

- | Celebrating the International Year of Women in Ag
- | Conrad Store Construction Progress Update
- | College Scholarship Winners Announced
- | Customer Events Around the Co-op



PERSPECTIVES



**SPRING
2026**

TOGETHER EQUALS RESULTS THAT MATTER.



A Mountain View spreader truck prepares to apply fertilizer on a freshly burned field in the Fairfield area. While this is far from a typical application, it reflects the lengths we'll go to give our farmers the best possible chance for success.

PERSPECTIVES

A Mountain View Co-op Publication

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MOUNTAIN VIEW CO-OP AND THE 2026 MONTANA FFA STATE CONVENTION

Mountain View Co-op was proud to support Montana FFA's 96th Annual State Convention, held March 31 through April 4 in Great Falls. The event brought together nearly 2,200 members and guests from across the state for several days of competition, leadership development, and connection.

Mountain View's Communications Manager, Brent Grassman, ran the co-op's booth and connected with the students throughout the week. **"Mountain View has always been committed to supporting Montana's farmers and ranchers, and that includes the next generation as well,"** Grassman said. "FFA convention days are long and demanding for the kids. They have competitions, presentations, elections, and high expectations. We tried to provide a welcoming, upbeat space where students could take a breather, feel appreciated, and learn more about opportunities available to them, like our Jr. Livestock Program, which offers discounts on feed and supplies to kids involved in animal projects. It's a lot of fun."

Mountain View Co-op is honored to be part of an event that celebrates hard work, leadership, and the future of Montana ag.





2026 MOUNTAIN VIEW CO-OP COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Mountain View Co-op recently awarded 11 deserving high school seniors with \$1,000 scholarships to help further their academic journeys. We're proud to support these students as they take the next step toward their futures, and even prouder of all they've accomplished to get here. We can't wait to see what they do next.



Slater Lords, Great Falls
U of M Western, Farm & Ranch Management



Millicent Floyd, Dutton
U of M Western, Secondary Education



Eli Arganbright, Carter
MSU, Ag Business & Precision Ag



Ayden DeBruycker, Fairfield
MSU, Veterinary Medicine



Grace Toeckes, Power
U of M Western, Elementary Education



Kameron Myllymaki, Stanford
Rocky Mountain College, Business



Parker Hansen, Gildford
Rocky Mountain College, Ag Business



Trey Rasmussen, White Sulphur Springs
Univ of Wyoming, Business



Reed Von Stein, Cascade
MSU, Ag Education and Communication

(Not pictured, but still winners: Dirk Wolery, Rudyard; Waverly Konen, Fairfield)

SOIL SAMPLING

HOW WE DO IT, AND WHY IT MATTERS

Strong crops begin with a deep understanding of the soil they'll grow in. That's why soil sampling plays such an important part in building an effective nutrient plan. The process, obviously, starts right in the field. Because nutrient levels can vary across the landscape, multiple samples are taken across each field to create an accurate picture of what the soil truly needs.

Soil is collected using a hollow probe that pushes into the ground and captures a core sample inside. One of Mountain View Co-op's sampling trucks even **has the equipment built directly into the cab.** This allows the operator to collect samples without even stepping outside. After enough soil has been collected, the samples are placed into labeled bags and shipped to Agvise Laboratories in North Dakota for analysis. When the results return, agronomists begin developing a nutrient management plan tailored specifically for what each field needs.

According to Agronomy Operations Manager Kris Smelser, **"Soil sample results let you know where you stand** so you can come up with a good nutrient plan. It will tell you what the ground needs, and where."



This sampling truck currently has 285,000 miles on it, and according to our team, is "just getting broken in."



This truck has a sampling tool built right into the cab.



Here's the probe that gets pushed into the soil to grab a sample.



Small bags are filled up with the samples and sent to the lab.

SPRING AGRONOMY UPDATE


BY NATE FAIRBANKS, MOUNTAIN VIEW AGRONOMY MANAGER

As we roll into spring, we're keeping a close eye on input markets and making sure **we have the product you need on hand and in place when you need it.** The good news is we're looking to be in good shape on supply for the season, in both fertilizer and crop protection products. Pricing has been steadier than the big swings we've all seen lately, though that could still change with global economics and in-season demand. If you haven't already, now is a good time to confirm what you'll need for spring applications and make sure your herbicide program fits your acres and rotations. If you want a second set of eyes on product selection, rates, tank-mix partners, or timing, our agronomy team will be happy to visit.

Crop conditions in the area are varying quite a bit field to field. We are seeing winter wheat that took some frost damage and is also showing stress from a lack of moisture. As we move through the next few weeks, pay attention to recovery and uniformity. Look for areas that are slow to green up, thin stands, and spots where plants are struggling on exposed ridges or lighter ground. This is also a good time to visit with our agronomy team about stress management options and realistic expectations, including how timing of herbicide application and conditions can help (or hurt) a stressed crop. On the pest side, keep an eye out for weed flushes as temperatures warm. **Staying timely on weed control and choosing the right herbicides and modes of action for your operation will pay dividends all season.**

We're also excited to **share progress on our new Fort Benton facility.** This site represents a major investment, and our members and patrons will benefit from more space, improved traffic flow, and updated systems that are designed to move product faster and more accurately. In practical terms, that means **shorter wait times during peak season, better in-yard safety, and more consistent service** when everyone is trying to get the same work done at once. The new facility is on track to open this fall, and we're targeting an October 1st start date. We'll share more details as we get closer, and we're confident this expansion will help us serve you more efficiently for years to come.

As always, **thank you for your business and for supporting your local cooperative.** We wish everyone a safe season and the very best for the crop year ahead. If there's anything we can do to help, from product selection, herbicide decisions, application timing, scouting, or just a second opinion please give us a call. **We're here when you need us.**



Mountain View's **Larry Geyer and Mark Menard** prepare a load of fertilizer to help crops thrive across the Havre area.

Picture by Havre location manager **Don Soper.**



The United Nations has declared 2026 the

International Year of the Woman Farmer

to recognize the critical role women play in agriculture and global food security. Across Montana and beyond, **women play a crucial role** in running the farms, ranches, businesses, and agricultural organizations that keep the world fed and rural communities strong.

Few people embody that commitment more than **Montana Farm Bureau President Cyndi Johnson.**

Johnson has spent decades advocating for agriculture, rural communities, and the future of family farms. We recently sat down with her to talk about leadership, the challenges facing agriculture today, and the importance of preparing the next generation to carry the industry forward.

Cyndi Johnson didn't set out to become a leader in agriculture and rural policy. She simply grew up in a life where responsibility came early and hard work was expected. Raised on a ranch between Broadus and the Wyoming border, Cyndi learned early what responsibility looked like. Surrounded by three brothers, she quickly discovered that keeping up wasn't optional. Neither was leadership.

"I was the only girl," she says with a laugh. "Somebody had to be in charge."

What began as ranch chores and long days alongside her family eventually grew into a lifetime of service that has helped shape agriculture, rural communities, and public policy across Montana.

Cyndi remembers growing up believing her family operated a "big farm", that is, until she moved to North Central Montana and saw agriculture on an entirely different scale. Rather than intimidating her, the experience broadened her perspective. Agriculture, she realized, required resilience, adaptability, and people willing to step up for their communities.

Much of that mindset came from her father, whom Cyndi still considers **her greatest role model**. "I watched him make hard decisions as county commissioner that made the community better, even when he knew it would cost him elections," she says. "He had high expectations for me."

Those lessons have stayed with her throughout her career. Over the years, Cyndi stepped into leadership roles many people would hesitate to accept. She served 12 years as secretary of the Montana Republican Party, another 12 years as county commissioner, became president of the Montana Association of Counties, served on the National Association of Counties Board of Directors, and now helps guide economic development efforts across five Montana counties through Sweetgrass Development.





She also became deeply involved with Farm Bureau, eventually running for (and winning) the vice-president position in 2016 and serving on the Farm Bureau Financial Services Board. Despite the long résumé, Cyndi doesn't talk about leadership in terms of status or recognition. Instead, **she sees leadership as a responsibility to serve others well.**

"You can't bring a personal agenda," she says. "Your role is fiduciary. You're there to make good policy decisions. Be member oriented, and remember that everything you do represents not only you personally but all of your members. And sometimes, **those decisions will impact not only members, but everyone in agriculture.**"

That philosophy has made Cyndi a respected advocate for agriculture at a time when family farms and ranches face mounting pressure from rising input costs, labor shortages, consolidation, and the growing cost of tech and innovation.

"The technology today is incredible, but a lot of producers can't afford it anymore. We want to do what's right for the land and for production, but survival gets harder every year."

Even with those challenges, **she remains optimistic about the future of agriculture**, especially when it comes to the next generation. On their family farm, Cyndi and her husband Ken have made a conscious effort to allow younger family members to step into leadership and decision-making roles. "If they don't make decisions now, they won't learn," she says. "You have to give the next generation the benefit of the doubt."

Cyndi has also watched more women step into leadership roles across agriculture than ever before. Nearly half of the Montana Farm Bureau board is now female, something she says would be unimaginable in other parts of the country. **But in Montana agriculture, she believes respect is earned differently.** "It's not about gender here," she says. **"If you can do the work, you can do the work."**

That attitude has helped Cyndi navigate rooms where she was sometimes underestimated. Still, she never allowed doubt from others to define her. "I'm a pretty convincing debater," she says with a grin. "Once people give me an opportunity, they understand."

Her approach isn't built on ego or confrontation. Instead, she leans on humor, collaboration, and consensus-building. **"We can't afford bad relationships,"** she says. "We're all working toward the same goals." Cyndi has earned a reputation as someone who can advocate strongly while still building trust and respect across the table.

But perhaps what makes her most proud has little to do with titles or boardrooms.

"With Ken's help, we've raised some kick-ass kids," she says proudly. "They're not afraid to lead, volunteer, or make a difference."

For Cyndi, that may be the true measure of success: helping build a generation that's willing to carry rural communities and agriculture forward. After all, she knows **if there's work to do, you just do it.**

GRAIN MARKET UPDATE

The wheat markets have moved significantly higher over the past two months as growing concerns about crop conditions continue to impact both domestic and global supplies.

Across the U.S. Plains late cold snaps and ongoing drought conditions have caused winter wheat conditions to deteriorate sharply. According to the latest USDA Crop Progress report, **only 27% of the U.S. winter wheat crop is currently rated Good to Excellent**, compared to 52% at the same time last year.

The USDA's May WASDE Report confirmed substantial crop damage throughout the Hard Red Winter wheat region and included sizable production cuts across all wheat classes. As a result, U.S. wheat ending stocks for the 2026/27 marketing year are now projected at 762 million bushels, **which is down 18% from the previous year. Globally, wheat production and ending stocks are also expected to decline compared to 2025/26 levels.**

These tightening supplies have helped support stronger wheat prices. **Cash bids for new crop winter wheat have recently ranged from approximately \$6.30 to \$6.50**, presenting an opportunity for producers to consider locking in some new crop bushels ahead of harvest.

Looking ahead, Kansas City and Minneapolis **wheat futures for the 2027/28 crop year are currently trading above \$7.00**. With the recent strength in the market, this may also be a good time for growers to sell a portion of next year's crop.

As always, our team is available to discuss marketing strategies and help producers navigate current market conditions.

A final note: The Collins Grain Elevator will have a pre-harvest marketing meeting on July 1st. Be on the lookout for more details on this in the near future, and we hope you can attend.

Graham Grubb
Mountain View Co-op Grain





Spot the Imposter

Each of the twelve categories below has two real items and one that's fake.

Can you spot the imposter?

Wheat Types

- A. Hard Red Winter
- B. Durum
- C. Pluribus

Wheat Seeds

- A. Keldin
- B. C3PO
- C. CP3201AX

Fertilizers

- A. Phosphate
- B. Aspartame
- C. Urea Nitrogen

Crop Protection Chemicals

- A. Cremator
- B. Trump Card
- C. Spartan Charge

Pulse Crops

- A. Green Peas
- B. Green Honeycombs
- C. Green Lentils

Towns With a MVC Location

- A. Lincoln
- B. White Sulphur Springs
- C. Shelby

Hot Breakfast Foods in Black Eagle

- A. Stuffed Sausage Waffles
- B. Frosted Griddle Bites
- C. Sausage Egg Tornados

Candy Brands at MVC

- A. Fizzlebricks
- B. Hello Panda Strawberry
- C. Idaho Spud Bites

Items We Sell In Conrad

- A. Ammunition
- B. Lawn Tractor Tires
- C. Dental Supplies

Safety Terms

- A. Lock out
- B. Tap out
- C. Tag out

Fuels MVC Delivers

- A. Dyed Diesel
- B. Propane
- C. Weapons Grade Uranium

Our Foundation Has Helped Buy

- A. SCBA Air Tanks
- B. Car Extrication Tools
- C. Louis Vuitton Fire Gear

The imposters are: Pluribus, C3PO, Aspartame, Cremator, Green Honeycombs, Shelby, Frosted Griddle Bites, Fizzlebricks, Dental Supplies, Tap Out, Weapons Grade Uranium, and Louis Vuitton Fire Gear.

CONRAD FARM STORE MANAGER **JEREMY KULPAS** TALKS ABOUT HIS STORE RENOVATION

ARE WE ON SCHEDULE?

“Our original schedule was pretty aggressive, so we’re behind that, but still on a good pace. Some days it might seem like there’s no light at the end of the tunnel, but then a flurry of activity will happen and you’ll realize that the end is closer than you think. A crew just came in and put up drywall on all of the interior walls, and that has **completely transformed the inside of the store**. It looks a lot closer to done. It’s always awesome to see those big leaps.”

WHAT’S THE BEST PART OF THE PROJECT?

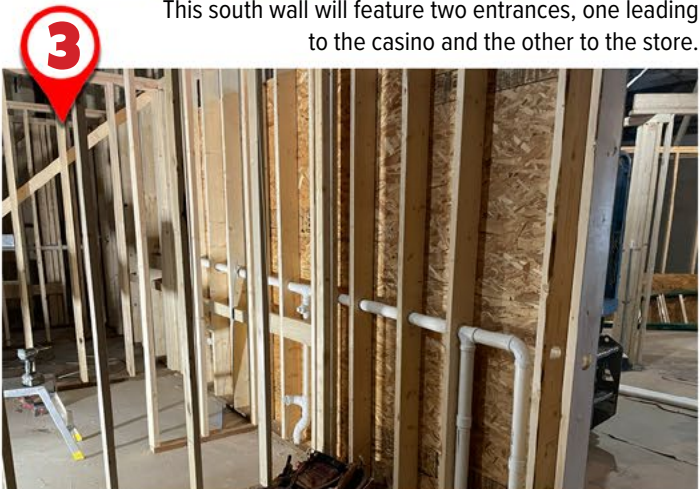
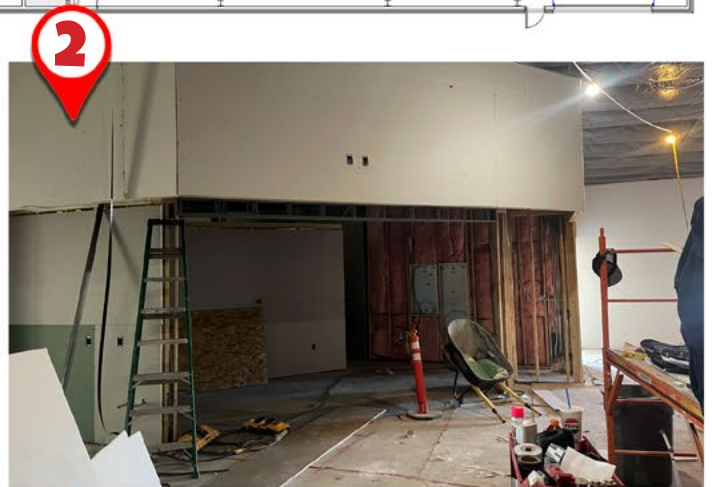
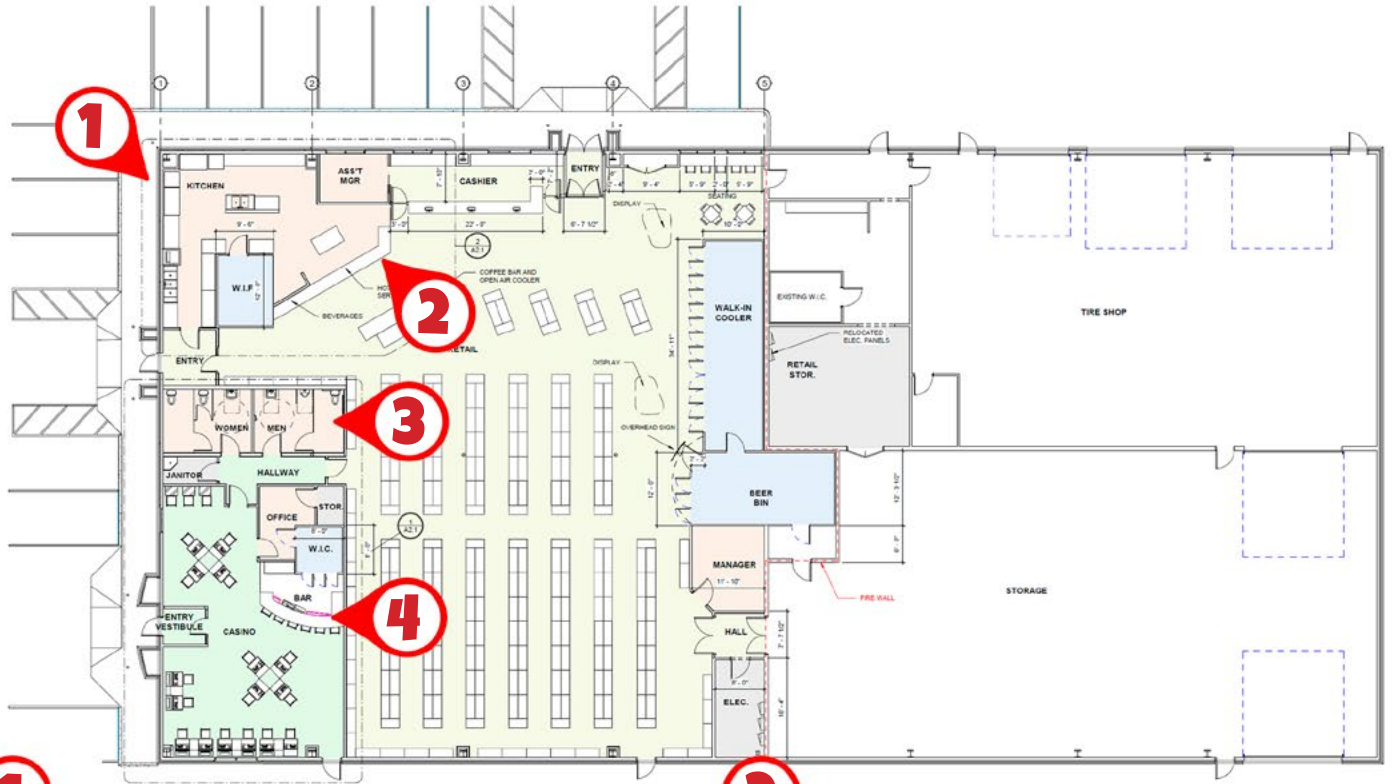
“We’re really fortunate to have **great teams working on this project**. I’ve been involved in quite a few construction projects, and I even worked in construction when I was much younger, and I think this is the best group of people I’ve ever worked with. They’re all great people. They’re happy to be here, they’re super easy to work with, and their craftsmanship speaks for itself.”

The finished store is going to be amazing, and I **can’t wait for people to see it!**”



HOW IT ALL FITS TOGETHER IN CONRAD

Construction photos are nice, but they don't really show the full picture of what's taking shape. Take a look at where each photo was taken and map it back to the blueprints to see how it all fits together.



This south wall will feature two entrances, one leading to the casino and the other to the store.

The kitchen and hot food service area is set at a 45 degree angle to give us great foot traffic flow.

You're looking straight through the restrooms as construction continues. Trust me, we'll have walls around them!

This is the beginning of the frame for our curved bar, just like we have in our South Black Eagle casino.

MONTANA SNAPSHOTS



Team members Kim Reeve, Jamie Wakkinen, and Hailey May stand behind their new countertop. These three led a great renovation project in Dutton and really made the place shine!



You never know what you're going to get to do when you come to our Ulm customer appreciation day!



A spring storm rolls over the Fairfield Bench.

FUEL PRICES ARE UP.

IS THERE ANY HOPE FOR RELIEF?

It's no secret that gas and diesel prices have climbed sharply over the past few months. Much of that increase can be traced back to the conflict involving Iran and the resulting disruption to global shipping and trade through the Strait of Hormuz, which is one of the world's most important oil transit routes.

As uncertainty has grown overseas, crude oil prices have surged from around \$50 per barrel to more than \$100 in a relatively short amount of time. That increase eventually works its way down the line, impacting everything from transportation costs to the price at the pump.

What makes the situation especially frustrating is that the United States produces more than enough oil to meet domestic demand. However, oil is part of a global market, and when worldwide prices rise, producers can often receive higher returns by exporting product abroad. That tighter supply here at home contributes to higher fuel prices for all of us.

So what happens next? That's the question everyone is asking.

If tensions ease and shipping through the Strait of Hormuz returns to normal, we could see some relief in fuel prices. At the same time, we're entering the peak summer driving and fuel demand season, when prices have historically tended to rise.

For now, the market remains uncertain, and we'll continue watching closely to see what comes next.

Ralph Floyd
Bulk Fuel Manager



WANT TO PLAY FOR THE HOME TEAM? START YOUR CAREER WITH MOUNTAIN VIEW CO-OP!



WE'RE A TEAM OF ABOUT 250 PEOPLE, and we're always looking for the next great hire. Here are a few of the great opportunities we have right here in Central Montana. Get the details and apply at www.mvc.ag/careers/

- 1. Agronomy Driver, Havre**
- 2. Store Clerk, Conrad**
- 3. Grain Laborer, Collins**
- 4. Agronomy Driver, Fort Benton**

- 5. Tire Technician, Power**
- 6. Feed Store Clerk, Black Eagle**
- 7. Assistant Manager, Ulm**
- 8. Tire Technician, Fairfield**

- 9. LP Service Tech, Lincoln**
- 10. Store Clerk, Helena**
- 11. Energy Driver, White Sulphur**

MOUNTAIN VIEW FEED TEAM HOSTS CATTLE HEALTH MEETING FOR LOCAL RANCHERS

Madison Schumacher and the Mountain View feed store team recently **welcomed nearly 80 local cattle ranchers** to the Shonkin Event Center in Great Falls for an educational evening that focused on improving hoof health and overall cattle performance.

The event featured two guest speakers from Zinpro, Dr. Jeff Weyers and Jon Scofield. **Both shared insights on the importance of hoof health in maintaining productive, healthy cattle herds.** Scofield focused on practical management strategies ranchers can implement right away, which included thoughts on how different surfaces can impact hoof health. As an example he spoke about how broken or grooved concrete can be a tripping hazard for cows, and the damage those trips can do to the cattle's hooves. He also covered how reducing sharp turns and reducing the cattle's speed will help minimize stress and injury.

Dr. Weyers emphasized the role **proper nutrition plays in building healthier cattle from the ground up,** highlighting how balanced nutrition and minerals support hoof strength, mobility, recovery, and long-term performance.

Following the presentation, attendees enjoyed a prime rib dinner and time to visit with fellow producers and industry partners. At the end of the night, feed store manager Schumacher closed by saying, "I grew up in a family that raised cattle, and we still do. **We care so much about our animals, and I know everyone here tonight does too.** I'm proud to be part of a team that works so hard to keep them happy and healthy. I want to thank all everyone for attending tonight, and also **for the hard work you do each and every day.**"





*Black Eagle Feed Store Manager
Madison Schumacher*

Jon Scofield of Zinpro

Dr. Jeff Weyers of Zinpro

*Our speakers brought an extensive
collection of cow's feet to show.*



**The sun rises behind the Mountain View's
Collins grain elevator on a beautiful spring day.**

Picture by Jack Patton

