



THE DATE DIGEST



THE NEWSLETTER OF AGRICULTURAL & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

NO. 3

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VIRTUAL



Photo by Tracy Ackeret

Focus on Key Topics

- Welcome Message
- New Educator Highlight - Dr. Brown
- Freshman Class Student Spotlight
- Western Region - AAAE Conference
- Engagement Initiatives
- Teaching & Research Insights
- Faculty Spotlight - Dr. Walach
- Alumni Highlight - Chase Rose: Alumni Achievement Award

A Message from Dr. Perry

Welcome to the latest edition of our departmental newsletter!

This issue celebrates the many ways our community is growing and making an impact. We're excited to introduce Dr. Brown as the newest member of our teaching team, spotlight the energy of our freshman class, and share highlights from the Western Region AAAE Conference. You'll also find features on faculty and alumni accomplishments.

At the heart of it all, our department continues to focus on meaningful engagement, innovative teaching, and impactful research. These efforts reflect not only the strength of our faculty and students but also the ongoing support of alumni, friends, and partners.

Thank you for being part of our journey—we're glad to share these stories with you.

~ Dr. Perry, Department Head



NEW EDUCATOR HIGHLIGHT

MEET YOUR NEWEST DATE MEMBER



Photo by University Communications

Amy Brown, Ph.D.

Adjunct Professor

Dr. Amy Brown joined Montana State in January of 2025, teaching Agricultural Issues & Research and continues to support the department as an adjunct professor, designing an online, graduate research methods course. Dr. Brown originally hails from Eastern Oregon where she grew up on a cattle farm and serving as Chapter President of the Imbler FFA Chapter. She earned her undergraduate degree from Gonzaga University and after 14 years in the outdoor and adventure travel industry running global marketing and partnership campaigns, graduated from the University of Florida with a Master's and Ph.D. in Leadership Development from the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication.

She had always dreamed of working in higher education making a difference in students' lives the same way her professors had for her. After graduation, she returned to the Mountain West and is very excited to connect and contribute to DATE where the students' enthusiasm and capabilities, continually reinforce why she chose this career!



2025 'M' Photo

CLASS OF 2029 BOBCATS

New school year, new Bobcats! We have welcomed 20 incoming freshman, as well as 3 new transfer students, and 4 existing MSU students who have switched their majors over to DATE. Go Cats!



DEPARTMENT RECOGNITION

On September 13–17, faculty members and graduate students traveled to San Marcos, Texas, for the 2025 Western Region American Association for Agricultural Education (Western Region - AAAE) Conference. During this time, our department members participated in Texas State facility tours, research paper and poster presentations, committee meetings, and networking with students and faculty from across the region.

WESTERN REGION - AAAE CONFERENCE 2025

Awards & Recognition

Our department had an outstanding showing at the conference, with several presentations and awards:

- **Research Papers:** Dr. Emily Sewell and Macey Aoki-Chance
- **Top 10 Outstanding Research Posters:** Faith Droszcz and Emmalee Rotlisberger
- **Research Posters:** Dr. Shannon Arnold and Kacie Eshleman



Conference Awards

- People's Choice Research Presentation: Macey Aoki-Chance
- 1st Place Outstanding Research Poster Abstract: Emmalee Rotlisberger
- 3rd Place Outstanding Research Poster Design: Faith Droszcz

ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

CASE Animal Science Academy

In July, Drs. Sewell & Perry hosted the CASE, Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education, Animal Science Academy. They had 22 agricultural education teachers from across the country attend!

Teachers performed engaging dissections, studied bacteria, and researched the genealogy of various species. The teachers walk away with a robust curriculum, ready to implement it in their classrooms.

The teachers also collaborate with one another, creating detailed posters on digestive systems and interactive lessons highlighting different breeding practices.



Photo by Faith Droszcz

eDucATE Academy



In July, we hosted the first eDucATE Academy with 9 future Department of Agricultural and Technology Education students!

eDucATE is designed to explore career opportunities associated with a degree in Agricultural Education, Broadfield Teaching and Agricultural Education - Communication, Leadership and Extension!

Future DATE students explored campus, developed education plans, built Bobcat planter boxes, deepened their understanding of leadership, engaged with agricultural education professionals, and developed relationships with current MSU students serving as peer mentors!

TEACHING & RESEARCH INSIGHTS

Dr. Perry's Journal Article of the Year

Dr. Dustin Perry, along with colleagues B. Lawver, S.W. Smalley, and M.L. Pate, was recognized with the 2025 Journal Article of the Year from the Journal of Agricultural Education. Their study explored how ongoing professional development helps agricultural education teachers feel more confident and effective when teaching safety.



By showing the long-term impact of continued training, this research highlights the important role teachers play in keeping classrooms and labs safe while preparing the next generation of agricultural leaders. Way to go, Dr. Perry!

TEACH Trailer

On August 28, 2025, the TEACH Trailer was officially unveiled! The Technology Education and Agricultural Collaboration Hub (TEACH) trailer is a cutting-edge mobile lab designed for teaching, student recruitment, and research. Equipped with advanced CNC manufacturing tools, a robotic arm, electronics fabrication stations, a 3D printer, and a drone system, it will be powered by a solar energy system, also serving as a demonstration of renewable energy applications in agriculture.



The mobile lab will travel across Montana, visiting schools, extension offices, Agricultural Experiment Stations, and Montana State University partners. It will not only showcase advanced agricultural technologies but also serve to inspire future students.



FACULTY RECOGNITION



Photo by University Communications

Michael Walach, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

**TENURE
ACHIEVEMENT**

Dr. Michael Walach's recent tenure achievement at Montana State University stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service. As the program lead for the Applied Technology Management Program, he has been instrumental in shaping a curriculum that equips students with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in technology education. His dedication to transformative teaching was recognized with the Excellence in Transformative Teaching Award in 2024, and he was honored as the Post Secondary Teacher of the Year in 2022 by the Montana Association of Career and Technical Educators. Beyond the classroom, Dr. Walach contributes significantly to the academic community through his involvement in the University Teacher Education Committee, where he plays a vital role in guiding teacher education policies and practices. His multifaceted contributions have not only enriched the Department of Agricultural and Technology Education but have also left a lasting impact on students and colleagues alike.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI FOUNDATION

2025 HOMECOMING COLLEGE AWARDS



CHASE ROSE '13

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Chase Rose

The MSU Department of Agricultural and Technology is proud to highlight Chase Rose ('13) as an alumni achievement award recipient for the College of Agriculture, one of the MSU Alumni Foundation's annual Homecoming Awards and Blue and Gold Awards. "These awards recognize alumni who attain distinctive success in his or her chosen field or profession and/or perform outstanding service to their community. Honorees will receive their awards during a ceremony scheduled as part of Montana State's Homecoming week" (MSU Alumni Foundation).

CONGRATULATIONS, CHASE!



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Thank You For Reading



SOCIAL MEDIA



SCHOLARSHIPS



We Want to Hear From You!

If you have any news, achievements, or stories you'd like to share in the next edition, please reach out to us!

We are excited to look for fresh content to highlight our amazing department.

Contact: DATE@montana.edu