



Department Mission

"To protect producers and consumers and to enhance and develop agriculture and allied industries."

Director: Ron de Yong, (406) 444-3144

Deputy Director: Kim Mangold

Central Services Administrator: Libbi H. Lovshin

Chief Legal Counsel: Cort Jensen

Communications Officer: Andy Fjeseth

Department Programs & Background

Montana Department of Agriculture operates some 30 programs, many funded entirely through user fees. These include regulatory programs that protect producers, consumers and the environment, as well as development and marketing programs to foster growth in Montana agriculture. The Director's Office also serves as an advocate for Montana agriculture in national and international forums, and works to make the department's programs accessible to the public.

Agricultural Development Division

Administrator: Kim Mangold, (406) 444-5406

Ag Development & Marketing Bureau

Bureau Chief: Christy Clark, (406) 444-2402

- Marketing and Business Assistance
- Grants and Loans
- Agricultural Curriculum Development
- Agricultural Finance
- Agricultural Statistics
- State Hail Insurance
- Commodity Check-off Programs

Wheat & Barley Bureau, Great Falls

Executive Vice President: Collin Watters, (406) 761-7732

- Producer Funded Research & Marketing
- Hosts Foreign Buyers and Delegations

State Grain Laboratory, Great Falls

Bureau Chief: Greg Stordahl, (406) 452-9561

- Federally Licensed Grain Inspection

Marketing assistance programs during FY 2015 assisted 37 companies develop and market their products, contributed about \$60,000 in trade show sales, and facilitated \$1,000,000 in sales from export trade activities.

Growth Through Agriculture grants and loans during FY 2015 totaled more than \$592,000 to 29 businesses and individuals for value-added agriculture projects.

State Hail Insurance insured 1 million acres in 2015. The program insured nearly \$69.8 million in crop value.

Rural Development finance programs have a combined loan portfolio of more than \$3.9 million.

State Grain Laboratory completed nearly 37,000 tests for grade, protein, germination, baking qualities, vomitoxin and other characteristics on wheat, barley and 20 other commodities, including more than 3,000 inspections on peas, beans and lentils. The Great Falls facility is the only federally licensed grain lab in Montana. A branch office is situated in Plentywood.

Wheat & Barley Committee annually hosts an average of 13 foreign trade delegations and 60 visitors from seven nations that have an interest in purchasing Montana grains. The Committee represents producers on transportation issues, research, and market development.

Food and Agriculture Development Centers assisted clients with regional food and farm-derived energy projects, helping to introduce new products, start new businesses and assist business expansions.

Agricultural Sciences Division

Administrator: Greg Ames, (406) 444-2945

Analytical Laboratory Bureau, Bozeman

Bureau Chief: Heidi Hickes, (406) 994-3383
- Provides testing services for feed, fertilizer, pesticide and ground water programs.

Commodity Services Bureau

Bureau Chief: Andy Gray, (406) 444-3730
- Anhydrous Ammonia
- Feed/Fertilizer
- Grain Warehouses and Auditing
- Organic Certification
- Produce/Seed/Seed Potatoes
- Cooperative Ag. Pest Survey

Agricultural Services Bureau

Bureau Chief: Donna Rise, (406) 444-5400
- Apiary/Alfalfa Leaf Cutter Bees
- Noxious Weeds
- Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage
- Nursery/Quarantine
- Ground Water
- Pesticide Licensing and Registration
- Pesticide Recycling & Disposal
- Pesticide Compliance
- Driftwatch
- Vertebrate Pests

The Department:

- Licenses about 500 pesticide dealers and registers about 11,000 pesticide products.
- Licenses about 5,800 private and 2,000 commercial and government pesticide applicators.
- Certifies 98 commercial honeybee operations and registers 5,586 apiary locations.
- Issues 1,000 plant health and export certificates, enabling products to be shipped to other states and countries.
- Licenses 914 nurseries to assure quality products.
- Issues 3,134 inspection certificates on 291,868,105 pounds of potatoes shipped for seed.
- Licensed 181 feed manufacturer/distributors and 30 commodity warehouses audited annually.

Analytical Laboratory, operated jointly with MSU at Bozeman, reports about 70,000 individual test results annually on 2,000 feed, fertilizer, soil, plant tissue and water quality samples.

Pesticide Disposal program assists homeowners, businesses and producers in disposing of unwanted and unusable pesticides - a total of 519,000 pounds since 1994.

Pesticide Container Recycling Program was created to keep pesticide container plastic out of Montana’s landfills. The PCRPP truck will arrive at predetermined collection sites to collect and grind all cleaned and prepared #2 HDPE pesticide plastic. The program has collected approximately 391,419 pounds since 2009.

Fertilizer program registered more than 5,000 fertilizer and soil amending products and licensed over 640 businesses in 2015. Reports indicate over 840,000 tons of fertilizer was distributed in Montana during 2015.

Organic program annually inspects and certifies 169 farms and ranches and 55 food handlers as compliant with USDA organic standards. Organic certification allows access to local, national and international value-added markets for organic food products.

Noxious Weed Trust Fund annually distributes more than \$2 million in grants for weed management, research and education from automobile license weed management fund, federal grants and interest received on Noxious Weed Trust Fund principal.

Seed Program licenses 521 seed locations that include the following number of licenses: 349 seed dealers, 51 seed labelers, 31 Montana seed growers, 84 seed conditioning plants, 70 non-resident seed dealers, and 101 non-resident seed labelers annually.

Board, Councils and Committees

- Agriculture Development Council
- Alfalfa Seed Committee
- Cherry Advisory Committee
- Hail Insurance Board
- Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council
- Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Advisory Council
- Organic Commodity Advisory Council
- Potato Advisory Committee
- Pulse Crop Advisory Committee
- Wheat & Barley Committee