



MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION

The Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) is a grassroots membership organization that has served as the trusted voice for the cattle industry and Montana's cattle ranching families since 1884. Our work protects and enhances Montana ranch families' ability to grow and deliver safe, healthy, sustainably produced beef to the world. To achieve this mission, we represent our members and the policy they set while working to ensure cattle ranching remains a relevant, safe, and sustainable way of life for generations to come.

2026-2027 STATE POLICY PRIORITIES

CREATE A FAVORABLE TAX CLIMATE FOR RANCHERS

- Continue support of increased exemption levels for the business equipment tax.
- Reduce personal property tax levels.
- Represent agricultural interests regarding land values, classifications, and tax formulas.

PURSUE WATER POLICY SOLUTIONS WHILE PROTECTING SENIOR WATER RIGHTS

- Continue to advocate for a divisional water court model.
- Maintain the exception to the permit process for de minimis use (exempt wells).
- Enhance tools to protect senior water rights including closure areas, monitoring, reporting, enforcement, and moving illegal water use into compliance.
- Encourage state water storage solutions and tools.

ENSURE CATTLE PER CAPITA DOLLARS ARE BENEFITING CATTLE PRODUCERS

- Maintain stewardship of cattle per capita dollars to ensure investments are benefiting cattle producers.

PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

- Ensure issues related to land use, road access, and corner crossing do not impede private property rights.

SAFEGUARD STATE TRUST LANDS GRAZING FOR PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE

- Advocate for state trust land grazing permits to be prioritized and available for production livestock.

ENGAGE IN THE CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION (CAFO) GENERAL PERMIT PROCESS

- Ensure regulations do not create operational burdens and financial strains to general permit operators.