

MONTANA wheat & barley

April 6, 2025

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Top Stories



MARCH MADNESS AWARDS \$5,250 TO 19 GRAD STUDENTS

Winners for the second annual competition, hosted by MWBC, are as follows:

Masters 1st Year:

- 1st: Sergei O'Sullivan (photo)
- 2nd: Lakyn Sondag
- 3rd: Eric Cassetta

Masters Later Year:

- 1st: Ishita Isha
- 2nd: Chloe Hinson
- 3rd: Connor Nelle

PhD Later Year:

- 1st: Brandon Tillett
- 2nd: Jared Lile
- 3rd: Caleb Hale

Check back with the MWBC website for all students' projects.

[Full story here.](#)



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Scholarships still open:

MT Grain Elevators Assn. [due Jun. 1](#); MT Grains Foundation \$2500 for grad students [due Apr. 18](#); Women in Ag-Farms.com [due Jul. 13](#); MT Seed Trade Assn. [due Jun. 1](#); US Durum Growers Assn. [open until Oct. 15](#); MT Assn. of Conservation Dist. [due Apr. 18](#); Amanda Neal Sch. [due May 1](#); Sturz Legacy [due May 1](#); MSU Northern scholarships [listed here](#); Pam Langley Memorial Sch.: [due May 15](#)

Grant applications open:

- [MWBC](#) due Apr. 25
- Montana Farm Bureau [now open](#)
- Montana Farmers Union [due May 1](#)
- Montana Beef Council [due Aug. 1](#)

- Specialty Crop Block: [Montana Dept. of Ag](#)
- Western SARE: [join notification list](#)



GLEANINGS for APRIL

By Kent Kupfner, Executive Director -- [This month I cover our recent trips \(two!\) to Portland with growers, an update on the National Barley Improvement Committee, our second annual March Madness and more.](#)

SUMMARIZING CONCERNS ABOUT BARLEY'S

FUTURE

From District 4 Director Lee Dahlman, this story covers a range of issues plaguing barley growers -- and what the industry is planning to do going forward. Article will be posted next week on the MWBC website.



PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR MONTANA: WHEAT

National Agricultural Statistics Service NASS: All **wheat acreage** is expected to total 5.21M acres for 2025. Winter wheat seeded last fall for harvest in 2025 is estimated at 2.30M acres, up 350K acres, or 18%, from the area seeded in 2024. If realized, this would represent the largest planted area since 2015. Growers intend to seed 760K acres of durum wheat this year, down 120K acres, or 14%, from last year. Growers intend to seed 2.15M acres of spring wheat this year, down 300K acres or 12% from 2024.

MSU Research Rundown



Featured Writer: Brandon Tillett, PhD Candidate -- [All the wheat breeders at Montana State University are very excited about the gene HaHB4 and its potential to increase drought tolerance in the wheat we grow here in the state.](#)

ALSO FROM MSU:

The annual Barley Crop Quality Report is now available. Covering stats from 2024, this report (conducted by Dr. Hannah Uhlmann) follows bushels of production across Montana including moisture content, test weight, protein and kernel assortment. [Find the full report here.](#)

Outside the Big Sky

GOODBYE LA NINA?

AgWeb -- [DENSO-neutral means conditions could be close to average, but Eric Snodgrass, Nutrien's principal atmospheric scientist, says that doesn't mean the weather will be normal this spring and summer with growing concerns about drought.](#)

- [US Wheat Board Team Explores Important Markets in SE Asia](#)
- [Spring Wheat, Durum: Tales of Two Northern Plains Crops](#)
- [US Wheat Organizations Share Concern About Proposed Actions Against Chinese Shipping](#)
- [With Beer Consumption Declining, US Barley Farmers Now Fear Tariffs](#)



Recipe Harvest!

Fool me not, these look delicious.

- [Almond Rolls](#)
- [Creamy Cajun Shrimp Pasta](#)
- [Best Carrot Cake](#)
- [Easter Breakfast Casserole](#)
- [Amish White Bread](#)



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[WEBSITE](#)

At the **Montana Wheat & Barley Committee**, we promote local research and develop trade markets around the world.

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