

**COMMENTS FROM
OUR GOVERNOR**



August 31, 2016

Welcome to the 2016 edition of the Montana Agricultural Statistics. Agriculture is one of the most important industries in Montana; it's also one of the most challenging. Low commodity prices and unpredictable weather have made things tough for many folks, but Montana's farmers and ranchers continue to innovate and push forward. Whether it's diversifying into pulse crops, or taking new "Grown in Montana" products directly to the consumer, Montana's farmers and ranchers are a resilient bunch.

We continue to lead the nation in pulse production and are proud to be a leader in the highest quality wheat, barley and beef genetics. We will continue to promote research and development so that we can efficiently and effectively raise yields and reduce operating expenses. As new technologies are developed, you can bet that Montana's farmers and ranchers will be at the forefront.

Thanks to all our farmers and ranchers for the work they do to feed the world. If you have ideas or suggestions for agriculture development or business opportunities, feel free to send me a note on the www.governor.mt.gov website, or give my office a call at (406) 444-3111. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock". The signature is fluid and cursive.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor