

Organic Matters



Volume 17, Issue 3



Matt and Sonja Johnson Host MOA Farm Tour

Matt and Sonja Johnson and their family welcomed more than 80 researchers, buyers, farmers, ranchers, friends, and neighbors to their farm north of Hinsdale for the MOA-sponsored “In It for the Long Haul” farm tour.

This year’s fields were lush and green after two years of significant drought. Among the day’s activities were visits to fields to learn about plow-down, seed treat, weed collection and sampling, bio-control of thistle and bindweed, organic herbicide spraying, underseeding strategies, and airseeder configurations.

Guest speakers included Matt Johnson, Sonja Johnson, MSU



Standing in a field of Naked Oats, Johnson Farm Tour 2019.

Plant Pathologist Dr. David Sands, Gary Iverson with Montana Gluten Free, and Ag Educator Patti Armbrister. Chef Dyan Carlson with [Table For Six](#) of Glasgow, MT gave a cooking demonstration.

Kids learned how to make butter in a jar and recycle a seed bag to make a gro-

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NRCS Sets Conservation Program Funding Application Cutoff for August 30

BOZEMAN, Mont., July 25, 2019 — The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Montana has set an Aug. 30, 2019, application cutoff for agricultural operators to be considered for the

next conservation program funding cycle through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. NRCS provides funding and technical assistance to help farmers and ranchers imple-

ment conservation practices that provide environmental benefits to help sustain agricultural operations. Conservation program participation is voluntary and helps landowners and operators defray

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KEEPING OUR SOIL

Joyce Trevithick, NRCS Montana State Agronomist



Soil is the most precious resource to humans and all other life. As producers we value it even more than most. No matter what type of cropping system a producer adheres to, there is no replacement for good, fertile topsoil. As stewards of the land producers want to keep their soil in place and improve the fertility of that soil. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works to help producers maintain their soil quality and improve their soil fertility.

In 1985 the Farm Bill (named The Food Security Act of 1985) established several conservation programs including sod-buster, swamp-buster and the Conservation Reserve Program. The National Food Security Act Manual (NFSAM) sets forth the purposes and objectives of the Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. This manual assigns specific responsibilities to NRCS in the administration of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation. This includes making Highly Erodible Land (HEL) determinations, Wetland (WC) determinations and determining compliance on land owned and/or operated by a USDA program participant. If found out of compliance with the Highly Erodible Land program, a producer may

lose their USDA benefits. This includes any CRP, disaster payments, farm operating loans, EQIP, CSP, RMA (crop insurance) and other benefits included under USDA programs.

The NFSAM Part 510.11 states:

C. Filing Form AD-1026

Persons who request benefits on land that they own or operate that is subject to HELC and WC provisions are required to file Form AD-1026 certification at the FSA county office.

This form also serves as a person's certification of applying a conservation plan and/or use of a conservation system as well as compliance with the wetland provisions.

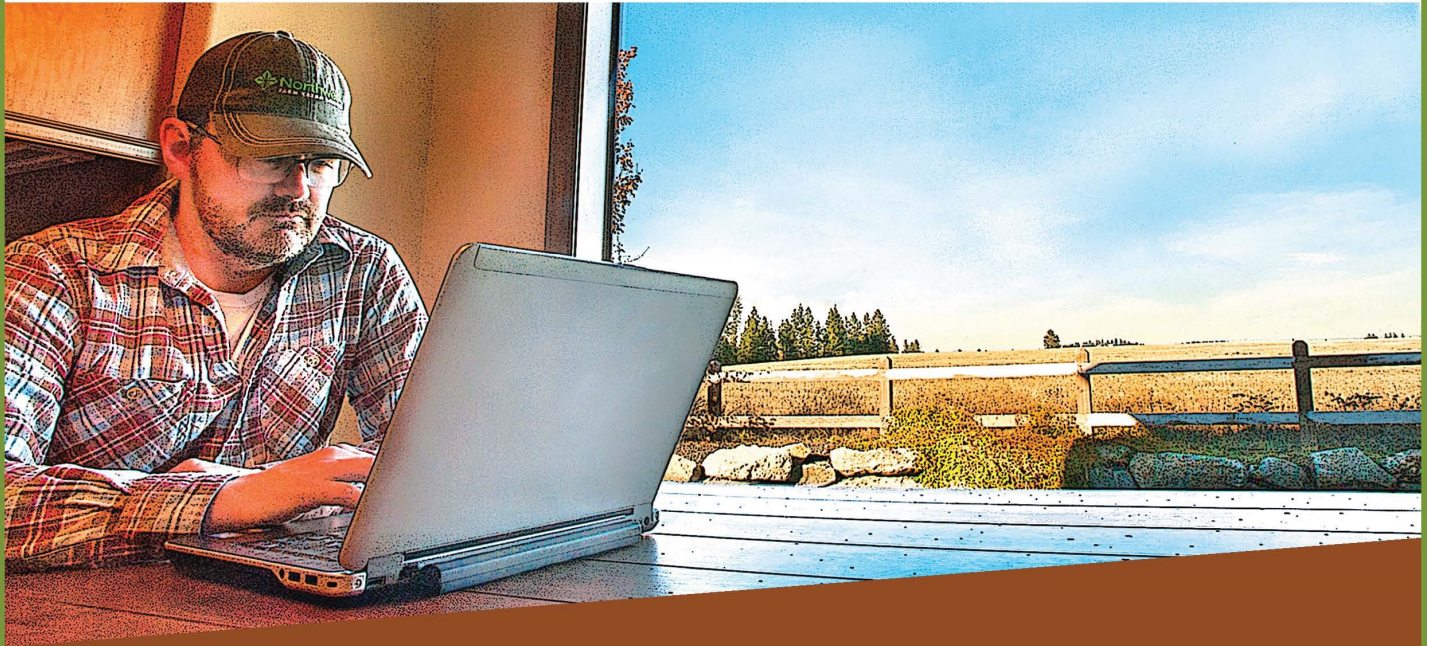
The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) wrote conservation plans for participating producers on cropland between 1985 and 1992. Montana was still mostly strip/fallow systems, but no-till cropping systems were becoming more common. The cropped strips were 20 rods wide (330 ft/8 strips per half mile) and had been created to minimize wind erosion in eastern Montana. Tillage was the predominant way to control weeds and volunteer grains. As chemical weed control/no till became prevalent, Montana saw more

“block” farming where standing stubble and residue left on the soil surface minimized the effect of the wind. Currently many fields are a half section (320-acres) or larger. In the Montana climate it is difficult if not impossible to maintain HELC Compliance with these huge fields if there is any tillage. Even hoe openers on the drill can create enough disturbance/tillage to open the soil to erosion.

Wind erosion occurs when the soil is moved by the erosive forces of the wind. The three types of soil movement are called suspension, creep and saltation. Suspension occurs then the wind takes fine particles into the air and moves them long distances. Creep is when soil particles roll over an area and meet particles which have been moved through saltation. Saltation is the soil movement across the surface of the ground which can damage vegetation and move organic matter along with the soil particles. Saltation also dislodges large sand particles, causing them to move and exposing smaller particles to the wind.

Residue is the old, dead crop material left after harvest or

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Hemp News, by John Porterfield, Hemp Holding Company

Montana's industrial hemp pilot program started in 2017 with 10 licensed farms (2 organic) and 500 seeded- acres. The program grew in 2018 to 55 licensed farms (5 organic) and 22,000 seeded- acres; the largest amount of acreage dedicated to industrial hemp in the US. According to Ian Foley, Commodity Services Bureau Chief, "Industrial hemp planted acres in Montana is projected to increase about 200% from 2018 to 2019 with 277 licensed farms (26 organic) – total acres for 2019 has not been calculated as planting is still occurring. 10% organic hemp production is a very large percentage for this production crop." By comparison, Montana has 275 organic producers growing wheat out of 27,300 registered farms in Montana- roughly 1% of Montana farms are currently organic, but that could change significantly as markets shift, and consumers demand for nutrient dense organic good food grows.

[MSU Central Agriculture Research Center \(CARC\)](#) researcher Pat Carr is growing industrial hemp varieties for a second year in a dryland setting at the Center's Moccasin, MT location. Dr. Carr discussed his current research with 70 guests at the July 2019 [Organic Advisory and Education Council](#)—hosted farm tour. "Half of my calls on a daily basis are related to hemp. A lot of interest in this crop right now." Perry Miller, Associate

Professor—Cropping Systems serves as the lead for industrial hemp research at MSU.

Jamie Ryan Lockman, Executive Director for Montana Organic Association said "Industrial hemp provides a great new growth opportunity for MOA memberships. A newly available crop like hemp has a steep learning curve, and that's what our organization helps facilitate – educational pathways for farms and ranches to explore organic techniques, share research, and cooperate with each other to help improve the economics of farming."

MONTANA STATE HEMP PROGRAM

Hemp is a multi-purpose agricultural crop delivering seeds, fiber, and bio-active chemicals for a number of uses and markets. Industrial hemp is defined in federal and Montana statute as *Cannabis sativa L.* that contains no more than 0.3% delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Industrial hemp is authorized as an alternative agricultural crop by the Montana Legislature, Section 80-18-101 through 80-18-111 of Montana Code Annotated.

Applicants must agree to comply with Section 80-18-101 through 80-18-111 of MCA and ARM 4.19.101-106, adopted on March 10, 2017. An industrial hemp license is required prior to planting hemp seeds in Montana.



Dr. Pat Carr addresses guests at the OAEC Organic Principles Review Field Day at CARC, July 17, 2019.

The hemp license application period ended June 14, 2019. The department will reopen the 2019 license application period on October 1, 2019 to consider applications for the indoor growing of hemp from October – December of 2019. The license application period for the 2020 growing season will open January 1, 2020. Visit the Montana [Department of Agriculture Hemp Program](#) website for further information.

[For more information about MSU Hemp Research](#)

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Call for Nominations and Notice of Director Elections

The direction of the Montana Organic Association is only as strong as its leadership. MOA welcomes energetic, committed dynamic leaders to join us to ensure the continued success of MOA. The Board of Directors election will take place during the MOA Conference Annual Business Meeting at The Commons Conference Center, 1794 Baxter Lane East, Bozeman, MT 59718.

Directors serve three year terms and can be re-elected for subsequent terms. The Board of Directors usually meets in person one to two times each year and as needed by conference calls. Other volunteer committee work, including leadership, is expected. Since MOA is not in a position to provide monetary compensation for Board work, Directors will receive board experience advising a growing, statewide organic organization. Directors may be reimbursed for travel and communications expenses, if they choose.

Current directors who are up for re-election for the 2019 Business Meeting are:

- Doug Crabtree
- Judy Owsowitz
- Sam Schmidt
- MonaRae Tuhy

Directors seeking re-election, or anyone interested in serving as a new Director, should contact the MOA Nominations and Election Committee Chair Sam Schmidt at sam@montanamilling.com.

All 2019 Director nominations must be submitted by one day prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

Candidates will be introduced prior to the Business Meeting with elections taking place during the Business Meeting. Results will be published in the Winter issue of [Organic Matters](#).

grazing of a crop. Standing residue works to reduce the velocity of the wind at the soil surface and flat residue helps to protect the soil particles on the surface from erosive forces. If a field loses the top soil, yield and profitability are reduced. The topsoil holds most of the soil organic matter, moisture and nutrients; creating habitat for soil biology to flourish and roots to grow.

NRCS makes the HELC determinations at the request of the Farm Service Agency on a participating producer's field(s). Highly Erodible Land (HEL) is more susceptible to wind and or water erosion than land which is not highly erodible (NHEL). A Highly Erodible Land determination does not mean the land cannot be farmed. Any field which is considered HEL must have an approved conservation system or the participating producer must be following a conservation plan which meets the HEL requirements. Most of the land in eastern Montana is HEL and much has been cropped very successfully.

The unsheltered distance across a field, surface residue and surface roughness make a huge difference in the erosion rate within a field. The most erosive periods of the year in north central Montana are typically November-February. If a tilled field has only 200 - 300 feet of unsheltered distance, there is much less chance of excessive wind erosion than a field that has 1,000 feet or more of unsheltered distance.

It is more challenging to maintain HELC compliance when the fields are being tilled as in organic systems, but there are practices that can be used to minimize wind erosion. Strip cropping is one of the most necessary practices to implement as an organic producer. Other practices would include minimum tillage, cover cropping and crop rotation.

Each year the Farm Service Agency does a spot check on 5% of USDA participants. These tracts are chosen at a national level and carried out by aircraft and an NRCS employee. If a producer is found out of compliance, they are at risk of losing any USDA benefits. If you have any questions regarding your tillage or cropping systems, feel free to come into your local NRCS field office and talk to one of the local conservationists. You can also email me at joyce.trevithick@usda.gov.

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the costs of installing conservation practices.

Conservation funding is available for the following initiatives:

Capital 360 Forestry Project:

This partnership project will improve forest health by integrating resource management across all administrative boundaries through reduction treatment projects strategically placed across Broadwater, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, and Powell counties.

High Tunnel Systems: These systems extend the growing seasons for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. High tunnel benefits include better plant and soil quality and fewer nutrients and pesticides in the environment.

Honey Bee Pollinators: Combats future honey bee declines by implementing conservation practices that provide forage for honey bees while enhancing habitat for other pollinators and wildlife.

National On-Farm Energy Initiative: Agricultural producers work with an NRCS-approved technical service provider to develop agricultural energy management plans or farm energy audits that assess energy consumption on an operation. NRCS may also provide assistance to implement recommended measures identified in the energy audit through the use of conservation practice standards.

National Organic Initiative

(NOI): Producers currently certified as organic, transitioning to organic, or National Organic Program exempt will have access to a broad set of conservation practices to assist in treating their resource concerns while fulfilling many of the requirements in an Organic System Plan.

National Water Quality Initiative: Producers implement conservation systems to reduce nitrogen, phosphorous, sediment and pathogen contributions from agricultural land in the Lower Gallatin Watershed (Camp and Godfrey Creeks).

Sage Grouse Initiative: Landowners can work with NRCS on three different components to improve sage-grouse habitat. One is a general category to implement prescribed grazing management practices. The others are to seed cropland back to perennial species to improve the connectivity for sage-grouse that depend on large, intact landscapes and the removal of conifers to increase nest success rates.

Wildfire Adapted Missoula: A partnership project that addresses shared wildfire risk by mitigating current wildfire hazards surrounding the Missoula community via prescribed fire and thinning maintenance.

Montana Focused Conservation - 2019 Targeted Implementation Plans:

Big Horn County – Ventenata Invasive Grass Control
Control the spread of Ventenata



Doug Crabtree, Vilicus Farms, logs observations of a grain field north of Havre, MT.

in Big Horn County through proper rangeland management and chemical control methods to improve rangeland health.

Big Horn and Yellowstone Counties – Irrigation Improvement Project

Convert less efficient irrigation systems to subsurface drip irrigation to increase irrigation efficiency, improve soil health and reduce soil compaction.

Broadwater County – Elkhorn Cooperative Management Area Range Health and Conifer Encroachment Treatment

Remove conifers to restore plant productivity and health, improve forest health, reestablish proper hydrologic function and reduce wildfire risk.

Lewis and Clark County – Hazardous Fuels Reduction
Manage unhealthy forest condi-



From the Johnson Ranch 2019 Farm Tour North of Hinsdale, MT. MSU Plant Pathologist Dr. David Sands (center-right, yellow shirt) discusses biocontrol of Canadian thistle and field bindweed.

Call For Nominations: MOA Awards

Nominations and Awards The MOA Awards Committee is seeking your nominations for two awards to be presented at the Annual Conference in Great Falls.

The **“Lifetime of Service”** award goes to an organic producer, handler, retailer, researcher, service provider (or other) who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to organic agriculture in Montana.

Previous recipients of the “Lifetime of Service” award are: Barry Flamm (2006), Bob Quinn (2007), David Oien (2008), Jim Barngrover (2009), Laughing Water (2010), Steve and Cindy Baril (2011), Russ Salisbury and Elsie Tuss (2012), Judy Owsowitz (2013), Becky Weed (2014), Wes Henthorne (2015), Ric and Dawn Blair (2016), Randy Hinebauch (2017), Jane Kile (post-humous, 2018), Dr. Jim Sims (post-humous, 2018)

A **“Leadership in Organics”** award goes to an organic producer, handler, retailer, researcher, service provider (or other) who demonstrates an on-going commitment to advancing the adoption, practice, and success of organic agriculture in Montana.

Previous recipients of the “Leadership in Organics” award are: Jon Tester (2006), Jonda Crosby (2007), Mikel and Nancy Lund (2008), Jon and Amy Kvaalen (2009), Andre’ Giles (2010), Nancy Matheson (2011), Dave and Dee Turner (2012), Jeff Schahczenski (2013), Daryl and Linda Lassila (2014), Ole Norgaard (2015), Connie Poten and Andy Sponseller (2016); Kristina “Kiki” Hubbard (2017), Matt and Sonja Johnson (2018).

Written nominations may be submitted by MOA members no later than October 1, 2019, by email or regular mail to: Judy Owsowitz, 6505 Farm to Market Rd, Whitefish MT 59937,

phone (406) 862-6362, email: terra-pin@aboutmontana.net

Please provide the following information with your nominations:

- **Nominee’s Name, Address, Phone and Email**
- **Describe the nominee’s connection to organic agriculture (50 words or less)**
- **Why the nominee should receive the award**

It is preferred that nominees be members of MOA, but Board Members cannot be nominated. Please include your contact information.

The Awards will be presented at the Conference and Awards Banquet on Friday, December 6, at 7:30 pm. at the Commons, 1794 Baxter Lane East, Bozeman, MT 59718 .

tions to reduce fuel hazards, improve rangeland health by removing encroaching conifers, prevent runoff of sediment and heavy metals post fire, and control the spread of noxious weeds and undesirable plant species.

Lake County – Miller Coulee Water Quantity Improvement Project Improve water quantity by reducing off-field movement of irrigation water in the Miller Coulee project area.

Lincoln County – Edna-Fortine Creek Forest Resiliency Project Implement forest management practices to reduce hazardous fuels around homes and structures within the wildland urban interface, improve resiliency to

insects and diseases, increase wildfire preparedness, and improve overall forest health.

Stillwater County – Pasture Monoculture Diversification Project Diversify a monoculture, tame pastures to a diverse mix of introduced and native plants to improve available forage, expand grazing options, and increase grazing animal carrying capacity.

EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to eligible participants to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. In Montana, socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers will receive a higher payment rate for

eligible conservation practices applied.

NRCS accepts conservation program applications year-round; however, applications for the next funding consideration must be submitted by Aug. 30, 2019. Applications made after the cutoff will be considered in the next funding cycle. Additional information is available on the Montana NRCS website at www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov under the Programs tab or by contacting a local NRCS service center.

Contact: Gerald (Jerry) Shows
Assistant State Conservationist – Programs FA
Bozeman, Montana
Office: 406-587-6967

Everyone agrees, one of the best things about the MOA Conference is the FOOD!



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Powell-Palm Recognized as “Rising Star”

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 25, 2019) – Three outstanding individuals in organic agriculture who will receive Organic Trade Association's Leadership Awards this coming September have much in common: they are passionate about organic farming, visionary in their advocacy for strong organic standards, and active in passing on their excitement and knowledge to foster further growth in the sector.

This year's award honorees are:

Israel Morales Sr., JV Farms Organic, Organic Farmer of the Year Award

Lynn Coody, Organic Agsystems Consulting, Growing the Organic Community Award

Nate Powell-Palm, Cold Spring Organics, Rising Star Award

Organic Farmer of the Year Award

Israel Morales Sr. is JV Farms Organic's lead grower with over 40 years of farming experience. JV Farms Organic in Soledad, California, is committed to growing organic crops in an innovative and eco-friendly manner. Israel has extensive experience not just in knowing what produce matches the type of soil, but also other factors important to soil health. As ranch manager, he has direct influence on the growing practices on all of the acres in his operation.

Growing the Organic Community Award

Lynn Coody of Eugene, Oregon, has been active as a crucial voice on the organic front since the 1970s. First serving as general manager of an organic farm, in the ensuing decades she has provided invaluable technical assistance to growers, certifiers, producers and regulatory agencies at the local, state, regional, national and international levels. She was one of a three-person team who guided the development and passage of Oregon's ground-breaking Organic Food Law in the late 1980s.

Rising Star Award

Nate Powell-Palm started farming when he was just 12 years old as part of a 4-H project, and used grants and other opportunities to develop and expand his cattle operation in Bozeman, Montana. Raising livestock according to organic standards, he applied for certification while still in high school. During college, he completed IOIA training, and started working as an organic inspector. Since graduation, he has expanded the farm into crop production while also growing his cattle enterprise. A Farmstead member of the Organic Trade Association through Montana Organic Association, he has been a regular participant in the trade association's



Organic farmer and rancher, IOIA inspector and trainer, one of the farmers featured on Annie's Mac and Cheese, and MOA member, Nate Powell-Palm.

Policy Days, and is an effective spokesperson for organic agriculture in D.C. He is under age 30, and already has more than 15 years' experience with organic production. This past April, he provided testimony regarding the economic opportunities for farmers through sustainable agricultural practices before the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration, and related agencies. He has already proven to be a leader in organic agriculture, not just in Montana but on a broader national stage.

Highest Honor

The Organic Trade Association's Annual Organic Leadership Award was established in 1997. Awardees are nominated by their peers



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Call For Conference Presentations

MOA has a history of providing top-notch presentations as well as engaging panel discussions presented by leaders in organic agriculture, marketing, health, and food. Consider submitting a proposal for a presentation, panel discussion, or even demonstration that you think would be of interest or benefit the Montana organic community.

This year MOA has automated proposal submissions; please complete presentation and panel proposal form available on the [MOA website](#).

Presentations and panels are typically 35- 45 minutes with 5 - 10 minutes for questions. Panelists are responsible for recruiting and managing panelists. Complete proposals will receive priority consideration. Visit our Conference Archive to view previous year's programs. For more information contact Jamie Lockman at jamieryanlockman@gmail.com or (406) 546-6572.



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Continued from page 1

cery/book tote. They also took place in a soil health demonstration led by Patti Armbrister.

In addition to early morning coffee, Leona Knutson, owner of [Sweet Memories](#) coffee, treats, and ice cream shop in Hinsdale baked a smorgasbord of scones to welcome guests. Chef Dyan Carlson provided an inspired cooking demonstration featuring salads made with Timeless Foods' Black Beluga lentils and cooked wheat berries and organic salad greens. The salads were then served at lunch along with seasoned beef roast prepared by Lance Johnson and cheesecake oats with rhubarb topping.

Sponsors of the field day included Organic Advisory and Education Council, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Columbia Grain International, Montana Milling, Montana Flour and Grain, Timeless Foods, Montana Gluten Free, and the Johnson Ranch.



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USDA Announces Details of Support Package for Farmers

PRESS RELEASE (Washington, D.C., July 25, 2019) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced further details of the \$16 billion package aimed at supporting American agricultural producers while the Administration continues to work on free, fair, and reciprocal trade deals.

In May, President Trump directed Secretary Perdue to craft a relief strategy in line with the estimated impacts of unjustified retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural goods and other trade disruptions. The Market Facilitation Program (MFP), Food Purchase and Distribution Program (FPDP), and Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP) will assist agricultural producers while President Trump works to address long-standing market access barriers.

“China and other nations have not played by the rules for a long time, and President Trump is the first President to stand up to them and send a clear message that the United States will no longer tolerate unfair trade practices,” Secretary Perdue said. “The details we announced today ensure farmers will not stand alone in facing unjustified retaliatory tariffs while President Trump continues working to solidify better and stronger trade deals around the globe.

“Our team at USDA reflected on what worked well and gathered feedback on last year’s program to make this one even stronger and more effective for farmers. Our farmers work hard, are the most productive in the world, and we aim to match their enthusiasm and patriotism as we support them,” Secretary Perdue added.

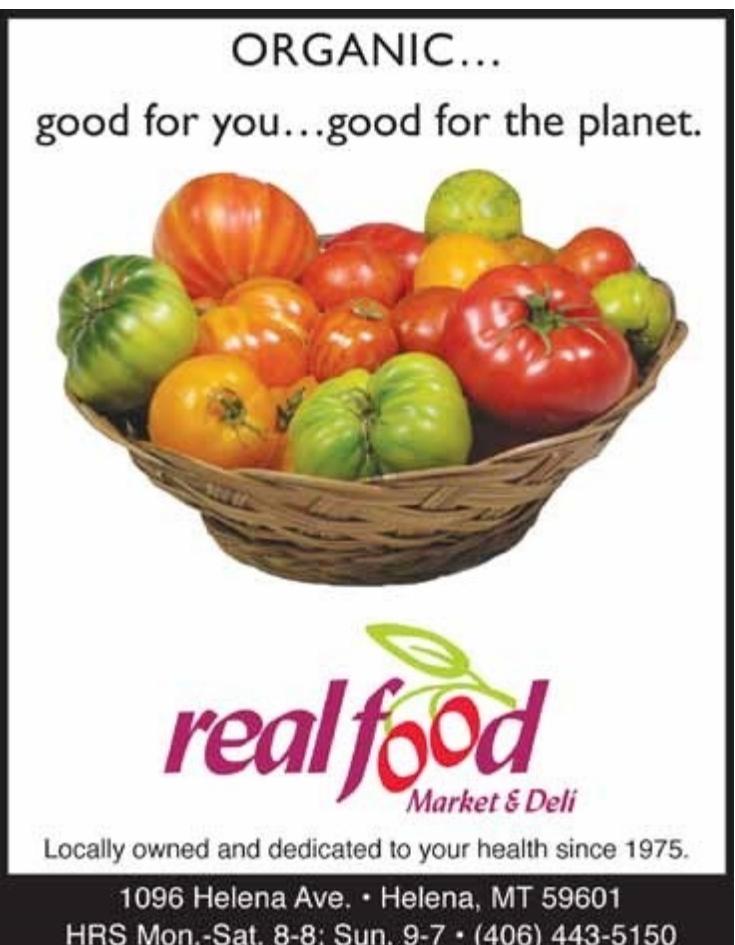
Background:

American farmers have dealt with unjustified retaliatory tariffs and decades of non-tariff trade disruptions, which have curtailed U.S. exports to China and other nations. Trade damages from such retaliation and market distortions have impacted a host of U.S. commodities. High tariffs disrupt normal marketing patterns, raising costs by forcing commodities to find new markets. Additionally, American goods shipped to China have been slowed from reaching market by unusually strict or cumbersome


entry procedures, which affect the quality and marketability of perishable crops. These boost marketing costs and unfairly affect our producers. USDA is using a variety of programs to support American farmers, ranchers, and producers.

MFP signup at local FSA offices will run from Monday, July 29 through Friday, December 6, 2019.

Contact USDA Farm Service Agency Chief Program Specialist Les Rispens. (406) 265-6792, ext. 2 or leslie.rispens@mt.usda.gov



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Ryan VanPevenage - Rvanpevenage@columbiagrains.com



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Seeking 1 -2 producer Co-Presenter(s) for the Montana Organic Association Conference Farm Commons Workshop.

Rachel Armstrong, Founder and Executive Director of Farm Commons, is seeking 1- 2 local farmers and/or ranchers to be trained by Farm Commons in the “Cultivating Your Legally Resilient Farm Workshop” curriculum. Applicants should be an excellent public speaker, someone who makes considered business decisions, and has at least 5 years of experience in direct to consumer or organic production.

Compensated \$500 for time and MOA Conference Registration.

Requirements

- Attends 3 planning meetings, online, with Farm Commons
- Reads/watches detailed training materials ahead of time
- Participates in reflection with Farm Commons to develop own perspective on farm law matters
- Co-presents Workshop alongside Farm Commons.
- Considers participating as a mentor in our cohort follow-up program.

Contact: Eva Moss 336-541-6851 or eva@farmcommons.org

Or Jamie Lockman with MOA: (406) 546-6572



Montana Organic Association

is a 501 (c) 6 non-profit organization dedicated to advocating and promoting organic agriculture for the highest good of the people, the environment and the State economy.

Organic Matters is published quarterly by the Montana Organic Association.

Send queries, suggestions, letters, and requests to:

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www.montanaorganicassociation.org

Organic Matters occasionally includes guest articles and opinions. While we review these for relevance to our mission, the opinions in these articles may not reflect the opinions or policy of the Montana Organic Association.

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MOA Board Members:
Doug Crabtree - Chairman
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Executive Director: Jamie Ryan Lockman



17th Annual Montana Organic Association Conference and Business Meeting December 5-7, 2019

The Commons, 1794 Baxter Lane East, Bozeman, MT

MOA Welcomes 2019 Keynote Speaker

Matthew Dillon, Senior Director of Agriculture at Clif Bar

- Organic University
- Farm Commons "Cultivating Your Legally Resilient Farm" Workshop (Co-presenter training opportunities available)
- Engaging speakers and research updates
- Kids U
- Farm Tours
- Officer Elections
- Awards!
- Organic food!
- Networking and fun!



**MOA Conference
Registration Opens
Soon!**

Hotels

- Super 8 in Belgrade -6450 Jackrabbit Lane, Belgrade, MT 59714. \$59 per night, one Queen or two Queens. Newly renovated. (406) 388-1493
- Spring Hill Suites – 1601 Baxter Lane Bozeman, Montana 59715. \$119 per night one king or two queens. Has shuttle to downtown. (406) 586-5200
- Holiday Inn Express –309 W. Madison Avenue, Belgrade, MT 59714. \$89/ mix of queens. (406) 388-7100

Contact: Jamie Lockman, jamieryanlockman@gmail.com or (406) 546-6572

Still accepting speaker proposals; visit MOA website for more information. montanaorganicassociation.org

and chosen unanimously by the association's Board of Directors. A complete list of past honorees is featured on our website.

"Each year we look forward to recognizing those within the organic sector who have led with valuable contributions to help grow and expand organic agriculture and the products it markets. It is exciting to recognize outstanding farmers, where it all starts, and others along the organic value chain who play an instrumental role to further organic," said Laura Batcha, CEO and Executive Director of the Organic Trade Association.

The honorees will receive their leadership awards at a celebration dinner, September 11, at the Belvedere Hotel in Baltimore, MD, during Natural Products Expo East. For more information, visit the event web site.

The Organic Trade Association (OTA) is the membership-based business association for organic agriculture and products in North America. OTA is the leading voice for the organic trade in the United States, representing over 9,500 organic businesses across 50 states.



Powell-Palm testifies before the US House Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development and other agencies subcommittees, April 10, 2019

Advertise in *Organic Matters*

MOA's Quarterly Newsletter

Organic Matters Ad Rates

and dimensions:

1 page ad — \$110 (Size: 7-1/2W x 10H")

3/4 page ad — \$90 (Size: 7-1/2W x 6-1/2H")

1/2 page ad — \$65 (Size: 7-1/2W x 5H") -OR-
(3-1/2" W x 10"H)

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Business card ad — \$30 (Size: 3-1/2W x 2H")

*If you are a Farm/Ranch/Business level member, you will receive a 5% discount on your ad. If you are an Organic Business or Lifetime member, you will receive a 10% discount. Ads are available for purchase online here.

Please Support MOA Advertisers and Sponsors!

The Montana Organic Association (MOA) brings together people, businesses, organizations, and agencies who are working to develop Montana's organic industry. MOA is proud of its legacy that has led Montana to be a national leader in organic production. But MOA is more than organic production; it also serves to educate about organic products including food, fiber, and non-food items like personal care items and household supplies, and ways to limit the use of chemicals in everyday life. MOA also advocates for policies that protect the environment, promote healthy living, and support individuals, farms and businesses who are actively engaged in developing sustainable businesses and communities. MOA accomplishes this through hosting events, serving as an educational resource, providing network opportunities, and communications.

Do you want to support MOA's work?

MOA has several affordable membership options. Visit the MOA website to learn more.

www.montanaorganicassociation.org

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A View from the Director

A note of thanks to Montana's US Delegation, **Senator Jon Tester**, **Senator Steve Daines**, and **Congressman Greg Gianforte**, for demonstrating leadership by supporting organic production and maintaining the integrity of the certified organic label. MOA appreciates their efforts to reach out to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to urge that the USDA implement the National Organic Standards Board recommendations.* MOA appreciates the recognition by Montana's own delegation that NOSB rules are made by the organic industry stakeholders and serve to strengthen the organic industry and keep the producer playing field level.

MOA historically has been an engaged organization with several members having served on state and national boards and councils related to organic agriculture, such as those governing and advising trade associations like OTA, but also the National Organic Standards Board, Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education councils, the American Farm Bureau board, and others. MOA's legacy of leadership in organics has led the state to be the top producer of organic spring wheat, durum wheat, lentils, and dry peas. Not only does the state have a strong presence in the organic commodities sector, but it also has a diversity of organic operations that range from grass fed beef, to market farms, to orchards, a developing hemp sector, and others.

Some of our members, like Nate Powell-Palm, recognized by the OTA with its "Rising Star" Award, have been identified for their leadership and vision. Nate is in good company with three MOA members who have also recognized over the years by the trade association for their leadership, excellence, and hard work. **Margaret Scoles** was recognized in 2017 for the "Growing Organic Industry Award," **Doug Crabtree** received the "Farmer of the Year Award" in 2014, and **Bob Quinn** received the "Organic Leadership Award for Achievement in Growing Organic Agriculture" in 2009. MOA has also recognized many inspirational leaders for their service and commitment to organic agriculture. There are many more who work quietly, contributing in big and little ways to promote organics in their communities, educating friends and family, tending their soil and organic crops with care, and supporting their organic neighbors.

MOA members can be proud of the heritage forged by its engaged and persistent leaders. I encourage you to make the most of your MOA membership, not only by attending the annual conference, but by attending field tours, volunteering on a committee, recruiting new members, sharing your thoughts in the newsletter, and even contributing photos and posts via social media. MOA helps develop leaders through education and opportunity.

The organic industry and community continues to grow, and Montana has been and continues to be, an influential leader of this growth.

Wishing you a good summer and a bountiful and safe harvest,

Jamie Ryan Lockman
Executive Director

*View the letter the Montana delegation sent to Secretary Purdue [here](#).