

**Montana Independent Bankers/Bell Bank Ag Conference**  
**Northern Hotel**  
**Billings**  
**May 23, 2023**

**9-9:30 am -Registration and Welcome**

**9:30-10:15 am-Christy Clark, Director at the Montana Department of Agriculture**

Christy Clark, Director at the Montana Department of Agriculture, is committed to strengthening Montana's number one industry and expanding value-added opportunities for producers and businesses.

A fifth-generation rancher from Choteau, Christy understands the challenges and opportunities producers face as she advocates for robust markets and promotes Montana's high-quality ag products domestically and abroad.

Since 2015, Clark has served Montana producers at the department in various roles, including deputy director, agricultural sciences administrator, and agricultural development and marketing bureau chief.

Christy served three terms in the Montana House of Representatives before choosing to follow her passion for agriculture by working for the Montana Department of Agriculture. She graduated from California State University Sacramento and raised three children on the family ranch alongside her husband.

**10:15-11:00 am- Lynn Paulson Senior Vice President and Director of Agribusiness Development for Bell Bank**

Lynn Paulson is senior vice president and director of agribusiness development for Bell Bank, one of the largest independently owned banks in the nation. He writes and speaks about agricultural lending and finance, the global economy and the ag economy.

Paulson has expert knowledge of the ag industry, having worked in ag lending for more than 35 years and as a retired owner and operator of a Benson County, N.D., family farm. He works with a number of agricultural operations and businesses across several Midwestern states and has served on various financial boards. Additionally, his banking experience includes merging several banks and holding companies and growing the new company to \$600 million.

**11:10 am-12:00 pm- Melanie Hall Commissioner of the Montana Division of Banking and Financial Institutions**

Melanie Hall is the Commissioner of the Montana Division of Banking and Financial Institutions. She provides the overall leadership to the Banking Division, which is responsible for the supervision of all state-chartered banks and state-chartered credit unions. In addition, the division licenses and examines over 2000 non-bank financial entities including mortgage lenders, mortgage servicers, and mortgage brokers, consumer loan companies, sales finance companies, deferred deposit lenders and escrow businesses. The Division is also responsible for processing

all consumer complaints by Montanans against regulated and unregulated providers of financial services.

Commissioner Hall obtained her B.A. in Economics from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, and her juris doctor from Tulane Law School in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is the Chair of the Board of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors and is the past Chair of the CSBS Education Foundation Board. She also serves on the St. Peter's Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees.

**12-12:30 pm Lunch**

**12:30-1:15 pm- Taylor Brown, Northern Broadcasting System**

Raised on the family ranch at Sand Springs, Taylor Brown is well-known as an agricultural broadcaster. He and his family own the Northern Broadcasting System, and its flagship radio station KGHL (AM790 and 94.7FM) in Billings. Taylor is a past National President of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting, and a member of the NAFB Hall of Fame.

Serving in the Montana Senate from 2009-16, Brown was Majority Whip, and chaired the Senate Agriculture Committee, as well as the Senate Education Committee. Brown is known as an advocate for rural farm and ranch families, and his support of 4-H, FFA, Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity and the REAL Montana leadership program.

Taylor and Shannon have been married since 1980, and are active in the Huntley Project community just east of Billings. Their son Travis and his wife Mary operate the family's LO Cattle Company west of Sand Springs. Their son Colter Brown, daughter Courtney Kibblewhite, and her husband Jonathan lead the management team at Northern Broadcasting.