

Montana State University

BOZEMAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TEACHING FARM

Long Range Building Plan Request

The 474-acre Bozeman Agricultural Research and Teaching Farm, BART, is a critical facility for commercially applicable research conducted at the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, MAES. Farm-based projects focused on nutrition, genetics and management of livestock, crop varieties, pest and weed control, soil science, and precision agriculture have nationwide impact on agricultural profitability.

The Montana Agricultural Experiment Station was established as part of MSU's mission under the federal Hatch Act of 1887, which created such research facilities in every state. MAES research farms play a cornerstone role in the development of MSU wheat and barley varieties, which accounted for over 2.4 million planted acres in Montana in 2022. MSU varieties of winter wheat consistently make up nearly 60% of the total planted in the state. Wheat and barley programs impact production on approximately half of Montana's grain acreage: roughly \$500-700 million in annual revenue.

MSU's pulse crop program is developing Montana-specific pea, lentil and chickpea varieties that will play a major role keeping Montana as the number-one pulse producing state in the nation. In 2022, Montana planted in 1.3 million acres of pulse crops worth \$163 million.

In keeping with the needs of Montana producers, MAES programs have grown from traditional wheat and malt barley breeding to include livestock forage, winter barley and pulse crops, but current MSU facilities are not adequate to keep up with demand.

The BART Farm includes spaces for livestock research including precision animal feeding and artificial insemination practices. Also located at the BART farm are the Oscar Thomas Nutrition Center for livestock, Miller Pavilion, Farrier School and Horticulture Farm.

① Seed, Plant and Soil Processing Facility • \$8.75 million

The BART Farm's current facilities are out of date for modern, globally competitive agricultural research. For example, research plants are washed outside with no environmental controls, while other plant materials are processed without proper air circulation or clear sample separation. Every available space is used, making it difficult to prevent cross contamination. *Continued*



Age and lack of space make the facility unsuitable for modern techniques such as speed breeding and genomics. A state investment in this facility will allow for the large-volume processing of soil, plant and seed samples necessary for agricultural research. The work will benefit Montana's agricultural producers of winter wheat, spring wheat, durum, barley and pulse crops, as well as the work of soil scientists, plant pathologists, water quality specialists and more.

② BART Horticulture Sanitation Project • \$700,000

The BART farm includes a 10-acre Horticulture Farm, home to research on vegetables, turf grass, pollinators and other commercial crops, as well as hands-on university courses for MSU students. The MAES Small Farms Program primarily operates out of the Horticulture Farm, which also engages and educates the public about food production and the commercial viability of small-acreage farms. Investment in facilities at the Horticulture Farm will provide researchers, students and visitors with safe and accessible restroom facilities, of which there are currently none, and will ensure clean, potable water.

③ BART Farm Demolition Project • \$350,000

Safety is a crucial priority for the university's researchers, students, visitors and livestock. To ensure the highest standard of safety in all facilities at the BART farm, MSU plans to demolish an outdated feed mill that presents a life-safety threat and a hay storage facility that is damaged. Both structures are beyond repair and present safety risks.

Hands-On Education

The College of Agriculture is home to over 2,000 students who benefit from hands-on opportunities at facilities like the BART Farm to prepare them for working in Montana's largest industry.

Research Benefiting Montana

In fiscal year 2022, MAES conducted a total of \$49 million in state, federal and private funded research benefiting Montana's agriculture industry.

Working to Keep Montana Agriculture Competitive

MAES is the research arm of Montana's agriculture industry, working with producers, organizations and government to keep competitive in the world market.



Hay Storage



Feed Mill

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