



**1st Annual Eastern MT Women's Conference  
Agenda  
March 31 & April 1, 2023  
Sidney, MT**

Click [here](#) to register online!

**FRIDAY (March 31st, 2023) Elk's Lodge**

OPTIONAL ADD-ON 2:00 PM @ Eastern Ag Research Tour (Refreshments & Snacks Provided)

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM: Check-In & Registration

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: Cocktail Hour & Networking Activities

6:00 PM: Dinner

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM: Keynote Speaker - Courtney Kibblewhite, Western Culture and the Stories that Shape Us

*Stories have power. Especially the stories we tell ourselves. We have to tell the stories to our next generation, let's focus on the silver linings. What are you creating and nurturing in your community? Connection? Opportunities to unite? Or are you focusing on differences? We can have pride in our culture and pass on stories that can equip our children and communities to handle challenges of the future.*

8:00 PM: MFU Trivia Night

9:00 PM - 11:00 PM: BombStatik

**SATURDAY (April 1st, 2023) Richland County Extension Office**

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM: Breakfast

8:00 - 8:20 AM Opening Comments from MFU President, Walter Schweitzer

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM: Perennial Roots Program: Succession Planning with the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance & Winnett ACES

*The Perennial Roots program between RSA and ACES, which aims to connect ranchers and those interested in agriculture to succession planning information, helpful tools, peer groups, mentoring and other opportunities that ultimately help keep working lands operational and local ranches contributing to their local communities economically, socially, and ecologically.*

9:30 AM - 9:45 AM BREAK Local Coffee

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM WORKSHOP Wool Workshop "Felted Rugs & Other Projects" with Becky Weed, Thirteen Mile Wool

*Becky will bring along a variety of processed wool from her ranch so that you can try your hand at one or two projects: felted rugs, needle-felted designs, or some other creation. If you have needle-felting tools or fat crochet hooks, bring them along, but tools will be available if you don't already have some.*

*Yarns, roving and batts will be available to purchase, and might help inspire some ideas about what can be made with your own Montana-grown wool.*

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM BREAK Local Coffee

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM PANEL "Cooperatives: Working for Your Community." hosted by the Montana Co-op Development Center

*What are cooperatives? How can they serve your community? Hosted by the MT Co-Op Development Center, we will take a deep dive into the basics of cooperatives, then hear from women involved in cooperatives in an open panel discussion.*

- Moderator: Davey Madison, MT Co-Op Development Center
- Darleen Nordhagen, served on the Board of Directors for the Opheim MT Farmers Union Oil Co-op in the 1970's

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch with Special Guest Morb Wicks - FSA, Kathleen Williams - USDA, MFU Updates

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM "Stress in Agriculture" hosted by Roubie Younkin of the Valley County MSU Extension

*A hands-on workshop for identifying stress in yourself and your loved ones as well as learning strategies to manage stress.*

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM BREAK Local Coffee from Bittersweet Coffee

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM PANEL Agriculture From Our Side of the Fence

*Join us in this panel discussion as we bridge the gap between ag support specialists and local producers. What opportunities are out there for women? How can we sustain our operations? Feel free to ask these women questions in an open panel discussion.*

Moderator: Sarah Degn, MFU Board Member

- Marley Manoukian, Richland County MSU Extension Agent
- Cathy Hintz, Farmers Union Insurance
- Natalie West, Research Ecologist, USDA-Agricultural Research Service
- Connie Iversen, West Sidney Area Farmer/Rancher and On-Farm Research Collaborator with Dr. West

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM Break

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM MFU Book Club Launch: Farmer's Lawyer by Sarah Vogel

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Snacks & Networking @ Meadowlark Brewery

***Call Peyton at 406-460-0773 with any questions about the event or registering.***