

NACAA Newsletter-Billings, MT

2025 Pre-Conference

Welcome to Montana!



Welcome to Big Sky Country! As the host state for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) National Meeting 2025, Montana extends a welcome to all attendees. With its rich agricultural heritage, western culture, and neighborly hospitality, Montana provides a picturesque setting for this prestigious gathering of agricultural professionals from across the nation.

Montana Agriculture

Beyond big beef and wheat production, Montana agriculture hosts specialty crops and 7 Agriculture Experiment Stations (MAES) on 58 million acres. That is about 60% of the state's total land area! Montana grows a lot of barley (2nd in the nation with 900,000 acres), pulse crops (1.5 million acres), and even sugar beets and seed potatoes.

Experience Western Hospitality at the Northern And Double Tree

The iconic Northern and Double Tree hotels will serve as the backdrop for the NACAA National Meeting 2025. For over a century, the Northern has been a landmark of hospitality in Billings, Montana. The historic hotel has been thoughtfully updated to blend timeless Western charm with modern comforts, offering state-of-the-art amenities and contemporary style. Over at the Double Tree enjoy dining, drinks, and sky-high views at Montana Sky on the 20th floor, and a warm DoubleTree Cookie at check-in.

Discover Montana's Treasures

Beyond the meeting sessions and workshops, take time to explore the Last Best Place. Whether it's enjoying a hearty Montana steak, strolling through the vibrant downtown filled with local shops and galleries, or taking a scenic drive to the Beartooth Mountains, there's no shortage of unforgettable experiences awaiting you. As you gather in Billings for the NACAA National Meeting 2025, we invite you to embrace the rich Western heritage and stunning landscapes that make this corner of Big Sky Country truly special. Whether you're here to learn, connect, or simply enjoy all that Montana has to offer, we're excited to welcome you to this one-of-a-kind adventure.

Share Your NACAA Adventures on Socials

The NACAA Facebook page is open/public: facebook.com/groups/nacaa. Use **#BigSkyBigConnections** in your social media shares.

Registration - NACAA Mobile App

Use the YAPP Mobile App in Billings for 2025 AM/PIC

Printed programs can be requested.

To install the app - please use this link: <https://my.yapp.us/NACAA2025>

Once the app is installed - click on the 3 dots in the bottom right corner to see the various schedules (Active, Life/Spouse, Sons & Daughters).

Updates and modifications to the program will appear in the mobile app, as well as maps and daily newsletters.

NACAA Registration

Registration will begin on Sunday, June 29, 2025, located at the Northern Hotel in the 2nd floor foyer from 8am - 7pm.

NACAA Scholarship auction items may be dropped off in the DoubleTree Conference Room 2 in the Northern Hotel on Sunday, June 29 from 8-7pm, as well as Monday, June 30 from 8am - 12pm. **Auction items must be dropped off by 12pm on Monday.**



Click to [Visit Billings](#)



Click to download [YAPP](#)



Click for [daily weather](#)

Schedule of Events

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

8 AM - 5 PM NACAA Board Meeting
7:30 AM Pre-tours depart

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

8 AM - 7 PM Conference registration *N* and
scholarship auction drop off *DT*
9 AM - 1 PM Exhibit Trade show setup *DT*
9 AM - 1 PM Poster Display setup *DT*
9 AM - 5 PM Scholarship Selection Committee
meeting *DT*
12 - 2 PM Past Officer and Board Luncheon *DT*
1 - 6:30 PM Exhibit Trade Show open to visitors *DT*
1 - 4:30 PM Leadership Academy *DT*
2 - 4 PM First Lady's Meet and Greet *DT*
2 - 5 PM NACAA Educational Foundation Annual
Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting *DT*
2 - 3 PM Life Member & Spouse Orientation *N*
3 - 4 PM Parent Orientation for Sons & Daughters *N*
3 - 4:30 PM First Timers Social & Orientation
Hooligan's
4:30 - 6:30 PM Welcome dinner *Pub Station*
7 - 9 PM Opening General Session *Alberta Bair*
9 PM Ice Cream Social *Alberta Bair*
9 - 11 PM Hospitality Rooms Open *DT*
10 PM Montana Team Meeting *DT*

MONDAY, JUNE 30

6:30 AM - 7 PM Conference registration & information *N*
6:30 AM - 12 PM Scholarship Auction item drop off *DT*
6:30 - 7:45 AM Bayer Crop Science Breakfast *N*
6:30 - 7:45 AM Voting Delegate Breakfast *N*
8 AM - 4 PM Trade Show floors open to visitors *DT*
8 - 10 AM Poster Judging *DT*
8 AM - 5 PM Sons and Daughters Program tours
organize & depart *DT*
8:30 - 11:30 AM Professional Improvement Council
Seminars (*mostly DT*)
-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

MONDAY, JUNE 30

10 - 11:30 AM Life Member Business Meeting *N*
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM Life Member and Spouses
combined luncheon *N*
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM Professional Improvement and
Search For Excellence Luncheons (*N and DT*)
-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 - 5 PM Life Member Tours/Spouse Program tours
organize and depart *N*
1:30 - 2:30 PM Trade Talk Concurrent Sessions
- Forage/Turf, Safety, Financial *N*
- Animal Science/Crop Science *DT*
- Professional Development, Travel, and
Retirement Benefits *DT*
3 - 5 PM Regional Meetings
- Southern *N*
- North Central *DT*
- Northeast *DT*
- Western *DT*
6 - 8 PM State's Night Out dinner in Billings
6 - 8 PM Montana Team dinner and meeting *DT*
7 - 9:30 PM NACAA Scholarship Auction preview
(Live auction starts at 8 PM) *DT*

DT = Doubletree Hotel

N = Northern Hotel

See Yapp App program for detailed schedule

Schedule of Events

TUESDAY, JULY 1

8 AM - 2 PM Registration and Information Desk *N*

7 - 8:30 AM Achievement Award Recognition

Breakfast *DT*

8 AM - 2 PM Trade Show floors open to visitors *DT*

8:30 - 11:30 AM Delegate Session *N*

8:30 - 11:30 AM Extension Development Council

Seminars (*mostly DT*)

-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

9 AM - 5 PM Life Member and Spouse Tours Depart *N*

9 AM - 5 PM Sons and Daughters Tours organize and depart *DT*

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM Professional Improvement and Search
For Excellence Luncheons

- Sustainable Agriculture *DT*

- Environmental Quality, Forestry and Natural
Resources *DT*

- Pipeline Ag Safety Alliance *N*

- Administrative Leaders Luncheon *DT*

- Farm and Ranch Business Management *N*

- Consumer and Commercial Horticulture *N*

- Livestock Production Program *DT*

2 - 5 PM Super Seminars

- The Complex Tree System of Montana *N*

- Designing Educational Board Games for
Agricultural Learning *DT*

- Leveraging AI for ExtensionSuccess: Tools,
Techniques, and Insights *DT*

- Climate data, tools andresources for
Agriculture Extension *N*

2 - 5 PM Trade show vendor tables breakdown *DT*

4 - 5:30 PM NACAA Board Reception *DT*

TUESDAY, JULY 1

6 - 8:30 PM NACAA Banquet

Four locations in N and DT

6 - 8:30 PM Sons and Daughters Dinner & Farewell *DT*

9 - 10:30 PM President's Reception *DT*

10 PM Montana Team Meeting *DT*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

7 - 8 AM Pre-tour breakfast *DT*

8 AM - 5 PM Professional Tours day

Tours & buses depart from beside DT hotel.

Tours depart at scheduled times (see ticket)

5 - 7:30 PM Farewell dinner *Pub Station*

9 PM Montana Team Meeting *DT*

THURSDAY, JULY 3

7 AM - 6 PM NACAA Board Meeting *N*

DT = Doubletree Hotel

N = Northern Hotel

See Yapp App program for detailed schedule

Traveling To Montana

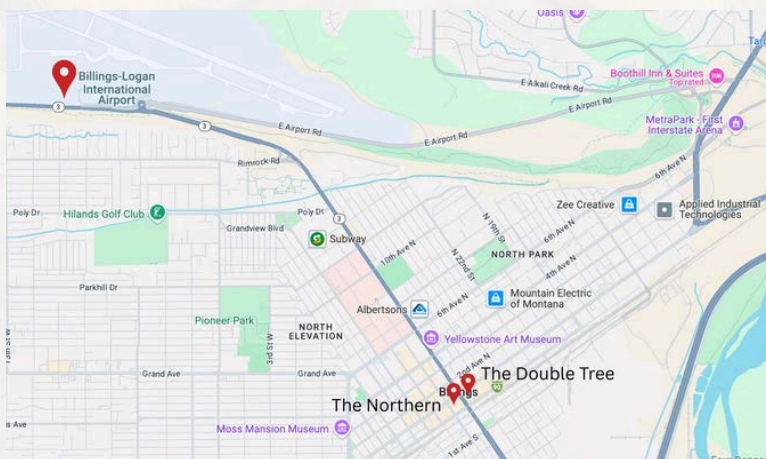
Headquarters

The Headquarter hotels (Doubletree Billings and Northern Hotel) are situated in the center of downtown Billings and most everything you will need is within walking distance. **Bring a coat for possible afternoon thundershowers or chilly evenings!**

Getting Around

A welcome committee will greet arrivals at the Logan International airport. 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.

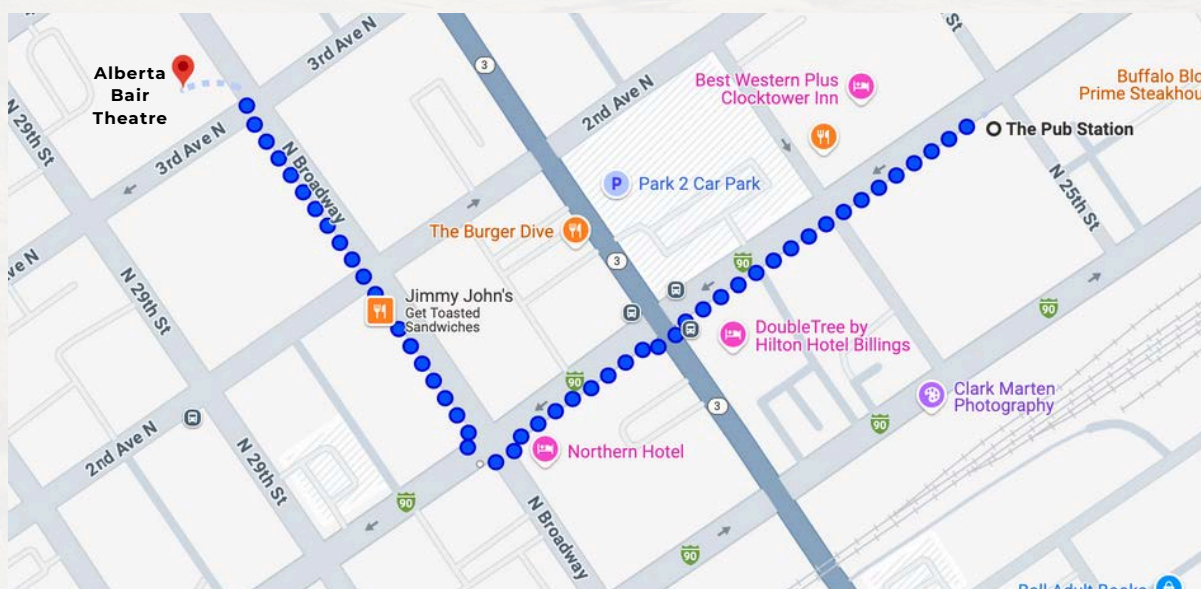
Complimentary valet parking is available at the Northern and the Doubletree will stamp a voucher for registered guests at a parking garage across the street for free parking while staying in the hotel. There is a convenient sky-bridge from the parking garage to the second floor of the Doubletree. Billings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



Welcome to Montana Dinner

Join us at the Pub Station

Join us for a welcoming meal and evening at the Billings Pub Station on Sunday, June 29. 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 dessert 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 - 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 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.



Opening Ceremony

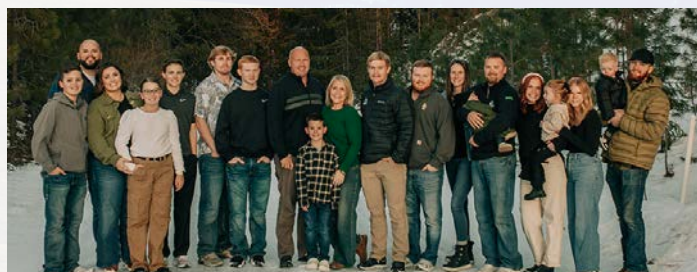
The 2025 NACAA Opening Ceremony will be held at the Alberta Bair Theater beginning at 7 pm. The Alberta Bair Theater, in one iteration or another, has been an integral part of the cultural scene in Billings for more than 80 years.

Opening Welcome - Cody Stone



Montana State University Extension Director Cody Stone will give the welcome address. 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.

Keynote Speaker - Dwayne Fisher



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 a teen, 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 enjoy life with their 8 grandkids.

Dwayne graduated with his bachelor's degree from Boise State University in Marketing Management. They moved to his aunt and uncle's farm in Homedale, Idaho to help run the family business and raise their family. They currently run 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 distributes 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.

Plans for the 2025 NACAA Scholarship Auction

Auction items may be dropped off at The DoubleTree - Conference Room 2 Sunday and Monday. NACAA members will accept auction items while the area is open. Auction items must be dropped off by **12pm on Monday.**

The NACAA Auction will take place on Monday night, June 30, at the Doubletree Hotel. The silent auction begins at 7 pm, followed by the live auction at 8 pm. Silent Auction Pro auction management platform will once again be used to help manage the 2025 auction. Participants have received information on how to update their details in Silent Auction Pro. If you did not receive an email from NACAA Scholarship Chair Steve Hadcock, please reach out to him at seh11@cornell.edu.

For those participating in the auction for the first time this year, we strongly encourage you to pre-register at the Silent Auction Pro website before arriving in Billings. This will ensure a seamless experience and allow you to focus on the exciting auction items. Visit the Silent Auction Pro website at <https://www.silentauctionpro.com/signinregisterolb.php?groupId=1494&olbreturn=/memberhome.php?groupId=1494&ks=1> to check if you are registered with Silent Auction Pro or if you need to set up your bidder account ahead of time. When you attend the NACAA Scholarship Auction, you'll not only have an enjoyable evening but also contribute to the growth and development of agricultural professionals. Watch updates and more news about the auction in the AM/PIC newsletter.



Preview of Auction Items



TALLADEGA *Race Weekend Package*
SUPERSPEEDWAY

OCTOBER 17-19, 2025

Eastaboga, Alabama

INCLUDES:

- Truck, Xfinity, NASCAR Cup Series Races
- Two Tri-Oval Tower tickets for Friday, Saturday & Sunday
- Two tickets to the Talladega Garage Experience
- Two VIP tickets to Saturday Night Concert
- Vehicle pass for infield parking
- Private Room at Paula Burke & Henry Dorough's Home

THIS WEEKEND IS THE NASCAR SERIES PLAYOFFS

Winning Bidder: Contact Henry Dorough



With Appreciation to NACAA Sponsors/Donors



MACAA

Montana Association of County Agricultural Agents



OACAA

Oregon Association of County Agricultural Agents

IACAA

Idaho Association of County Agricultural Agents

Learn more about Montana State University Extension

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbMYdedw6w4>

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