

# Montana Agriculture: Current Issues and the Role of Agricultural Research

## Speaker Biographies



### Jeff Bader

Jeff came to Montana from New Mexico where he worked for New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service. He began his career in Extension in 1987 as a 4-H Agent then moved on to be an Agriculture Agent in a small rural county, County Director in a large metropolitan area and the Northern District Department head all with the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service. Jeff received a doctorate in higher education administration, with an emphasis in educational leadership, and his master's and bachelor's degrees in animal science, all at New Mexico State University.



### Kate Fuller

Kate joined the the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University as an assistant professor and extension specialist in July of this year. She received her Ph.D and also worked as a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, Davis. Her dissertation and post-doctoral work examined the economics of various agricultural pests and diseases as well as the costs and benefits of programs and technologies to address them. She is currently working on developing her research and extension program at MSU, but so far has been involved in projects relating to the 2014 Farm Bill, farm and ranch record keeping, as well as valuation of disease-resistant varieties and disease screening programs. She grew up in rural Vermont.



### Joe Janzen

Joe is an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University. He was raised on a grains and oilseeds farm near St. Francois Xavier, Manitoba, Canada. Prior to joining Montana State, Joe completed his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, Davis in 2013. His research interests include agricultural price analysis, commodity futures markets, and agricultural policy. Joe's recent publications explore the quality of price discovery in agricultural futures markets, the influence of speculation on commodity prices, the measurement of global agricultural supply response to price, and influence of government payments on farmland rental rates.



### **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.



### **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.



### **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 a faculty member at Kansas State University from 1990-1997. Since 1997, he has been a Professor at Montana State University. His teaching responsibilities include farm and ranch management, agribusiness management, introductory economics, and agricultural marketing. Brester's applied research program includes risk management, international trade, agribusiness management, and farm management issues.



### **Philip G. Pardey**

Philip is Professor of Science and Technology Policy in the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota where he also directs the University's International Science and Technology Practice and Policy (InSTePP) center. Previously he was a senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C., and prior to 1994 at the International Service for National Agricultural Research in The Hague, Netherlands. He is a Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association, Distinguished Fellow and Past President of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, and winner of the Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture.

His research deals with productivity measurement and assessment, the finance and conduct of R&D globally, methods for assessing the economic impacts of research, and the economic and policy (especially intellectual property) aspects of genetic resources and the biosciences. He currently co-directs a Gates Foundation project, HarvestChoice ([www.HarvestChoice.org](http://www.HarvestChoice.org)), designed to inform and guide investments intended to stimulate productivity growth in African agriculture. Pardey is author of more than 330 books, articles, and papers, including, *Ending Hunger in Our Lifetime: Food Security and Globalization* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003), *Saving Seeds: The Economics of Conserving Crop Genetic Resources Ex Situ in the Future Harvest Centers of the CGIAR* (CAB International 2004), *Agricultural R&D in the Developing World: Too Little, Too Late?* (International Food Policy Research Institute, 2006), and *Persistence Pays: U.S. Agricultural Productivity Growth and the Benefits from Public R&D Spending* (Springer 2010). A listing of publications is at <http://www.instepp.umn.edu/about-us/people/philip-pardey>.



### **Marsha Goetting**

Marsha A. Goetting is a Professor and Extension Family Economics Specialist at Montana State University in Bozeman. During the past few years she has presented over 800 workshops reaching over 25,000 Montanans with financial and estate planning information. She has also authored over 76 Extension MontGuides and bulletins and has received national, regional, and state awards for her financial management and estate planning programs. Dr. Goetting received her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Family Economics and Adult Education from Kansas State University and her PhD from Iowa State University.