

“Celebrating Agriculture Weekend”  
**Agriculture 2012:**  
**A Changing Landscape**

*Procrastinator Theater, MSU-Bozeman  
282B Strand Union Building  
Friday, October 26, 2012*

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### ***Speaker Biographies***



#### **George Haynes**

George is an Agricultural Policy Specialist with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. Prior to his current position, George was a professor with the MSU Department of Health and Human Development. George earned a doctorate in consumer economics and housing from Cornell University in 1993. His contributions to the field of consumer finance and economics have been in the area of family business finance. These lines of research have produced over 35 refereed journal articles, five book chapters, over 50 presentations and over 45 other monographs. An important contribution of George's family business finance work has been examining the intermingling of family and business financial resources. This research has been supported by funding from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Small Business Administration, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station.



#### **Gary Brester**

Gary Brester is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. He was raised on an irrigated sugarbeet and malting barley farm near Laurel, Montana. He has two degrees from Montana State University -- a B.S. in Agricultural Business and an M.S. in Applied Economics. He received his Ph.D. degree in Economics from North Carolina State University. Dr. Brester was an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University from 1990-1997. Since 1997, he has been a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. His teaching responsibilities include farm and ranch management, agribusiness management, finance, and agricultural marketing. Brester's applied research program includes livestock and grain, risk management, international trade, agribusiness, and farm management issues. Dr. Brester is currently serving as the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.



### **Eric Belasco**

Eric Belasco joined the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University in August 2011. Prior to this appointment, he was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Texas Tech University from 2007 - 2011. He received both his M.S. and Ph.D. in Economics from North Carolina State University in 2005 and 2007, respectively. His main research interests are in the areas of agricultural marketing, risk management, and applied econometrics. The bulk of his research is focused on characterizing variability in cattle profits, production, and marketing. Examples of this research include

evaluations into grid pricing risk, the use of forward contracts in mitigating profit risk, modeling multivariate risk in cattle production, and characterizing the link between weather and cattle production indicators. His research also extends to health economics, where he conducts cost/benefit analysis for different medical treatments using simulation to evaluate issues associated with cancer, chronic kidney disease, and nutrition.



### **Anton Bekkerman**

Anton Bekkerman joined the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University as an Assistant Professor of Economics after receiving his Ph.D. in Economics from North Carolina State University in 2009. His research interests include price analysis in grain markets, the economics of agricultural marketing, and applied econometrics with a concentration on spatial modeling. Anton's recent works focus on evaluating market-based risk management of invasive species, modeling grain price behavior in spatially separated markets, improving producers' price hedging ability using futures markets, and understanding the impacts of

consumers' quality perceptions on bull prices. He has also performed research in information economics and across disciplines, investigating consumer behaviors in bull auctions and assessing the benefits of adopting cover crop farming practices. On campus, Anton teaches Econometrics and the Economics of Agricultural Marketing; he is also the advisor to the Collegiate Young Farmers and Ranchers student organization.



### **Vince Smith**

Vincent H. Smith is Professor of Economics in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University and co-director of MSU's Agricultural Marketing Policy Center. He received his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University in 1987 and his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Manchester in 1970 and 1971. Professor Smith's current research program examines agricultural trade and domestic policy issues, with a particular focus on agricultural insurance, agricultural science policy, domestic and world commodity markets, risk management, and agricultural trade policy. He has authored nine books and

monographs, including his widely known work with Dr. Barry Goodwin on *The Economics of Crop Insurance and Disaster Aid*, and published over 100 articles on agricultural and other policy and economic issues. His contributions have been recognized nationally through multiple national awards for outstanding research programs. In 2008, he became a *Distinguished Scholar* of the Western Agricultural Economics Association. From January through July of 2010, he spent a sabbatical in the USDA Office of the Chief Economist examining the supply side of the U.S. federal agricultural insurance program.



**Tim Fitzgerald**

Timothy Fitzgerald joined the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University in 2009 as an Assistant Professor. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. He teaches classes in Natural Resource Economics and Quantitative Methods. His research investigates agricultural, environmental, and energy topics. Recent research and outreach efforts have addressed issues related to oil & natural gas development in Montana and the west, including the role of split estate ownership of mineral rights.



**Myles Watts**

Myles Watts is a professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. After receiving a Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska, he joined the Montana State faculty in 1978. He served as Department Head for 17 years, and his current responsibilities include classroom teaching, research, and outreach education. Dr. Watts has served in various editorial capacities for the *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*. He has also received multiple honors and awards from professional associations including the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Western Agricultural Economics Association. He has advised many governments and private organizations, including large international reinsurance companies on an array of financial issues, mostly focusing on agricultural insurance. He serves a variety of nonprofit economic education groups as a board member or in other leadership positions. He was recently appointed to the board of directors of Farmer Mac. His family still owns and operates the cattle and wheat ranch where he was raised in southeastern Montana.



**Steve Anderson**

Steve Anderson has been the Director of the Montana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service for the past 3 years. Steve is a 21 year employee of NASS with previous assignments in Idaho, North Dakota, the Livestock Branch in Washington DC, and Deputy Director in Colorado. He is a graduate of Washington State University, and remains involved with the family farm in the State of Washington. Steve and his spouse Marisa have three children at home in Helena.