markets for Montana products, strengthening economic partnerships, and creating new opportunities for the state's agricultural producers. Agriculture was a central focus of the trip, particularly Montana's pulse crop industry. Montana is the nation's leading producer of chickpeas and lentils, while India remains the world's largest consumer and importer of pulse crops. Joining Gov. Gianforte and representing MFBF was pulse crop and wheat farmer Justin Miller of Gildford.

"The delegation included representatives from Montana Farm Bureau, the Montana Department of Agriculture, the Montana Pulse Crop Committee, and the Montana State Grain Lab. The primary focus of the mission was meeting directly with pulse importers and traders in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Colombo," said Miller. "Through a series of trade meetings, delegation members discussed opportunities to increase imports of Montana-grown pulse crops and establish direct business relationships with key buyers."

As part of the effort to build long-term partnerships, importers were invited to visit Montana in August of 2027 to tour farms and pulse processing facilities firsthand and see the quality of Montana production. With pulse consumption expected to increase significantly in the coming years, Montana agriculture leaders view the region as an important market for expanding exports and developing lasting trade relationships.



*Justin Miller (second from right) with Director Streit (middle), Andy Fjeseth (fourth from right), Dr. Bajwa (fourth from left), and Sally Mudiamu (third from left) in New Delhi, India.*

## Calendar

**MFBF Annual Convention & Trade Show**
November 15-18, 2026
Billings, MT

**AFBF Annual Convention**
January 9-12, 2027
Charlotte, NC

**MFBF Fusion Conference**
February 6-7, 2027
Helena, MT

**Calling on the Capitol**
February 8-9, 2027
Helena, MT

## (New) People

The Montana Farm Bureau is pleased to announce the addition of Logan Kruse as its new Director of Communications.

Kruse joins MFBF with an established passion for the agriculture industry, its people, and strategic messaging. Prior to joining the Montana Farm Bureau team, he served as the Communications Officer for the Montana Department of Agriculture, where he managed the agency's communications strategy, public outreach, and statewide agricultural initiatives. Kruse also served on the Lewis & Clark County Farm Bureau Board and graduated from MFBF's ACE Leadership Program in 2024. Additionally, he and his wife run a small cow/calf operation where they live just south of Elliston, MT.

# COUNTY NEWS

**Southwest Counties** welcomed community members back to Dillon for the continuation of Hoofin' It for Hunger. The event brought participants together for a fun day of raising funds to support local food pantries in Southwest Montana.

**Cascade County** Women's Leadership Committee assembled and delivered nine Back-to-School Bundles for elementary teachers at Cascade School, helping connect classrooms with valuable agricultural education resources.

**Lewis & Clark County** continued their annual hay and straw bale decorating contest, where local residents, schools, businesses, and organizations transform bales into creative displays celebrating agriculture and the season.

**Northwest Counties** co-hosted a grizzly bear management update in Somers with Director Clark and FWP.

**Richland County** held a General Election Candidate Forum on September 24th at the Moose Lodge in Sidney while also joining in on the fun at Fall Fest.

**Teton County** hosted a Young Farmer and Rancher social on October 23rd at Bar 22 in Dutton.

**Big Horn County** hosted a policy development meeting on October 28th.



*Richland County's Candidate Forum in Sidney hosted on September 21st.*

**Dawson/Wibaux**, **McCone**, **Prairie** and **Richland Counties** hosted the fifth annual Fall Fest where members from across eastern Montana came together for an evening filled with food, friends, and fun.

As harvest season comes to a close for many producers, Fall Fest offered a welcome opportunity to step away from the daily demands of the operation and reconnect with neighbors, friends, and fellow MFBF members. Old friends caught up, new connections were made, and conversations centered on everything from this year's season to the future of agriculture in Montana. Keynote speaker, Ron Rabou, addressed the group with insights that challenged the audience to think a little bit outside the box when it comes to the ag industry, food production, and leadership.

Events like Fall Fest are about more than just getting together. They are a reminder of what makes Farm Bureau strong: grassroots leadership, strong communities, and a shared commitment to protecting and promoting agriculture. District 6 has long been known for its dedicated members and strong agricultural roots, and the turnout in Glendive reflected that pride. The evening highlighted the importance of relationships in agriculture and the value of coming together to celebrate the people who make Montana's farming and ranching communities thrive.

Montana Farm Bureau extends a sincere thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, and helped make this year's District 6 Fall Fest a success.



*District 6 Fall Fest saw over 100+ attendees this year in Glendive.*




*Some action from Southwest Counties Hoofin' it for Hunger run in Dillon.*



*One of many submissions to Lewis & Clark County's annual hay and straw bale decorating contest.*




*Cascade County's Back-to-School postcard for their Back-to-School Bundles.*



*Fall Fest keynote speaker, Rob Rabou, addressing the group in Glendive on October 17th.*

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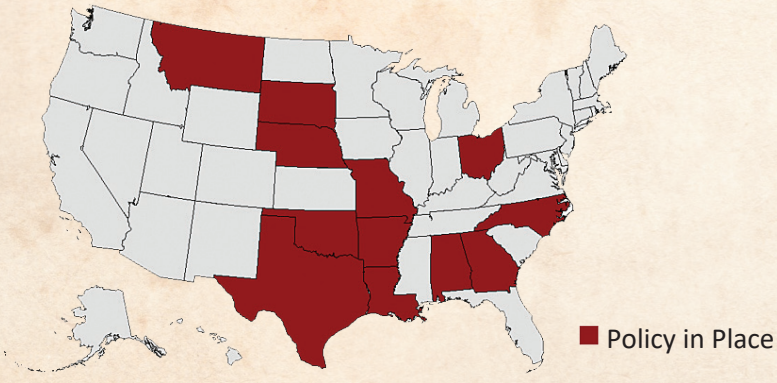
# NATIONAL NEWS

## Farmers Call on President Trump to Provide Diesel Price Relief

As farmers and ranchers face record-high diesel costs, American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall called on the president to take several steps to lower prices at the pump, including a temporary suspension of the federal highway diesel tax.

"Higher diesel expenses are hitting farmers at one of the most fuel-intensive times of the year – harvest," wrote Mr. Duvall in a letter to President Trump. "Diesel is essential for the American economy and for farmers. Everything on the farm, from running tractors, combines, and irrigation equipment to transporting crops, livestock, and inputs requires diesel. Farmers and ranchers cannot postpone harvest or simply stop using diesel when prices rise." Several states have recently taken emergency steps to give agricultural producers greater flexibility in using dyed diesel. However, while states can change their own enforcement practices or penalties, federal fuel tax requirements remain under federal jurisdiction.

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