

2026 Agenda

EASTERN MONTANA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

SATURDAY January 31st

Candlewood Suites Sidney By IHG & The Yellowstone Merc

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM - REGISTRATION

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Session - You are worthy, purpose and standards for physical and mental wellbeing with Danielle Diede

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Sidney Research Station with Dr. Chen

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Cocktail Hour - Network Bingo & Live Music with Eliza Blue

6:00 PM DINNER

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM - Keynote Address: April Martin

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM - Line Dancing workshop

SUNDAY February 1st -

Candlewood Suites Sidney By IHG & The Yellowstone Merc

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM - Breakfast

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM - Networking Event- Group Photo

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM - Sign Painting and Marketing Workshop With Byrdie Larson of Redbyrd Design

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM - BREAK

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Session - MT Road Show with Rylee Sommers-Flanagan

12:00 PM - Lunch

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM - Closing Keynote The Law of Hard Times: the 1980s and Today with Sarah Vogel



About the Speakers

Danielle Diede - A faith-led woman, mom and wife, called to honor the body as a vessel, live with intention, and guide others back to wholeness and purpose, living in rural Montana, and owning a health and wellness company for 12 years. Studied MSUB- Northern, ACE Certified Trainer, NASM Certified Trainer, FM Online trainer, MMU Level I Functional Nutritionist. Her kids and husband are truly her safe place, music is her soul, she loves beautiful food and art, especially combined, classic cars are an obsession, and loves making funny/ inspiring reels whenever she can!

Dr. Chengci Chen - professor at Montana State University - Eastern Agricultural Research Center. He specializes in agronomy, soil science, and cropping systems. His work focuses on developing and managing resilient dryland, irrigated, and crop–livestock systems. Dr. Chen also leads research on feedstock evaluation and cropping system development for cellulosic and oilseed bioenergy production, along with variety evaluation and nutrient management to improve adaptation, yield, and quality of cereal, pulse, oilseed, and sugar beet crops.

April Martin - She serves on the MFU Board because its mission aligns with her vision for Montana agriculture and the future of rural communities. A FUEL leadership program alum, she values Farmers Union's commitment to collaboration, inclusion, and strong local voices, and is proud to represent southeastern Montana. She lives on a ranch on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, where her family raises cattle, practices land stewardship, and is committed to direct-to-consumer agriculture and leaving the land well cared for for future generations.

Byrdie Larson - Creating DIY wood decor and craft experiences to help women find joy, confidence, and healing through creativity. She is a mom of four who loves crafting, DIY home projects, organizing, thrifting, and finding joy in simple creative moments, which helps her connect easily with others who just want a little creative time for themselves.

Rylee Sommers-Flannagan - A fifth generation Montanan who grew up in Missoula and spent summers on the family's working ranch in Absarokee. She founded Upper Seven Law in 2021; and in the years since, Upper Seven has filed twenty cases—prevailing in the vast majority—challenging unconstitutional legislation, and improving conditions for Montana's incarcerated population. A graduate of Stanford Law School, Sommers-Flanagan served as president of the Stanford student chapter of the American Constitution Society. She graduated magna cum laude from Emory University. There, Sommers-Flanagan founded Emory's Day On, a service day in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. She also holds a creative writing degree from the University of St. Andrews.

Sarah Vogel is an advocate, attorney, and longtime champion for family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. She served two terms as North Dakota Commissioner of Agriculture and is widely known for her landmark role in *Coleman v. Block*, a class-action lawsuit that helped protect thousands of family farmers during the 1980s farm crisis. Vogel is the author of *The Farmer's Lawyer* and continues to be a powerful voice for agricultural justice, equity, and the people who feed our communities.

Thank You for joining us in
Eastern Montana!

