



## Your Roadmap for a successful Annual Convention with Montana Farmers Union

We look forward to welcoming you. Here are a few tips and tricks to help you get the most out of your Annual Convention with Montana Farmers Union.

### **THE BASICS:**

- **Make sure your membership is current!**
- **Make your hotel and lodging reservation** at the Grouse Mountain Lodge (this is NOT included in your convention registration).
  - *Lodging:* A special room rate is available for MFU Convention attendees at the Grouse Mountain Lodge. *Local: 406.892.2525 / Toll Free: 844-868-7474*
- **Register for convention:** [click here](#)
  - Convention registration covers the following: access to the convention, presentations, and guest speaker events. Meals included are Friday lunch/dinner and Saturday breakfast/lunch/dinner.
- If you have kids, sign them up for our **kid's day camp** that will take place throughout the convention. Kids must be registered one week before convention. For ages 5-12.
- Sign up for the **Pre-Convention tour** scheduled 12:45 p.m. - 8 p.m., Oct. 17, for \$20. Thursday's pre-convention tour includes a farm to table dinner and transportation.
- Check out the **agenda** ([click here](#)), the list of speakers, pre-convention tour, and make a game plan of any connections you'd like to make or questions you may have!
  - **Helpful tip:** Use our "convention action plan" sheet to make your roadmap to convention! You will find this in your swag bag upon your arrival at the convention.
- **Review our Policy book** before convention ([find it here](#)), read the addendum in your convention bag, and look at the changes. Find MFU staff to go over any questions you may have.
  - We follow our Convention Rules that participants receive in their bag, and our policy debate structure is based on Roberts Rules of Order
- **Dress code at our convention** is Montana business casual – jeans and nice shirts are the norm.



- **Bring your business cards, stickers/farm swag**, anything you feel you could use to network successfully. We will have a networking table so you can leave a few things for others to check out!
- Enter the **Sweatiest Brow Contest!** Bring your most well-worn work cap to compete! Anyone who brings a cap will also walk away with a new MFU hat (along with their own hat). MFU Convention attendees will vote – who has the most worn work cap.
- Our **silent and live auction items** will be open for bidding throughout the convention. We accept cash, check, and credit card payments! All funds go toward our foundation – scholarships and community grants.
- The **beverage stations at the convention will be cash bars** so if you plan to purchase drinks on Friday or Saturday evening, please have some cash with you!
- **Meet your MFU Ambassador! Find your MFU Ambassador or send them a note prior to convention so they know to find you when you arrive! These staff members are always available to answer questions!** All staff will have a flag on their name tag. Please check out the Ambassador map here and find their emails. <https://montanafarmersunion.com/about-us/mfu-board-staff/>

## FAQS ABOUT CONVENTION

### How do I vote for MFU policy changes? And how can I be part of the policy discussion?

- Qualified voting producer members will have a pink name tag at convention, which means you are verified to vote per the bylaws of MFU. You can vote on policy and for elected leadership positions. Non-voting members can be part of the policy discussion as noted in the Rules of Convention.
- You will join the policy sessions throughout the convention to hear the debate, discussion, and proposals. Most policy decisions are voice vote during the sessions. We encourage you to stand up and join in the conversation and make your voice heard during policy decision making.
- If you would like to speak about or ask a question about a policy change, you can step to the microphone, state your name and the county you are located in, and the chair will recognize you to discuss the policy change at hand. Don't get too worried about the parli pro of it all – the chair will help you walk through it!



**Can I still join the convention even if I can only come for one day?**

- Yes! We encourage you to join us for as much of the convention as possible. If you have any questions, reach out to [mjenni@montanafarmersunion.com](mailto:mjenni@montanafarmersunion.com)

**Will there be time for questions to speakers?**

- Yes! We have multiple panels and vendor booths that will be at our convention and there will be plenty of time for questions.

**How will I know who is staff? Board? Policy Committee members?**

- All MFU staff, board, and Policy Committee members will have a flag on their name tag. Additionally, staff will wear “Ask me!” buttons so you know who you can direct questions to! You will also find staff and board bios in your convention programming booklet.

**How do I know who is running for a board seat or MFU elected position?**

- You will hear the introductions of board members running for a seat in the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Session in the convention. Candidates will be wearing buttons to identify themselves – feel free to go up and chat with them! You can also find the candidate information here: <https://montanafarmersunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/candidates.pdf>

**What support is there for first time convention attendees?**

- We look forward to welcoming you! Your Ambassador will connect with you to help you network or answer any questions you may have. Any staff or board member is happy to assist with any questions you may have.

**Can I bring my kids to the convention?**

- Yes! A day camp for kids ages 5-12 will be held during the convention. Kids must be registered in advance of the convention so we can plan accordingly. If you have children under the age of 5 who you are wondering about care for, please reach out to [mjenni@montanafarmersunion.com](mailto:mjenni@montanafarmersunion.com)

Have a question we didn't cover? Reach out and let us know how we can help!

[mjenni@montanafarmersunion.com](mailto:mjenni@montanafarmersunion.com)

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