



May 8, 2020

Dear friends and colleagues,

We at Montana State University and the Montana Agriculture Experiment Station hope you and yours are staying safe and healthy during this uncertain time. We would also like to provide an update on the status of our 2020 summer field day series.

In keeping with Governor Bullock’s phased COVID-19 reopening, and in the interest of everyone’s health and safety, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our in-person field days for the 2020 season. While we had very much hoped to welcome our many stakeholders to our research centers and farms, continued emphasis on maintaining social distancing measures and reducing group sizes during events has led to this decision.

While we are deeply disappointed to not be able to welcome you to our facilities, we are exploring options for virtual events that will enable you to learn about our research and for us to learn from you about your successes and challenges. We are in the planning phases and we hope you will join us as we finalize plans for this summer. The events will include presentations and speakers you would normally interact with at our field days and we are also exploring options for question and answer sessions with MSU scientists. We are treating this unexpected situation as an opportunity to maintain our important community interactions and discover how a complementary virtual presence could help us expand our reach to stakeholders in the future.

For the most up-to-date information about our summer programming, please visit <http://agresearch.montana.edu/fielddays.html>. We will be updating this page with links and agendas for the summer’s virtual activities. As always, please reach out to us with questions, successes and feedback. We are all committed to continuing our research, outreach and engagement efforts during these difficult times in order to provide science-based solutions to challenges faced by Montana’s diverse communities. We hope to bring back our in-person field days in 2021, as they are always a highlight for everyone at MSU and MAES!

Stay well, and please don’t hesitate to contact us with questions.

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**Mountains & Minds**

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