

# RANCHMT NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021



## **In this quarter's newsletter:**

- Project update**
- Implementation Timeline**
- Class objectives**
- Statewide events**

# Project Update

I hope this newsletter finds you well—despite the droughty conditions we are all experiencing. As my time as the RanchMT Project Manager is coming to a close, I have found myself looking back at all the progress we have made in the last year, and while we have had a few set backs and lots of changes, it's pretty impressive how much we have accomplished! RanchMT started from one conversation and has since grown into a program where we have over 100 individuals supporting and helping get this program up and running. The support RanchMT has received has been amazing and we are truly grateful.

These last couple of months we have been busy developing our program timeline, implementation plan, writing grant reports, and planning future events. We also recently better defined the objectives for the RanchMT course. Check them out on page 5 of this newsletter!

The biggest news we have to share is that Winnett ACES will be hosting *Winnett ACES Rancher Resource Seminar Series* during the years that RanchMT is securing housing and funding. This seminar series will be a 2-year series in Winnett with the focus being on Winnett ACES members, but workshops/classes will be open to anyone who wants to attend! Winnett ACES's new Education and Outreach Coordinator will be in charge of coordinating and finalizing all details relating to these workshops and classes. Instructors for classes will be local and regional experts, NRCS personnel, and MSU Extension professionals. Class attendees will pay a small fee for each workshop that they attend. At the end of the two-year course of workshops, we hope to offer class participants the opportunity to join a weeklong out-of-state trip. This trip will either explore the post-weaning side of the cattle industry or provide participants the opportunity to gain an urbanized perspective of agriculture in a large city and meet with congressional representatives.

Some dates to note:

Winnett ACES is holding their All ACES meeting Monday, July 26, in Winnett. The guest for the month is the MSU Ranching Systems Team. The goals for this meeting is to: 1). provide an introduction of the RanchCasts Team Members and their various areas of expertise, 2). Introduce the concept of the Ranch Cats team approach and explore future opportunities to provide team-based education 3). Hear from ACES about their educational needs. This meeting is open to anyone and we encourage you to come. It is a potluck!

MSU Dan Scott Ranch Management Program, Winnett ACES, and RanchMT have been working together to host a Rancher Resource Network Educational Summit. This summit will be held Tuesday, August 17 at 9am at the Eagles Club in Lewistown. The purpose of this event is to introduce partners to respective programs; create a landscape map of current offerings; identify gaps in programming or opportunities to improve program delivery; and discuss potential for partnership in programming. If you would like more information, reach out to me, Rachel Frost, or Laura Nowlin.



# Project Update (continued)

The Final RanchMT Project Presentation to all our Project Partners and interested individuals will be held during the noon hour of the Rancher Resource Network Educational Summit Tuesday, August 17 at the Eagles Club in Lewistown. We will go over this last year's progress, the program's timeline, and our implementation plan. We hope all of our Project Partners can attend this presentation to learn more about the program and stay up-to-date with its progress. There will be a free lunch to all who attend! Just be sure to RSVP by August 9 so we are sure to have enough food. There will be a virtual option as well.

While my position concludes in August, Winnett ACES, the RanchMT Advisory Committee, and MSU Dan Scott Ranch Management Program will continue work on the project to be sure it comes to fruition. While program updates will not be shared as often over the next couple of years, know that work on RanchMT is still being done. If you have questions about RanchMT starting in September, please reach out to Winnett ACES—Laura Nowlin at [info@winnettaces.com](mailto:info@winnettaces.com) or MSU Dan Scott Ranch Management Program—Rachel Frost at [frost@montana.edu](mailto:frost@montana.edu). Our [beefmt@gmail.com](mailto:beefmt@gmail.com) will still be active.

For now if you have any questions or would like to RSVP for any of our upcoming events, reach out to me at anytime!

*Tienna Canen*

BeefMT Project Manager

(406) 941-2738

[beefmt@gmail.com](mailto:beefmt@gmail.com)

  
E. Brush Photography



# Proposed Implementation Timeline

**Our steering committee has been busy working on the proposed timeline for the future of the RanchMT program. Here is our projected timeline moving forward.**

**August 16, 2021** – Final RanchMT Project Presentation to ACES and PCCD boards

**August 17, 2021** – Final RanchMT Project Presentation to Project Partners during Rancher Resource Network Educational Summit

**August 31, 2021** – Planning Gant concludes

**September 2021-September 2022**—ACES to plan and coordinate a 2-year Seminar Series

**October 2022-October 2024** – ACES to run *Winnett ACES Rancher Resource Seminar Series*

**October 2023** – Identify housing of the RanchMT program

**March 2024** – Project Partner Letters of Intent due

**2023 and 2024** – Apply for grant funding

**September 2024** – Advertise RanchMT Coordinator position

**November 2024** – Hire RanchMT Coordinator

**January 2025** – Start advertising for class #1

**January-October 2025** – Work on class logistics

**September 2025**—Applications due for class #1

**October 2025** – Start class #1

**October 2027** – Start class #2



# Outcomes of the Class

*"Providing beginning Montana ranchers with knowledge, resources and a professional network to help make decisions that further their ecological, economic, and social sustainability."*

Understand the need for continuing agriculture education and develop a strategy to do this through other programs and resources.

Establish a strong support network in the cattle industry, and work to foster those friendships and business relationships.

Critically evaluate the current financial status of their operation and conduct an enterprise analysis with the goal of defining strategies to maximize sustainable profitability.

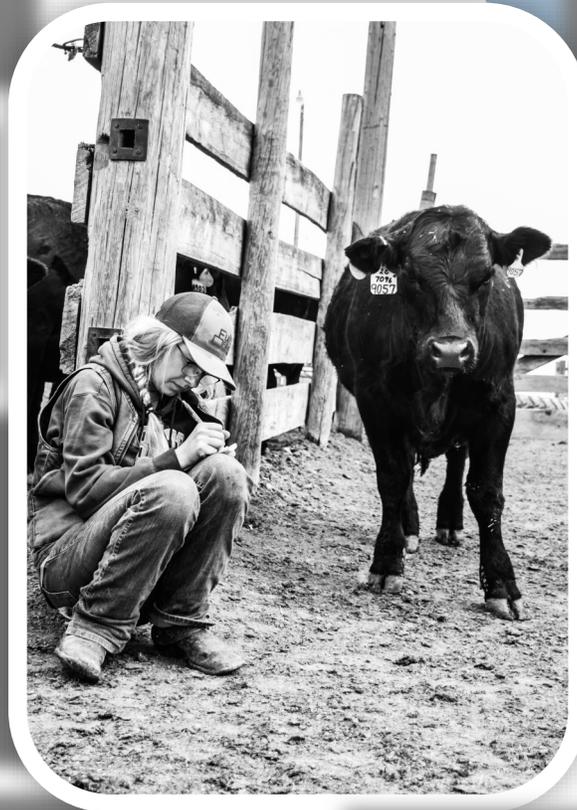
Design and implement a grazing and natural resource plan for their operation.

Comprehend the full spectrum of the cattle industry from gestation to consumption and describe the contributions of their operation to the industry or process.

Develop ranch goals, and create a marketing and business plan specific to their operation.

Recognize and evaluate ways to balance work, business, and relationships, to promote personal and family well-being.

Possess the knowledge and tools to develop a working transition plan to ensure younger generations have the opportunity to move back to the ranch.



Identify and evaluate options to increase flexibility and provide a cushion in volatile markets.

Demonstrate the necessary skills in leadership and volunteerism to be stronger contributors to their community and serve effectively on local, state and national boards that align with their skillset and interests.

Assemble and utilize a functioning off-ranch management team; including professionals in legal, accounting and financial planning, estate management, conservation and land management, and experts in livestock health and production.

# RanchMT

## Project Presentation

All RanchMT Project Partners and any interested individuals are encouraged to attend!

Lunch is provided to all who attend!

**When: Tuesday, August 17 at 12pm**

**Where: Eagles Club in Lewistown**

The Final RanchMT Project Presentation will be given during the noon hour of the Rancher Resource Network Educational Summit hosted by the MSU Dan Scott Ranch Management Program, Winnett ACES, and RanchMT.

The presentation will summarize this 1-year planning project, including the implementation plan and timeline for moving forward with RanchMT. This is a great opportunity to discuss ways you can be involved in RanchMT! We hope most of our project partners will be able to attend this to learn more about the program and stay up-to-date with our plans and progress.

Please RSVP to Tienna Canen by August 9th at (406) 941-2738 or [beefmt@gmail.com](mailto:beefmt@gmail.com)



# Rancher Resource Network

## Educational Summit

Hosted by MSU Dan Scott Ranch Management Program, Winnett ACES, and RanchMT

**When: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 9am**

**Where: Eagles Club, Lewistown Montana with a virtual option**

Free to all attendees with a lunch included!

RSVP's required by August 9th to Tienna Canen at (406) 941-2738 or [beefmt@gmail.com](mailto:beefmt@gmail.com)

**Purpose of Summit:** *Introduce partners to respective programs; create a landscape map of current offerings; identify gaps in programming or opportunities to improve program delivery; and discuss potential for partnership in programming.*

### **Agenda**

9am - Welcome

9:15am - Individual partner presentations (not to exceed 20 minutes with questions) on their ranch education programs

12pm - Lunch (provided)

12:15pm - RanchMT final Project Presentation

1pm - Facilitated Session

- Summarize the educational offerings into categories and get an idea of which topics are most popular or offered most often.
- Identify gaps in educational needs not being met through focused efforts. Identify if these are geographic gaps or content gaps.
- Which gaps are critical to be filled?
- What opportunities for synergy and shared resources exist between programs?
- What are the various participants' tolerance for cooperation on program delivery?
- What is the interest in creating more synergy between programs so that they are not isolated, but connected events?

4pm - Wrap up

Socialization and individual discussion encouraged after formal meeting! Dinner available on your own

### **Questions? Contact:**

Rachel Frost (MSU Dan Scott Ranch Management Program) at 406-994-3724 or [frost@montana.edu](mailto:frost@montana.edu)

Tienna Canen (RanchMT Project Manager) at 406-941-2738 or [beefmt@gmail.com](mailto:beefmt@gmail.com)

Laura Nowlin (Winnett ACES) at 406-429-4832 or [info@winnettaces.org](mailto:info@winnettaces.org)

Photo credit: E. Bush Photography  
[www.ebushphotography.com](http://www.ebushphotography.com)

# Statewide Happenings

WLA's Women in Ranching Program is hosting in-person circles this summer!

Circles create opportunities for women to find connection, support, education and inspiration, so they can go back to their community ready to lead and create with fresh energy, new ideas and a powerful network behind them. Our facilitators are here to connect you with the group and most importantly with yourself. You will leave feeling encouraged and supported to dive into your purpose and passion with renewed energy, as you head back to your communities.

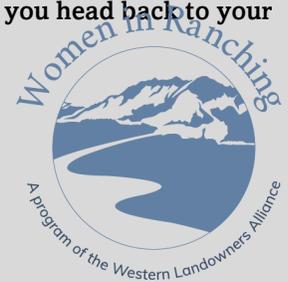
## Cinch Buckle Ranch

Broadus, MT - July 27-29

## J Bar L Ranch

Centennial Valley, MT - August 10 - 12

[www.westernlandowners.org/women-in-ranching](http://www.westernlandowners.org/women-in-ranching)



WOMEN  
Stepping Forward  
for AGRICULTURE

SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2021

*2021 Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Conference*

BIG HORN RESORT  
BILLINGS, MT

**M**  
MONTANA  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
Dan Scott Ranch  
Management Program

# SAVE THE DATE!

Dan Scott Ranch Management Program  
First Annual Production Symposium

## Calving Season: When is Optimal for Your Ranch?

Featuring Burke Teichert

October 6-7<sup>th</sup>, Bozeman, MT  
MSU Campus and Best Western GranTree Inn

Hybrid Event:  
Attend in-person  
or virtually

Burke Teichert – cattleman,  
consultant and contributor to  
Beef Magazine.

Details and Online Registration Coming Soon to:  
<https://http://animalrange.montana.edu/danscott/danscottoutreach.html>

# Statewide Happenings

2021 Vision: Seeing the Future of Rangeland Health

# MONTANA RANGE TOUR

MALTA, MT/SEPT. 8 & 9, 2021



TO REGISTER SCAN QR CODE or  
GO TO: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/155825657737>




**Wednesday, September 8**  
 8:30am Registration/Welcome | Breakfast at the Tin Cup  
 9:30 Load buses for French Ranch  
 Intensive Grazing—Presented by NRCS Rangeland Specialist Rick Caquelin (retired)  
 Soil Health/Dung Beetles—Presented by Patti Ambrister and Craig and Conni French  
 12:00pm Lunch—Catered by PC Cattlewomen  
 Drone Usage—Presented by Jason Hanlon, TNC  
 1:00 RSA Conservation Projects—Presented by SGI  
 Range Conservations Martin Townsend and TNC  
 Range Ecologist Kelsey Molloy  
 2:00 Cropland Restoration—Presented by Pheasants Forever Coordinating Biologist for Ranchers Stewardship Alliance Martin Townsend and TNC  
 Range Ecologist Kelsey Molloy  
 3:00 Departure

6:00pm Banquet/Prime Rib Dinner at the Tin Cup  
 Keynote by Dave Naugle  
 UM Professor of Large Scale Wildlife Ecology  
 • 2021 Leopold Conservation Award Winner Presentation  
 • Phillips Conservation District Conservationist of the Year Award

**Thursday, September 9**  
 8:00am Breakfast | Catered by Malta FFA  
 8:15 Rural Socioeconomics—Presented by Dr. Julia Haggerty, Associated Professor Resource Geography, Rural Geography, Resilience  
 9:30 Travel to Barthelms Ranch  
 10:30 eCollar Virtual Grazing—Presented by Leo Barthelms and Partners for Fish and Wildlife Biologist Marisa Sather  
 12:00pm Departure with Sack Lunch

### CONTACTS

**Stacey Barta | (406) 594-8481**  
 State Coordinator, Rangeland Resources Program  
[dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/carrd/rangeland-resource-program](http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/carrd/rangeland-resource-program)

**Jennifer Anderson | (406) 654-1334**  
 Administrator, Phillips Conservation District  
[phillipsconservationdistrict.com](http://phillipsconservationdistrict.com)



## GET ON THE BUS... THE SOIL HEALTH BUS!



**WHEN**  
**September 14-16, 2021**

Bus will leave Billings @ 7:30 AM on the 14th and return to Billings around 7 PM on the 16th. Registration at Comfort Suites, Billings (406) 969-2300

*There will also be a pickup /drop off in Miles City.*

**WHERE**  
**Dakota Lakes Research Farm**  
**Pierre, SD.**

Hosted by **Dr. Dwayne Beck**  
**Roy Thompson, Akaska, SD**  
 Featuring • **Roy Thompson** • Farmer, Rancher and Health Coach

Connecting Soil Health to Human Health  
**Menoken Farm, E. of Bismarck**  
 Hosted by **Jay Fuhrer and Daryl Oswald**  
**Black Leg Ranch, McKenzie, ND**  
 Hosted by **Jerry Doan**  
**Phat Fish Brewery, Dickinson, ND**  
 with **Jon Stika**, author of "Soil Owner's Manual"

THE MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY (SWCS) IS SPONSORING THIS TOUR TO SHOWCASE FARMS AND RANCHES IN THE DAKOTAS THAT HAVE MOVED TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH THE HEALTH OF THEIR SOILS. THE TOUR PROVIDES A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WHAT OTHERS HAVE DONE TO DRASTICALLY IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF THEIR SOILS AND ECONOMICS.

### REGISTRATION

**\$225/pp**

**Includes bus trip and most meals.**

*Not Included:*  
 \*Evening meal on September 14th

*Motel rooms not included; block of rooms reserved at both locations under "SWCS".*

**First come first served basis**

**Deadline: August 4, 2021**

**FOR MORE INFO**  
**VISIT [MTSWCS.ORG](http://MTSWCS.ORG)**  
 OR

MARNI THOMPSON (406) 596-1195

ANN FISCHER (701) 523-6953

### LODGING

**September 14th**

**AmericInn, Pierre, SD**

(deadline to reserve – Sept. 1st)

**(605) 223-2358 or**

**MyPlace (605) 494-2090**

**September 15th**

**MainStay Suites/Comfort Inn**

**Bismarck, ND**

**(701) 223-9119**



**If you would like more information on RanchMT, would like to become a Project Partner, have any questions, or would like to be involved in some way, please contact us anytime!**

**Direct questions to:**

Tienna Canen  
RanchMT Project Manager  
beefmt@gmail.com  
(406) 941-2738

**RanchMT Project Directors:**

Laura Nowlin | Winnett ACES – (406) 429-4832  
info@winnettaces.com

Emily Standley | MSU Extension, Fergus/Petroleum Counties  
(406) 396-5418, emily.standley1@montana.edu

Rachel Frost | MSU Dan Scott Ranch Management Program  
office (406) 994-3724, cell (406)223-7262,  
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