



# Organic MATTERS

## What's Inside

Farm Bill Update.....	2
Farmer Assist on Trade .....	3
Beginning Farmer Podcast.....	3
Foreign Meat Marked "USA".....	4-5
Soil Health Comments.....	6
Organic Dairy Scorecard .....	7
Organic Resources.....	9
MOA Conference Preview .	11-18
Organic News .....	21
Join MOA.....	23
View From the Chair.....	24

## MOA 2018 Conference

You are cordially invited to the 16th Annual Montana Organic Association Conference and Member Meeting, December 6-8, 2018, 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, ranchers, researchers, policy analysts, and organic business specialists.

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.

*Continued on p. 11*

## Important Submission Deadlines in this Issue

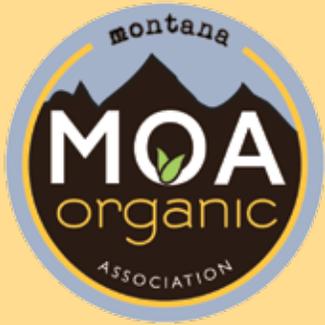
- Nov 1: MT Growth thru Ag Grant/Loan, p. 9
- Nov 1: MOA Conf Sponsor/ Vendor Sign Ups, p.16
- Nov 2: Farmer Assist on Trade (MFP), p. 3
- Nov 7: Western SARE, p. 9
- Nov 10: MOA Conf Student Posters Submissions, p. 18
- Nov 14: MOA Conf Awards Nominations, p. 17
- Nov 26: MOA Conf Reg and Hotels, p. 13 and p. 16
- Dec 7: MOA Board of Director Nominations, p. 18
- Dec 13: Soil Health Comments Due, p. 6
- Dec 17: FSMA Compliance, p. 9

## Register Today



16th Annual Conference  
 December 6-8, 2018  
 Great Falls, Montana  
 Registration Materials Inside

Photo by Amaltheia Organic Dairy



**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.

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*Organic Matters*

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*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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## Farm Bill Update

by Susan Waters - *Organic Matters'* Editor and  
John Porterfield - MOA Board & MontanaGrow

The current 2014 Farm Bill expired at the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2018. Earlier this year, the House and Senate each passed their own versions of a new farm bill and are trying to work out the differences in Committee. Since the House cancelled its October session for the midterm elections, the bill is stalled. The Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees have stated that they will continue to try to reach a consensus after November 13 with the hopes of completing it before the end of the year. There could be major disruptions for some organic programs if a farm bill is not passed into law by the end of 2018.

The Senate Farm Bill includes the Hemp Farming Act, which Senator Daines has cosponsored. It would legalize hemp, which can be used in a wide-range of consumer goods, food, and other products, as an agricultural commodity and remove it from the list of controlled substances to help Montana farmers have access to another potential cash crop and remove a one-size-fits-all federal mandate. That being said, Farm Bill negotiations between the House and Senate are ongoing. Leader McConnell is a leading advocate for the language though, which gives us some optimism about its prospects for being in the conference report.

Senator Tester transitioned his family farm to organics in the 1980's. He believes that organics is one of the best recruiting tools we have to empower young farmers to launch an operation of their own, because as an organic farmer, you can make a solid living without owning thousands of acres of land. There are efforts underway to gut the Farm Bill's support for young farmers, which will take a further toll on the future of family farm agriculture. Senator Tester is working to protect these resources because they provide families with the technical support they need to succeed in their early years, which will get farmers back on the land and families back in our rural communities.

[Read the 2018 Farm Bill Summary of Organic Programs and Priorities by the Organic Trade Association here.](#) 

# Market Facilitation Program (Farmers' Assistance on Trade)

by U.S. Department of Agriculture

In late August, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced details of actions the USDA will take to assist farmers in response to trade damage from retaliation by foreign nations. USDA crafted a short-term relief strategy to protect agricultural producers while the Administration works on free, fair, and reciprocal trade deals to open more markets in the long run to help American farmers compete globally. USDA will authorize up to \$12 billion in programs, consistent with our World Trade Organization obligations.

“After careful analysis by our team at USDA, we have formulated our strategy to mitigate the trade damages sustained by our farmers. Our farmers work hard, and are the most productive in the world, and we aim to protect them,” said Secretary Perdue.

These programs will assist agricultural producers to meet the costs of disrupted markets:

1. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will administer the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) to provide payments to corn, cotton, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, and wheat producers starting September 4, 2018. An announcement about further payments will be made in the coming months, if warranted.
2. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will administer a Food Purchase and Distribution Program to purchase up to \$1.2 billion in commodities unfairly targeted by unjustified retaliation. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will distribute these commodities through nutrition assistance programs such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and child nutrition programs.
3. Through the Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP), \$200 million will be made available to develop foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products. The program will help U.S. agricultural exporters identify and access new markets and help mitigate the adverse effects of other countries' restrictions.

The ATP will provide cost-share assistance to eligible U.S. organizations for activities such as consumer advertising, public relations, point-of-sale demonstrations, participation in trade fairs and exhibits, market research, and technical assistance.



Photo by Susan Waters

## Applications for the ATP will be accepted until November 2, 2018 or until funding is exhausted.

Funding should be allocated to eligible participants in early 2019. The ATP is meant to help all sectors of U.S. agriculture, including fish and forest product producers, mainly through partnerships with non-profit national and regional organizations.

NOTE: Participants must be able to demonstrate damages as result of the 2018/2019 retaliatory tariffs. You can apply for the Market Facilitation Program at: <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/mfp>. **The deadline is November 2, 2018.** 🌱

## Hear One Family's Story About Planning for Farming by NCAT ATTRA

Listen to aspiring farmer Dave Halpin talk to NCAT staff member Rich Myers about his plans to start an agricultural operation in St. Charles County, Missouri. In this podcast, Dave discusses the planning his wife and he are pursuing to ensure a successful start in farming. You can listen to the podcast for free at <https://attra.ncat.org/the-jumping-off-point/>.

After you listen to Dave's story, check out the extensive free resources ATTRA has to offer beginning farmers at <https://attra.ncat.org/beginning-farmer/>.

Here you'll find publications, tutorials, videos, podcasts, and more that will help you improve production and profits, whether you are considering farming as a career, are in the early years of farming, or are fine-tuning a well-established farm business.

You can also receive personalized advice and assistance by contacting our hotline, 800-346-9140, or email [askanag@ncat.org](mailto:askanag@ncat.org). 🌱

# Foreign Meat Labeled “Product of U.S.A.”

by American Grassfed Association

Last summer, American Grassfed Association (AGA) and the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) filed a petition with the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Services (FSIS) demanding FSIS policy be changed to ensure only U.S. domestic meat products can be labeled “Product of U.S.A.”

The current policy allows foreign meat to be imported into the United States and bear the label “Product of U.S.A.” if it simply passes through a USDA-inspected plant. The lack of clarity in this policy allows food companies to skirt the federal law and regulations governing labeling and leads to violations of FSIS’s own policies and regulations that clearly mandate truthfulness in labeling by prohibiting false or misleading labeling and practices.



Photo by Wes Henthorne

Research outlined in the petition demonstrates U.S. consumers want to know where their food comes from and consumers place a higher financial value on food that is local, regional and from the United States. For consumers, the current labeling practice can lead to the disguising of the true origin of the meat and meat products and allows foreign interests and multi-national corporations to take advantage of increased U.S. market opportunities. This can allow for an unfair market advantage for foreign meat and meat products that not only deceives the consumer, but financially harms U.S. family farmers and independent ranchers.

“With the Congressional repeal of mandatory Country of Origin Labeling for beef and pork products, it is imperative that when a company chooses to label its meat products that origin statement be truthful. Allowing foreign profiteers to mislabel meat products plunders the profits of

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U.S. farmers and ranchers at the expense of U.S. consumers. This is simply criminal," stated Joe Maxwell, Executive Director of the Organization for Competitive Markets.

Hit hardest by misbranding of U.S. meat products are those U.S. farmers and ranchers who produce grassfed beef. This market opportunity has been the one bright spot in U.S. cattle production with sales nearly doubling annually. Sales of grassfed beef have grown from \$17 million in 2012 to \$272 million in 2016 with producers seeing as much as a 30% premium for their products.

"In the U.S., the fastest and most profitable livestock market sector is grassfed, and yet today the only ones making a profit from

the growing consumer demand are foreign companies and their interests. American grassfed is a superior product, but it is not being allowed a fair opportunity in the market because of our own government policies," said Carrie Balkcom, Executive Director of AGA.

After a three-month comment period ending in September, the proposed policy change received almost exclusively positive comments from a wide-ranging base of nearly 2,000 farm and food stakeholders. Supportive comments were submitted by farm organizations including National Farmers Union, National Family Farm Coalition, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and Western

Organization of Resource Councils. Comments submitted by individual farmers and consumers have been overwhelmingly positive. In the minority are a couple of organizations whose representation and interests lie with multinational meatpacking corporations that profit from the deceptive standard.

[Read the entire petition here](https://www.americangrassfed.org) and visit the American Grassfed Association's website for updates at <https://www.americangrassfed.org>.

*"Your assumptions are your windows on the world. Scrub them off every once in a while, or the light won't come in."*

— Isaac Asimov

## USDA Procedures to Assess Soil Health for Public Comment

USDA released a set of standard indicators and associated laboratory procedures to assess soil health. These measures – recommended through a multi-organizational collaboration among soil health experts in the federal, university, public and private sectors – are being developed to improve conservation planning and implementation across the United States.

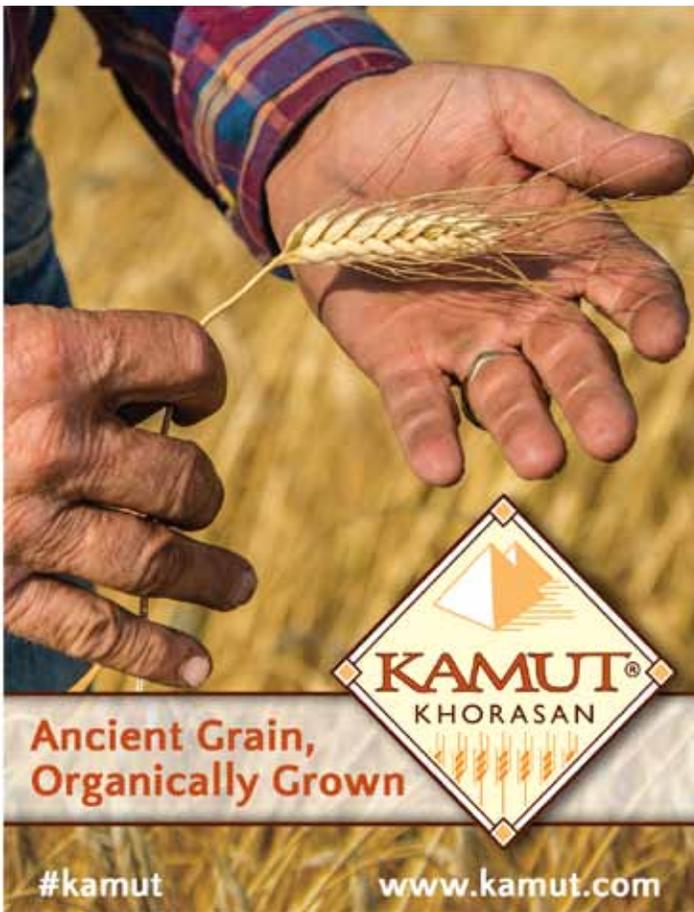
The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has posted [a draft Technical Note detailing these soil health indicators and associated laboratory methods](#) in the Federal Register for **public review and comment through December 13, 2018.**

“We are committed to supporting our nation's farmers, ranchers, and foresters as they work to build healthier soils across their operations,” said Bill Northey, USDA's Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation. “Standardized measures give us consistency in scientifically assessing soil health and will improve our ability to evaluate soils across the United States using methods that are objective and actionable.”

NRCS and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) led a diverse coalition of technical experts in selecting methods to assess six standard soil health indicators, which focus on key physical and biological processes that must function well in healthy soils. Those indicators are: organic matter recycling and carbon sequestration; soil structure stability; general microbial activity; carbon food source; bioavailable nitrogen; and microbial community diversity.

Laboratory methods for assessing each indicator were chosen based on interpretability, ease of use, cost effectiveness, measurement repeatability, and ability to inform agricultural management decisions.

[Review and comment on the draft Technical Note in the Federal Register by December 13, 2018.](#) Learn more about the [basic principles of soil health on the NRCS website.](#) 



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# Organic Dairy Brand Scorecard

by The Cornucopia Institute

When commercialized in the 1980s, the organic dairy movement was viewed by many farmers as opting out of a rapacious agricultural marketing system that had already driven the majority of dairy farm families off the land over the preceding two decades. Now, a quarter century later, history is repeating itself with giant “factory farms” flooding the organic dairy market with fraudulent “organic” milk and economically devastating family businesses and rural communities.

According to the latest USDA records, organic milk production jumped 18.5% in 2016 alone, far eclipsing the growth in market demand. As a result, wholesale purchasers of raw organic milk have cut prices to farmers by 25-30% or more. In addition, some buyers have set quotas, mandating production cuts, further impacting cash flow. The largest organic dairy brand, Horizon, owned by Groupe Danone of France, is terminating contracts with some farmers, at a time when there are no alternative markets available. Industry experts have called the moves by the world’s largest dairy a “death warrant” for farmers.

With the glut of organic milk, and the USDA abdicating their legally-mandated oversight responsibilities, authentic organic farmers and their customers are poised to band together to take their fight to the dairy coolers of the nation’s groceries and specialty retailers.

The Cornucopia Institute has just released a [comprehensive history and study of the industry](#), exposing how factory farms, some milking as many as 15,000 cows in desert-like conditions in the Southwest, are defrauding consumers by depriving them of the documented nutritional superiority in pasture-based organic dairy production.

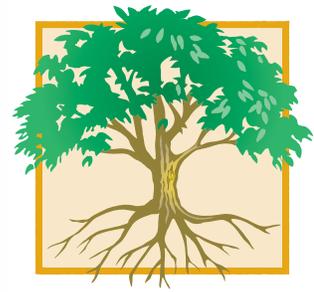
The report includes a companion [Organic Dairy Scorecard](#) rating approximately 160 brands in terms of their authenticity and quality of production. “With the USDA’s failure to protect ethical industry participants and consumers from outright fraud, using our Organic Dairy Scorecard is a way for organic stakeholders to take the law into their own hands,” said Mark A. Kastel, Codirector and Senior Farm Policy Analyst of The Cornucopia Institute. “In every market and product category, consumers can vote in front of the dairy case to economically support authentic organic farmers while simultaneously protecting their families.” 🌱



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# Organic Resources

by [NCAT ATTRA](#)

## Montana Growth Through Agriculture Program

The Growth Through Agriculture program is a matching grant and loan program to strengthen and diversify Montana's agricultural industry through development of new agricultural products and processes. Projects should primarily add value to Montana's agricultural products and have the potential to create and/or retain jobs in Montana. Projects may be funded for a maximum of \$150,000, including grant funding up to \$50,000 and loan funding up to \$100,000. A \$1-for-\$1 match is required.

**Applications are due November 1, 2018.**

<https://agr.mt.gov/Growth-Through-Agriculture>

## USDA Awards Grants to Increase Farmer and Rancher Opportunity through Five Programs

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has announced the award of \$102.7 million to increase opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and other growers through five grant programs. These include the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, the Farmers Market Promotion Program, the Local Food Promotion Program, the Acer Access and Development Program, and the Federal State Marketing Improvement Program. Lists of grant recipients and total funding awarded for each program are available online.

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/press-release/usda-announces-1027-million-investment-expand-markets-specialty-crop-and-other-farmers>

## Western SARE Professional Development Program Grants

Western Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education is accepting proposals for Professional Development Program (PDP) grants. PDP grants are aimed at helping Cooperative Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other agricultural professionals in the Western Region increase their understanding of and proficiency in sustainable agriculture. PDP Grants are limited to \$75,000. **Proposals are due by November 7, 2018.**

<https://www.westernsare.org/Grants/Types-of-Grants>

## Producers Reminded of FSMA Compliance Deadline

Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund is reminding agricultural producers to check whether they fit within Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) exemptions and advising producers who are exempt to keep records that show they qualify for the exemption. Producers whose operations do not qualify under the farm or retail food establishment exemptions are considered qualified facilities that must register with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration **by December 17, 2018.**

<https://www.farmtoconsumer.org/blog/2018/09/24/fsma-deadlines-are-you-a-food-facility/>

## Updated Publication: Organic Herb Production in Greenhouses

A classic ATTRA publication, "Herbs: Organic Greenhouse Production," just got an update by National Center for Appropriate Technology Sustainable Agriculture. It takes a look at various marketing channels for organic herbs and assesses the economic factors to consider for small-scale organic greenhouse production of fresh-cut herbs. It also addresses production methods, including potential for hydroponic production. You can download it at no cost.

<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=53>

## Learn About the Positive Impacts of Livestock Diversity

This new publication, "Multispecies Grazing: A Primer on Diversity," discusses the financial, animal-health, and pasture-health benefits that can be attained by grazing multiple livestock species on the same ground. Written by NCAT Agriculture Specialist Lee Rinehart, it delves into the details of grazing planning for species with different grazing dynamics, and explores the practical implications of fencing and handling livestock with different requirements. The publication also addresses how grazing different livestock species can affect predator-management strategies. The publication touches on stocking poultry and pigs on pasture, as well as cattle, sheep, and goats. Download the publication for free.

<https://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/summary.php?pub=244> 



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# 16th Annual Conference December 6-8, 2018 Great Falls, Montana

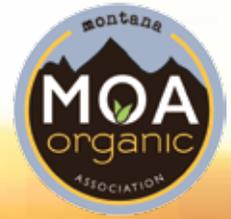


Photo by Amaltheia Organic Dairy

## MOA Conference Preview

You are cordially invited to the [16th Annual Montana Organic Association Conference and Member Meeting](#), December 6-8, 2018, in Great Falls, Montana.

The conference keynote address will be given by Jill Clapperton, a soil scientist and internationally recognized lecturer on how to create and manage the long-term health and productivity of soils. Jill was the Rhizosphere Ecologist at the Agriculture and Agri Food Canada Lethbridge Research Centre studying the interaction between soils, plants and soil organisms. She also developed and implemented the Worm Watch program for Environment Canada.

The conference will feature more than forty speakers and panelists over the three-day conference. You can count on hearing from MOA's 2017 keynote speaker, Dr. Stephen Jones with the Washington State University Bread Lab; Dr. Pat Carr from the Agricultural Department of Montana State University; Bill McDorman, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance; Michael Kilpatrick with In the Field Consultants and Small Farm University; and Dr. Bob Quinn of Kamut International.

A rudimentary schedule and select presenter bios have been provided in this issue of the newsletter to help you plan. Wilcox Eggs will host a tour at their facility again this year. We will also tour A Healthy Horizon, specialists in natural health and holistic nutrition, and there will be an East Indian and East African Cuisine Cooking Demonstration with Saibeen Acord, limited to the first 20 who sign up.

MOA is honored to screen *Dreaming of a Vetter World*, a free event on Thursday, December 6 at 7 pm, and open to the public. The intimate documentary by Bonnie

Hawthorne is about the Vettters, a visionary Nebraska farm family who understood that modern agriculture was ailing, and found a cure. From farmer's son to soil scientist to missionary and back to farmer, organic pioneer David Vetter has dedicated his life to a "ministry to the soil."

There will be live and silent auctions, entertainment provided by Jim Sargent, and networking opportunities with other organics professionals. Chandee Bomgardner will provide meals using locally sourced, organic ingredients, so the food is guaranteed to be amazing. MOA will also hold board member elections and have its business meeting.

MOA welcomes your contributions—attendance at the conference, donating auction items, or volunteering your time. If you're interested in sponsoring the event or becoming a vendor at the conference, MOA has many affordable options. If you have items you would like to donate, contact Cliff Merriman at [merrimanclifford@gmail.com](mailto:merrimanclifford@gmail.com) or (406) 654-1297.

The conference is a great opportunity to share experiences and meet others within our organic community.

The Conference preview begins here, and includes select conference sessions and speaker bios, 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 2018 Conference Committee: Jamie Ryan Lockman (Chair), Jess Alger, Nate Brown, Wes Henthorne, Gary Iverson, Daryl Lassila, Cliff Merriman, Judy Owsowitz, John Porterfield, and MonaRae Tuhy.



## Keynote Speaker: Jill Clapperton, PhD

Principal Scientist, Rhizoterra Inc. (Dec. 7, 1:00 PM)

Jill Clapperton is an Internationally Recognized Lecturer on how to create and manage the long-term health and productivity of soils. Jill was the Rhizosphere Ecologist at Agriculture and Agri Food Canada Lethbridge Research Centre studying the interaction between soils, plants and soil organisms; she also developed and implemented the Worm Watch program for Environment Canada. After moving to the USA with her family, Jill founded Rhizoterra Inc., a consulting company that connects nutrient density in food with healthy soil. Presently, Jill is also currently the Director of R&D for a start-up company Grovix where she studies key properties that make plants good for us and our livestock.

*Rhizoterra Inc. is a purveyor of information and independent research that supports food growers and consumers around the World in making informed decisions based on science.*



## Conference Draft Schedule (subject to change)

### Thursday, December 6, 2018

12:00 Noon – 6:00 PM Vendor Set up and Late Registration  
 1:00 PM – Meet at Mansfield for A Healthy Horizon (health clinic) Tour  
 1:30 PM Meet At Mansfield Center to Carpool to Wilcox Eggs Tour  
 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM – East Indian and East African Cuisine Cooking Demonstration with Saibeen Acord -Limited to the first 20  
 6:00 PM – Social  
 7:00 PM – Film – *Dreaming of a Vetter World*, Mansfield Theatre  
 8:30 PM – Organic Pioneer Panel Discussion: David Vetter with Neva Hassanein, David Oien, Bob Quinn, and Margaret Scoles

### Friday, December 7, 2018

7:00 AM – 8:15 AM Breakfast and Late Registration  
 8:15 AM – Welcome  
 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Session 1 (4 Breakouts)  
 9:30 AM – 9:45 AM Vendor Appreciation and Break  
 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM Session 2 (4 Breakouts)  
 10:45 AM – 11:00 AM Vendor Appreciation and Break

11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon Session 3 (4 Breakouts)  
 12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM Lunch address – Farm Bill Update with Alyssa Charney  
 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM – Keynote Address, Jill Clapperton, PhD  
 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Session 4 (3 Breakouts)  
 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Session 5 (4 Breakouts)  
 4:00 PM – 4:15 PM Vendor Appreciation and Break  
 4:15 PM – 5:15 PM Session 6 (3 Breakouts)  
 6:00 PM – Social  
 7:00 PM – Dinner and Awards  
 8:15 PM – 10:00 PM Auction

### Saturday, December 8, 2018

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM Breakfast, Late Registration, Introduce Board Candidates (Board Elections by Secret Ballot).  
 8:00 AM- 9:00 AM Session 7 (4 Breakouts)  
 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Session 8 (4 Breakouts)  
 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM Vendor Appreciation and Break  
 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM Session 9 (4 Breakouts)  
 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM Keynote Address, Jill Clapperton, PhD  
 12:15 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch, Business Meeting, Vendor Appreciation  
 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Session 10 (3 Breakouts)  
 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM Session 11 (3 Breakouts)

# Conference Registration

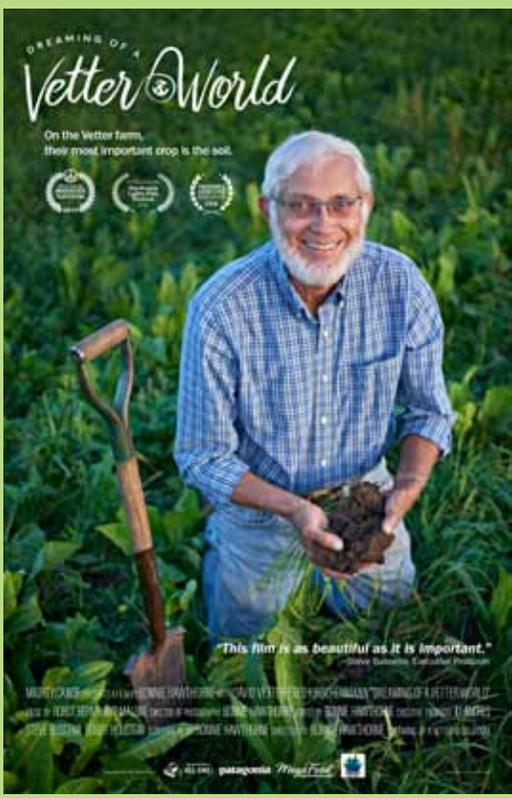
Please fill out the enclosed registration form (on next two pages, p. 14-15) and **send it in by November 26, 2017** for the best rates and to guarantee meals.

If you'd prefer to register and pay online, you can do so at <http://www.MontanaOrganicAssociation.org/commerce.htm>.

Below is a comparison chart of various levels of membership, ads, conference registration, and sponsor/vendor support.

2018 MOA Fees	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP					ANNUAL CONFERENCE					
	Cost	Annual Membership	Newsletter Quarterly Ad	Website Directory	Full Media	Registration Plus Meals	Conference Booth	Speaking Option	Program Ads	Media/ Web Page	Conference Recognition
Membership - Individual	\$30	Yes x 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Membership - Household	\$50	Yes x 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Membership - Farm/Ranch	\$75	Yes x 2	-5% Off	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Membership - Organic Business	\$250	Yes x 2	-10% Off	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Membership - Lifetime	\$750	Yes x 2	-10% Off	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(NEW) Membership - Lifetime Business	\$2,500	Yes x 2	-10% Off	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(NEW) Annual Silver Membership (-5%)	\$1,650	Yes x 2	Full Page(x4)	Yes	Yes	Yes x 2	Yes	Yes - Lunch	Full Page	Yes	Premium
(NEW) Annual Gold Membership (-10%)	\$2,000	Yes x 2	Full Page(x4)	Yes	Yes	Yes x 2	Yes	Yes - Dinner	Full Page	Yes	Premium
Newsletter Ad - Classified	\$8*	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newsletter Ad - Business Card	\$30	-	Biz Card	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newsletter Ad - 1/4 Page	\$40	-	1/4 Page	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newsletter Ad - 1/2 Page	\$65	-	1/2 Page	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newsletter Ad - 3/4 Page	\$90	-	3/4 Page	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newsletter Ad - Full Page	\$110	-	Full Page	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(NEW) Annual Publication/Media Bundle	\$500	-	Full Page (x4)	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-	Yes	Standard
Conference - Student	\$65	-	-	-	-	Yes x 1	-	-	-	-	-
Conference - Member	\$140	-	-	-	-	Yes x 1	-	-	-	-	-
Conference - Non-Member	\$175	-	-	-	-	Yes x 1	-	-	-	-	-
Conference - Late Registration	+\$15	-	-	-	-	Yes x 1	-	-	-	-	-
Conference - Sponsor	\$300	-	-	-	-	Yes x 1	-	-	1/4 Page	Yes	Standard
Conference - Vendor (Booth)	\$400	-	-	-	-	Yes x 1	Yes	-	1/4 Page	Yes	Standard
Conference - Sponsor (Booth)	\$500	-	-	-	-	Yes x 2	Yes	-	1/4 Page	Yes	Standard
Conference - Sponsor (Session)	\$600	-	-	-	-	Yes x 2	Yes	-	1/2 Page	Yes	Standard
Conference - Sponsor (Lunch)	\$1,000	-	-	-	-	Yes x 2	Yes	Yes - Lunch	Full Page	Yes	Premium
Conference - Sponsor (Dinner)	\$1,500	-	-	-	-	Yes x 2	Yes	Yes - Dinner	Full Page	Yes	Premium

\*\*\*\* Premium Annual Memberships (Silver/Gold) Reduced by \$75/\$250 for Lifetime Members



**DREAMING OF A Vetter World**

On the Vetter farm, their most important crop is the soil.

"This film is as beautiful as it is important."

## Documentary Screening: *Dreaming of a Vetter World*

by Filmmaker Bonnie Hawthorne (Screening Dec. 6, 7:00 PM, Panel Discussion at 8:30 PM)

Dreaming of a Vetter World comes at a time when interest in regenerating soil has exploded worldwide. Others are realizing what the Vettters have known for decades: soil is key to our very survival.

In this compelling feature-length documentary, audiences meet three generations of Vettters and learn of the struggles they have faced as small-scale organic farmers in an era of "BIG AG" industrial agriculture. Informative without being jargony, the film features the self-sustaining, self-renewing farm-management system Donald and his son, David Vetter, created. Their experiment continues to this day as the Vettters try to stay one step ahead of changing weather patterns, market fluctuations and the ever-increasing pesticide use around them.

The film will be followed by an Organic Pioneer Panel Discussion, featuring David Vetter with Neva Hassanein, David Oien, Bob Quinn, and Margaret Scoles

**Montana Organic Association's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
 December 6 – 8, 2018, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**MOA Conference Registration**

Early registration for conference and meals for Members..... \$140..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Early registration for conference and meals for Non-Members..... \$175..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(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 26** (add \$15 per person) ..... \$15..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Meals cannot be guaranteed for very late registrants)*

Will you attend all meals? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ **If No, which meals will you attend?**

**Thurs.:** reception \_\_\_\_\_ **Fri.:** Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ **Sat.:** Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>Food Preferences:</b></p> <p>Omnivore _____</p> <p>Vegetarian _____</p> <p>Vegan _____</p> <p>Gluten – free _____</p>	<p><b>I'd like to donate an item(s) to the raffle/auction. Item description:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Visit <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ybtnc5h">https://tinyurl.com/ybtnc5h</a> for donation guidelines.</p> <p>Questions? Call Cliff (406) 654-4391</p>	<p><b>Sharon Lindquist Scholarship Fund</b> to those in need..... \$ _____</p> <p><b>MOA Memberships</b></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><b>Tours &amp; Kids' U Reg Forms -----&gt;</b></p>
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**Enter Order Number here \_\_\_\_\_ if paid online (email or mail this form in to MOA) TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Payment** (by check to "MOA" or online at [www.MontanaOrganicAssociation.org/commerce.htm](http://www.MontanaOrganicAssociation.org/commerce.htm))

**Please note: Refunds are not available for cancellations made after November 26, 2018.**

*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](mailto:moamembership@gmail.com) Questions? Call Patti at (406) 333-1054**

For more conference information, visit: [www.montanaorganicassociation.org](http://www.montanaorganicassociation.org)

**Montana Organic Association 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
**Thursday, December 6, 2018, 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** \_\_\_\_\_

***Please let us know if you are interested in attending one of the tours.***

There is no charge for the tours and your early indication of interest will help us in planning.

\_\_\_\_\_ **A Healthy Horizon** (Natural Health and Holistic Nutrition), 824 2nd St S, Great Falls  
Meet at 1:00 PM at Mansfield Convention Center to carpool. [www.ahealthyhorizon.com](http://www.ahealthyhorizon.com)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Wilcox Farms**, Egg Processing, 1401 Stuckey Road, Great Falls, MT, [www.wilcoxfarms.com](http://www.wilcoxfarms.com)  
Meet at 1:30 PM at Mansfield CC to carpool. Tours at 2:00 PM and 3:30 PM, limit 25

\_\_\_\_\_ **Saibeen's Kitchen**, East Indian and East African Cooking Demo with Saibeen Acord  
3:30 PM 525 Central Avenue, Great Falls, (6 blocks from Mansfield) – limit 25

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**Montana Organic Association 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
**Friday, December 7, 2018, 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](mailto:moamembership@gmail.com). Questions? Call Patti at (406) 333-1054

For more conference information, visit: [www.montanaorganicassociation.org](http://www.montanaorganicassociation.org)



## Sessions: Small Farm Workshops

### Michael Kilpatrick, Farmer/Consultant, of In the Field Consultants and Small Farm University

Michael Kilpatrick will present several sessions at the conference. He'll cover topics such as: setting yourself up for success in farming; hiring employees and setting them up for success; marketing your business- selling more of your farm; season extension- growing longer means you can sell more; and effective harvest, washing and packing on the small farm.

Michael Kilpatrick is a farmer, presenter, inventor and blogger who lives to help farmers apply business principles and practical, proven solutions to grow their businesses and simplify their lives. He has managed large certified organic farms and businesses, consulted for industry experts, and spoken at dozens of conferences.

## Conference Venue

**Mansfield Convention Center**  
2 Park Dr S., Great Falls, Montana, 59401

## Preferred Rate Lodging

**Book by November 26 to get MOA rates**

**The Arvon** – RM Rate: \$109.00 + tax  
118 1st Ave. S.  
Great Falls, MT  
(406) 952-1101  
<http://www.hotelarvon.com/home>

**La Quinta** – RM Rate \$99.00 + tax  
600 River Drive South  
Great Falls, MT  
(406) 761-2600  
<http://www.laquintagreatfalls.com/>

**EconoLodge** – RM Rate \$80.10 + tax  
220 Central Ave  
Great Falls, MT  
(406) 761-3410  
<https://www.choicehotels.com/montana/great-falls/econo-lodge-hotels/mt058>

**O'Haire Motor Inn** – RM Rate - \$80.00 + tax  
17 7th St. S.  
Great Falls, MT  
(406) 454-2141  
<https://ohairemotorinn.com/>

## Call for 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 <https://tinyurl.com/ybtnc5h> or phone **Cliff Merriman at (406) 654-4391**. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Sponsor and Vendor Opportunities Available

Get your business up front and center by becoming a MOA Conference Sponsor or Vendor. We have lots of options available to fit most business' and organizations' needs. **Register by November 1, 2018**, to assure your maximum exposure in MOA's communications and press for the conference.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y9ny5qj8> or email **Patti Gregerson at [moamembership@gmail.com](mailto:moamembership@gmail.com)**, phone (406) 333-1054, to find out more and to sign up today.

# Call for Awards Nominations

The MOA Awards Committee is seeking your nominations for two awards, the “Lifetime of Service” and “Leadership in Organics” awards, to be presented at the Annual Conference at the Mansfield Center in Great Falls, Dec. 6-8, 2018.

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: Robert Boettcher (2005), 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), Randy Hinebauch (2017).

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: Margaret Scoles (2005), 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), Kristina (Kiki) Hubbard (2017).

Written nominations may be submitted by MOA members no later than November 14, 2018, by email or regular mail to:

Judy Owsowitz  
6505 Farm to Market Rd  
Whitefish MT 59937  
Phone: (406) 862-6362  
Email: [terrapin@aboutmontana.net](mailto: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 7, 2018, during the 7:00 pm dinner, at Mansfield Convention Center in Great Falls, Montana.**

*“Organic farming appealed to me because it involved searching for and discovering nature’s pathways, as opposed to the formulaic approach of chemical farming. The appeal of organic farming is boundless; this mountain has no top, this river has no end.”*

— Eliot Coleman, *The New Organic Grower*



Photo by Robbe Lindsay/MontanaGrow

## Organic University, (\$10 including lunch) Various Presenters (December 6, 9:00 - Noon)

Margaret Scoles, of the International Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA), will moderate Organic University. Doug Crabtree and Anna Jones-Crabtree of Vilicus Farms in Havre, will talk about grains and what is needed to be an organic producer. Judy Owsowitz of Terrapin Farm in Whitefish will discuss organic gardening protocols. Jess Alger of Alger Ranch in Stanford will discuss what you need to be an organic cattle producer. This is a great interactive session to discover what it takes to be an organic farmer or rancher. Farmers and ranchers of all levels of experience are welcome.

# 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 2018, MOA Board of Directors has one director stepping down and two incumbents seeking re-election. The Board of Directors election will take place by secret ballot during the MOA Conference on Saturday, December 8, at the Mansfield Convention Center, Great Falls, Montana, with results available after the conference.

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, Nate Brown at [g.nathanbrown@gmail.com](mailto:g.nathanbrown@gmail.com) or Sam Schmidt at [sam@montanamilling.com](mailto:sam@montanamilling.com).

**All 2018 Director nominations must be submitted by Friday, December 7 at 5 pm.** We will introduce the candidates Saturday morning and balloting will continue through the morning. The secret ballots will be counted after the conference and the results published in the Winter issue of *Organic Matters*.

## 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.

- 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 Jamie Ryan Lockman at [Jamie.Lockman@kamut.com](mailto:Jamie.Lockman@kamut.com) by **November 10, 2018.** 🌱

## Conference Tours, Dec.6, 2018



Photo by Susan Waters

**A Healthy Horizon** (Natural Health and Holistic Nutrition), 824 2nd St S, Great Falls. Meet at 1:00 PM at Mansfield Convention Center to carpool. [www.ahhealthyhorizon.com](http://www.ahhealthyhorizon.com)

**Wilcox Farms** (Egg Processing) 1401 Stuckey Road, Great Falls. Meet at 1:30 PM at Mansfield CC to carpool. Tours at 2:00 PM and 3:30 PM, limit 25. [www.wilcoxfarms.com](http://www.wilcoxfarms.com)

**Saibeen's Kitchen**, East Indian and East African Cooking Demo with Saibeen Acord. at 3:30 PM. 525 Central Avenue, Great Falls (6 blocks from Mansfield) – limit 25. [www.facebook.com/saibeenskitchen/](http://www.facebook.com/saibeenskitchen/)

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# Organic News

understanding, and 40% more likely to buy).  
Source: Organic Trade Association

## Monsanto Ordered to Pay in Glyphosate Cancer Trial

The chemical giant Monsanto was ordered in August to pay \$289 million damages to California school groundskeeper Dewayne Johnson, who claimed herbicides containing glyphosate caused his non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The jury found that Monsanto knew its Roundup and RangerPro weedkillers were dangerous but failed to warn consumers. This is the first lawsuit to go to trial alleging a glyphosate link to cancer. This ruling is likely to lead to thousands of other claims against Monsanto, which was recently purchased by German conglomerate, Bayer AG.

## Gene Editing to be Regulated like Other Biotech Seeds and Food in European Union

Controversy continues to rage in the U.S. about whether foods and seeds created with new genetic engineering techniques, like gene editing, should be classified and regulated as GMOs. [The European Union \(EU\) has settled the matter, to the chagrin of biotech companies.](#) USDA Secretary Perdue responded to the European Court decision, calling the regulations "regressive and outdated." He also referenced the safety of GMO products, despite continuing evidence that gene editing can cause extensive and unpredictable gene mutations.

Source: The Cornucopia Institute

## Organic Label Resonates With Consumers

The Natural Marketing Institute's recently released [2018 State of Sustainability in America, 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Consumer Insights & Trends Report](#), includes consumer responses concerning their familiarity with different food and beverage certification labels. Asked what percentage recognize certain seals or labels, understand what they mean and are more likely to buy a product with a particular seal, 86% recognize the USDA certified organic label, 74% recognize and understand it, and 43% are more likely to buy the product carrying the seal. The only label that reflected higher responses was that of Energy Star (94% recognize, 87% recognize and understand, and 67% more likely to buy). The Non-GMO Project label garnered 71% recognition 58% recognition and

## U.S. Certified Organic Land Tops 6.5 Million Acres

Organic Trade Association member Mercaris, a market data service and online trading platform for organic, non-GMO and certified agricultural commodities, has released its annual *Organic and Non-GMO Acreage Report* showing there are 6.5 million acres of certified organic land in the nation, with 460 new operations in 2018. The report reveals that as of August, there were 17,648 U.S. farms certified to USDA's National Organic Program.  
Source: Organic Trade Association

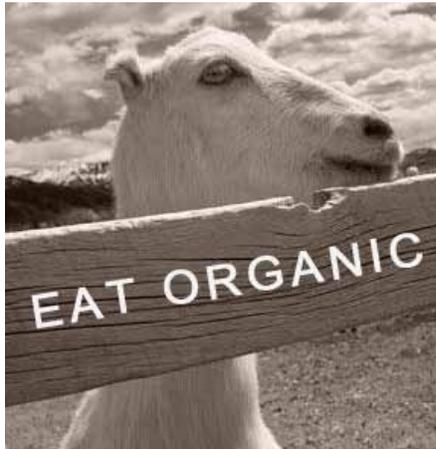


Photo: Amaltheia Organic Dairy

## Court Rules to Move Animal Welfare Case Forward

The Organic Trade Association welcomed the news that the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia will hear its case against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) over the agency's failure to put into effect new organic livestock standards. The court on October 4 denied USDA's petition to dismiss the

lawsuit, and said it will hold a hearing examining the merits of the trade association's case.

The Organic Trade Association originally filed the lawsuit in September 2017 alleging USDA had abused its discretion and violated the national Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) by twice delaying the effective date of the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) final rule. After USDA issued a third delay last November, the trade association filed an amended complaint. USDA subsequently issued a final rule in March to eliminate OLPP altogether, and did so in May without a public comment period. The trade association filed a second amended complaint in April. This latest action by the court means it has agreed to hold a hearing despite USDA's objections. "We are confident our case is strong, and look forward to winning this legal battle to uphold organic standards," says Laura Batcha, Executive Director/CEO of the trade association.

[Read the complete background on this issue.](#)

Source: Organic Trade Association 🌱

## Organic Advisory & Education Council

### GOOD NEWS!!

Congratulations to Montana State University (MSU), Pat Carr, Zack Miller, Perry Miller and all the good hard working people from MSU that have received the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) grant, to help find solutions to Field Bindweed and Canadian Thistle though "CREEP STOP".

Also - thank you and congratulations to all the organic producers in Montana that wrote letters of support and help push these issues to the forefront.

### MORE GOOD NEWS!!

Again this year, OAEC asked for you to scout your fields for sick plants. More samples of both Field Bindweed and Canada Thistle showing signs of diseases were found and submitted for further testing. Thank you to all who sent in samples! These specimens are now at MSU where Professor David Sands is directing the ongoing investigation to determine if they are suitability for development as biocontrol agents.

OAEC is working to keep funding 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 our organic cropping system, please donate to this effort.

Donations can be sent to:

OAEC  
c/o Ole Norgaard  
475 Vixen Lane  
Shonkin, MT 59450

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.

*The Organic Advisory and Education Council (OAEC) is a non-profit organization made up of Montana certified organic farmers whose mission is to assess priority needs for research and education specific to Montana's organic farming community. OAEC's mandate is to identify and to target funds for most needed projects. In an equally important role, OAEC provides information and advice to researchers and educators on areas of critical need in the organic community.*

Find Us on Facebook: [Organic Advisory and Education Council](#)

Twitter: [@MTOAEC](#)

## Your Newsletter, Your Stories

Do you have a story or topic idea for *Organic Matters*? We are always looking for MOA members' input. Send your story ideas, people you want to hear from, and topics you want to know more about to Susan Waters, *Organic Matters*' editor, at [moa@montanaorganicassociation.org](mailto:moa@montanaorganicassociation.org). The newsletter committee will review your ideas and consider them for a newsletter article in an upcoming issue.

## Calendar of Events

Find the organic events in your area by visiting [www.montanaorganicassociation.org/events.htm](http://www.montanaorganicassociation.org/events.htm).

## MOA on Facebook

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

## 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, call Susan Waters at (406) 542-9211 or email her at: [moa@montanaorganicassociation.org](mailto:moa@montanaorganicassociation.org).

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## 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:  
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(406) 333-1054 / [moamembership@gmail.com](mailto:moamembership@gmail.com)  
OR click on this ad to sign up online.



# A View From the Chair

Weather weirdness continued as the calendar turned to fall. Mostly, it has felt more like the Pacific Northwest than the northern plains here in Montana. Precipitation that would have been welcome in June or July arrived in September and October instead. Many of us are waiting for the opportunity to complete harvest, seeding and/or fall tillage operations. It has been a year of extremes—with record snowfall in April, then severe heat and drought in July and August preceding the unusual cool and damp fall. While these impacts of climate change are challenging for all, by practicing and supporting organic agriculture, we are a big part of the solution.

Speaking of solutions, MOA's Annual Conference is a great place to learn how to be part of the organic movement. I hope you will join us for MOA's Annual Conference in Great Falls, December 6 - 8. Details on registration, agenda, speakers and lodging options are available on the pages of this newsletter and at MOA's website at <http://www.montanaorganicassociation.org/conference2018.htm>.

The conference committee has put together an inspiring program, including the film *Dreaming of a Vetter World*. We are honored to have organic pioneer David Vetter, whose life work is presented in the film, join us for the conference. Keynote speaker Dr. Jill Clapperton, of Rhizoterra, will educate and inspire to regenerate our soils and grow (more) healthy food. 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.

It is exciting to see increasing awareness of and emphasis on soil health as the foundation of a productive agriculture and healthy society. As organic farmers, we have been part of "regenerative agriculture" before the term came into recent vogue. It seems obvious to me that one cannot build or maintain healthy soil in any system that applies poisons to it. But organic is only the beginning. We can all learn more and improve practices to enhance the life and health of our soil community. More healthy soil will lead directly

to more healthy and nutritious food. Healthy, nutrient dense food will be the foundation of improved (human) health and a *solution* the health-care crisis plaguing our nation.

The most serious threat to our species is climate change. Organic agriculture offers a *solution* to both mitigate the impacts and reverse the incidence of climate change. By fostering healthy soils and building organic matter, farming can sequester carbon in the soil. By avoiding the use of synthetic nitrogen

(fertilizers), organic farmers also avoid the most significant portion of agriculture's contribution to greenhouse gas

emissions. Adoption of organic farming practices on significantly more acres is "low-hanging fruit" among the array of strategies to solve climate change. The solution is in the soil, and organic is fundamentally about healthy soil.

Another *solution* that organic agriculture offers is a better economic prospect than is offered by non-organic systems. Growing food that consumers actually want, and are willing to pay a fair price for, gives organic farmers a clear advantage. And, while organic food may cost more initially, eating organic food (as part of a safe, healthy and nutritious diet) is the most economical health care for all of us. Premium prices for organically grown food are only part of the advantage. On our farm, the most important difference is that we are not dependent on the costly input products that non-organic growers rely on. With substantially lower production costs and significantly higher market prices, organic is a solution for positive farm economics.

A long-standing feature of the MOA Conferences 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. We hope that you nominate your organic heroes for these awards. We are also accepting nominations for MOA Board of Director positions. Please submit your nominations today. See the conference section of this newsletter for instructions.

I look forward to seeing YOU at the conference in Great Falls!



Doug Crabtree, MOA Board Chairman

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