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**Scientists Seek Balance Between Crop  
Production & Protecting Environment**

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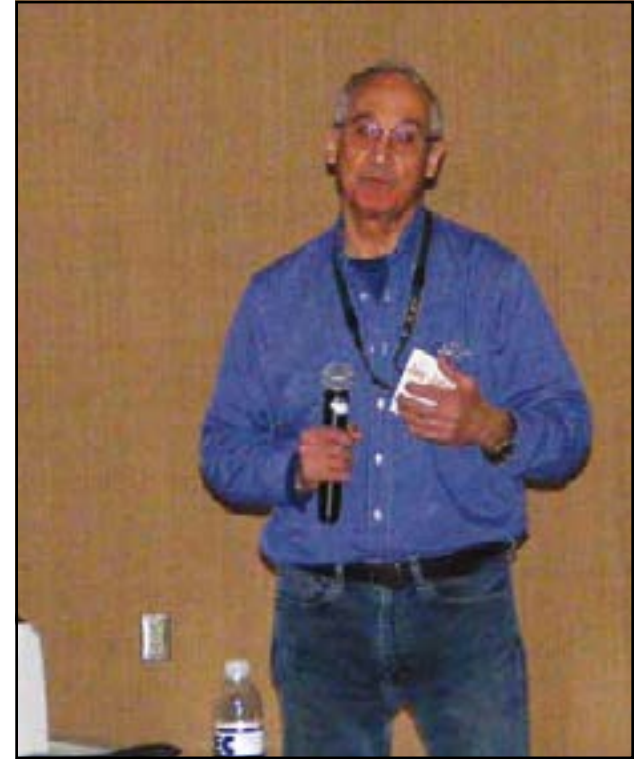
# Scientists Seek Balance Between Crop Production & Protecting Environment



Brett L. Allen. (Photo by Jody Wells)



Upendra M. Sainju. (Photo by Jody Wells)



Jalal D. Jabro. (Photo by Jaymi Mozeak)

**By Maribel Alonso**

Scientists at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory (NPARL), Sidney, completed a study that shows the use of continuous cropping systems can better sustain crop yields while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in semi-arid regions.

NPARL research scientists Upendra M. Sainju, Brett L. Allen, and Jalal D. Jabro evaluated the effect of three long-term (34-year project) dryland cropping systems on GHG emissions and crop yields in the U.S. northern Great Plains. The objective was to evaluate improved cropping systems like continuous cropping, which involves growing crops annually and eliminating the summer fallow (unplanted field) period, for GHG emissions and sustainable crop yields in dryland conditions.

"The study revealed that long-term no-till continuous cropping systems can reduce GHG emissions while sustaining crop yields compared to the conventional till crop-fallow system, which is the traditional two-year crop rotation of dryland farming in the Northern Great Plains," explained Sainju.

As the demand for agricultural production increases, it is becoming more important to mitigate GHG emissions from croplands. Certain cropping systems, management practices, and use of nitrogen-based fertilizers add to the total emissions of N<sub>2</sub>O (nitrous oxide) and CH<sub>4</sub> (methane) that contribute to the approximate 10% of the total GHG emissions coming from the agricultural sector.

Implementing innovative agricultural strategies that can maintain or increase crop yields while reducing GHG emissions has become critical. This is especially important in arid and semi-arid regions, which make up one-third of the global arable land and account for a significant portion of GHG emissions coming from crop production.

Scientists conducted the study on three different dryland cropping systems that had been producing crop yields and affecting soil health for 34 years. The three systems included no-till continuous spring wheat, no-till spring wheat-pea, and conventional till spring wheat-fallow. The study tested N<sub>2</sub>O and CH<sub>4</sub> gas emissions twice a week to once a month throughout the year and analyzed carbon sequestration rates from 2012 to 2019 and crop yields, GHG balance, and yield-scaled GHG balance from 2016 to 2018.

Overall, the no-till continuous cropping systems reduced net GHG balance by 66-149% compared to the conventional till crop-fallow system.

In looking at the two no-till continuous cropping systems studied, Sainju noted, "Although the no-till continuous nonlegume cropping increased carbon sequestration rate and reduced GHG balance and yield-scaled GHG balance, it reduced crop yield due to increased weed and pest pressure and enhanced soil acidity compared to the no-till legume-nonlegume rotation. Therefore, no-till legume-nonlegume rotation is an ideal cropping system to enhance crop yield and reduce GHG emissions compared to no-till continuous nonlegume cropping system in dryland cropping systems of the U.S. northern Great Plains."

The study is part of USDA-ARS ongoing long-term research on dryland cropping systems. Details about the latest study can be found in the *Journal of Environmental Quality*.

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# Landry Larson, Sidney/Glendive High School Rodeo All Around Cowgirl

By Katelyn Sponheim

Each fall, just a few weeks after the Richland County Fair & Rodeo wraps, the Richland County Rodeo Club starts knocking on doors, asking for the community's support for the Montana High School Rodeo in Sidney; and boy, does Richland County show up. The tremendous support for both the Pro and High School/Youth Rodeo in Sidney is unique and well-appreciated by the rodeo community. Sidney's event ran Aug. 30-31, with Kraken Oil & Gas, Tri-County Implement, the Cattle-Ac, Clark & Associates-Denver Gilbert, Dawson County Rodeo Club, Glendive Livestock, Dawson Vet Clinic, Rodeo Rigs and Bank of Baker all sponsoring saddles for the boys and girls all around champions in not only the high school, but junior high and peewee divisions. The weekend's events are combined with Glendive's High School and Youth Rodeo, which ran Sept. 1-2; and over four days, individual, average, and all-around prizes are awarded.

This year saw local talent, Landry Larson, win the High School All Around Cowgirl saddle with her combined scores in Barrel Racing, Breakaway, and Team Roping. Her saddle was sponsored by the Dawson County Rodeo Club. Landry has set her sights on the All-Around title at her hometown rodeo for several years and was extremely proud to have earned it. Making it extra special was that her Team Roping partner is her cousin, Jori Horsburgh. They won the average in the Team Roping for the 2 days of the Sidney rodeo together and were awarded buckles. Landry was also the Reserve All Around for the Sidney rodeo and her other prizes for placings included back cinch buckles, a trophy tumbler, and Bogg bag. Other locals winning events at this year's rodeo were Leddy Larson winning the average in the Junior High Girls Breakaway Roping, winning a buckle and Emma Youngquist placing 2nd in the average in the Junior High Girls Goat Tying winning a Bogg bag.

Landry is grateful for all the community support for rodeo and for the rodeo community's support of her efforts. From horsepower to mentoring to moral support, Landry has a tool box full of winners. Her barrel horse, Rosie, comes from NFR alumni Rayna Prewitt, who enjoys helping Landry and Leddy in their rodeo journeys. She spends time with her and an NFR qualifier/clinician of over 50 years, Judy Myllymaki in Arizona each winter. Landry says "My team of horses and coaching support are a huge part in my success, and I'll always be thankful for them and getting the win in my hometown made it all the sweeter." Leddy, Landry's younger sister, has big goals of her own and they both work hard to make them happen. Their parents, Tim and Kristin Larson, operate the Sidney Livestock Market and organize the Richland County Rodeo Club. Their older brothers, Grady and Garrett, both are currently competing in college rodeo.

The support of Richland County for its rodeo club shows how they love to see them succeed, and having a local student win the hometown rodeo is just the icing on the cake!



Landry Larson running barrels at Montana High School State Rodeo Finals. (Photo by Dave Hollenbeck)



Landry Larson with her saddle certificate and buckle she won at the Sidney & Glendive High School Rodeos. (Photo by Kristin Larson)



Landry and her cousin Jori Horsburgh with their team roping buckles at Sidney Rodeo. (Photo by Joanna Horsburgh)

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Hope to see you in the Event Center at the Sidney, MT Fairgrounds on October 12th!

~Rick

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# REAL Montana Class VI Takes Part In Inaugural Seminar Sept. 19-21

Fairview resident Rob Breuer just returned from Bozeman as part of REAL Montana (Resource Education and Agriculture Leadership). For Breuer and other members of REAL Montana Class VI, this was the first of ten seminars in their two-year educational program.

Breuer said he was approached by his employer, AgWest Farm Credit Services, about applying for the class since others from the organization had done so and found it valuable. He agreed, with the goal of furthering his leadership skills and bringing them back to Eastern Montana to use in the community as well as in his career. He said the next seminar will be held in Billings where the class will focus on media training.

While in Bozeman, the class completed personality assessments, participated in a high ropes course, and received training on networking and building relationships. Class members participated in the first module in a series focused on fundamental competencies of growth mindset and professional etiquette with Scott Linklater. The class participated in an educational tour of Dry Hills Distillery focused on diversification and innovative ways to expand agriculture opportunities in an urban setting. Class members toured the Sales Ranch and Kimm Farms to discuss technology in agriculture and seed potato farming in the Gallatin Valley, and

challenges and opportunities involving generational transfer of farms and farming practices. A seminar highlighted the program alumni at a networking banquet at the MSU Bobcat Stadium, where alumnus shared their experience and lessons learned during their tenure with REAL Montana. The banquet was attended by REAL Montana alumni, industry leaders, and program sponsors.

Twenty of Montana's emerging and established leaders were competitively selected from a pool of qualified candidates representing a wide variety of agriculture and natural resource industries across the state to take part in Class VI of REAL Montana. REAL Montana builds a network of informed and engaged leaders to advance the natural resource industries in Montana. The two-year program features eight in-state seminars; a five-day national study tour in Washington D.C.; and a ten-day international trip. Seminars include training in natural resource development, agriculture institutions and agencies, public speaking/media, economics, state and federal policy, international trade, urban/rural relationships, water issues, and other current industry topics.

REAL Montana is funded through a partnership with Montana State University Extension and private industry Oversight is provided by an advisory board of industry leaders.

Complete program information is available at <http://www.montana.edu/real-montana> or by contacting Jaime Edmundson or Tara Becken, program co-directors at [REALmontana@montana.edu](mailto:REALmontana@montana.edu).



## REAL Montana Class VI Members

Back row (L to R): Tim McEntire, Pete Steilman, Greg Gabel, Nate Hagen. Third row (L to R): Colt Coffee, Bailey Christoffersen, Riley Slivka, Marla Chappell, Alice Miller. Second row (L to R): Debbie Skibicki, Tina Nolevanko, Rob Breuer, Wes Gadwa, Alexis Canen. First Row (L to R): Russ Batie, Sheridan Hoyer, Clint Johannes, Brad Lopez, Erin Madison, Tosha Johnson. (Photo submitted)

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# NDSU Soybean Iron Deficiency Chlorosis Scores Available

Producers can use soybean iron chlorosis scores to select soybean varieties for the 2025 season.



An iron chlorosis rating scale is used to evaluate IDC tolerance with 1 indicating no chlorosis and 5 indicating the most severe chlorosis. (NDSU photo)

## By NDSU Agriculture Communication

This year presented a significant challenge for soybean producers due to cool and wet conditions causing prolonged iron deficiency chlorosis (IDC) symptoms in North Dakota soybean fields, says Ana Carcedo, North Dakota State University Extension broadleaf crops agronomist.

NDSU conducts annual research on soybean varieties to determine their tolerance to IDC. This information is crucial for farmers who deal with IDC in their fields annually. Choosing soybean varieties less susceptible to IDC is the first step in addressing this issue, advises Carcedo.

According to Carrie Miranda, NDSU soybean breeder, “Soybean varieties exhibit genetic differences in their tolerance to IDC symptoms. Producers can use the NDSU data to choose an appropriate IDC-tolerant soybean variety for fields known to have IDC issues in the 2025 season. Selecting a soybean variety with IDC tolerance is an important management decision that can help producers minimize the negative impact of chlorosis on yield.”

In the summer of 2024, NDSU’s soybean breeding program evaluated 170

Enlist, GT27, Roundup Ready, and Xtend soybean varieties, along with 21 conventional varieties for IDC tolerance.

IDC symptoms include yellowing of plant leaves with green veins, as well as yellowing, browning, and stunted growth during the early stages, leading to reduced soybean yields. The test results are based on replicated trials conducted in a location with a history of IDC. Visual ratings were made on a 1 to 5 scale, with 1 indicating no chlorosis and 5 indicating the most severe chlorosis. Ratings were recorded at three different soybean growth stages.

The test results are available at <https://vt.ag.ndsu.edu/list/soy>. NDSU soybean variety trial yield data will also be published at this link.

While IDC tolerance is important, producers are advised to consider the yield potential and other important traits of soybean varieties. Varieties with similar IDC tolerance can differ significantly in their yield potential.

The North Dakota Soybean Council provided funding for the iron deficiency rating studies.

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## Klasna Farm Closes Out Harvest



**Kim Klasna delivering a harvest supper to Tim on combine cutting winter wheat. (Photo by Whitney Klasna)**

**By Katelyn Sponheim**

Tim Klasna and his son, Dylan, closed out another successful harvest this fall on their dryland farm 25 miles north-west of Lambert.

They raise wheat, oats, and triticale (a wheat/rye hybrid forage or grain crop) to feed the cattle portion of their operation. Oats can be purchased from Klasnas by the bag or truckload. They bale the straw from their winter wheat and oat fields to bed their cattle, and save some of the triticale seed to plant the following year. Their combination of crop rotations work well to keep soil nutrients and quality optimal as well as a way to control pests and disease. This year saw no major crop transitions or changes for Klasnas.

Each year presents its own growing challenges, and this year saw a lack of moisture and the extreme June heat negatively affect their harvest. Their spring wheat saw a lower yield, and over all the crop was short of expectations though adequate for their needs.

The Klasnas run a Hereford based herd of about 120 head with black and Red Angus influences. They have added a small group of Scottish Highland cattle as well. Dylan credits his wife, Whitney, for the Highland additions, and says they do surprisingly well in our heat despite their shaggy hides.

# Special Request - Survey of Kochia Herbicide Resistance In NE Montana

By Marley Manoukian Voll, Agent  
MSU Richland County Extension

This fall, 2024, the agricultural weed management group at Montana State University is conducting a survey of Kochia herbicide resistance in the northeastern corner of Montana. The objective of this study is to collect kochia seeds this fall and test them for herbicide resistance this winter. The study is seeking producers willing to participate in this screening. Do you have some fields with kochia populations? Would you like those kochia seeds tested for resistance? If so, you can get your name on the list by calling the Richland County Extension Office at 406-433-1206. By signing up for this screening, the crew from MSU will reach out to you and stop by your place and collect the seeds later in September. The focus area for this study is the areas north of Sidney to the Canadian border and west to Glasgow.

## Background

Kochia (*Bassia scoparia*) is one of the most problematic weeds in Montana's cropping systems. Management is complicated by the evolution of resistance to herbicide in many populations across Montana. Kochia herbicide resistance has been documented in Montana since the 1980s, especially in the northern and eastern parts of the state. We will test and screen them for herbicide resistance to develop a better picture of resistance in Montana.

## What to Expect

We aim to collect seed primarily from crop fields (all row crops, wheat, barley, pulses) and non-crop fields (examples include roadsides, shelter belts, and fallow). In September we are most likely to find plants with seeds in fallow.

We need mature kochia seeds that are brown to blackish in color. Seed should have matured in the field. We need some information about the population:

1. Location (we prefer GPS coordinates), but descriptions that help define the location will be accepted.
2. Crop rotation history for the last three years, and herbicide information.
3. Contact information (if you would like to hear about the results), name, and email are most important.

In the fall of 2024, we will grow plants from seed in the greenhouse and then spray them with herbicides, focusing on important active ingredients for Montana's crop production.

Please contact Tim Seipel, Assistant Professor, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT at [timothy.seipel@montana.edu](mailto:timothy.seipel@montana.edu); 406-994-4783, or your local extension office in Richland County; 406-433-1206.



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# Forage Testing & Hay Prices

By Marley Voll, MSU Richland County Extension

A question we commonly get here in the Extension Office is, "What is hay worth?" The answer to this question usually is, it depends. The price of hay depends on multiple factors including cost of production and quality.

Hay quality varies based on management, storage, and type of hay. Different forage types will be higher in protein or energy, and this greater quality is worth more than other forage that is low in protein or energy. Hay high in nitrates would be worth less than hay that is not. These quality factors can only be determined by having a forage analysis done at a lab. Here at the Extension Office, we have a hay probe for you to check out and use and we can give recommendations on how to get the best sample. We will also help you select a lab test and interpret the results when you get the analysis back. Whether you are selling or buying hay, it is best practice to understand the quality before doing so.

If you are selling hay, it is necessary to know your cost of production. This includes your rental and irrigation costs, if any, fertilizer, fuel, and cost of running your swather, rake and baler, etc. If it costs you \$25,000 to put up 200 tons of hay, your cost of production is \$125/ton. As a producer, you'd need to set your price higher than \$125/ton in order to profit.

Whether you are buying or selling hay, it is also best practice to know how much your bales weigh. Hay is typically sold on a per ton basis, and this is the only way to fairly compare costs of different hays, whether you're looking to buy or looking to set a price to sell. Bale weights can differ dramatically between different balers (bale size and pressure), forage moisture content, and between forage types.

The Richland County Extension Office is always available to assist you in forage testing or determining hay prices. Knowing hay quality, cost of production, and bale weight will help set or determine the value of the hay you are buying or selling. Contact the office for more information, 406-433-1206.



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## Brorson Farmhands Tour Veterans Park

Brorson Farmhands 4-H Club Toured Veterans Park Flag of Honor Room In Sidney Sept. 8.

Front row (L to R): Ronin Johnson, Jack Milton, and Jack Albin. Second row (L to R): Margaret Bradley, Adalyn Johnson, Andrea Hoesel, Mollie Albin, and Clara Albin. Third Row (L to R): Shelby Reese, Kamden Johnson, Fletcher Johnson, and Braylin Johnson. Back Row (L to R): Myli Josephson, Collin Milton, Lincoln Milton, and Violet Tharp. (Photo submitted)

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# Biebers Expand With Texas Red Ag Services

By Dianne Swanson

Jeff Bieber, Fairview, is a life-long farmer and has been a seed dealer most of his adult life. His son, Justin, joined him in the business in 2015 when they added Pioneer corn, soybean, canola, sunflowers and forage products to their seed line. In 2022 he also brought in Westbred spring and winter wheat seeds.

Now the duo is expanding even further with the creation of Texas Red Ag Services in an effort to better serve their customers. With a commercial seed treater, additional sales agent, new products, new partners, and a corn grain drier, Texas Red Ag Services is positioned to help your farm from the bag to the bin.

Parker Westgard will cover the northern region from the Canadian border south and from Malta to Crosby. Westgard, who is from Westby, brings a lot of knowledge and experience. Jeff said Westgard, who has an ag-based degree and previously worked for a co-op, has more experience with crops such as canola which is fairly widely grown in that area. Texas Red Ag Services will be offering a new Pioneer canola seed which is priced competitively and has excellent production and shatter resistance. "Field tests show that it's as good or better than any product on the market," Jeff stated.

Texas Red Ag Services added a commercial seed treater last spring to treat spring wheat, soybeans, peas and lentils. "We learned a lot last spring. The treater has given us the opportunity to work with some great products and people; TerraMax inoculant, Lumovia and the rest of the Bayer and Corteva seed treatment portfolio. Having seed treating experts from Pioneer and Westbred a phone call away helped us get up to speed right away," Justin said.

In addition to seed treatment, Texas Red Ag Services has access to crop



Texas Red Ag Services has a corn dryer available this fall for custom drying to help customers get the crop out of the field. (Photo submitted)

protection products including insecticides, herbicides and fungicides. "We have partnered with additional Pioneer agencies which helps us offer hard to get products at very competitive pricing," Jeff said.

Partnering with Brandt Nutrition gives Texas Red Ag Services access to a wide range of products from EnzUP to Smart Trio. EnzUP is zinc chelate that can be added to any liquid starter and Smart Trio is a mix of nitrogen, sulfur, boron, manganese and zinc to add in with your herbicide pass to make sure your corn has the essential nutrients it needs.

A corn dryer is also available this fall for custom drying to help customers get the crop out of the field and help maximize the short growing season.

Texas Red Ag Services is running a number of trials including in-furrow treatments, population and fertility treatments this year. To find out the results, or see some of the trials for yourself, reach out to them to set up a meeting, or follow along on Facebook at Texas Red Ag Services.

The team at Texas Red Ag Services would like to wish everyone a safe and successful harvest and thank their customers for allowing them to be a part of their operation.

Contact Jeff at 406-489-3452, Justin at 406-489-2188 or Parker at 406-385-7006.

## Montana 4-H Enrolling New Members, Seeking Volunteers

From the MSU News Service

BOZEMAN — Youth across Montana who would like to enroll in Montana 4-H are invited to do so during October.

Montana 4-H is the youth development program of Montana State University Extension. It offers a range of choices and opportunities for youth to learn and grow, such as learning how to bake, knit and raise an animal, or learning about beekeeping, photography and robotics. In all, Montana 4-H offers more than 200 different projects and experiences that engage youth in learning. Montana 4-H is the largest out-of-school youth development program in the state, reaching nearly 14,000 youth in all 56 counties and seven reservations each year.

According to a statewide needs assessment conducted by MSU Extension in 2022, developing youth life skills and career readiness are important issues for Montanans.

"4-H has helped me learn new skills and build new connections to empower my future," said Bonnie Radke, Gallatin County 4-H member.

In general, individuals aged 8 to 18 are eligible to participate in Montana 4-H. Some counties also offer a program known as Cloverbuds for children ages 5 to 8.

The cost to join varies by county; in many counties in Montana, it is about \$20. More information is available at [montana.edu/extension/4h/join/index.html](http://montana.edu/extension/4h/join/index.html).

Montana 4-H is also now seeking adult volunteers to work with 4-H youth. The program relies on volunteers to provide hands-on expertise in educational project areas such as art, agriculture, food and nutrition, rocketry, weed science, public speaking and more. Volunteers guide youth as they learn, help them engage in community service, and build a safe environment for youth.

"Safe, caring, knowledgeable adults set the stage for ensuring a positive environment where youth can learn, thrive and develop valuable life and work readiness skills," said Teri Antilley, 4-H Center for Youth Development director.

Youth and adults interested in joining or volunteering for Montana 4-H are invited to contact their local MSU Extension office. For more information about Montana 4-H, visit [montana.edu/4h](http://montana.edu/4h).

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Wed, Oct 23rd .....	All Class Cattle Sale & Feeder Calf Special Featuring Red Angus 8am
Sat, Oct 26th.....	Weigh Ups & Bred Cow Special <b>Only</b> 8am
Wed, Oct 30th...	Feeder Calf Special <b>Only</b> Featuring Black Angus 8am -- NO WEIGH UPS
Sat, Nov 2nd .....	Weigh Ups & Bred Cow Special 8am
Wed, Nov 6th.....	Feeder Calf Special <b>Only</b> 8am
Sat, Nov 9th.....	Weigh Ups & Bred Cow Special 8am
Wed, Nov 13th.....	Feeder Calf Special <b>Only</b> 8am
Sat, Nov 16th.....	Weigh Ups & Bred Cow Special 8am
Wed, Nov 20th.....	Feeder Calf Special <b>Only</b> 8am
Sat, Nov 23rd.....	Weigh Ups & Thanksgiving Bred Cow Special 8am
Wed, Nov 27th.....	NO SALE
Sat, Nov 30th.....	NO SALE
Wed, Dec 4th.....	Feeder Calf Special <b>Only</b> 8am
Sat, Dec 7th.....	Weigh Ups <b>Only</b> 8am
Wed, Dec 11th.....	Feeder Calf Special <b>Only</b> 8am
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