

MONTANA wheat & barley

January 9, 2025

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Top Stories



MARCH MADNESS

With last year's March Madness deemed a success, this research review will return Monday, March 24 in Bozeman.

Similar to the popular TV series *Shark Tank*, MSU students will present a 5 minute overview of their research project. MWBC board members have opportunity to fire away with questions following each presentation.

This is a great opportunity for producers to learn more about current research funded by your dollars. More to come as we develop the day!



WHEAT MARKETING TOURS

Big news, MWBC will provide **two educational tours** to Portland, OR in March. The annual trek is produced by the Wheat Marketing Center (WMC) and includes an exceptional look into the belly of the wheat transportation system at the port. Attendees will visit the WMC labs and hear from scientists testing for end-use qualities of US wheat. Stops include area commercial bakeries, a tugboat service and the USDA's grain inspection lab.

Interested in going? Sign up today by emailing wbc@mt.gov. Dates: Mar 3-6 and Mar 17-20.



GLEANINGS for January

By Kent Kupfner, Executive Director

MWBC concluded the annual budget planning cycle during our December 2, 2024, board meeting and approved a \$4.4 million budget for 2025. This total represents an eight percent reduction from the 2024 budget.



THURSDAY
February 13, 2025



START AT
8:00 a.m.



**PONDERA SHOOTING SPORTS
COMPLEX** Conrad, MT



Jamie Sherman, PhD
Montana State
University
Barley Varieties



Ashley McFarland
American Malting
Barley Association
Future of Barley



Jim Beusekom
Market Place Commodities
Marketing Off Grade Barley



Mitch Konen
National Barley
Growers Association
Farm Bill Update



Kera Birkland
Montana Grain
Growers Association
Farm Bill Update



Hannah Uhlmann
Montana State
University
Malt Specifications



**Malting Barley
Industry Panel**
Barley Variety and
Trial Updates

**RSVP by February 6, 2025 to the Pondera County Extension Office at
(406) 271-4054 or pondera@montana.edu. Seminar worth 1 pesticide point.**



This rather strange-looking photograph is of a wheat stem cut by a wheat stem sawfly immature (or larva). After feeding inside the green stem, the larva moves to the bottom of the ripening stem when the larva is full-grown at the end of the wheat growing season. Here, it cuts the stem with its mouthparts and fills the space inside the cut area with a frass plug (frass is a term for excrement produced by a plant-eating insect). The larva then resides below the frass plug in the wheat stub where it hibernates over the winter. During the late spring warming of the soil, it transforms first into a pupa and then into an adult where it

chews through and exits this frass plug.



RKD Peterson

Bob Peterson, PhD, and David Weaver, PhD, entomologists working on wheat stem sawfly solutions, shared this above photo for our social media channels. Bob is the department head for the Department of Land Resources & Environmental Sciences at Montana State University; David runs the Wheat Stem Sawfly Laboratory in same department.

Grain Industry Outlook

By Jake McFarlin -- With 2024 in the books, what will 2025 look like for the Montana wheat and barley producers? Although I am struggling to find too much good news, 2025 may not be all doom and gloom.



Jake McFarlin is the MWBC grain trade representative, serving his first term. As the grain division manager for Mountain View Co-op, Jake leads a team that moves millions of bushels of Golden Triangle crops, including wheat and barley, around the globe. He offices out of their Dutton location.

Outside the Big Sky

Ten issues to watch this year -- Farm and agriculture policy faces broad uncertainty. 1/8/25

Spring wheat export sales end the year strong. 1/3/25

Farmers head into 2025 with another farm bill extension, aid -- How end-of-year spending deal aids farmers and ranchers. 1/2/25

K-State researchers lower gluten content, maintain dough quality in bread wheat -- Breakthrough may eventually make wheat-based foods safer to those with gluten sensitivity. 12/31/24

US barley acreage hit lowest level since 1876 as beer demand sinks -- How does the crop fit into farmers' plans going forward? 12/30/24



Recipe Harvest!

Soup and bread -- not much better for cold winter days.

- [Beef Stew in a Crusty Bread Boule](#)
- [Ribollita \(Hearty Tuscan Bean, Bread & Veggie Stew\)](#)
- [Irish Stew, Irish Soda Bread](#)
- [Homestyle Chicken Soup & Milk Bread Rolls](#)
- [Easy Mushroom Barley Soup](#)
- [Chewy French Bread](#)



Email: wbc@mt.gov ~ (406) 761-7732

[WEBSITE](#)

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

Montana Wheat and Barley Committee | 300 Park Drive S Suite 104 | Great Falls, MT 59405 US

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