

INSIDE AG | JANUARY 2026

In this Issue

- A Message from the Dean
- College of Ag in the News
- Recent and Upcoming Events
- Accomplishments and Highlights
- Publications and Grants



Stand up and cheer, your Bobcats are FCS national champions! After 41 years, the championship has returned to Bozeman, and we could not be prouder!

A Message from the Dean

Dear colleagues,

What an exciting and heart-stopping way to start a new year: with a football championship after 40+ years! I hope this success is a harbinger of many new things to come and wish you a year full of growth and learning.

As we start the new year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for a wonderful year of teaching, supporting our students and conducting impactful research and outreach. Also, congratulations to the 2025 December graduates and everyone who contributed to getting them to the finish line. The impact of your work goes beyond our campus to all of Montana and beyond.

Our college had a great year in 2025. Based on fall data, we have over 2,000 majors enrolled in the college, our second-largest enrollment ever. We are making improvements in student retention and success – thanks to your hard work in and outside of the classroom. We continue to be MSU's #1 college in research expenditures, with over \$54 M in FY25.

Overall, our college is in excellent shape, thanks to our amazing faculty, staff and students and our many partners and advocates across Montana. Once again, thank you for all your contributions that make our college the best and instill that Bobcat pride across our state and beyond!

Sreekala Bajwa
VP, Dean and Director



College of Ag in the News



MSU scientists advance study of greenhouse gas-producing organisms



MSU doctoral program facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration and development



Research from Nicole Karwowski shows how wetland restoration can benefit economy



Michigan State University Forestry Innovation Center explores maple sap through a One Health lens (featuring MCB's Seth Walk!)



Cultivating agriculture's future: Corvallis blooms at 2025 National FFA Convention (shout-out to WARC student employee Caleb Reynoso, who is featured!)

Happy new year from the DRC!



Happy Holidays!
*We celebrate our
agriculture community*

BOBCAT PRIDE
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Accomplishments and Highlights

Dr. Lisa Rew of the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences

was awarded the Western Society of Weed Science Outstanding Weed Scientist Award in the public sector category. This well-deserved award is in recognition of her significant contributions to the discipline. Congratulations, Dr. Rew!



Reminder: Please continue to submit impact statements for your research projects! These short summaries help to reinforce the importance of agricultural sciences to governmental and funding agencies. Submission takes five minutes, and you can complete it by scanning the QR code or [visiting this webpage](#).



S U B S C R I B E

Did you know the **COA** is on **YouTube**? Check out our [channel](#) for the latest updates, including a [recent series](#) on integrated weed management!

Accomplishments and Highlights

Students in **LARC 432 Site Design Studio II** partnered with the City of Bozeman Parks and Recreation, InContour Landscape Architecture and the new Hyalite View neighborhood to develop Master Plan ideas for Cedarview Park, a 4.5-acre neighborhood park that will be getting a new playground and trail system.

At a neighborhood meeting in December, associate professor **Rebekah VanWieren and eight landscape design majors** presented four park concepts and facilitated activities to gather feedback and develop a shared vision for the space. This community-engaged teaching and learning project also resulted in four design posters and a 100+ page report, and partnered with MSU's Geospatial Core Facility to use UAV data in the design process.



Graphic credit: Jesse Isaacs and Savannah Moon.



Publications and Grants

Recent Grants

- Carrie Ashe (Extension) received an Intermountain Health grant.
- Dr. Wilmer Cuervo Vivas (ARS) was awarded an MSU Faculty Excellence Grant.
- Dr. Gregory Gilpin and Dr. Wendy Stock (DAEE) received a grant from Arnold Ventures.
- Dr. Michael Giroux (PSPP) and Douglas Holen (PSPP; Foundation Seed Program) were awarded a Montana Wheat and Barley Committee grant.
- Dr. Michael Ivie (PSPP) was awarded an MSU Faculty Excellence Grant.
- Dr. Matheus Noguera (ARS) was awarded an MSU Faculty Excellence Grant.
- Dr. Agnieszka Rynda-Apple (MCB) received NIH funding as part of a collaboration with Integral Molecular Inc.
- Dr. Anna Schweiger (LRES), Dr. Seth Walk (MCB), and Dr. Stephan Warnat (Mechanical & Industrial Engineering) were awarded a USDA grant.
- Dr. Patrick Secor (MCB) was awarded NIH funding as part of a collaboration with the University of Montana.
- Dr. Jerod Skyberg (MCB) received NIH funding as part of a collaboration with the University of Missouri.

Publications and Grants

Funding Opportunities

- COA/MAES is pleased to announce a **multi-use equipment RFP** to benefit programs or facilities that support multiple research projects. Applications are due **Tuesday, January 20 at 5 p.m.** Funding period: 21 January 2026 - 15 April 2026. To Apply: Please fill out the application on InfoReady and attach equipment quote.
- **Western SARE** has two grant opportunities open: the Sabbatical Research and Education program and Graduate Student Research and Education program. The deadline for both programs is **March 6, 2026**. Please check the Western SARE website for full details. If planning to submit a proposal, PIs should notify the OSP Research Administrator for Western SARE, Jennifer Nesbitt. For general inquiries, please email wsare@montana.edu.

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