



Organic MATTERS

What's Inside

2018 Farm Bill Priorities	2-3
Bayer-Monsanto Merger.....	4-5
MOA Member Profile	7
Organic News	9
MOA Conference Preview .	11-18
Conference Agenda.....	12-13
Conf Registration/Venue.....	13
Conference Lodging	14
Conf Sponsors/Vendors.....	14
Director Nominations/Election	14
Awards/Nominations.....	14
Conf Registration Form	15-16
Conf Donations/Posters.....	18
View From the Chair.....	24

2017 MOA Conference and Member Meeting Organic Resiliency in a Changing World by Jamie Ryan Lockman, MOA Conference Chair

You are cordially invited to the 15th Annual Montana Organic Association Conference and Member Meeting, December 7-9, 2017, in Great Falls, Montana.

The conference will be held at the Mansfield Convention Center and will feature presentations from a variety of experts in organic agriculture, including farmers, researchers, policy analysts, and business specialists.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Stephen Jones, Director of Washington State University's The Bread Lab, is sure to stimulate discussion around sustainability, organic farming, food, and soil health. Conference attendees will learn about important policy issues from the Organic Trade Association, NOSB, Organic Advisory and Education Council, Montana Department of Agriculture, and MOA's Board.

We will also hear from experts in grain and weed research, seed production, livestock health, and climate change. We are especially excited to be bringing back our Nuggets of Knowledge session this year, with an expanded format that will allow for beginning and seasoned producers to exchange information and farming experiences.

We will be facilitating Organic University for people interested in learning what it takes to become a

certified organic producer. We will also conduct a Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Food Safety Training session.

Our tour choices this year also include options to visit Prairie Heritage Farm in Power, Montana, for a tour and bread baking demonstration. Another tour option is a visit to Wilcox Family Farms' egg processing facility in Great Falls, and/or Timeless Natural Foods' facility in Ulm, Montana.

For entertainment this year, we are offering *Unbroken Ground*, a short film, produced by Patagonia Provisions and another film that is sure to generate discussion about new crops in Montana. We will also feature silent and live auctions, fantastic organic meals, informative vendors, and countless networking opportunities, which all adds up to a lot of fun!

The conference is a great opportunity to share experiences and meet others within our organic community. Please check out the conference preview, starting on page 11, and use the enclosed registration form today or register online at www.MontanaOrganicAssociation.org/commerce.htm.

See you at the Conference! 

Jamie Ryan Lockman is MOA's 2017 Conference Chair and Kamut International's Regional Director-North America.



REGISTER TODAY!

MOA's 15th Annual Conference

Organic Resiliency In A Changing World

December 7-9, 2017

Mansfield Center in Great Falls, MT

Register at:
www.MontanaOrganicAssociation.org/commerce.htm

Image by iStock/leolintang



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:

Organic Matters
Montana Organic Association
PO Box 9823
Kalispell, MT 59904
(406) 333-1054
moamembership@gmail.com
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.

Editor: Susan Waters
MOA Newsletter Committee:
Sam Schmidt - Chair
Heather Estrada

MOA Board Members:
Doug Crabtree - Chair
Cliff Merriman - Vice Chair
Heather Estrada - Treasurer
Jamie Ryan Lockman - Secretary
Nate Brown - Past Chair
Sam Schmidt - Parliamentarian
MondRae Tuhy - Member at Large
Jess Alger
Linda Benjamin
Rob Knotts
Andrew Long
Judy Owsowitz

2018 Farm Bill Priorities

As discussions ramp up toward developing the 2018 Farm Bill, we'll look at some of the priorities and recommendations of three agricultural organizations, the National Organic Coalition (NOC), the Organic Trade Association (OTA), and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC). This is not an exhaustive list, but rather a few priorities that organic professionals can consider, discuss, and then choose a path toward a 2018 Farm Bill that we can advocate for.

NATIONAL ORGANIC COALITION

The organic sector is currently at an important stage of growth. Consumer demand for organic products has continued to grow at nearly 10 percent annually on average since the inception of federal organic standards. U.S. organic sales reached \$47 billion in 2016, with nearly 24,000 domestic family farms and other businesses represented. However, domestic organic production is not keeping pace with demand, requiring more imports to fill the gap. Providing adequate resources for core USDA organic programs is critical to give domestic farms and businesses the tools they need to keep pace with marketplace demand.

The Importance of the USDA National Organic Program and the National Organic Standards Board

It is crucial that the USDA organic programs receive the resources necessary to keep pace with the rapidly growing sector. Funding for the National Organic Program (NOP) must be increased to address the enforcement challenges facing the sector. As a consumer-driven label, it is critical that consumers have confidence that all products bearing the USDA organic seal are truly meeting the strict organic standards established by USDA. The role of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) is important to the organic sector to ensure that all stakeholders with an interest in organic agriculture and food have access and input into the USDA process for setting organic standards. It is this diverse body with statutory authority that helped give the organic label the credibility and accountability that it has today and the platform for the exponential growth of the organic market. NOC strongly opposes any efforts to dilute the authority and role of the NOSB in the overall standard-setting process, or to seek statutory changes to the delicate balance of stakeholder slot allocations for the Board membership.

Organic Research

Investing in organic research is central to increasing domestic production of organic crops to meet growing demand. However, because of the focus on soil

health and alternative pest and disease management strategies, organic research benefits organic and conventional farmers alike. Unfortunately, over the past five years, while overall funding for agricultural research has grown significantly, funding for organic research has stagnated. To help address this problem, the bipartisan Organic Agriculture Research Act (H.R. 2436) has been introduced in the House to authorize \$50 million in mandatory funding annually for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI). NOC strongly supports this legislation and seeks a Senate companion to the bill as well, because funding for OREI has been stagnant at \$20 million since fiscal year 2010, while many of the production challenges of organic farmers go unaddressed.

Certification Cost Share Assistance

One of the unique costs faced by organic farmers is the fee associated with the rigorous annual organic certification. Two federal programs, the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program and the Agricultural Management Assistance Act (AMA), provide organic farmers with modest reimbursements for a portion of their annual organic certification fees. These cost-share programs should be renewed with adequate mandatory funding to meet projected demand.

Seeds and Animal Breeds to Address Farmers' Needs

Both organic and conventional farmers need seeds and animal breeds that are well suited to their local growing conditions, changing climates, and farming systems. Without these tools, farmers are handicapped and their productivity is negatively affected. Congress, USDA, and our nation's public research universities must work

together to reinvigorate public plant and animal-breeding programs to provide farmers with regionally adapted seeds and breeds.

The new Farm Bill should require USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to use its existing competitive grants research



programs to collectively allocate \$50 million annually to public plant and animal breeding programs, with a focus on developing regionally adapted cultivars and animal breeds. The seeds and breeds developed with this public funding should remain in the public realm to allow farmers the right to save the seeds and allow plant breeders access to the germplasm for field trials, and to make further improvements to adapt the cultivars to farmers' changing needs.

Risk Management Program Reforms

Many organic farmers want to be able to insure their crops based on organic prices, not conventional prices. While USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) has made progress in this area, organic price elections are still not available for all organic crops. The new Farm Bill should renew language from the 2014 Farm Bill requiring RMA to provide price elections for all organic crops.

Organic Data Initiative

Consistent and reliable data about production and sales trends is

extremely important to the organic sector and to policymakers alike, including for the USDA efforts to expand risk management options for organic farmers. The Organic Data Initiative should be reauthorized to provide \$5 million in mandatory funding USDA organic data efforts, as well as a continuation of existing language authorizing additional funding through the annual appropriations process.

Conservation Program Reforms

The payment limits under the Organic Initiative within the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) should be equalized with the rest of the EQIP program, to ensure full opportunity for organic farmers to participate in the program. Currently, organic farmers who chose to participate in the EQIP Organic Initiative face a payment limit of \$20,000 per year and \$80,000 over 6 years, whereas the payment limit in the general EQIP program pool is \$450,000 over 6 years. In addition, the USDA conservation programs should be used to provide technical assistance and mentorship for farmers transitioning to organic.

ORGANIC TRADE ASSOCIATION

More than 500 organic operations, from organic fruit and vegetable growers, grains and oilseed farmers, livestock and poultry producers, dairy farmers, organic processors, and food makers across 45 states, participated in a comprehensive farm bill survey conducted by the Organic Trade Association. They all agreed that the next farm bill must include policies that promote a healthy organic marketplace, ensure that organic farmers continue to be successful, and expand organic production.

National Organic Program (NOP) and Trade Oversight

While all domestic and imported

Continued on p. 20

Bayer-Monsanto Merger is a Bad Deal for Vegetable Farmers

by Kiki Hubbard, Organic Seed Alliance

Organic Seed Alliance (OSA) continues to join farmer, consumer, and rural advocacy organizations in urging the US Department of Justice (DOJ) to block the proposed merger between Bayer and Monsanto.

In a letter sent in August to DOJ, two dozen groups detailed the potential anticompetitive effects of the proposed \$66 billion merger on the vegetable seed market. The proposed deal would join the world's largest and fourth largest vegetable seed companies and would further consolidate the already highly concentrated vegetable seed industry. If this merger goes through, farmers will likely pay more for a diminished array of seed options. Vegetable seed prices have increased tremendously alongside mega-mergers in the vegetable seed industry.

Today, the largest vegetable seed companies are vertically integrated firms that research and breed varieties, multiply and manufacture seeds, and distribute and market seeds to farmers. Only a few vegetable seed companies dominate the market for each commercial vegetable crop, and these companies are primarily interested in a relatively narrow set of high-value vegetables.

The proposed merger joins major rivals that compete to sell many vegetable varieties, including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce, carrots, spinach, and onions in the \$860 million US vegetable seed market. The letter conservatively estimates the two firms would control more than 37% of the US vegetable seed market, but likely would sell more than half, and likely much higher for some

vegetable varieties. For example, a combined Bayer-Monsanto would sell an estimated 62% of California processing tomato seeds.

Monsanto's aggressive merger strategy has allowed it to maintain dominance in the seed industry.



From 1995 to 2015, the company purchased 19 seed companies — about two-thirds of the company's takeovers. In vegetables, beginning in 2005, Monsanto bought Seminis for over \$1 billion, a deal that gave Monsanto control of 39% of the US vegetable seed market and 26% of the global market. In 2008, it added the \$800 million purchase of De Ruiters Seeds, which specialized in greenhouse vegetable seeds.

The Bayer – Monsanto merger will likely reduce the choice of varieties that farmers can plant, as companies like Monsanto have shut down brands and reduced their lines after completing mergers. The letter estimates that the two companies currently control a substantial portion of varieties for many vegetables — 43% of processed spinach, 33% of cantaloupe, 30% of lettuce, and 29% of fresh carrot varieties, to name a few.

History shows us that mergers of this scale typically reduce rather than inspire innovation. The majority of commercial vegetable

seed companies have proprietary control over their seed lines through hybridized techniques and/or through the enforcement of restrictive utility patents or licensing agreements on seed varieties and genetic traits. These intellectual property rights are

typically aggressively enforced, disallowing farmers to save seed and often prohibiting research on the protected genetic material.

What does this mean for organic farmers? Though neither Bayer nor Monsanto are players in the organic seed trade, many organic farmers rely on their untreated (sans chemical pesticides) varieties. And because organic farmers are already underserved

by the dominant seed trade, this merger could exacerbate this problem by further concentrating and privatizing vegetable genetics, reducing choice in the marketplace and making it more difficult for other seed companies to compete. At the end of the day, giving more market power to companies that only invest in seed technologies and chemical farming systems that are in conflict with organic practices isn't only a bad deal for organic farmers, it's a bad deal for all farmers, farm workers, and consumers who desire a healthier food supply, work environment, and planet. 🌱

Kiki Hubbard is the director of advocacy and communications for Organic Seed Alliance. She currently leads efforts to promote policies and actions that support organic seed systems, including managing OSA's State of Organic Seed project.

Article reprinted with permission from Organic Seed Alliance. The data and DOJ comments were compiled by Food & Water Watch. Photo by Susan Waters.

Farm Safety Tips

by Jim Larson, Montana Ag Safety Program

Communications! There are many times during the day that farm and ranch workers are away from contact with any one and out of cell phone range. Every operation should create a plan for knowing where its people are at all times. Here are some tips. 1. Have a daily plan for worker locations. 2. Put a time limit to the activity so someone can begin looking when someone does not show up. 3. Always let someone know of deviations in the planned locations when you need to be somewhere different. 4. Always check in when you return from some place where you have been out of contact.

Fall cleanup! Clutter in the workplace is one of the key causes of accidents. The places that collect the most junk include pickups, tractor and machinery cabs, shops, garages, barns, office space, and storage buildings. Take a few minutes each day this fall and clean a small area. Keep walk areas clear. Pick up chords and tools. Get things organized again before winter hits. Prevent accidents in your work space. Remember – Safety Starts With You! Create a Culture of Safety in all of your activities. Call 406-860-6129 for more info.



MontanaGrow
montanagrow.com

Supporting Montana's Organic Farmers
with Higher Yields and Better Quality



**GOOD
FOOD**

S T O R E

1600 S. 3rd St. West
Missoula | 406.541.3663
7am to 10pm Every Day

www.goodfoodstore.com



YES, YOU CAN EAT YOUR WAY
TO A LOWER CARBON FOOTPRINT!

**Timeless Natural Food
Organic Pulses and Grains**

- Provide top quality, nutrient-dense protein
- Grown in Montana's drylands
- Flourish on just 12-14" annual precipitation
- Enrich the soil with natural nitrogen-fixing

**We help keep Montana's organic farmers
on the land and in business!**



Timeless Seeds, Inc.
P.O. Box 331 • Ulm, Montana 59485 USA
www.timelessfood.com • 406-866-3340



Daryl Lassila, Organic Lentil Farmer with
David Oien, Owner Timeless Seeds

MOA Member Profile:



Northwest Farm Credit Services supports agriculture and rural communities with reliable, consistent credit and financial services. As a cooperative, Northwest FCS provides financing for farmers, ranchers, commercial fishermen, timber producers and rural homeowners in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. Northwest FCS also provides equipment financing, appraisal services and crop insurance programs.


Northwest FCS is part of the more than 100-year-old Farm Credit System – the leading provider of credit to American agriculture. They serve their customers through 45 branch offices located throughout the Northwest and their corporate headquarters office in Spokane, Washington.

Dedicated to rural America's success, just as farmers and ranchers have been entrusted to be good stewards of the land, Northwest FCS shares the same responsibility – to be exceptional stewards of the rural communities in which they live and work. To support the business side of their stewardship mission, they are putting the company's talent and resources back into these communities. Through their Rural Community Grant

program, Northwest FCS is supporting safety, economic development, infrastructure and quality of life projects to care for the people who live in the communities they serve.

In 2016, Northwest FCS invested more than \$2.2 million in a variety of charitable and industry organizations and programs focused on community giving, youth education, higher education, military veteran support and employee involvement.

Northwest FCS is committed to advancing the industries they finance and communities they serve. Through memberships in industry organizations and sponsorship of select projects, such as their long-time support of MOA's Annual Conference, they are looking after the needs of the farmers and ranchers they serve. MOA is grateful for Northwest FCS's continued support by recently becoming a MOA Gold Member.

Please visit Northwest FCS's vendor booth at the 15th Annual MOA Conference, December 7-9 in Great Falls. If you have any questions about Northwest FCS' programs, call Shaud Schwarzbach at 406-265-7878 or email him at shaud.schwarzbach@northwestfcs.com. Shaud is also a farmer in the Big Sandy, Montana, area. 

A large graphic for Montana Milling Inc. featuring a blue outline of the state of Montana. Inside the outline, there is a central oval logo for "MONTANA MILLING INC." with a wheat stalk below the text. Surrounding the logo are four phrases: "MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTS!" (top left), "A MONTANA COMPANY!" (top right), "ORGANIC SINCE 1980!" (bottom left), and "GROWING TOGETHER!" (bottom right). At the bottom of the graphic is the website "www.montanamilling.com" and the phone number "(800) 548-8445". To the left of the Montana outline is a detailed illustration of two wheat stalks.

YOUR FIELDS, HEALTHY FLOUR, NATIONS FOOD!

MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTS!

A MONTANA COMPANY!

ORGANIC SINCE 1980!

GROWING TOGETHER!

www.montanamilling.com

(800) 548-8445



HOME OF
KAMUT®
WHEAT

**INTERESTED IN ADDING KAMUT® WHEAT TO YOUR ROTATION?
CALL ANDRE' GILES OR ELDON PFIELE**

montanafLOUR.com
(406) 622-5436



Organic News

Chat Service Access to Agriculture Experts

The National Center for Appropriate Technology has introduced a chat service on its ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture website. Visitors to the site have the opportunity to chat in real time with sustainable agriculture experts during weekday business hours. The same sustainable agriculture specialists who answer ATTRA's e-mail and telephone questions will be available at the website to respond to queries from site users. More at: <https://attra.ncat.org/> (Source: National Center for Appropriate Technology)

Rodale Introduces Regenerative Organic Certification

Rodale Institute has announced the new Regenerative Organic Certification, a cooperative effort among a coalition of farmers, ranchers, nonprofits, scientists, and brands, led by Rodale Institute, to establish a new, high-bar standard for regenerative organic agriculture. The goals of Regenerative Organic Certification are to increase soil organic matter over time, improve animal welfare, provide economic stability and fairness for farmers, ranchers, and workers, and create resilient regional ecosystems and communities. The environmental outcomes of a systemic shift to

regenerative organic agricultural practices could be profound. In 2014, research by Rodale Institute estimated that if current crop acreage and pastureland shifted to regenerative organic practices, 100% of annual global CO₂ emissions could be sequestered in the soil. Regenerative Organic Certification does not aim to supplant current organic standards. Instead, this certification aims to support these standards while at the same time facilitate widespread adoption of holistic, regenerative practices throughout agriculture. It builds upon the standards set forth by USDA Organic and similar programs internationally, particularly in the areas of animal welfare and farmer and worker fairness. (Source: Rodale Institute)

Livestock Standards Lawsuit Against USDA

The Organic Trade Association filed a lawsuit in September against the U.S. Department of Agriculture over its failure to put into effect new organic livestock standards. The suit alleges the U.S. Department of Agriculture violated the Organic Foods Production Act, and unlawfully delayed the effective date of the final livestock standards that were developed by industry and in accordance with the processes established by Congress, and with abusing the agency's discretion by ignoring the overwhelming public record established

Continued on p. 23



**FRESH
MARKET**

We Support our local organic farmers and producers.

Thanks for all your help!

While you're in town stop by for all your organic needs. We have a large selection of bulk foods, natural product groceries, and supplements. Check out our full service fresh produce and meat departments. We also carry a nice assortment of gluten free, vegetarian, and organic items. We support local producers and products whenever possible.

Locally Owned & Operated

Store Hours: Mon thru Sat 9am-8pm • Sun 10am-7pm
105 Smelter Ave NE • Great Falls, MT 59404 • 406-761-0134
Visit Us Online: www.2jsfreshmarket.com



Your trusted source.

We support agriculture and rural communities with reliable, consistent credit and financial services, today and tomorrow.

- Real Estate Financing
- Operating Lines of Credit
- Country Home & Lot Loans
- Crop Insurance*

406.265.7878 | northwestfcs.com

 Equal Housing Lender
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
*Serviced through Northwest Farm Credit Services Insurance Agency.

Here to Help You Grow®



15th Annual Conference and Member Meeting “Organic Resiliency in a Changing World”

December 7-9, 2017

Mansfield Convention Center
Great Falls, Montana

Conference Preview Guide

Image by iStock/colintang

The Montana University System’s Institute on Ecosystems released the Montana Climate Assessment in September, indicating that Montana’s average temperatures are increasing. Many of our organic farmers have experienced weather extremes first hand this year, so this year’s MOA conference theme is “Organic Resiliency in a Changing World.”

Our 15th Annual Conference and Member Meeting will be held December 7-9, at the Mansfield Convention Center in Great Falls, Montana, and will be full of energetic speakers, lively discussion, and useful information for producers and consumers alike. Sprinkled in will be lots of great organic food, a variety of entertainment, and social and networking opportunities.

We have an amazing agenda this year, with speakers who are leaders in their fields speaking about the vital issues surrounding organics. There are sessions covering a wide variety of organic subjects, including climate change; funding opportunities; soil health; feeding the world; transitioning to organic; Nuggets of Knowledge Exchange; Farm Link; the seed movement; cover crops; new tools and inputs; OAEC Update; and crop insurance.

This year, we will also be offering Organic University; Kids’ University; Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training; and the annual MOA member meeting.


The Conference Tours encourage participants to get out in the fields and see how area farms, ranches, and processing facilities operate. There are three tour offerings this year: a visit to the Prairie Heritage Farm; Wilcox Family Farms egg processing; and Timeless Natural Foods processing facility.

Two evening social events are planned, including Thursday night’s social for all. For entertainment on December 7, we are offering Patagonia Provisions’ short film *Unbroken Ground* (25 mins) and a film about industrial hemp production called *Bringing It Home* (57 mins.). And what MOA Conference would be complete without the live and silent auctions and the best organic food from the farms and ranches of Montana? Hope you can join us on Friday night. If you have items you would like to donate, please contact Cliff Merriman at merrimanclifford@gmail.com or (406) 654-1297.

Before the conference, please don’t forget to submit your nominations for the MOA Board of Director Elections, and to nominate your organic hero for the “Lifetime of Service” or the “Leadership in Organics” awards. We are also accepting food donations for our meals and items for the live and silent auctions. If you can, please donate to our Scholarship Fund so that we can give financial breaks to those who would like to attend but cannot afford to.

And if you’re interested in sponsoring the event or becoming a vendor at the conference, MOA has many affordable options.

The Conference preview begins here, and includes the full conference agenda, how to register, information on the conference venue, preferred-rate hotel information, and all the extras to help you plan your informative and enjoyable MOA Conference experience.

Sign up today and we’ll see you in Great Falls! 

~MOA 2017 Conference Committee: Jamie Ryan Lockman (Chair), Jess Alger, Judy Owsowitz, MonaRae Tuhy, Cliff Merriman, Daryl Lasilla, Linda Benjamin, and Dee Turner.

Conference Agenda

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017

7:00 am - 8:00 am: Registration and Breakfast

8:00 am - 12:00 pm: ORGANIC UNIVERSITY (OU)

Pre-registration is required.

The Basics of Organic Production, facilitated by Margaret Scoles, Executive Director at International Organic Inspectors Association.

8:00 am - 12:00 pm: GAP TRAINING

Pre-registration is required.

Fresh produce farmers will have access to help developing their on-farm food safety GAP plans. Facilitated by Jan Tusick and David Wise.

9:45 am - 10:00 am: Coffee Break

12:00 pm - 1:15 pm: Lunch

1:15-1:30 pm: Load Vehicles for Tours (meet in the foyer of the Mansfield Convention Center, 2 Park Dr S., Great Falls, MT)

1:30 pm - 5:00 pm:

MOA ORGANIC TOURS *Pre-registration is required and space is limited.*

Tour 1: Prairie Heritage Farm: Join owner/operators Jacob and Courtney Cowgill at their farm 25 miles, northwest of Great Falls. Jacob will provide an overview of winter vegetable production. After the tour, there are limited (6 spots) available for a bread baking demonstration with Blue Truck Bread.

Tour 2: Wilcox Family Farms: 1401 Stuckey Rd, Great Falls, MT. Wilcox Farms Organic eggs come from flocks of organically raised and grown hens. Tour the organic processing plant that uses locally sourced eggs.

Tour 3: Timeless Natural Foods 48 Ulm-Vaughn Road, Ulm, MT: Now in its third decade, Timeless Natural Foods remains committed to sustainable agriculture, good health, and the local community. Tour the recently upgraded facilities of Montana's top organic lentil processor.

5:15 pm – 6:30 pm: MOA Social

Everyone is encouraged to attend our social. The hour will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres, a no host bar, and a pre-conference welcome from the MOA Board.

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm: Unbroken Ground: A short film by Patagonia Provisions. *Bringing It Home*, documentary about industrial hemp production. Discussion will follow.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017

7:00 am – 8:00 am: Registration and Breakfast, Main Hall

7:30 am, Main Hall, Ron Larson, Farm Safety

8:00 am – 8:15 am: Welcome: Doug Crabtree, MOA Board Chairman, Vilicus Farms

8:15 am – 9:15 am: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 1, Main Hall - Georgana Webster, Montana Department of Agriculture, Organic Program Manager, Trends and Issues in Montana Organics

Session 2, Cascade County Chambers, Ian Foley, Pest Management Program Manager, Montana Department of Agriculture, Growing Industrial Hemp in Montana
Session 3, Gibson Room, Shelly Rolando, Chief Program Specialist, USDA, Farm Services Agency, Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program

9:15 am - 9:45 am: Break and Vendor Appreciation

9:45am – 10:45 am: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 1, Main Hall, Bruce Maxwell, Professor of Agroecology and Co-Director, Montana Institute on Ecosystems, Montana Climate Assessment and Next Steps to Adapt to a Changing Climate

Session 2, Cascade County Chambers, Al Kurki and Anna Merriman, National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), Sustainable Ag Program Specialist, Are Western SARE Farmer/Rancher Grants the Right Tool for You?

Session 3, Gibson Room, Kiki Hubbard, Organic Seed Alliance, Director of Advocacy & Communications, Advancing Organic Seed

11:00 am – 12:00 pm: Keynote Speaker Dr. Stephen Jones, Washington State University, Wheat, Bread and Community

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm: Lunch, with address by Ben Thomas, Director Montana Department of Agriculture

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm: Student Poster Presentations and Vendor Appreciation, Gibson Room

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

KIDS' UNIVERSITY (KU), Children's Museum of Montana, Pre-registration is required. Runs concurrently with Conference.

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Session 1, Main Hall - Policy Update

Session 2, Cascade County Chambers, Perry Miller, Professor, Sustainable Cropping Systems, Montana State University, Fort Ellis, Organic Lessons Learned in

the Pursuit of Reduced Tillage Through Grazing
Session 3, Gibson Room - Student Poster Presentations

2:30 -2:45 pm: Break and Vendor Appreciation

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm: CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Session 1, Main Hall - Policy Discussion
Session 2, Cascade County Chambers, Pat Carr, Superintendent/Associate Professor of Cropping Systems, Montana State University, Central Agricultural Research Center, Developing Enterprise Budgets for Montana Organic Farmers: Early Iterations
Session 3, Gibson Room, Panel Discussion, Transitioning to Organic

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm: Break and Vendor Appreciation

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm: CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Session 1, Main Hall, Policy Discussion Continued
Session 2, Cascade County Chambers, Cover Crops
Session 3, Gibson Room, Plenary Session: Nuggets of Knowledge Exchange facilitated by Wes Gibbs, Integrity Ag Services

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm: Social and Reception

6:30 pm – 10:00 pm: Dinner and Auction with MOA Awards

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

7:00 am – 8:00 am: Registration and Breakfast

8:00 am – 8:15 am: Announcements and Updates

8:15 am – 9:15 am: Keynote Speaker Dr. Stephen Jones, Washington State University, City Wheat, Country Bread: The Beauty of Place

9:15 am - 9:45 am: Break and Vendor Appreciation

9:45am – 10:45 am: CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Session 1, Main Hall, Eric Sommer, State Statistician, USDA - NASS, Census of Agriculture - Your Voice, Your Future / Certified Organic Survey Results
Session 2, Cascade County Chambers, TBA
Session 3, Gibson Room, Cheryl Reichert, MD, Human Health and Organics

11:00 am – 12:00 pm: CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Session 1, Main Hall, Buyers Panel
Session 2, Cascade County Chambers, Women in Montana Organic Agriculture Panel
Session 3, Gibson Room, Bill O’Haire, Sales and Support, Wilbur-Ellis and John Porterfield, President, Montana Grow, New Technologies, Tools, and Inputs for Organic Producers

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm: Chambers, MOA Business Meeting,

12:45 pm - 1:00 pm: MOA Board Elections

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm: Lunch, with Ole Norgaard, Chair, OAEC, Organic Advisory Education Council Update

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm: CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Session 1, Main Hall, Jen Swanson, Assistant Professor of Biology, University of Providence (formerly called University of Great Falls) / Department of Biology, Growing Grass-Fed
Session 2, Cascade County Chambers, Sam Day, Everything Organic Nursery, Kathmandu, Nepal, Subsistence Farming In Nepal: Perennial Staple Crops, Fukuoka Natural Farming, Climate-Adaptable Agriculture
Session 3, Gibson Room, Jacob Cowgill, Landrace grain and Sourdough Baking

3:00 pm -3:15 pm: Break and Vendor Appreciation

3:15 pm – 3:45 pm: Closing Keynote, Bob Quinn

3:45 pm: Closing Remarks, Doug Crabtree

Agenda is subject to change.

Conference Registration

Please fill it out the enclosed registration form and send it in by November 27, 2017 for the best rates and to guarantee meals.

If you'd prefer to register and pay online, you can do so at www.montanaorganicassociation.org/conference2017/registration.htm but all registrants must fill out the general registration form so that we can get your food, tours, and other preferences.

Conference Venue

This year's conference will be held at the Mansfield Convention Center, 2 Park Dr S., Great Falls, Montana, 59401.

For the latest Conference information, visit www.montanaorganicassociation.org/conference2017.htm.

Preferred Rate Lodging

MOA has arranged for lodging at discounted rates at La Quinta Great Falls at \$95 per night plus tax. La Quinta Hotel Great Falls, 600 River Dr South, Great Falls, MT 59405, phone 406-761-2600. Their website is: www.laquintagreatfalls.com.

The Hotel Arvon is close to the Conference venue and MOA has a block of rooms reserved. Hotel Arvon, 118 1st Ave S, Great Falls, MT 59401, phone 406-952-1101. Their website is: www.hotelarvon.com.

Please declare you are a MOA member at the time of booking. **You must make reservations by Nov. 26, 2017 for the discount rate.**

Sponsor/Vendor Opportunities Available but Filling Quickly

Get your business up front and center by becoming a MOA Conference Sponsor or Vendor. We have lots of sponsor options available to fit most businesses' and organizations' needs, but vendor tables are being claimed quickly. Phone Susan at (406) 274-4869 to find out more and sign up today. **Register by November 1** to assure your maximum exposure in MOA's communications and press for the conference.

Nominations and Notice of Director Elections

The direction of this organization is only as strong as its Leadership. MOA welcomes energetic, committed dynamic leaders to join us to ensure the continued success of MOA.

For 2017, MOA Board of Directors has one director stepping down and five incumbents seeking re-election. The Board of Directors election will take place during the MOA Conference Annual Business Meeting at 12:45 pm, Saturday, December 9, in the Main Hall of the Mansfield Convention Center.

The terms that Directors serve are three years in length and Directors can be re-elected. The Board of Directors usually meets in person two times each year and as needed by conference calls. Other volunteer committee work will also be expected. Directors are reimbursed for travel and communications expenses, if they choose. 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 seeking re-election, or anyone interested in serving as a new Director, needs to contact the MOA Nominations and Election Committee, at g.nathanbrown@gmail.com or sam@montanamilling.com. **All 2017 Director nominations must be submitted by one day prior to the Annual Business Meeting.**

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 will go 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 are: Barry Flamm (2006), Bob Quinn (2007), David Oien (2008), Jim Barngrover (2009), Laughing Water (2010), Steve and Cindy Baril (2011), Russ Salisbury & Elsie Tuss (2012), Judy Owsowitz (2013), Becky Weed (2014), Wes Henthorne (2015), Ric and Dawn Blair (2016).

A "Leadership in Organics" award will go 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 are: Jon Tester (2006), Jonda Crosby (2007), Mikel & Nancy Lund (2008), Jon & Amy Kvaalen (2009), Andre' Giles (2010), Nancy Matheson (2011), Dave & Dee Turner (2012), Jeff Schahczenski (2013), Daryl and Linda Lassila (2014), Ole Norgaard (2015), Connie Poten and Andy Sponseller (2016).

Written nominations may be submitted by MOA members no later than November 15, 2017, by email or regular mail to: Judy Owsowitz, 6505 Farm to Market Rd, Whitefish MT 59937, phone (406) 862-6362, email terrapin@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 on Friday, December 8, at 7:30 pm at Mansfield Convention Center in Great Falls, Montana.

Montana Organic Association's 15th Annual Conference
Organic Resiliency in a Changing World
 December 7 – 9, 2017, Mansfield Convention Center, Great Falls, MT
Participant Registration Form (Please register early so we know how many meals we need to order)

Name _____

(If registering an organization, please fill out a form for each participant)

Farm or Organization _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Day Phone _____ **Evening Phone** _____

Fax _____ **Email** _____

MOA Conference Registration

Early registration for conference and meals for Members\$110\$ _____

Early registration for conference and meals for Non-Members\$140\$ _____

(Includes a one year complimentary Individual membership to MOA)

Early registration for conference @ Student Rate\$65\$ _____

Organic University.....\$10\$ _____

GAP Training (please enter "0" on line at far right if attending)\$ 0\$ _____

Late Registration after November 27 (add \$10 per person)\$10\$ _____

(Meals cannot be guaranteed for very late registrants)

<p>Food Preferences:</p> <p>Omnivore _____</p> <p>Vegetarian _____</p> <p>Vegan _____</p> <p>Gluten – free _____</p>	<p>I'd like to donate an item(s) to the raffle/auction. Item description:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Visit http://tinyurl.com/v789gshq for donation guidelines. Questions? Call Cliff (406) 654-4391</p>	<p>Sharon Lindquist Scholarship Fund to those in need..... \$ _____</p> <p>MOA Memberships</p> <p>Individual\$30.....\$ _____</p> <p>Household\$50.....\$ _____</p> <p>Farm/Ranch/Business \$75...\$ _____</p> <p>Organic Business.....\$250..\$ _____</p> <p>Other Membership.....\$ _____</p> <p>Tours & Kids' U Reg Forms -----></p>
---	---	--

Payment (by check to "MOA" or online at www.MontanaOrganicAssociation.org/commerce.htm)

Check here ___ if paid online (email or mail form in to MOA) **TOTAL \$** _____

Please note: Refunds are not available for cancellations made after November 27, 2017.

If you need registration assistance due to drought or other extenuating circumstances, please contact Jamie at (406) 546-6572.

Return this form to: Montana Organic Association, PO Box 9823 Kalispell, MT 59904, OR Email filled out form to: moamembership@gmail.com Questions? Call Patti at (406) 333-1054

For more conference information, visit: www.montanaorganicassociation.org

Montana Organic Association 15th Annual Conference
Thursday, December 7, 2017, Mansfield Convention Center, Great Falls, MT
Farm Tours Registration Form

Number of participants is limited and on first come basis. Meet at the Mansfield Convention Center by 1:30 for carpooling.

Name _____

Farm or Organization _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Day Phone _____ **Evening Phone** _____ **Email** _____

Check one (no charge for tours) and return form to address below:

_____ **Tour 1: Prairie Heritage Farm, Blue Truck Bread, Power, MT, www.PrairieHeritageFarm.com**

_____ **Tour 2: Wilcox Farms, Egg Processing, 1401 Stuckey Road, Great Falls, MT, www.wilcoxfarms.com**
Tours at 2:00 PM and 3:30 PM

_____ **Tour 3: Timeless Seeds, 48 Ulm-Vaughn Rd, Ulm, MT, www.timelessfood.com**
Tours at 2:00 PM and 3:30 PM

Montana Organic Association 15th Annual Conference
Friday, December 8, 2017, Children's Museum of Montana, Great Falls, MT
Kids' University Registration Form

This signed parent permission form must be returned in order for each child to participate in kid's university.

Participant's Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Participant's signature: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Phone Number Parent/Guardian can be reached during the conference: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Are there any special instructions, medical or otherwise, regarding the participant that we need to be aware of?

Please include \$5 per child (\$20 family max).....TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED: \$ _____

The parent and/or guardian and the participant hereby releases the Montana Organic Association, their officers, members, or anyone connected with this conference from all claims, demands, actions, or liabilities of any kind whatsoever of my representative, children, or employees by reason of injury, loss or damage suffered by me or my property, or them because of any condition whatsoever.

Return this form to: Montana Organic Association, PO Box 9823 Kalispell, MT 59904, OR Email filled out form to: moamembership@gmail.com. Questions? Call Patti at (406) 333-1054
For more conference information, visit: www.montanaorganicassociation.org

QFD
Quality Foods Distributing



Proudly representing
Montana's best organics.



...and others. With over 40 years experience in food distribution, we can help your Montana business grow with integrity.

qfdistributing.com | 406-551-2231 | info@qfdistributing.com

Always organic.



www.kamut.com (406) 251-9418

Call for Conference Donations

If you had a good year and would like to help out, we are in need of organic food donations as ingredients for our amazing conference meals. We are also looking for food and general items for our silent and live auctions. We could also use cash donations for the Sharon Lindquist Scholarship Fund to allow those in need to attend the conference. Donation guidelines are online at <http://tinyurl.com/y789gshq> or phone Cliff at (406) 654-1297. Thank you in advance for your generosity.


Call for Student Posters

The Montana Organic Association is accepting abstracts for the Student Research Poster Competition.

Graduate and undergraduate students engaged in organic agriculture research are encouraged to participate in the Montana Organic Association's poster competition. This event promotes and encourages students to communicate their research to their peers as well as network with a wider organic community. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three posters presented at the conference.

Student Poster Submission Guidelines:

- Presenters must be a full or part-time student studying in the field of organic agriculture.
- Presenters must also register to be a conference attendee.
- Presenters must be present at the student poster session (Friday December 8, 1:00 pm). in order to be eligible for the competition.
- All presenters must agree to share their research electronically.

Abstracts should be approximately 200 words in length and must be submitted by email to Heather Estrada at hestrada@fvcc.edu by November 11, 2017. 

"Humankind, despite its artistic abilities, sophistication and accomplishments, owes its existence to a six-inch layer of farmable soil—and the fact that it rains!"

– Anonymous

**WWW.CHICKENLITTER.COM
INFO@CHICKENLITTER.COM
217-725-4598**



AG ORGANIC

**5-3-2 POULTRY FERTILIZER
LOADED WITH MICRONUTRIENTS
USE IN AIR SEEDER OR BROADCAST
BULK 25 TON LOADS DELIVERED TO YOUR FARM**

100% ORGANIC

LOCALLY GROWN & PRODUCED

COLD-PRESSED

UNREFINED

FOR HIGH-TEMPERATURE COOKING

PERFECT FOR POPCORN



406-378-2106

325 Kamut Lane | Big Sandy, MT 59520
info@theoilbarn.com | www.theoilbarn.com



**For healthy grass,
soil, and animals...**

NEPTUNE'S HARVEST ORGANIC FERTILIZERS



Animals will be **healthy, calm**, have **shiny coats** and **eat less feed**.

Increase yield, quality, TDN (total digestible nutrients), **RFV** (relative feed value) and **Brix**.

Increase organic matter, and soil **biology**. See more **earth worms** and **dung beetles**. **Breaks manure down** faster, so you'll have **less flies**.



- **Hydrolyzed Fish Fertilizer**
- **Seaweed** (Liquid, Soluble & Dry)
- **Fish & Seaweed Blend**
- **Dry Crab Shell & Flour**
- **Humate** (Liquid or Dry)
- **Biological Microbes**
- **Calcium and more**



“Don't Worry, It's Gurry!”

Gurry is everything that is left over, after you fillet a fish, and that's what we use to make our outstanding Organic Fertilizers.

Call today for a FREE Sample!

Available in retail and bulk sizes.



1-800-259-4769

www.NeptunesHarvest.com

ORGANIC...
good for you...good for the planet.



real food
Market & Deli
Locally Owned Since 1975

1096 Helena Ave. • Helena, MT 59601 • 406.443.5150
Mon.-Sat. 8-8; Sun. 9-7 • facebook.com/RealFoodStore

Farm Bill *continued from p. 3*

organic products must meet USDA's strict standards, an emphasis on authority and capacity to conduct investigations will keep organic markets strong. Some suggestions to address this include authorizing funding for NOP to keep pace with organic industry growth and funding a one-time \$5 million to upgrade international oversight systems and trade tracking. We should also require USDA to report to Congress on investigations and actions taken.

Export Promotion

US organic exports are up 60%, creating jobs in the US and driving demand overseas. Expansion of the Market Access Program (MAP) will create new opportunities for US farmers. (USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service partners with U.S. agricultural trade associations, cooperatives, state regional trade groups and small businesses through the MAP program to share the costs of overseas marketing and promotional activities that help build commercial export markets for U.S. agricultural products and commodities.) OTA also encourages support of HR 2321, the Cultivating Revitalization by Expanding American Agricultural Trade and Exports (CREAATE) Act.



Known **WORLDWIDE**
as **SIMPLY THE BEST...**
NATURAL FERTILIZER
and **SOIL BUILDERS!**

ALLOWED FOR CERTIFIED ORGANIC PRODUCTION

- TOTAL PLANT NUTRITION
- BUILDS THE SOIL
- IMPROVES MICROBIOLOGY
- FIGHTS DISEASE NATURALLY
- LOW ODOR, DUST, & CARBON FOOTPRINT
- UNRIVALED RESEARCH
- EXPORTED TO 65+ COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE



FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT GREG NAFFZ, SALES MANAGER WEST. • (530) 305-0539 • HELP@SUSTANE.COM • SUSTANE.COM

Risk Management

Organic farmers need USDA to make improvements in the farm safety net to have appropriate risk management tools. OTA is supporting the continuation of Whole-Farm Revenue Protection and to also develop organic price elections for storage loans offered.

Rural Development

Access to capital, infrastructure, technical expertise, and market connections between buyers and sellers are vital. OTA prioritizes organics eligibility within rural development programs: rural business development grants; locally and regionally produced agricultural food products; and value-added agricultural product market development grants.

Conservation Programs

OTA would like to see organic practices strongly align with approved practices within conservation incentive programs. We need to recognize required organic practices within the full suite of conservation programs including the Conservation Stewardship Program.

NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE COALITION

As we prepare for the next farm bill, farmer, rancher, and U.S. farm income is significantly depressed, with

disastrous ripple effects through our rural economy. Since the last Farm Bill debate, these trends have only worsened. As Congress starts the debate on the next Farm Bill, we must address negative trends in agricultural market control and anti-competitive business structures if we are to have any hope of restoring the economic health of rural America.

Lessons Learned from the Global Financial Crisis: Bigger is Not Better

Agribusinesses continue to consolidate at a frenzied pace, robbing our farmers of competitive markets for the sale of their products. Farmers, workers and consumers have faced worsening economic conditions — with insufficient enforcement of important antitrust, farmer, labor or consumer protections.

Foreign Ownership in U.S Agriculture Undermines U.S. Farm Income and Drains Resources from our Rural Communities

Foreign investment in the U.S. agriculture sector is one thing, but the extraction of U.S. resources from our rural communities by foreign agribusinesses, and the increasing control of U.S. farmland and other key aspects of the U.S. food system by foreign entities should raise alarm bells.

Continued on p. 24

**Your Fields,
Healthy Flour,
Nations Food!**

**Grain Based
Ingredients To The
Baking Industry Since 1972!**



**Montana Locations:
Great Falls
Conrad
Brady - Carter**

**For Contracting:
(800) 548-8554
sam@montanamilling.com**

ORGANIC SINCE 1980! **www.montanamilling.com** **A MONTANA COMPANY!**



MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTS!

GROWING TOGETHER!

Organic Wheat, Barley, Spelt, Peas, Rye, Trit, Millet, & Flax

WANTED!!

**THANKS TO THOSE WHO NOTIFIED THE
ORGANIC ADVISORY AND EDUCATION
COUNCIL ABOUT SICK FIELD BINDWEED
AND CANADA THISTLE PLANTS.**

GOOD NEWS

Field Bindweed and Canadian Thistle are the primary weeds that cause farmers to remove organic acres from organic certification. Earlier this year we, OAEC, asked for you to scout your fields for sick plants. Samples of both Field Bindweed and Canada Thistle showing signs of disease were found and submitted for further testing.
Thanks to all who sent in samples.

These specimens are now at MSU where Professor David Sands is directing an investigation to determine their suitability for development as biocontrol agents.

OAEC is working to fund this investigation and believes that the chance to develop biocontrol agents for these weeds is an opportunity to be seized. If you are having problems with either of these weeds in your organic cropping system, please donate to this effort. Donations can be sent to:

OAEC
c/o Ole Norgaard
762 Danvers Road
Lewistown, MT 59457


We will have more information at the Montana Organic Association Conference in Great Falls about this project and exciting new work being started at the Western Ag Research Center in Corvallis and the Central Ag Research Center in Moccasin.

We will also have updates on continuing work at Fort Ellis and other sites in the Bozeman area.

Organic News *continued from p. 9*

in support of these organic standards. (Source: Organic Trade Association)

High Tunnels Boost Yield But Harbor Pests

A Purdue University study found that populations of pests such as tomato hornworm, cabbage looper, diamondback moth, and cucumber beetle can soar in high tunnels. Ventilation provides access for the pests, which are then prevented from escaping upward by the tunnel roof. Researchers are testing exclusion screens and adding flower crops to attract beneficial insects. (Source: National Center for Appropriate Technology) 

MOA on Facebook

Join the organic discussions on MOA's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/montanaorganic>.

Calendar of Events

Find the organic events in your area by visiting www.montanaorganicassociation.org/events.htm.

Organic Matters Ad Rates

Ad prices 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)
- 1/4 page ad -- \$40 (Size: 3-1/2W x 4-1/2"H)
- 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 on your ad. All ads must be print ready.

Visit: <http://www.montanaorganicassociation.org/omadrates.htm> for details or call Susan Waters at (406) 274-4869.

Buy Fresh, Buy Local!

Produce • Meat • Cheese • Flour • Grain • Eggs • Peas • Lentils



Monday - Saturday
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

(406) 466-2684

501 Main Ave. N., Choteau, MT
Owner: Jill Owen

Mountain Front Market

Join MOA Today!

Each membership level delivers a quarterly newsletter devoted to sharing the latest news and information about the association and the organic industry, discounts to MOA events, special mailings on legislative alerts and events, a MOA member vote, and the networking and educational opportunities presented by joining others who share interest and experience in the field of organics. Other member benefits include eligibility for a Workman's Comp premium discount, safety training and other services to assist you in your organic endeavors.

Please sign me up as a MOA Member!

Name: _____

Farm or Business: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Type of Work: _____

Annual Membership Levels:

- Individual.....\$30
- Household.....\$50 (includes two memberships)
- Farm/Ranch/Business....\$75 (includes two memberships, a 5% discount on newsletter ads and a website directory listing)
- Organic Business.....\$250 (includes two memberships, a 10% discount on newsletter ads and a website directory listing)
- Lifetime.....\$750 (includes two memberships, a 10% discount on newsletter ads and a website directory listing)
- Lifetime Business.....\$2500 (includes two memberships, a 10% discount on newsletter ads and a website directory listing)
- Publication/Media.....\$500 (includes full page, quarterly newsletter ads, a website directory listing, and full media coverage)
- Silver (-5%).....\$1650 (includes two memberships; full page, quarterly newsletter ads; a website directory listing; full media coverage; two conference registrations & conference lunch sponsorship)
- Gold (-10%).....\$2000 (includes two memberships; full page, quarterly newsletter ads; a website directory listing; full media coverage; two conference registrations & conference dinner sponsorship)

Please fill out this form,
make check payable to MOA and mail to:
MOA, PO Box 9823, Kalispell, MT 59904
(406) 333-1054 / moamembership@gmail.com

Farm Bill *continued from p. 21*

Contract Farmers are Losing Control of their Farms to Large Integrated Agribusinesses

Our country's tradition of independent farmers making production and marketing decisions for their own farms is rapidly disappearing. The newer model of vertical integration coerces farmers to surrender that independence to a large integrator company that takes over control of all decisions, and pays the contract farmer for their labor, land, and facilities. History has shown that once farmers relinquish their independence, their pay, contract terms, and overall treatment by the integrator deteriorates.


Market Transparency Benefits Producers and Consumers

Market transparency is a basic tenet of a fully functioning market economy. Policies should be enacted to establish open and transparent pricing practices for agricultural products, ensure clear access by farmers to information about production contracting standards used in various agricultural sectors, and set clear labeling standards to give consumers information about the origin and production methods associated with the food they purchase.

USDA Loan Guarantee Programs Must be Reformed to Prevent Abuse by Large Corporations

The USDA loan guarantee programs are critical for U.S. farmers, but

lending guidelines should be implemented to ensure that scarce federal resources are used wisely and allow full and fair access to credit by diverse and small-and-medium-scale producers, including implementation of real policies and procedures to assure equal credit access as required under existing law.

Join MOA at the 15th Annual Conference, December 7-9, in Great Falls, to discuss your priorities to advocate for in the development of the 2018 Farm Bill. 

Materials reprinted with permission from the National Organic Coalition, the Organic Trade Association, and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition/ Coalition for Contract Agriculture Reform.



A View From the Chair

Winter came early to our part of Montana. Many communities across the hi-line were without electricity after a remarkable winter storm brought heavy snow and high winds. We are hoping that fall returns and allows us to complete seeding winter crops. Despite the challenges that came with the early snow, we are appreciative of the moisture and looking forward to a productive 2018.

Conference season is nearly upon us. I hope you all will join us for MOA's annual conference in Great Falls, December 7 - 9. Details on registration, agenda, speakers and lodging options can be found in the conference section of this newsletter, and the latest information can be found on MOA's website at www.montanaorganicassociation.org/conference2017.htm.

The annual MOA Business Meeting, during the conference, will include election of Board Members. We invite nominations! If you or anyone you know has a passion for organic food and/or farming and would like to help us grow the organization, please contact myself or Sam Schimdt, nominations committee chair.

Another feature of the conference is presentation of the MOA Awards. Each year we honor two members of the organic community with a Lifetime of Service and a Leadership in Organics award. Please submit nominations myself or Judy Owsowitz.

The conference committee has put together a tremendous program, including keynote speaker Dr. Stephen Jones, from Washington State University. Dr. Jones is a

preeminent breeder of organic, heirloom, specialty and locally-adapted grain varieties. As always, the MOA conference will include opportunities to learn, share, network and renew friendships with our organic community! On behalf of your Board of Directors, I invite ALL MOA members, organic food and farming supporters, and anyone interested in learning about the great opportunities offered by organic agriculture, to join us in Great Falls for an informative and enjoyable conference.

I look forward to seeing you there!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Doug Crabtree, MOA Board Chairman