



Combined State Labs Groundbreaking Event

Last Friday, three Montana agencies broke ground on a new facility that will house three agricultural laboratories conducting research and analysis for Montana's producers.

The Combined State Laboratories building, which will be located near Marsh Laboratory at the corner of South 19th Avenue and Lincoln Street in Bozeman, will house the Montana Department of Livestock's Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, the Montana Department of Agriculture's Analytical Lab and Montana State University's Wool Lab.

The university land for the facility was approved by the Montana University System's Board of Regents and support for the project came from the Montana Legislature during its 2021 and 2023 sessions.

Speakers at the groundbreaking included Mike Honeycutt, executive officer for the Montana Department of Livestock; Christy Clark, director of the Montana Department of Agriculture; and Sreekala Bajwa, MSU's vice president for agriculture, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station; as well as Montana Lt. Gov. Kristen Juras.



Over many years of advocacy, planning and fundraising, speakers called the facility the result of extraordinary collaboration that will support agriculture in Montana and the region for years and generations to come.

"I want to recognize and acknowledge over a decade of hard work that preceded us," said Lt. Gov. Juras. "This is a critical investment in our No. 1 industry. We were proud to be a part of it."



Director Clark Visits Producer Partnership

Our Nation's Only Federally Inspected Non-Profit Meat Processing Facility

Director Clark and Deputy Director Zach Coccoli took to Livingston this May to visit the Producer Partnership processing facility.

The Producer Partnership was founded in the Spring of 2020 with the mission to end hunger in Montana. The 501(c)3 organization partners with livestock producers across the state by processing donated livestock into high-quality protein and providing it to food banks and those in need. The Producer Partnership boasts Montana's first ever federally inspected, owned, and operated non-profit meat processing facility.

"This is an impressive, unique model that donates food free of charge to the Montana Food Bank and keeps livestock that could otherwise go to waste in the system," said Director Clark. "The facility is pristine."

Matt Pierson is a 5th generation Montana rancher and Founder/President of Producer Partnership. "Six donated cows takes care of an entire school for a year," said Pierson. "Approximately 85% of meat the nonprofit facility processes goes into the Montana Food Bank Network, and is distributed to schools statewide, free of charge. The facility processed more than 200,000 pounds of beef, pork, bison, lamb and mutton since becoming fully operational in 2022."



For more information, please visit: <https://www.producerpartnership.com/>



Montana Wheat & Barley Update: MWBC Joins GFDA to Explore Ag Business Development

Montana Wheat & Barley Committee Executive Director Kent Kupfner joined members of the Great Falls Development Alliance in a visit May 8-9 to Lethbridge, AB. The mission was to explore opportunities in agribusiness trade and other economic opportunities, hosted by Economic Development Lethbridge.

During the visit, the group visited Market Place Commodities. Market Place helps facilitate trade between Montana grain companies and growers, while opening business opportunities for Lethbridge's feed market. They have experienced a growing demand for feed barley and feed wheat, thus Montana is an excellent source for those commodities, particularly feed barley.

"Lethbridge is impressive," said Kupfner. "They are a growing, robust community with many innovative ideas. As most of us know, we have much in common with Alberta and Lethbridge is very similar to Great Falls."

Kupfner said that the formalized partnership signed between the two development groups holds promise to help grow agricultural commerce for Montana.

Other stops included the Agri-food Hub and Trade Center, Canary Biofuels, CARIE (Center for Applied Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship), Whole Leaf Greenhouse and Maple Leaf Pork.



For more information, please visit: <https://montanawbc.com/>



Gov. Gianforte Launches 4th Annual 56 County Tour

Highlights the Legacy of Montana’s Ag Producers

Governor Greg Gianforte yesterday continued his fourth annual 56 County Tour as governor, hearing the stories of generations of farmers and ranchers at their family operations in Eastern Montana.

“One of our greatest sources of pride as Montanans is the world-class products grown, raised, or made here in the Treasure State,” Gov. Gianforte said. “It’s great to be back in eastern Montana to hear about the next generation coming home to take over the family business, continuing to feed the community, and fuel the economy.”



Yesterday in Sheridan County, the governor visited Angvick Farm in Medicine Lake and met with four generations of Angvicks who have farmed on their land in eastern Montana for over 100 years.

After 31 years as the Montana State University Extension Agent for Sheridan County, Terry Angvick took over the farm founded in 1912 to continue production of pulse crops like durum wheat and dry peas alongside his brothers and son.

“I’ve never met a farmer that wasn’t proud of their operation, and we’re no different,” owner Terry Angvick said. “I feel very fortunate to have learned from my father who is still with us today at 96 years old, and to have four generations involved with our operation. One day, our fifth generation, my one-and-a-half-year-old grandson, will take over.”



Traveling to Roosevelt County, the governor visited with Scott and Jessica Toavs and toured their multi-generational farm and ranch in Wolf Point.

For more than 20 years, the Toavs have raised angus cattle and produced yellow peas, canola, and spring wheat. Raising their three children on the farm follows in the footsteps of Scott’s great grandfather and father who farmed in eastern Montana nearly a century ago.



Highlighting the importance of farming in eastern Montana and keeping the business in the family, Scott Toavs shared, “Agriculture is truly a staple of the community – by raising food and through community development with working together as a family and multiple businesses in town.”

Toavs continued, “When I was six years old, I knew I wanted to be a farmer just by putting my hands in the soil. Now watching my kids grow up and being involved in operation, it’s very important to us.”



Rounding out the farm and ranch visits, the governor today traveled to Prairie County to meet the Pehls at their farm in Terry.

A fourth-generation pulse crop farmer, owner Ben Pehl and his wife Rita raise their children on the farm and in the house his great grandfather grew up in.



Just finishing up seeding wheat and yellow peas, Ben Pehl shared more about their operation, “We’re a no-till farm. We grow dry land crops, we don’t have any irrigation up here. We rotate the pulse crops in with the wheat, and we also grow forage crops.”

Touring the farm, the governor heard more about the historic barn built by Pehl’s great grandfather in the 1910s.

Highlighting the importance of keeping the operation in the family, Pehl added, “My grandfather farmed here, and we started farming here in ‘13. We love living out here and being able to carry on my family’s legacy on this land, raising up the next generation.”



With more than 27,000 farms and ranches across the state, agriculture is Montana’s number one industry.



MDA On the Road & Where to Catch Us

- Hard Winter Wheat Meeting - Fort Collins, CO | June 3 - 4
- Wheat Foods Council Summer Meeting - Manhattan, KS | June 4 - 6
- Port of Northern Montana Visit - Shelby, MT | June 5
- USWA Food Aid Meeting - Kenya | June 8 - 13
- USWA Crop Update - Japan | June 8 - 12
- MFBF Summer Conference - Miles City, MT | June 10 - 12
- 406 Grazing Academy - Miles City, MT | June 11 - 13
- Western Ag & Environmental Law Conference - Reno, NV | June 12 - 14
- Vertebrate Workshop - Townsend, MT | June 13
- Alimentec Show and Fair - Bogota, Columbia | June 16 - 28
- Montana Range Tour - Stanford, MT | June 20
- Northern Ag Research Center Field Days | Havre, MT | June 20
- Old Salt Coop Festival - Helmville, MT | June 21 - 23
- MWBC Board Meeting - Red Lodge, MT | June 24
- Central Ag Research Center Field Days - Moccasin, MT | June 26
- Eastern Ag Research Center Field Days - Sidney, MT | June 27



Volume 1 of the Alzheimer's and Related Dementias by MSU Extension

MSU Extension released Volume 1 of the Alzheimer's and Related Dementias magazine. It is designed specifically for Montana agricultural producers facing early to middle stages of Alzheimer's, their families, and family caregivers.

The articles provided can make a positive difference in their lives.



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias: Support for Montana Farmers and Ranchers and Their Families: Volume 1



To download or order the magazine:

https://store.msuextension.org/Products/Alzheimers-and-Related-Dementias-Support-for-Montana-Farmers-and-Ranchers-and-their-Families-Volume-1-4641__4641.aspx



Montana Department of Agriculture Announces 2024 Pesticide Disposal Events

The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) is facilitating spring pesticide disposal events in the Columbia River Basin region during the week of April 10th-12th, 2024, in Libby, Polson, and Butte. Summer disposal events are set for July 9th-11th, 2024, in Eureka, Clearwater Junction, and Butte. These additional pesticide disposal events were made possible through the Montana Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (MT PSPP).

The primary objective of the Montana Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program is to have a lasting impact on the health and water quality of the upper Columbia River Basin (CRB), knowing that protecting the upper basin will also have a sustained positive effect downstream. The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program was started in 2016 to better monitor and make a positive impact in the Columbia River Basin.



PESTICIDE DISPOSAL EVENTS

SPRING & SUMMER PESTICIDE DISPOSAL EVENTS

The Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) is facilitating spring pesticide disposal events in the Columbia River Basin region during the week of **April 10th-12th, 2024**, in Libby, Polson, and Butte.

Summer disposal events are set for **July 9th-11th, 2024**, in Eureka, Clearwater Junction, and Butte.

The pre-registration deadline for the spring event is Monday, April 1, 2024, and the pre-registration deadline for the summer event is Monday, July 1, 2024. Registrations for pesticide waste collection events are accepted on a first come, first-serve basis. There is no charge for the first 200 pounds of material; amounts over 200 pounds are assessed at \$1.00 per pound, and products are weighed on site. Additional fees may apply to pesticides with dioxins or dioxin precursors.

SUMMER EVENT

Tuesday, July 9th- Eureka, MT
Wednesday, July 10th- Clearwater Junction
Thursday, July 11th-Butte, MT

Please visit the Montana Waste Pesticide Disposal Program page to register. For more information, please visit **agr.mt.gov/Pesticide-Waste-Disposal-Program** or contact Carli Davis at **(406) 465-0531**.

These additional pesticide disposal events were made possible through the Montana Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (MT PSPP).



MDA Reminds Producers: State Hail Insurance Available For Purchase

Applications Close August 15th, 2024

In light of recent storms, the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) is reminding producers that applications for State Hail Insurance Policy are now available through MDA’s State Hail Insurance Program.

Producers can insure crops against hail damage at the maximum coverage rate of \$75 per acre for dryland and \$114 per acre for irrigated land. Rates charged are a percentage of the insured amount and vary by county. A detailed list of rates by county and crop can be found online by visiting the MDA website. State policies are available for purchase until August 15, 2024.

Producers who previously purchased state hail insurance will receive applications in the mail. Application forms are also available online or by calling the MDA office. Staff are available to process policies, file claims, and help answer any questions producers may have regarding coverage options. Completed forms can be emailed, mailed, faxed, or used as a reference when contacting the office by phone.

Contact Information:

Montana State Hail Insurance Program
P.O. Box 200201
Helena, MT 59620
Phone: (406) 444-5429
Email: agrhail@mt.gov
Toll Free: 1 (844) 515-1571
Fax: (406) 444-9442

Loss claims are due to the office by October 1, 2024, and must be submitted within two weeks of the hail damage occurrence. Forms are available online or by request.



Current Montana Drought Map

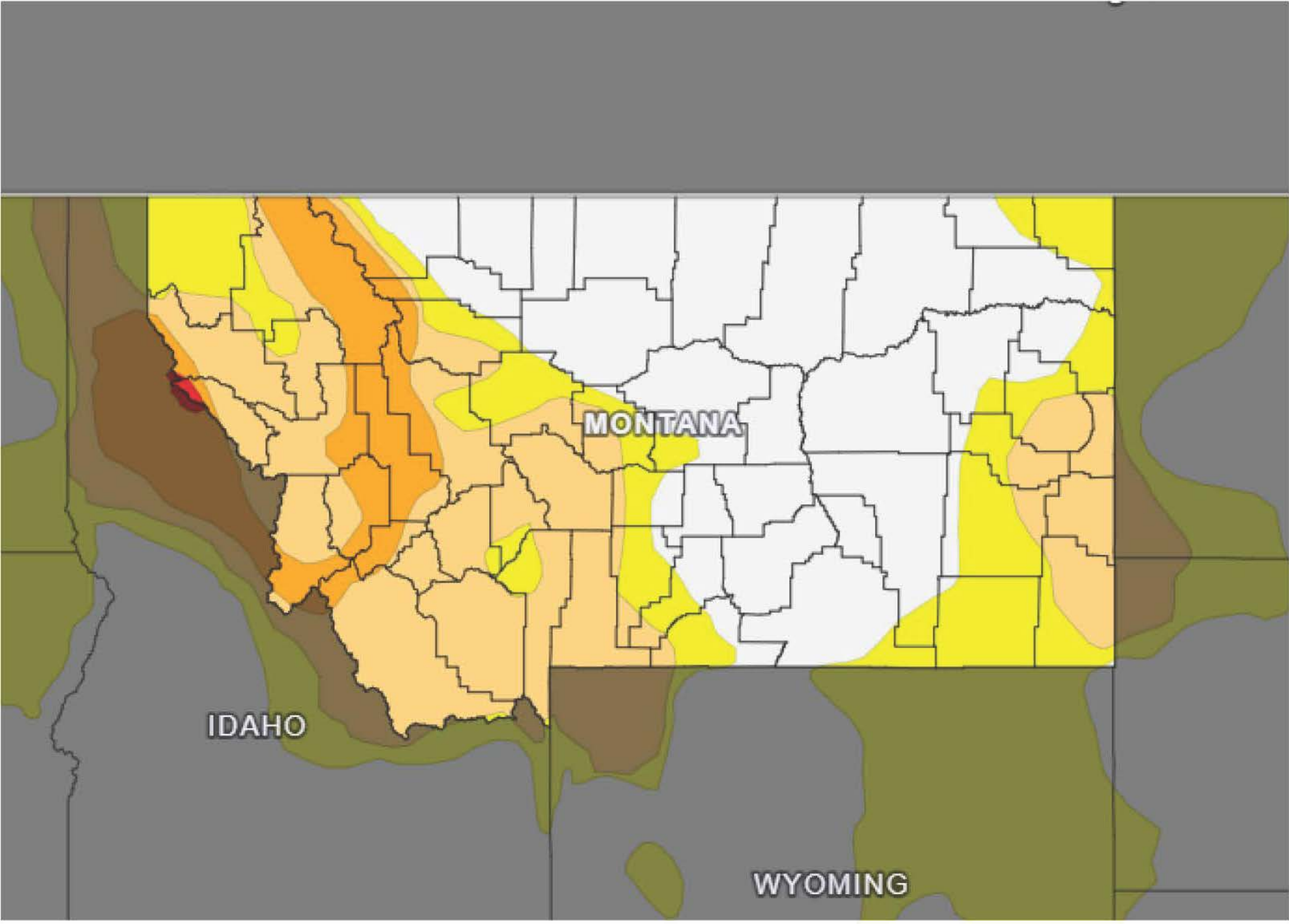
As of May 28th, 2024

In Montana and across the Missouri River Basin (MRB), drought is a common climate event.

Prolonged droughts in the 1930s and 1950s substantially affected water supplies, agriculture, energy, transportation of goods, and ecosystems. More recently, short duration droughts wreaked havoc on the MRB.

The intense 2012 summertime drought surprised the region, as flooding was expected to continue into a second year following the devastating floods of 2011. Flash drought in the U.S. Northern Plains and Canadian Prairies in 2017 resulted in \$2.6 billion of agricultural losses alone. In 2020-2021, drought affected the same area and was a multi-billion-dollar event that had wide-reaching impacts on the region’s communities, ecosystems, water resources, and agricultural systems.

U.S. Drought Monitor



Drought & Dryness Categories		% of MT
	D0 – Abnormally Dry	18.7%
	D1 – Moderate Drought	29.7%
	D2 – Severe Drought	7.8%
	D3 – Extreme Drought	0.1%
	D4 – Exceptional Drought	0.0%
	Total Area in Drought (D1–D4)	37.5%

Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA
Data Valid: 05/28/24

Drought.gov

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.drought.gov/states/montana#current-conditions>



What We Have Been (responsibly) Drinking Lately:

We like to get our “Drink of the Month” into different hands around the department.

We’re a little late to the party here but Headframe Spirits out of Butte, Montana recently released their “Little Darling 3412” Leap Year Whiskey.

The Little Darling 3412 Birthday Malt Whiskey

”Celebrate Headframe’s 3rd leap year birthday with this 4-year single malt whiskey hand-crafted in honor of 12 years in business. Since Leap Day of 2012, Headframe has transcended leaps and bounds. A silver mine in a copper town, the Little Darling was an anomaly in Butte.

Cheers to 12 years of going against the grain.”



What We've Been Listening To Recently:



Old Salt Festival 2024 Preview

1. Engine Trouble - The Last Revel
2. Never One to Stay - Emily Nenni
3. Here For You - The Last Revel
4. You're Lucky She's Lonely - Summer Dean, Colter Wall
5. Yes Ma'am, He Found Me in Honky Tonk - Summer Dean
6. Queen of the Clowns - Summer Dean
7. Too Late to Write a Love Song - Riddy Arman
8. Old Maid's Draw - Riddy Arman
9. Spirits, Angels, Or Lies - Riddy Arman
10. Rye Whiskey - Sterling Drake

We'd Love Your Feedback



Agriculture and in specific, Montana Agriculture is all about community. We thought, one does not have to be directly involved with agriculture to be apart of this community. Thus, our external facing monthly newsletter was created. It is meant to inform, inspire, educate, and reach our agricultural community hand out to whomever would like to be a part of the happenings here at the MDA.

Like to see a section that we didn't cover this month? Let us know! We'd love to hear from you.

Until then, happy June Friends!