

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 2011 BIENNIUM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Mission Statement:

"The mission of the Montana Department of Agriculture is to protect producers and consumers, and to enhance and develop agriculture and allied industries."

Guiding Principles:

- Sustainability
- Efficiency
- Effectiveness

CENTRAL SERVICES DIVISION

CSD Division Goal:

Assist management and staff of the Montana Department of Agriculture in meeting the department's mission by providing efficient, knowledgeable, and cost-effective customer service.

CSD Objectives:

- Develop, interpret and maintain policies and procedures that are responsive to the needs of the department and which comply with state and federal regulations.
- Monitor recruitment and selection to ensure a professional, diverse, and responsible workforce.
- Provide timely and accurate financial information consistent with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and State accounting policy.
- Coordinate training opportunities to enhance the skills and expertise of staff.
- Provide systems analysis, programming, networking and data processing expertise and information necessary to meet current and future information technology needs and security criteria.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

ADD Division Goal:

To enhance, expand and diversify Montana's agricultural economy, thereby improving the general economy of the state of Montana by providing services which include market and agri-business development, Growth Through Agriculture investments, wheat and barley research and marketing, agriculture loans, beginning farmer/rancher loans, hail insurance, grain grading and inspection, and administration of agricultural commodity research and market development programs.

Agricultural Marketing and Business Development Bureau

Objectives:

- Assist in increasing sales of Montana's agricultural products and the success and profitability of agricultural businesses and operations.
- Strengthen and diversify Montana's agricultural industry through activities promoting private/public sector partnerships.
- Assist in the development and commercialization of new agricultural products and processes.
- Provide support to the Agriculture Development Council and administer the Growth Through Agriculture program.

Rural Development Bureau

Objectives:

- Provide basic hail insurance coverage through the State Hail Insurance Program on crops grown in Montana so producers have affordable hail loss protection available.
- Provide support and growth to Montana agriculture by administering the Agriculture Finance and Commodity Research and Market Development programs.
- Assist in the economic development and welfare of Montana agriculture.

State Grain Laboratory Bureau

Objectives:

- Provide timely, official, objective and accurate test results to buyers and sellers of Montana grain under standards set by the USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service.
- Provide timely, official, sampling services and testing of other Montana commodities.

Wheat & Barley Bureau

Objectives:

- Provide support for the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.
- Develop marketing knowledge and markets.
- Determine new uses for wheat and barley.
- Develop alternative crops for rotation with wheat and barley.
- Carry out all research and marketing contemplated by Title 80, Chapter 11, part 2, MCA.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES DIVISION

ASD Division Goal:

To provide agricultural producers and consumers, commodity and environmental protection through the administration of the Montana laws and rules in the areas of pesticides, groundwater monitoring, noxious weed control, feeds, fertilizers, seed, anhydrous ammonia, grain commodity dealers, public warehousemen, nurseries, produce, mint, honey bees, alfalfa leafcutting bees and other services including organic certification, pest management consulting, laboratory analysis, pest surveys, export certification and quarantines.

Commodity Service Bureau

Objectives by Program:

Agricultural Commodity Warehouse and Commodity Dealer Program

- Protect agricultural producers from financial loss when warehousing and marketing grain commodities.
- Ensure compliance with the Montana Agricultural Warehouse Standards Act.
- Ensure the security of grains and other agricultural commodities held in safekeeping for Montana producers and owners.

Anhydrous Ammonia Program

- Protect the safety and health of persons using or handling anhydrous ammonia, and the surrounding communities.
- Review and approve new sites for anhydrous ammonia facilities.
- Promote the effective and safe use of anhydrous ammonia.

Commercial Feed Program

- Promote the safety and effectiveness of commercial feeds and feed ingredients for livestock and companion animals.
- Ensure that consumers receive only quality feed products made from safe and approved feed ingredients and that nutritional claims are met.
- Ensure that commercial feeds are properly labeled so that consumers are adequately informed.

Commercial Fertilizer Program

- Promote the safety and effectiveness of commercial fertilizers.
- Ensure that consumers receive only quality fertilizer products made from safe and approved ingredients and that nutrient claims are met.
- Ensure that commercial fertilizers are properly labeled so that consumers are adequately informed.

Mint Program

- Improve the culture and production of mint grown in Montana.
- Assist the mint industry in preventing the introduction and spread of diseases, nematodes and insects affecting mint.
- Disseminate appropriate information to Montana mint growers

Organic Program

- Provide professional, efficient and objective certification services to producers and handlers of organic products to facilitate the growth and success of organic agriculture in Montana.

Produce Standards, Storage and Merchandising Program

- Protect consumers by assuring that produce is properly labeled and graded.
- Facilitate the export of Montana grown produce.

Seed Program

- Protect purchasers of seed by ensuring that seed is truthfully labeled and meets germination and purity standards.
- Resolve disputes in cases of non-performance of agricultural seed.
- Prevent the spread of restricted and noxious weed seeds in agricultural seeds.

Laboratory Bureau

Objectives:

- Provide reliable, efficient analytical testing services in support of Montana agriculture.
- Serve the analytical testing needs of the department's feed, fertilizer, pesticide enforcement and agriculture chemical ground water programs, the Montana State University Agriculture Experiment Station and the USDA Pesticide Data Program.

Pest Management Bureau

Objectives by Program:

Alfalfa Leafcutting Bee Registration and Certification Program

- Provide timely and efficient laboratory services to alfalfa seed growers.
- Register alfalfa leafcutting bee beekeepers to protect producers.

Apiculture Program

- Protect the apiary and pollination industry by minimizing the spread of pests and diseases of honeybees.
- Protect the nectar and pollen supply through registration of apiaries.

Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program

- Protect Montana agriculture from invasive and indigenous pests.
- Preserve markets and facilitate the marketing of commodities.
- Prevent economic loss through monitoring and detection of pests.

Export Certification Program

- Minimize the risk of international movement of pests by providing export certification services.
- Facilitate the export of Montana agricultural commodities.

Mosquito Abatement Program

- Assist in the control of mosquitoes by providing education, site visit consultations and calibration to Montana mosquito abatement personnel.

Noxious Weed Management Program

- Assist county weed districts, local governments, tribes and landowners in halting the spread of listed weeds through management of the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund and other weed funds.
- Provide technical expertise and general assistance on noxious weed information and noxious weed management techniques.
- Work with university researchers, educators and others to expand weed control options and coordinate biological weed control efforts.

Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Program

- Prevent the spread of noxious weeds by coordinating efforts to grow and certify forage that is free of regionally designated weeds and seeds.
- Promote forage products that are free of Montana designated noxious weed seeds and regionally designated noxious weeds and seeds.

Nursery & Quarantine Program

- Protect consumers by inspecting and assuring the quality of nursery stock.
- Minimize the risk of interstate and intrastate movement of pests on nursery stock.

Technical Services Bureau

Objectives of Program:

Groundwater Management Program

- Protect groundwater and the environment from impairment or degradation from the use or misuse of agricultural chemicals.
- Provide for education and training of agricultural product applicators and the public regarding groundwater protection, agricultural chemical use, and the use of alternative agricultural methods.

License and Registration Program

- Provide application and licensing assistance to pesticide applicators and registrants.
- Coordinate applicator license and product registration renewals.
- Collect and deposit fees into the State Treasury in accordance with the State accounting policy.

Pesticide Management Program

- Protect agriculture, the environment and human health by coordinating the education, training, registration and the safe use of pesticide products.
- Assure that pesticides are available for agricultural production.
- Ensure compliance with the Montana Pesticides Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

Vertebrate Pest Management Program

- Address vertebrate pest management issues faced by producers and land managers on a local, regional and statewide scale.
- Protect the environment and human health by facilitating the proper use of vertebrate pest control products.