

Montana Organic Association 2020



Questions Responses **1**

1 response



Accepting responses

Summary

Question

Individual

Who has responded?

Email

contact@romanoformontana.com

Name

Name:

1 response

Melissa Romano

Seeking election to which body or office? Please include district number if appropriate.

1 response

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Question 1: Organic Agriculture is an Economic Bright Spot

1 - a. What measures do you think should be taken to support agriculture, farmers, and help our Montana communities thrive?

1 response

As a teacher and your next state superintendent, I believe the best way to help our communities thrive is by investing in our public schools. When we invest in school infrastructure, students, and educators, local economies grow. Investment looks different for every community, and I support each community making their own decision about how to prepare their students for success after high school.

1 - b. What should be done at the state level to increase and sustain the organic market?

0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

1 - c. What criteria should be considered for appointing the Secretary of the Montana Department of Agriculture?

0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

Question 2: Transportation and Distribution

2 - a. What can be done at the state level to help develop efficient food distribution around the state?

0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

2 - b. How can the state support small family farmers by helping get their products into Farm to Institution (schools, hospitals, nursing homes, etc), local, and regional markets?

1 response

There are various ways the state can work to support family farms in schools, and as state superintendent, I would be eager to work with stakeholders such as Montana Organic Association to devise ways to promote farm to school partnerships, whether that is through creating a task force, advocating for a bill at the legislature, or takes some other form.

Question 3: Meat Processing in Montana

3 - a. How do you respond to the need for mobile, more flexible, and more local meat and poultry processing?

0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

3 - b. One of the biggest challenges for meat processing in Montana is finding qualified labor. Miles Community College is developing a program that would put journeyman meat cutters on the meat processing floors and augment training with distance-learning coursework. This program seems like a win-win-win; how can you support this and similar initiatives?

1 response

As your next state superintendent, I will support programs in our K-12 public schools that prepare students to go onto whatever career they choose after high school, such as the program mentioned above in Miles City.

3 - c. What's your plan for supporting and developing jobs for small agricultural businesses and rural communities?

1 response

The most important thing we can do is invest in our schools, which in turn is an investment in our communities. If we can create stronger local economies, students are more likely to stay in those towns after high school and contribute their skills to helping their community grow.

Question 4: Soil and Carbon

4 - a. Should sustainable farmers and ranchers be compensated for their efforts to build healthy soil, protect clean water, and to mitigate the economic effects of more unpredictable and erratic weather events?

0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

4 - b. Do you foresee opportunities for Montana's farmers and ranchers participating in carbon markets?

0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

4 - c. Should state legislation be enacted that would research and promote healthy soil and provide cost-share for land-stewards who use soil health practices?

0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

4 - d. Do you support state funds to establish a state-based soils task force to promote healthy soils?

0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

Question 5: Aging Farmers - Beginning Farmers

5 - a. What measures should be taken to support beginning farmers and ranchers?

0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

Question 6: Pesticides in the Environment

6 - a. What can be done at the state level to mitigate environmental glyphosate contamination?

0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

6 - b. Do you support allocating state funds to study environmental pesticides to understand the problem better?

0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

Question 7: Resilient Farming and Extreme Weather Events

7 - a. What ways should farmers and ranchers be supported as they live with the realities of erratic climate conditions and the “Act of God” economic risks producers assume?

0 responses

No responses yet for this question.

Question 8: Internet Access

8 - a. What should be done to increase reliable broadband internet access in Montana that meets business and household needs?

1 response

This is a problem for communities across the state. As state superintendent, I will absolutely work with stakeholders and develop partnerships in communities to help bridge the technology divide in Montana.

8 - b. How should projects be funded to bring enough internet service to Montanans?

1 response

As state superintendent, I am looking forward to working with all stakeholders and community partners to help fund adequate services for Montanans.

8 - c. Do you support initiatives that would bring better internet service to Montanans?

1 response

Absolutely.