

# 2026 Agricultural Economics Conference

Best Western Plus GranTree Inn, Bozeman, MT

October 30, 2026

## Agenda

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 - 9:00   | <b>Registration</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 9:00 - 9:15   | <b>Welcome</b><br><i>Cody Stone</i> , MSU Extension, Executive Director<br><i>Eric Belasco</i> , MSU Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics, Department Head                                             |
| 9:15 - 9:35   | <b>Montana Ag Outlook</b><br><i>Andrew Swanson</i> , MSU Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics                                                                                                          |
| 9:40 - 10:00  | <b>Livestock Grazing in US National Forests Reduces Wildfire Risk</b><br><i>Nicole Karwowski</i> , MSU Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics                                                            |
| 10:05 - 10:35 | <b>Montana Land Values</b><br><i>Mike McDonnell</i> , Norman Wheeler & Associates                                                                                                                                    |
| 10:35 - 10:50 | <b>Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 10:50 - 11:10 | <b>The Farm Workforce, Immigration, and H-2A</b><br><i>Diane Charlton</i> , MSU Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics                                                                                   |
| 11:15 - 12:30 | <b>M.L. Wilson Lecture: Market Outlook and Policy Drivers for Agriculture</b><br><i>Seth Meyer</i> , Director of the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute and Associate Professor, University of Missouri |
| 12:30 - 1:20  | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1:20 - 1:45   | <b>Updates from State Agencies</b><br><i>Ian Foley</i> , Montana Department of Agriculture<br><i>Mike Honeycutt</i> , Montana Department of Livestock                                                                |
| 1:50 - 2:10   | <b>What Do We Know About Flat Income Taxes?</b><br><i>Gregory Gilpin</i> , MSU Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics                                                                                    |
| 2:15 - 2:35   | <b>Beef Trade under Shifting Global Markets and Policies</b><br><i>Eric Belasco</i> , MSU Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics                                                                         |
| 2:40 - 3:00   | <b>Agricultural Carbon Credits in Montana</b><br><i>Kelsey Larson</i> , MSU Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics                                                                                       |

To register: <https://ampc.montana.edu/economicsconference>

A complete schedule of events for *Celebrate Ag Week* is available at:  
<https://ag.montana.edu/celebrateag>

Sponsors:



Montana State University is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.