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MGGA Convention & Trade Show Begins November 29

Great Falls – The 2016 Montana Grain Growers Association Convention and Trade Show is scheduled for Tuesday, November 29 through Thursday, December 1, at the Best Western Heritage Inn in Great Falls, Montana.

MGGA Vice President Tom Butcher, this year's Convention Chairman, chose the theme 'Together for Tomorrow' to showcase and celebrate the many partnerships producers have with other commodities and agribusinesses in order to be successful in their farming operations.

With nearly 900 in attendance last year, and a full trade show with over 80 booths, this event is one of Montana's largest agricultural gatherings.

MGGA activities begin on Tuesday evening with our traditional Partnerships in Ag Reception, a kickoff event welcoming all growers and trade show exhibitors. This reception immediately follows Montana Pulse Day, organized this year by the Northern Pulse Growers Association.

On Wednesday and Thursday, we've booked a dynamic list of speakers on a variety of topics including advanced wheat breeding, farm politics and policy, a preview of the 2017 Montana legislative session, pros and cons of cover crops, small grain diseases, grain markets and marketing strategies, transportation, detection of herbicide resistant weeds and farm data management.

A special block session targeted to young grain producers, but offering farm business management information for all attendees, will include presentations on cost of production, budgeting, loans and other financing strategies along with useful information on crop insurance and risk management tools.

Wednesday's trade show reception and live auction is a chance to relax and have some fun with other attendees and exhibitors while supporting MGGA's state and national policy efforts. On Thursday, we'll honor and thank outgoing President Rob Davis for a year of organization leadership.

Most importantly, convention is the time when MGGA members come together to debate existing and proposed resolutions through the important grassroots process that sets our policy

platform for the coming year. Committee meetings are scheduled for Wednesday morning and the resolution process concludes on Thursday afternoon.

Visit mgga.org for more information and to register.

Speaker Highlights:

Taylor Brown is the owner and well-known ag broadcaster of Northern Ag Network and KGHL in Billings. Serving in the Montana Senate from 2009-16, Brown chaired the Senate Ag Committee, as well as the Senate Education Committee. Taylor will be joined by Montana Senators Brian Hoven and Llew Jones.

Dr. Hikmet Budak holds the Montana Plant Sciences Endowed Chair at MSU College of Agriculture. At MSU, Budak is expected to build a significant integrative research program addressing Montana's challenges in the grains industry.

Phil Clancy is CEO and founder of Next Instruments, an Australian company that manufactures a range of analyzers for farmers, grain traders and grain processors. He has developed a near infrared analyzer specifically for farmers to measure protein and oil content on the combine as the crop is being harvested.

Michael Krueger is founder and President of The Money Farm, a grain marketing advisory service. He is a senior analyst for World Perspectives and has traveled extensively internationally as a speaker at various farm and grain industry meetings.

Dr. Stephanie Mercier is Director of Policy at the Farm Journal Foundation. She previously served as a chief economist for the Senate Ag Committee covering domestic farm programs, risk management, and international ag trade and food policy.

John Miller is Group Vice President, Ag Products, for BNSF Railway, leading a marketing team focused on whole grain, grain products, fertilizer, ethanol and bulk foods shippers.

Dr. James Radtke oversees product development for Cibus, a world leader in precision gene editing and advanced nontransgenic breeding. James led the effort to develop the first corn Bt transgenic product sold in the US.

Dr. Joe Shaw is a Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Affiliate Professor of Physics, and Director of the MSU Optical Technology Center. He is a leader in the development and application of optical remote sensing systems to study the environment.

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