

# Meet this Year's Candidates



## Vice President 2-year term:



Erik Somerfeld is a farmer and rancher on a third-generation farm and ranch raising wheat, malt barley, pulses, and hay, as well as having enough cows to cause trouble. Somerfeld is involved in his community and church and has served as Chief of the Power Volunteer Fire Department for 13 years and as past president of the Power Volunteer Fire Association for five years, with 31 years of service in total. Professionally he has served as Director for Montana Farmers Union for 23 years with eight as secretary/treasurer; director of the Montana Beef Council, past president of the Montana Cattlemen's Association, past board member of the Montana Board of Research Commercialization and Technology, past board member for the Montana Milk Control Board, and one year as chairman for the National Farmers Union Policy Committee and another on the committee.



Rollie Schlepp, from Conrad/Brady, is a fourth-generation Montana farmer/rancher and owner of Montana Seeds. He and his wife, Jennifer (also fourth-generation), have three married children and are enjoying six grandkids. They produce wheat, barley, cattle, and clean and sell sainfoin throughout the USA. They have been involved in MFU since 1992. Schlepp graduated MSU with an accounting degree and earned a CPA license. He has prepared taxes for many businesses and individuals over the years. As well as Vice President of MFU, he has served on Farmers Union Enterprises, Inc., then served Farmers Union Marketing and Processing Association boards beginning in 2001.



District 1  
3-year term  
John Ferrat, Toston.

Joh Ferrat is the owner/operator of a cattle ranch in Broadwater county outside of Toston, MT. My wife, Samantha, and I raise Limousin cattle on my family's century old ranch where we fall calve our registered and commercial herds and harvest grass hay. My son, Andrew, is an ag education teacher and FFA advisor and is the fifth generation to participate in cattle production on this ground.



District 3  
3-year term  
Sarah Degn, Sidney.

Sarah Degn is a fourth-generation farmer in Sidney. A former sugar beet farmer who has pivoted to a corn, soybean, and wheat rotation, Sarah also dabbles in hops, sweet corn, and other value-added crops. She farms with the support of her parents, daughter, friends, and anyone else willing to help with her crazy ideas. In addition to the MFU board, she has participated in the NFU Beginning Farmer Institute and served on NFU's policy committee, as well as being selected as a Next Generation Advisory Representative to the NFU board.



District 3 & 4 At Large  
3-year term  
April Martin, Busby.

April Martin chooses to be on the MFU board because it aligns with what she wants to see for Montana farmers and ranchers. She was fortunate enough to go through the FUEL leadership program, and loved hearing the five presidents of the FUE states speak about what they were working towards, the programs and ideas they have implemented and is excited to be part of the future of MFU.

## Other positions that will appear on the ballot are:



Conductor  
1-year term  
John Wicks, Ledger.

John Wicks is a fourth-generation farmer and owner of Tiber Ridge Organics in Liberty County. He transitioned his family farm to an organic operation after returning to farm full-time. He has been involved with Montana Farmers Union as both a Policy Committee member and a past associate board member.



Doorkeeper  
1-year term  
Carah Ronan, Laurel.

Carah Ronan grew up in conventional ag and moved home to Montana in 2021 to reimagine the family farm into a vibrant cut flower operation. Together, with her husband and grandmother, she grows and sells to Whole Foods, Town & Country Foods, and florists from Huntley to Belgrade, as retail and directly to consumers. She serves on the MFU policy committee and as an associate MFU board member, has served as a Delegate in 2024 at National Farmers Union Convention, and was selected in 2024 as the Next