

NACAA Newsletter-Billings, MT

Sunday 6/29/2025



Embrace your spirit of adventure in Billings, Montana, at the NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference. Friends and colleagues of the Montana Association of County Agricultural Agents have worked tirelessly to showcase the very best of Montana.

The Montana Ag Agents have prepared a truly unique experience for attendees. The welcome dinner will be hosted at the Pub Station, conveniently located near the hotels, and will feature gingered tri-tip beef—a staple at Western bull sales. The farewell dinner, also at the Pub Station, will showcase locally sourced beef and lamb. And for some added fun, rumor has it there may be a cornhole tournament at the farewell event.

Get ready to explore diverse tour offerings. Options include a visit to Red Lodge with a two-hour horseback ride, an immersion into cowboy culture, a tour of the Little Bighorn Battlefield, and insights into Montana's thriving beef, agronomy, horticulture, and sheep and wool industries. The sons and daughters program includes opportunities for horseback riding and river rafting, while spouses and life members will also enjoy tailored activities. There truly is something for everyone!

The 2025 AM/PIC will have only one general session. Presentations, award breakfasts, and lunches, as well as other functions, will be divided between two main hotels: The DoubleTree and The Northern, located just a short city block apart. The Distinguished Service Award (DSA) banquet will also be split, with a live video feed connecting both venues.

We encourage you to explore Montana's breathtaking natural wonders. Welcome to Billings for the 2025 NACAA AM/PIC to share an unforgettable experience together!

-Scott Jensen

2024-2025 NACAA President

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, or at the Northern Registration area on Sunday, June 29 from 8am-7pm and on 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

Pre-Tour Highlights



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.

Find the Bobcat

Get ready for a little fun at this year's conference with our Find the Bobcat contest! Montana has an age-old sports rivalry with some preferring Montana State University Bobcat teams, and some preferring the Montana Grizzlies. As a nod to our MSU Bobcats, a stuffed bobcat figurine will be hidden somewhere at the event each day—your mission is to spot it! Keep your eyes peeled and if you find it, bring it to the registration desk to claim a prize. It's a fun way to explore the conference and add a little excitement to the day!



Preview of Auction Items





TALLADEGA
SUPERSPEEDWAY

*Race Weekend
Package*



OCTOBER 17-19, 2025



**Eastaboga,
Alabama**



**THIS WEEKEND IS THE
NASCAR SERIES PLAYOFFS**





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

Winning Bidder: Contact Henry Dorough



Welcome First Timers

Sunday June 29 at 3-4:30 pm - Social and Orientation

Monday June 30 at 11:45-1:15 - Luncheon

The 2025 NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AM/PIC) First Timer Committee and Early Career Development Committees welcome you to the 110th NACAA AM/PIC in Billings Montana. If this is your first time attending an AM/PIC, be sure to attend the First Timer Orientation and the First Timer Luncheon.

The First Timer Orientation/Social is being held on **Sunday June 29 from 3 - 4:30pm** at Hooligan's, a local socializing hot spot. The orientation will help to introduce you to other new(er) Agricultural Extension professionals from across the nation. You will learn more about the National Association and how it can help you be successful in your career. You will also have an opportunity to meet and engage with other First Timers to network and possibly form lasting friendships to encourage and enhance your future NACAA AM/PIC experiences.

The First Timers Luncheon is **Monday June 30 from 11:45am – 1:15pm** and features Montana's very own Taylor Brown. Taylor, the president of the Northern Ag Network, is widely known as one of the nation's leaders in the field of agricultural broadcasting and has played a huge role in western agriculture since he joined the Northern Ag Network as a regional farm broadcaster in 1979. Today he and his wife Shannon own the Northern Broadcasting System, and its flagship radio station KGHL (AM790 and 94.7FM) in Billings. A past National President of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting, Taylor also served 12 years as the President of the NAFB Foundation. His many achievements in the broadcasting industry include being named America's "Farm Broadcaster of the Year" and receiving the "Oscar in Agriculture" award for radio and being inducted into the NAFB Hall of Fame in 2010. Taylor was awarded an honorary doctorate from Montana State University at the fall commencement of 2021. Taylor's signature voice is widely known across the state and region.

Life Member & Spouse/Guest Program

NACAA and Montana wish a special welcome to life members, spouses, and other guests. Again this year, the Life Members and Spouses Programs will participate together in a shared hospitality room, workshops, and tours.

Sunday afternoon, June 29

Sunday through Tuesday 8am - 4pm: Life Members and Spouses Hospitality Room in the Skyview Room

2pm - 3pm: Life Members and Spouses Welcome and Orientation - Welcome to Montana hospitality and overview of week.

Monday, June 30

Sunday through Tuesday 8am - 4pm: Life Members and Spouses Hospitality Room in the Skyview Room

10am - 11:30 am: Life Member Business Meeting - Skyview Room

11:45am - 1:15pm: Life Member/Spouses Luncheon; Randy Reiman, "Charlie Russell's Letters and Notes." - Skyview Room

Don't Miss the Monday Luncheon

Most Montanans know of Charlie Russell, the great cowboy artist who fell in love with the American Old West and chronicled its final days in his paintings. But few know that he was also a prolific correspondent who wrote beautifully illustrated and humorous letters to friends far and wide. More than 400 of those letters are known to historians, most notably compiled by Brian Dippie in *Charles M. Russell, Word Painter*.

Randy Rieman has been an avid student of the life and works of C.M. Russell for nearly 5 decades. For the past 10 years, he has been bringing Charlie's letters to life at cowboy gatherings around the West, revealing the heart and soul of the artist himself.



Trade Show

Montana's trade show and exhibits will be held on the second and third floors of the Doubletree Hotel alongside most of our meeting rooms. Vendors will have tabletop booths in and around the meeting and dining areas. This will facilitate engagement with our sponsors and vendors and allow unique opportunities to visit with the tradeshow participants and colleagues during breaks and while the conference is being held. Your contact person for the tradeshow is Sharla Sackman sharla.sackman@montana.edu.



Partnering with AARP

Engaging Montanans: Collaborative Opportunities Between AARP State Offices and University Extension Programs

Join us for a breakout session on Monday, June 30 at 1:30 PM at the Doubletree, Conference Room 1, to explore collaborative opportunities between AARP state offices and University Extension programs.

AARP, the nation's largest nonprofit works in all 50 states to empower those 50+, and strengthens communities through advocacy, grants, and programs like Tax-Aide and Driver Safety. AARP Montana has partnered with MSU Extension for nearly 20 years, delivering impactful initiatives like the Kinship Navigator program, estate planning webinars led by Marsha Goetting, and caregiver support programs. AARP Montana helps fund publications, supports Mobile Memory Cafés, and collaborates on Caregiver Respite Retreats. The "Reimagining Rural" program, backed by AARP Montana's sponsorships, enhances rural communities with projects like community gardens and improved public spaces.

In 2024 and 2025, AARP Montana funded 21 community projects. AARP Montana's Executive Council includes MSU Professor Emeritus Sandy Bailey and current Eastern Montana Department Head Larry Brence. Learn how to collaborate with AARP in your state by visiting states.aarp.org or stopping by our breakout session and booth at the conference!

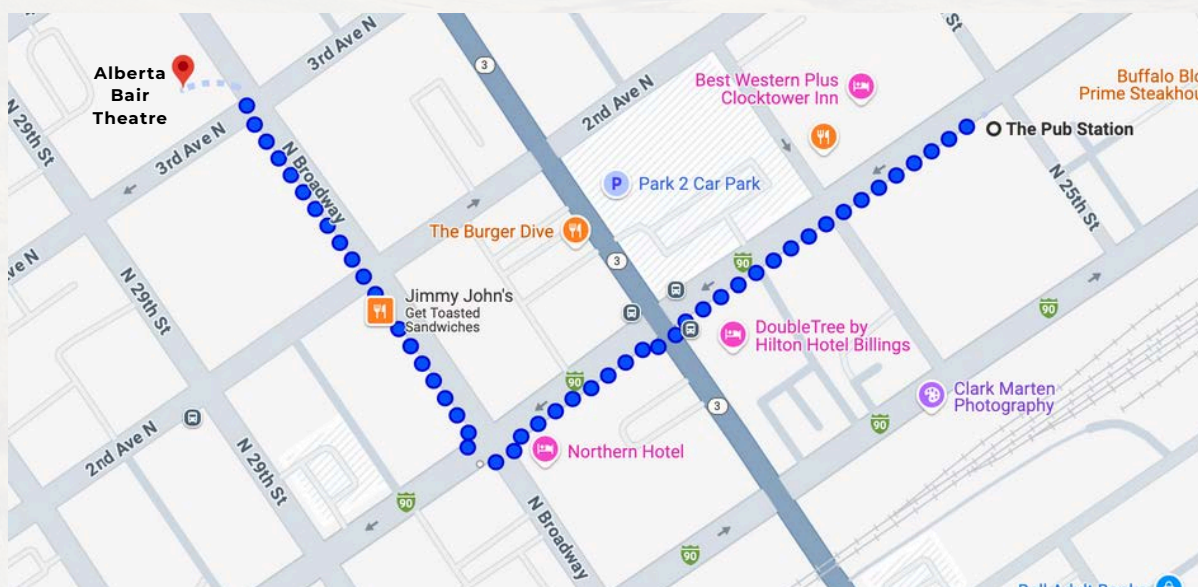
See the summary of our partnership:

<https://www.montana.edu/extension/macaa/2025ampic/CollaborationBetweenAARP-MTandMSUExtension.pdf>

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.

Shuttle Information

Shuttles will be leaving from multiple locations. See the schedule below

HOTEL SHUTTLES

Homewood Suites - Ember Lane
Hampton Inn & Suites - Billings West I-90
Hampton Inn - Southgate
Hilton Garden Inn Billings - Grant Road
Shuttle schedule (buses will be running every 20-30 minutes depending on traffic)

June 29 (Sunday)	7:30 AM - 10:00 AM
June 29 (Sunday)	11:30 AM - 3:00 PM
June 29 (Sunday)	8:30 PM - 10:30 PM
June 30 (Monday)	6:00 AM - 9:00 AM
June 30 (Monday)	7:00 PM - 10:00 PM
July 1 (Tuesday)	6:00 AM - 9:00 AM
July 1 (Tuesday)	5:00 PM - 10:30 PM
July 2 (Wednesday)	6:30 AM - 8:30 AM
July 2 (Wednesday)	5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Professional Improvement Tours

Reconsidered your tour or want to go on a different one? Go to the ticket trade table near registration, drop off your unwanted ticket with your name, then leave your name to pick up a different tour ticket. Please see registration for more information. Special dietary needs/lunch requests are not able to be transferred from the original tour. You must be registered for the full conference to take a tour ticket.

Read more about each tour on the Tours page located in the Yapp App

1. Lamb and Wool Production in Montana
2. Beef Production Tour
3. Heart of Montana Beef production
4. Ryegate Field Tour
5. Research into Practice With Plant Materials and Cropping Systems (**Canceled**)
6. Montana Ag Production & Processing Tour
7. Montana Livestock & Ag Innovation Tour
8. From Swanky roots to Native Roots Horticultural Tour
9. Woody Invasive Species in the Community
10. Explore the Beartooth Plateau
11. Horseback Riding
12. So You Want to Be a Cowboy
13. Barley and Brews
14. Indigenous and Cultural History of Southern Montana
15. Community and Agriculture
16. Yellowstone River Parks Association
17. International Science & Conservation Center, Montana Zoo and Action Toys

Tour Changes From Guide

****The following tours have had changes made from the original schedule if listed.**

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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