

# Montana Grain Growers Association

## 2022 Policy Resolutions

As approved by MGGGA membership on 12-2-21



### FARM POLICY

Farm policy should allow producers to receive income from the marketplace while, when necessary, providing an economic safety net to maintain rural economic stability. It should allow cropping flexibility, discourage the buildup of grain stocks, and provide de-coupled economic assistance. MGGGA's farm policy committee will continue to review and develop options for long-term ag policy.

1. MGGGA supports Title I programs in concept and principle and also the option to choose which program to be enrolled in. (New 2016)
2. MGGGA opposes diversion of commodity title funding to alternate programs.
3. MGGGA supports the direct payment in concept and principle. (Renewed 2015)
4. MGGGA opposes a farm program pricing mechanism that is market distorting. (New 2011)
5. MGGGA supports a reference price for wheat in Title I programs that is equal to or higher than the USDA Economic Research Service cost of production. (Revised 2018)
6. MGGGA supports ARC-IC in concept and principle. (New 2016)
7. MGGGA supports increasing ARC-IC to an 85% base acre payment rate. (New 2017)
8. MGGGA encourages transparency in the barley price discovery for the purposes of Title I programs. (New 2017)
9. MGGGA supports the expansion of historic wheat and barley base acres in future Farm Bills. (Revised 2020)
10. MGGGA supports including summer fallow in base acre calculations. (New 2017)
11. MGGGA supports "actively engaged" definitions that facilitate farm transfer. (New 2009)
12. MGGGA supports continued separate person determination regardless of spousal or corporate affiliation.
13. MGGGA supports the USDA Beginning Farmer Programs at or above current funding levels. (New 2014)
14. MGGGA opposes a farmer-owned grain reserve.
15. MGGGA supports the development of individual risk management accounts. (Retained 2009)
16. MGGGA opposes further linking conservation compliance to crop insurance program participation. (Revised 2017)
17. MGGGA supports the stated goal of paperwork reduction by NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service). (New 2009)
18. MGGGA supports maintaining the current six classes of wheat. (New 2019)
- ~~19. MGGGA opposes the release of US Wheat reserves from the Emerson Trust without full and immediate public disclosure and timely replacement of released stocks. (2009)~~
20. MGGGA supports a guest worker program that secures the borders of the US and provides a legal, affordable and stable workforce for agriculture. (New 2013)
21. MGGGA encourages the streamlining and development of guest worker and immigration programs. (Revised 2018)
22. MGGGA opposes government agencies competing in sales of private agricultural properties. (New 2012)
23. MGGGA supports the concept of Department of Natural Resources and Conservation adopting cash leases for all agricultural cropland. (Revised 2019)
24. MGGGA recommends Montana's current livestock "open range" laws be reviewed and updated to fully recognize private property rights and property ownership responsibility to reflect current times. (New 2015)
25. MGGGA endorses creation of a producer certificate of origin valid for a marketing year. (New 2019)
26. MGGGA supports legislation that protects agricultural producers against nuisance lawsuits. (New 2018)
27. MGGGA supports 'Right to Farm and Ranch' legislation. (Revised 2018)
28. MGGGA shall enter agricultural private property rights discussions at the discretion of a majority vote of the board of directors. (New 2012)
29. MGGGA supports maintaining the worker's compensation fund as a state program.
30. MGGGA opposes congressional designations of Montana National Heritage Areas and any other designations limiting private property rights. (New 2020)
31. MGGGA opposes increases in commodity loan rates. (New 2020)
32. MGGGA supports reinstatement of a 5 acre annual allowance for native sod breaking, including a 1 year uninsurable federal crop insurance and record retention period. (New 2020)
- ~~33. MGGGA supports that in states with average annual precipitation of 20 inches or less, no-till winter wheat and all fall seeded no-till crops that are harvested for grain, be considered as cover crops. (New 2021)~~
- ~~34. MGGGA supports the inclusion of wheat in all production systems including when used as a cover crop. Wheat plays an integral role in cropping systems by providing diversity, carbon capture, durable residue, weed control, soil moisture retention, and water quality benefits. MGGGA encourages active management of volunteer wheat as it may carry disease which threatens surrounding wheat acres. (New 2021)~~
- ~~35. MGGGA supports the Growing Climate Solutions Act as a means to provide credible information to growers about voluntary ecosystem service markets and increase farmer engagement in USDA oversight. (New 2021)~~
- ~~36. MGGGA supports that USDA should be involved in collaborative efforts to develop a standardized carbon measurement model and/or tool that includes geographic variability with engagement from Land Grant Universities in the effort. Agriculture Extension programs could provide valuable, local information through testing and verification on the carbon measurement approach. (New 2021)~~
- ~~37. MGGGA supports a role for Cooperative Extension in assisting farmers in making educated decisions on carbon markets, including but not limited to contract review and related information. (New 2021)~~

### INTERNATIONAL POLICY

The U.S. must have an aggressive export policy aimed at capturing world wheat and barley markets. Our government must concentrate on trade policy that enhances our competitiveness in world markets.

1. MGGA supports preserving and expanding export credit and food donation programs under current World Trade Organization agreements.
2. MGGA supports World Trade Organization harmonization of trade distorting subsidies to a percentage of total ag production. We support the elimination of export subsidies and export restrictions. Export state trading enterprises should be forced to operate at risk of the market on a voluntary and transparent basis.
3. MGGA urges Congress to create and fully fund an enforcement body within USTR in order to pursue new and aggressive enforcement of existing bilateral and unilateral trade agreements and WTO accession obligations particularly as it relates to agricultural trade distortions. (Revised 2020)
4. MGGA supports a fully functioning WTO appellate body. (New 2019)
5. MGGA urges the development of new and creative export programs that provide a way to compete with subsidized sales and unfair currency adjustments from foreign countries.
6. MGGA calls on US trade negotiators to preserve total domestic farm program spending at no less than authorized in the 2014 farm bill while recognizing the importance of moving toward less trade distorting programs. (Revised 2015)
7. MGGA vigorously defends the right of US producers to maintain minimally trade-distorting programs that allow U.S. producers to remain competitive in spite of environmental pressures and competing land uses.
8. MGGA encourages US Trade Representatives to vigorously pursue new bi-lateral trade agreements. (New 2017)
9. MGGA supports legislation to eliminate unilateral food sanctions.
10. MGGA supports maintaining in-kind humanitarian food aid. (Revised 2008)
11. MGGA supports eliminating barriers and any US import tariffs which restrict US ag producers' access to worldwide crop inputs.
12. MGGA supports full and immediate free trade of functionally equivalent crop protection compounds.
13. MGGA supports providing reciprocal research, registration and regulation of crop protection and biotech products between the US and other countries.
14. MGGA urges the development of markets for biotech crops with customer demand and acceptance. This should be a cooperative effort between consumers, producers, agribusiness and government.
15. MGGA supports the creation of trading structures to preserve the identity of wheat and barley varieties and region or origin, according to the needs of our customers.
16. MGGA supports maintaining Trade Promotion Authority. (Revised 2015)
17. MGGA urges changes to the Canadian varietal registration act, resulting in reciprocal treatment of US and Canadian varieties. (New 2018)
18. MGGA urges prompt and comprehensive resolution of trade issues with China that will benefit Montana ag producers. (New 2018)
19. MGGA supports legislation expanding trade and travel with Cuba. (Modified 2011)
20. MGGA supports legislation to overturn the OFAC (Office of Foreign Asset Control) policy of "cash payment in advance" as it relates to trade with Cuba.
21. MGGA supports US entry into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), with lower tariffs, increased market access, establishment of uniform rules-based trading, and a rapid dispute settlement option. (Revised 2019)
22. MGGA supports significantly increasing the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) funding levels. (Revised 2019)
23. MGGA supports continued cooperation among grain producers, the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee, merchandisers, and transporters to expand Montana wheat and barley markets.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Current crop insurance programs need to provide adequate risk management for producers. Crop insurance reform must provide producers an acceptable level of risk management at an affordable cost for all crops. (Revised 2009)

1. MGGA opposes any restrictions on eligibility for program participation based on a producer's Adjusted Gross Income, any caps on the federal cost-share level and any restrictions on a producer's ability to utilize the Harvest Price Option. (New 2017)
2. MGGA supports an inverted premium subsidy system that provides higher subsidies at the higher coverage levels.
3. MGGA supports continued improvement of revenue insurance products. (2008)
4. MGGA supports 'T yields' that more accurately reflect actual yields in a production area excluding years of declared disaster. (2008)
5. MGGA supports an increase in the 'T yield' plug to 85% for all producers. (Revised 2020)
6. MGGA supports the separation of spring wheat, durum and winter wheat for crop insurance policies.
7. MGGA will explore the addition of enterprise unit options allowing separation of crop types. (New 2018)
8. MGGA supports the separation of crop practice (CC-continuous crop or SF-summer fallow) for optional unit structure on the same crop for indemnity payments. (Revised 2009)
9. MGGA supports the continuation of the winter coverage endorsement option crop insurance coverage.
10. MGGA supports implementation of adjustment yield losses of 90% or more to be paid at 100% for all crop insurance.
11. MGGA supports changes in crop insurance regulations to allow irrigated producers to maintain irrigated coverage in times of drought-caused reductions in available irrigation water. (Revised 2009)
12. MGGA urges the use of quality adjustment factors that more accurately reflect market discounts.
13. MGGA supports reforming multi-peril crop insurance (MPCI) quality loss adjustments for weather and disease related losses to reflect a change in market price instead of reducing production quantities by factors that do not reflect the current market. (New 2014)
14. MGGA supports Risk Management Agency adoption of a separate quality loss discount schedule for DHV in spring wheat. (Revised 2016)
15. MGGA recommends that prevented planting be a separate option with its own premium.
16. MGGA supports the preservation of optional crop insurance unit structures.
17. MGGA supports Risk Management Agency coverage of grain crops that are harvested for hay.
18. MGGA supports Risk Management Agency coverage that more accurately reflects contract price for seed stocks and specialty crops that are contracted through a licensed merchandiser or seed dealer.
19. MGGA supports a forage policy closing date and reporting deadlines that more accurately reflect the season in which the crop is planted. (New 2013)

20. MGGGA supports the producer's right to accept or reject Risk Management Agency administrative policy changes implemented after the sign-up date for that current year.
21. MGGGA challenges the use of inequitable "pack factors" in determining grain volumes for crop insurance purposes.
22. MGGGA requests an advance of no less than 75% of estimated indemnities in disputed and audit cases. (Revised 2009)
23. MGGGA opposes automatic audits for indemnity payments less than \$500,000 per crop. (New 2017)
24. MGGGA supports a staggered penalty structure for crop insurance yield erroneous reporting of production. (New 2019)
25. MGGGA supports Risk Management Agency crop loss coverage on all fire related losses. (New 2009)
26. MGGGA opposes the reduction of crop insurance subsidies and also opposes premium subsidy and payment caps.
27. MGGGA opposes means testing for federal crop insurance eligibility.
28. MGGGA supports a provision to allow the transfer of existing APH databases if all involved parties agree. (New 2013)
29. MGGGA seeks enforcement of legislation for segregated commodity traded funds to be protected and remain segregated. (New 2011)
30. MGGGA supports changes to the federal bankruptcy law to protect a producer's security interests. (New 2012)
31. MGGGA supports higher bonding levels for online commodity brokerage. (New 2018)
32. MGGGA opposes a producer funded elevator indemnity pool. (New 2011)
33. MGGGA supports inclusion of information in grain purchase contracts which details the availability of bonding or insurance on deferred payment agreements. (Revised 2012)
34. MGGGA supports the Montana State Hail Board retaining a two-year loss reserve. (New 2014)
35. MGGGA supports the optional use of certified scale tickets and grain cart weights to calculate unit production. (Revised 2017)
36. MGGGA supports inclusion of all natural disasters into the WHIP+ program. (New 2019)
37. MGGGA supports voluntary crop insurance incentives for conservation practices including but not limited to cover crops. These incentives must take into account all cropping systems and be regionally specific, recognizing the different production systems. ~~MGGGA opposes any mandatory conservation requirements of participation in crop insurance.~~ (New 2021)

## RESEARCH & UTILIZATION

Research should be directed at providing maximum economic value of ag products and cutting-edge technology to producers. This commitment must be focused on producers competing in world markets, equipping them with tools to add value to the commodities, and protecting our environment.

1. MGGGA supports federal, private and other funding of an accelerated research program for the control of sawflies, wheat blossom midge and other detrimental insects in Montana including a parasite implementation program.
2. MGGGA supports research of out-crossing of biotech plants into crops and weeds and the determination of a reasonable threshold for adventitious or accidental presence of bio-tech traits in non-biotech crops. (Revised 2009)
3. MGGGA endorses the joint National Association of Wheat Growers/US Wheat Biotechnology Position Statement. (Revised 2009)
4. MGGGA supports the draft statement of Canadian, American and Australian organizations (June 5, 2014) on the release of biotech/genetically modified wheat.
5. With respect to glyphosate tolerant wheat, MGGGA strongly encourages biotech providers to introduce the crop with volunteer control packages that are readily available and at least as cost effective as current generic glyphosate production systems. (Revised 2014)
6. MGGGA supports research aimed at improving and increasing the end uses of Montana wheat and barley, including research utilizing advanced breeding technologies. (Revised 2018)
7. MGGGA supports the concept that the use of CRISPR, and similar single-gene editing techniques, does not make an organism genetically modified. (New 2020)
8. MGGGA supports promotion, research and expansion of Montana bio-based products including farm grown bio fuel and lubricants. (Revised 2020)
9. MGGGA supports research for higher value crops including industrial and non-food uses.
10. MGGGA supports a base budget increase for MAES (Montana Ag Experiment Station). (Revised 2014)
11. MGGGA encourages filling all vacancies in the Montana Ag Experiment Station (MAES) system. (New 2013)
12. MGGGA supports the expansion of agricultural research and education within the Montana University System. (New 2015)
13. MGGGA supports MSU Extension programs to better transfer technology from MAES (Montana Ag Experiment Station) and the MSU (Montana State University) system to Montana producers. (Revised 2016)
14. MGGGA strongly encourages transparency in the MSU tech transfer process. (New 2015)
15. MGGGA supports MSU plant breeding and development programs capturing significant market value from the commercialization of any varieties or intellectual properties released to the public or licensed to private industry and the return of all proceeds to the plant development program. MGGGA encourages MSU to pursue a framework of variety release that meets that goal. (New 2015)
16. MGGGA supports separate state funding specifically for long range building for Montana Agricultural Experiment Station. Once funding is allocated, MAES will have complete budgetary control. (Revised 2016)
17. MGGGA supports the long range building plans of Montana Ag Experiment Station facilities. (Revised 2020)
18. MGGGA supports research and education to develop new control methods for herbicide resistant weeds and problem grassy weeds. (Revised 2014)
19. MGGGA supports the development and research of proactive management strategies for noxious weeds and invasive plants that are known or thought to present a problem. (New 2016)
20. MGGGA supports the exploration and production of commercial fertilizer in the US. (2008)
21. MGGGA supports increased research and education for farm produced green manure and other fertility systems which can replace commercial fertilizer.
22. MGGGA supports the concept that any farm data generated on the farm belongs to the farm operator. (Revised 2018)
23. MGGGA supports credible climate research that benefits Montana agricultural producers. (Revised 2017)
24. MGGGA supports the retention of the insect unit at the USDA Ag Research Service Lab in Sidney. (New 2016)
25. MGGGA opposes county or local governments having the power to regulate the cultivation, registration or labeling of seeds. (New 2016)
26. MGGGA opposes the use of buckwheat in cover crop mixes. (Retained 2017)
27. MGGGA supports federal, private and other funding for research on cause, effect and solutions for soil acidification and soil salinity.

(Revised 2020)

28. MGGA opposes the Food and Drug Administration releasing results of investigations without peer review or adequate scientific review. (New 2019)
29. MGGA supports the development and use of Blockchain/Traceability technology within the commodity and food processing industry. (New 2020)
30. MGGA opposes a national wheat checkoff. (Revised 2018)
31. MGGA supports the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee and their activities and mandates that the appointment of director(s) shall be from candidates recommended by at least one of these organizations: the Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA), the Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF), the Montana Farmers Union (MFU), or the Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE). (New 2014)
32. MGGA recommends that the executive director and staff of the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee be hired by the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee.
33. MGGA recommends that the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee have complete budgetary control over the assessment money.
34. MGGA supports the Montana State Grain Lab, including policies that will make the State Grain Lab sustainable. (2008)
35. MGGA supports the Montana State Seed Lab, including policies that will make it sustainable. (2008)
36. MGGA supports funding for the Montana State University Schutter Diagnostics Lab. (New 2012)
37. MGGA supports the endowed chair for plant science at Montana State University. (Revised 2015)
38. MGGA supports the development of robotic farm equipment. (New 2020)
39. MGGA supports development of a more consistent phosphorous soil test given the increase in soil acidification. (New 2021)

## ENVIRONMENTAL

1. MGGA encourages approaching environmental problems and concerns through education and cooperation. (Revised 2010)
2. MGGA opposes environmental mandates by government agencies that are detrimental to production agriculture operations. (New 2010)
3. MGGA believes the burning of residue on agricultural fields is a local issue and should not be regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency or the US Department of Agriculture.
4. MGGA opposes EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) regulation of dust from common agricultural practices and county roads. (Modified 2011)
5. MGGA opposes net expansion of Conservation Reserve Program acreage. (Revised 2017)
6. MGGA urges limiting acreage on all new Conservation Reserve Program contracts to no more than 25% of total cropland acres of any owner.
7. MGGA supports Conservation Reserve Program rental rates that are reflective of cash rental rates in any given area.
8. MGGA supports individual counties to reserve 1 to 5% of the available acreage each signup period for Conservation Reserve Program continuous sign-up proactive before the 25% cap is reached.
9. MGGA supports the implementation of biomass fuel crops on Conservation Reserve Program acres with a reduction of Conservation Reserve Program payments.
10. MGGA supports re-establishment of lost crop base acres on Conservation Reserve Program acres providing the land goes back into agricultural production. (Revised 2014)
11. MGGA supports monitoring Conservation Reserve Program ranking criteria. (Revised 2009)
12. MGGA supports County FSA determination of Conservation Reserve Program emergency haying dates. (New 2017)
13. All new conservation programs should offer credit to producers for practices already implemented.
14. MGGA supports individual voluntary conservation enhancement and opposes increased, mandated conservation practice participation in Title 1, Federal Crop Insurance or other federal farm programs. (New 2016)
15. MGGA supports full funding and full implementation of the Conservation Stewardship Program and Environmental Quality Incentive Program. (Revised 2020)
16. MGGA supports local input from producers on new Conservation Stewardship Program enhancements. (New 2014)
17. MGGA supports allowing local Natural Resources Conservation Service officials to permit deviations on a case by case basis within the confines of a Conservation Stewardship Program contract in an effort to address localized problems in a cost effective way.
18. MGGA opposes the listing of the prairie dog, wolf and the sage grouse as a threatened or endangered species. (Revised 2017)
19. MGGA supports delisting of the grizzly bear from the endangered species list. (New 2017)
20. MGGA opposes free roaming bison/buffalo in the state of Montana. (New 2012)
21. MGGA supports research into cost effective and environmentally safe ways of controlling burrowing pests and feral hogs. (Revised 2020)
22. MGGA encourages the control of all weeds on transportation right of ways and recreation access sites. (Revised 2016)
23. MGGA supports increased technical assistance and incentive-based water quality programs that are administered at the local level to meet Total Maximum Daily Load requirements.
24. MGGA supports retaining the word "navigable" or other wording that protects ag interests such as, but not limited to property rights, in the Clean Water Act. (New 2009)
25. MGGA is opposed to any climate change legislation until it can be assured that production agriculture will not be put in a negative economic position. (ie – costs in excess of potential income from carbon sequestration). Furthermore, MGGA believes that other major carbon emitting countries should be participating in similar greenhouse gas regulation so as not to put the American farmer at a disadvantage in the global marketplace. Finally, if any climate change legislation is enacted, the US Department of Agriculture should be the controlling authority to promulgate and administer the programs to the producers. (New 2009)
26. MGGA opposes expansion of Environmental Protection Agency regulation beyond current FIFRA (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act) regulation of pesticides. (New 2010)
27. MGGA supports fair and objective implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act that requires the Environmental Protection Agency to base re-registration of pesticides on actual use data.
28. MGGA opposes any zero tolerance language used in determining pesticide residue levels. (New 2018)
29. MGGA opposes increase of EPA regulations on private pesticide applicator training. (Revised 2020)
30. MGGA supports MSU Extension retaining responsibility for coordination of the private pesticide applicator certification and training program. (Revised 2016)



31. MGGA supports full funding of the MSU Extension Pesticide Education Program. (New 2016)
32. MGGA supports maintaining the renewable fuel standards mandate. (New 2011)
33. MGGA opposes Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) regulations for agricultural operations. (Revised 2013)
34. MGGA opposes California's Proposition #65 regarding its application to agricultural commodities. (New 2017)
35. MGGA supports the continued use of glyphosate for all on-label applications. (New 2018)
36. MGGA supports voluntary soil health practices. (New 2021)
37. MGGA strongly urges that Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Commission will require Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks to follow and implement MCA 87-1-323 to maintain all Hunting Districts at or below the sustainable animal numbers as set in law. Or, FWP compensate Montana ag producers on Montana land for lost ag income if landowner is giving public access to antlerless hunting. (New 2021)
38. MGGA supports the levels of greenhouse gases from wildfires to be included and compared when other forms of greenhouse gas emissions are considered. (New 2021)

## TAXES

1. MGGA supports extending the \$500,000 residential capital gains exemption to include agricultural farmsteads.
2. MGGA supports retention of the increased exemption from estate taxes and retention of the stepped up cost basis. (Revised 2018)
3. MGGA supports maintaining the Section 179 deduction at \$1,000,000 with a \$2,000,000 cap. (Revised 2018)
4. MGGA supports maintaining a depreciation (cost recovery system) which preserves a single purpose agricultural building classification and also qualifies these structures for Section 179. (Revised 2016)
5. MGGA supports legislation that retains the 100% bonus depreciation on all farm business assets. (Revised 2018)
6. MGGA supports the reinstatement of a graduated corporate tax rate in taxable income for C corps. (Revised 2021)
7. MGGA supports the permanent reinstatement of a 100% deduction for farm meals for C corps. (Revised 2019)
8. MGGA supports a permanent provision to allow for current year income to be 100% offset by a net operating loss carried forward. (Revised 2020)
9. MGGA supports the reinstatement of the domestic production activities deduction (199a) for C-corps with less than \$1 million gross revenue. (New 2018)
10. MGGA opposes imposition of accrual accounting on agricultural enterprises. (New 2013)
11. MGGA supports the deductibility of an employer's health insurance premium and medical expenses paid on behalf of employees as a business expense on its tax return. (Revised 2016)
12. MGGA is opposed to the taxation of health care benefits for employees.
13. MGGA is opposed to financial transaction taxes. (New 2019)
14. MGGA supports the elimination of the Montana business equipment tax on agricultural equipment. (2008)
15. MGGA will participate in the discussion of state taxation options for the purpose of a more equitable and simplified tax system. (Revised 2017)
16. MGGA supports representation at the state legislature in the event of tax reform strategy proposals to see that agriculture interests are treated fairly.
17. MGGA Grain News and website will report information on current agricultural tax issues.
18. MGGA supports retention of the unlimited Section 1031 like kind exchange rules for business or investment real estate. (New 2020)
19. MGGA opposes a capital gain tax on the transfer of appreciated assets at death or by gift. (New 2021)
20. MGGA opposes any increases to the individual income and capital gain tax rates. (New 2021)
21. MGGA opposes the limitation of valuation discounts when valuing interests in closely held businesses. (New 2021)
22. MGGA opposes any new limitations in the utilization in grantor trusts. (New 2021)
23. MGGA supports an increase in the section 2032(a) special use valuation discount for estate tax purposes. (New 2021)
24. MGGA opposes retroactive application of new tax law changes. (New 2021)
25. MGGA supports 45Q tax credits for farmers to encourage ongoing management of conservation practices and options for producers to begin or expand conservation/carbon sequestration and greenhouse gases reduction efforts. (New 2021)

## TRANSPORTATION

MGGA recognizes that an efficient, affordable, and accessible transportation system is essential to the economy of Montana. MGGA will work to improve all modes of transportation that affect trade and provide services to Montana agriculture.

### RAIL:

1. MGGA supports total access to the Canadian rail system.
2. MGGA supports the development of spur lines to connect with the Canadian Pacific railroad.
3. MGGA will support legislation that allows competitive access to rail lines to create competition for captive rail shippers.
4. In the event of a rail right-of-way abandonment, MGGA supports the concept of requiring rail property to be offered for sale first to adjacent landowners at certified appraised fair market value.
5. MGGA supports federal transportation legislation and other reforms that will provide reasonable rates and service. (New 2009)
6. MGGA recommends that Congress require the Surface Transportation Board be more receptive to producer concerns. (Revised 2009)
7. MGGA supports expanding and improving railroad infrastructure in Montana. (Revised 2016)
8. MGGA supports maintenance and expansion of intermodal services for ag products.
9. MGGA supports any attempt to reopen or reactivate defacto abandoned rail lines for commercial transportation by Class I or short line railroads.
10. MGGA supports formal and informal mediation of rail freight issues with our rail carriers and arbitration of disputes when necessary, including continuation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution agreement between Montana wheat and barley producers and BNSF Railway. (Modified 2012)
11. MGGA supports participation in the Ag Rail Business Council by Montana grain producers and BNSF Railway. (New 2012)
12. MGGA supports grain producer representation on BNSF Railway's Customer Advisory Board. (New 2012)
13. MGGA supports research into more efficient modes of transportation.

#### WATER:

14. MGGA will work to maintain access to and maintenance of the Columbia/Snake Waterway.
15. MGGA supports reform of the Jones Act and Cargo Preference laws. (Revised 2017)
16. **MGGA opposes removal of dams on navigable water ways. (New 2021)**

#### TRUCK:

17. MGGA supports standardization of trucking regulations between states and Canada for weight, length and oversize at no less than Montana standards. (Revised 2012)
18. MGGA urges Montana Department of Transportation to maintain & improve farm to shuttle facility roads to handle increased loads and traffic.
19. MGGA supports changes to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations so that the 150-mile radius producer exemption applies to all producers even when they cross governmental jurisdiction lines to market their commodity. (Revised 2018)
20. MGGA supports federal legislation that allows producers exemption from International Fuel Tax Agreement regulations for travel within 150-mile radius regardless of crossing governmental jurisdiction lines. (Modified 2011)
21. MGGA supports a farm to market exemption from interstate commerce regulatory enforcement to allow the movement of a commodity from the farm gate to its first point of delivery. (Revised 2015)
22. MGGA supports the exemption from Food Safety Modernization Act regulations for crops transported from farms to first point of delivery. (New 2017)
23. MGGA supports exempting agricultural products and inputs from the Electronic Logging Device mandate. (New 2017)
24. MGGA opposes the \$10 overweight permit required while still within the 10% overage allowance on truck weight.
25. MGGA opposes single point driver's license hazardous materials endorsement processing. MGGA supports expanded authority for the Montana Department of Motor Vehicles to process all hazardous materials licensing at every facility. (New 2016)
26. MGGA supports Montana Department of Transportation adopting a dye inspection standard with allowable adventitious levels. (Revised 2019)

#### OTHER:

27. MGGA supports legislation requiring the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) take whatever actions necessary to immediately restore official grain inspection and weighing service wherever and whenever it is disrupted. (New 2014)
28. MGGA opposes any work slowdown or stoppage by international longshoremen that impedes the regular flow of grain from Montana to our customers. (New 2014)
29. MGGA supports an agricultural exemption up to 36 inches from the Department of transportation for the "Call before you dig" program. (New 2016)
30. MGGA opposes any regulations that restrict movement of agricultural equipment on public roads. (New 2019)
31. Recreational UAS use by farmers scouting their own (or neighbor's) fields should be classified as recreational by the FAA. (New 2020)
32. MGGA supports the rights of farmers to maintain and repair their own equipment. (New 2020)

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MGGA recognizes that economic development in Montana includes strengthening the financial conditions of farm and ranch operations through ownership in value added enterprises. Therefore MGGA supports programs that promote and enable farm and ranch ownership of value added enterprises.

1. MGGA supports continued full funding and promotion of the Montana Office of Economic Development, with consideration of commercial agriculture. (Revised 2020)
2. MGGA supports the economic education program promoted by the Montana Council of Economic Education. (Retained 2012)

#### MEMBERSHIP

1. MGGA will look for new member service opportunities.
2. MGGA will continue education and information services through Montana MarketManager.
3. MGGA will report annually or more frequently to its members the status of its resolutions implementation.
4. MGGA will develop a process to survey members if there is a change in their membership status. Staff will do this on an ongoing basis. (Revised 2012)
5. MGGA will continue to hold listening sessions.
6. MGGA will continue to collaborate with other grower associations promoting Montana grown crops and livestock.
7. MGGA supports young producer outreach. (New 2011)
8. **Minimum dues increase of \$100 (New 2021)**