

# Organic MATTERS



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## Nate Powell-Palm Provides Testimony in Washington, DC

The Montana Organic Association was well-represented by Nate Powell-Palm when he provided testimony regarding the economic opportunities for farmers through sustainable agricultural practices to the US House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration and related agencies. Powell-Palm was joined by Kevin Norton , Acting Associate Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA and Jason Weller, Senior Director of Sustainability, Land O' Lakes SUSTAIN.

Powell-Palm let the subcommittee know that organic farming offers a better return, while also sequestering more carbon in soil than conventional farming, thus mitigating the effects of climate change. He also reinforced the need for the USDA to maintain the integrity of the Certified Organic seal to strengthen the consumers trust in the brand. He also stated that it was imperative that the livestock rule be enforced.

Powell-Palm started farming when he was just 12 and was able to use grants and other opportunities available to develop and expand his cattle operation. He raised his first calf through the 4-H program, an organization that was an important catalyst for him. He eventually realized that organic production would provide a better return on his investment. Since then, he has continued to expand his operations and currently has the most certified organic acres in Wyoming for his cattle operation. He is past president of the Montana Organic Producers Co-op; an organization marketing primarily certified organic grass-fed beef. He is working with Annie's/General Mills for a limited edition Wheat and Peas Mac and Cheese.



*MOA Member Nate Powell-Palm testifies before the US House Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development and other agencies subcommittees, April 10, 2019. OTA's Executive Director Laura Batcher looks on.*



*L-R, Kevin Norton, Acting Associate Chief, NRCS, USDA; Jason Weller, Senior Director of Sustainability, Land O' Lakes; Nate Powell-Palm, Certified Organic Farmer; April 10, 2019, Rayburn House Office Building.*

Powell-Palm is the chair of MOA's Policy Committee and is leading that committee to become more responsive and effective. He has developed a procedure for policy along with a non-discrimination statement. This year, he worked on a Montana State legislature study bill and provided testimony for it as well.

Thank you, Nate for your efforts to strengthen and promote the organic label and for providing leadership to the organic agriculture community.

Find Nate's written testimony here: <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/AP/AP01/20190410/109290/HRG-116-AP01-Wstate-Powell-PalmN-20190410.pdf>

A Youtube recording of the hearing is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aP00edvlehs&feature=youtu.be>



## *In Remembrance*

### *Russell Salisbury*

***MOA extends its condolences to Russ's beloved Elsie and his family and friends.***

Montana has lost an organic pioneer, Russ Salisbury passed away February 10, 2019. Russ and his long-term partner Elsie Tuss were original members of a number of organic agriculture organizations including MOA, the Montana Organic Producers Co-op, the state certification program, three Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) chapters, the Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) Ag Task Force, and the Montana Farmers Union. Long-time partners Russ and Elsie were recognized by MOA for their longstanding service and leadership to Montana's organic farming community in 2012.

Russ started farming and ranching at age 14 on land originally homesteaded by his great-grandfather in the 1880s. Organic before it was a market, "green" before it was popular and socially responsible (as investors) before it was a movement; he and Elsie provided financing and support to a number of farms and businesses that are now part of Montana's organic community. They hosted and mentored interns over the course of many years, provided hands-on instruction in organic farming, and hosted countless farm tours. Known as a collector of farm machinery and parts, Russ supplied and delivered hard to find items to many fellow farmers. His contributions live on.



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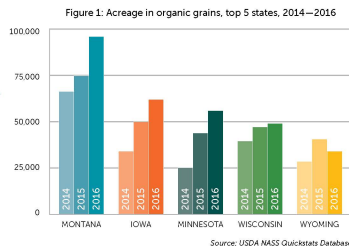
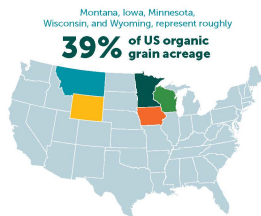


# Montana Number One in Organic Wheat Production

## US Organic Grain Production Overview

### Total Production and Regions

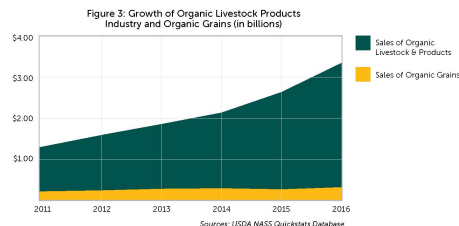
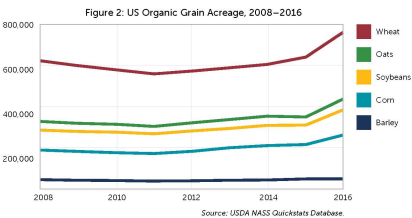
In 2016, U.S. production of organic corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, and barley totaled 765,000 acres, producing 46 million bushels and generating \$336 million in sales. The **top five organic grain producing states**—Montana, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming—represent roughly **39% of U.S. organic grain acreage**. See Figure 1. Another 17 states mainly in the Midwest and upper Great Plains each have at least 1% of the total organic grain acreage. Midwestern states tend to grow more corn and soybeans, and Great Plains states predominantly grow small grains such as wheat, barley, and oats.



### US Organic Grain—How to Keep It Growing

#### Growth and Demand

Organic grain production is growing, however not at a rate to meet the organic livestock industry needs. From 2008 to 2016, U.S. production of organic corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, and barley grew from 426,000 to 765,000 acres—a growth of 22% over the eight-year period. See Figure 2. Over a similar period, the U.S. livestock products industry—including dairy, meat, and eggs sold from farms to first handlers—increased from \$1.2 billion to \$3.3 billion, nearly 300% growth. See Figure 3. The growth of domestically produced organic grains and soybeans has not kept pace. While many organic farmers do not grow for the feed market, the gap between supply and demand can be attributed to the increase in demand from the feed sector.

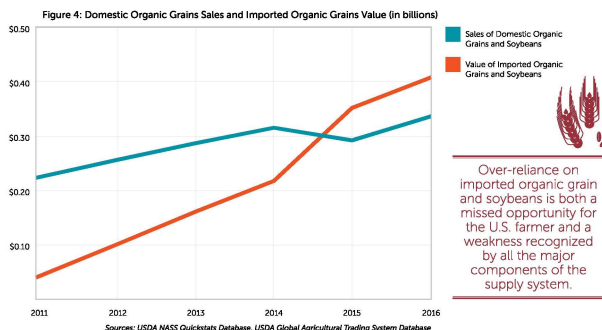


Organic grain production is growing, however not at a rate to meet the organic livestock industry needs.



### US Organic Grain—How to Keep It Growing

Organic livestock producers have made up for this gap by **importing organic feeds**. Since 2011, the value of imported organic grains and soybeans has skyrocketed from \$42 million to \$401 million, a growth rate of x10. Imported organic grains and soybeans now exceed domestically grown grains and soybeans in the U.S. See Figure 4.



Over-reliance on imported organic grain and soybeans is both a missed opportunity for the U.S. farmer and a weakness recognized by all the major components of the supply system.

This over-reliance on imported organic grain and soybeans is both a missed opportunity for the U.S. farmer and a weakness recognized by all the major components of the supply system (organic livestock and food manufacturers): from the U.S. organic grain growers to the consumer brand companies whose products and pricing strategies ultimately depend on the integrity of organic certification. Despite the concern, efforts to increase domestic organic grain and soybean production have not kept pace with the demands of the livestock industry.

### US Organic Grain—How to Keep It Growing

Montana has the most certified organic acres producing grains in the United States highlighted in the report "U.S. Organic Grain - How to Keep it Growing," published as an update to a report commissioned by the U.S. Organic Grain Collaboration in 2014. The U.S. Organic Grain Collaboration is a project of the Organic Trade Association's Grain, Pulse and Oilseed Council; its members are Annie's, Ardent Mills, Clif Bar, Stonyfield, Organic Valley, King Arthur Flour, and Pipeline Foods. The report was published in partnership with the Organic Trade Association, the Sustainable Food Lab, and Farm Smart.

The demand for organic grains in the U.S. has grown, but domestic production has not kept up leading to the U.S. importing organic grains. The report examines the barriers to increasing domestic organic grain production as well as identifying solutions to overcome these barriers.

According to the report, there are three main barriers identified to expanding U.S. organic grain production:

1. The risk associated with the high cost of transition and uncertain market guarantee at the end of the transition period.
2. Maintaining and increasing soil fertility and weed suppression to optimize yields in the long term.
3. Inadequate farm management resources.

The authors of the report suggest the following three solutions to help farmers with the risks and costs of organic transition, price uncertainty, and management barriers to expanding organic grain production:

1. Utilize different pricing mechanisms to address volatility, risk, and competitiveness.
2. Develop markets for lower value crops that increase soil fertility and suppress weeds.
3. Increase availability of trusted advisor networks and improved access to organic resources for farmers.

The full report can be found at: [https://ota.com/sites/default/files/indexed\\_files/US%20Organic%20Grain\\_How%20to%20Keep%20it%20Growing\\_Organic%20Trade%20Association.pdf](https://ota.com/sites/default/files/indexed_files/US%20Organic%20Grain_How%20to%20Keep%20it%20Growing_Organic%20Trade%20Association.pdf)



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organization dedicated to advocating and promoting  
organic agriculture for the highest good of the people,  
the environment and the State economy.

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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  
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## Montana 4-H Wants to Hear from You!

Why? Because Montana 4-H is exploring development of a  
4-H youth organic farming program. Consumer demand for  
organic products continues to grow, but programs like 4-H  
have not kept pace with changing consumer attitudes or the  
organic industry. This is a missed opportunity to educate  
and inspire new generations of organic farmers!

How can you help? Complete a short online survey to share  
your insight and opinions. It takes less than 10 minutes to  
complete. Feel free to forward the survey link to others who  
may want to participate.

Link to survey: <https://bit.ly/2G3AbKv>

Deadline: The survey closes at midnight on Sunday, 26 May  
2019.

Thank you! Your input supports the mission of Montana 4-H  
to empower youth to lead for a lifetime.

Got questions?

Please contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Renée Gebault  
King, at 406.994.6241 or [renee.gebaultking@montana.edu](mailto:renee.gebaultking@montana.edu)

For more information about Montana 4-H, please visit [http://  
www.montana4h.org/](http://www.montana4h.org/)





# What role could Organic Agriculture play in mitigating climate change?

Opinion submitted by Becky Weed, MOA Board Vice Chair, Thirteen Mile Farm

Reality is conveying countless messages that the principles and practice of Organic Agriculture could yield a path toward mitigating climate change, if we listen. But the current language of climate resilience—such as carbon sequestration, carbon storage, reduced carbon emissions, etc. is really only an abbreviation of a larger message; the way the Earth works is our ultimate governing system, like it or not. Dana and Laura Jackson put the message more poetically when they edited a collection of essays from America's heartland and titled it "The Farm as Natural Habitat."

That title is important, but I'm going to start with a less poetic approach.

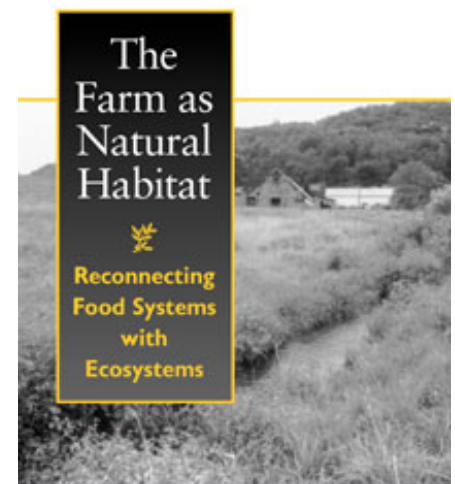
Consider, first, the language of economists. What economist would ever anticipate that farmers and bankers would dedicate more than 80% of the arable land in the continental U.S. to corn and soybeans—unless there were artificial economic incentives that pushed rational farmers to grow such massive surplus of two generally inedible crops. Only a handful of other commodities share in the incentive largesse, but now with climate shifts farmers are even expanding corn and soy into the Northern Great Plains, replacing wheat in some places, and native sod in others. This strange regime has evolved over decades of incremental good intentions involving safety nets, crop technologies, zealous land grants, and food processing ingenuity. Now, it's doubling down on itself because "real farmers grow corn?" When did 'farm supports' become a farm system of unintended consequences?

Second, consider the language of health. Much traditional knowledge and growing modern dietary research show us that nutritional diversity is vitally important, not only for humans, but also for the plants and animals that feed us. Even the micro biomes that undergird the whole complex thrive best with diversity of biochemical nutrients, diversity of physical niches, and refuge from tillage and chemical assault. If everyone immediately began eating varieties of food in accordance with USDA recommendations for a balanced diet, we would quickly run short of fruits and vegetables—to the tune of millions of acres short. Just last week The Lancet announced the results of a global dietary study that indicates that poor diets are the leading cause of death worldwide. The public health crises of obesity and diabetes in the U.S. alone are ample evidence that abundance without diversity guarantees neither security nor health.

Third, what about international relations? In our confusion and concern about borders and wars and race and change, have we forgotten that much of human migration from rural landscapes to cities is the result of agricultural pricing systems that drive people off the land?

Have we forgotten that artificially low food prices, distorted by subsidies seeking cheap food and imagined "food security," have helped to drive countless farmers in both hemispheres into violent drug trades of various sorts? Recent talk of 'climate refugees' is arguably subsidiary to a preceding, and broader shift of humanity's relationship to its homelands.

Fourth, perhaps the messages from our own American culture are beginning to penetrate. No one claims that disaffected youth or "nature deficit disorder" or opioid crises or population declines in small town America, or farmer suicides, are the symptoms of a single variable. But who among us would claim that a country whose midsection is paved with a corn desert, where a single man may manage 20,000 acres of land that he may not own, often bereft of birds, clean water, and thriving small communities, is not part of a broader pathology? Homogenized landscapes affect our minds as they affect our ecosystems.



Edited by Dana L. Jackson and Laura L. Jackson

Foreword by  
Nina Leopold Bradley

- Continued on page 7



# A good source of financing. And knowledge.

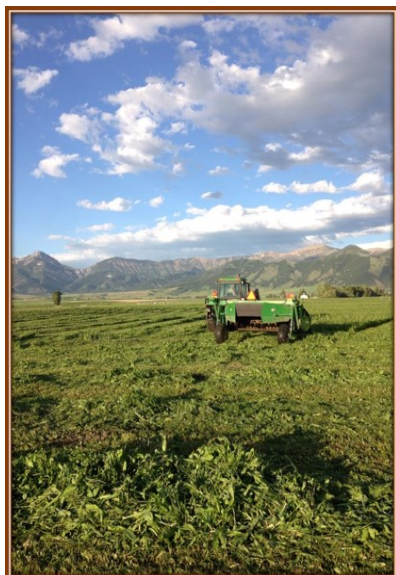
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Amaltheia Organic Dairy,  
Photo credit, Nate Brown

Fifth, even our own Industrial Agriculture is acknowledging that principles of soil health are fundamental. A glossy publication from an agricultural chemical corporation recently landed in my mailbox, and without using the “O-word” once, it quoted a soil scientist who laid out the principles of organic soil management in lucid terms: a. armor the soil with residue; b. cause minimal disturbance to the soil surface; c. maintain plant diversity; d. seek continuous plant cover as much as possible; and e. integrate livestock. These are organic principles, and they are some of the ground rules, not only for growing food, but also for restoring a carbon cycle that can help mitigate climate shifts.

Sixth, and last but not least, the language of natural systems seems the most compelling of all these days. We are witnessing massive flooding across much of Nebraska and Iowa, with damage to infrastructure as alarming as damage to fields. This is just one of a long and escalating series of weather-induced clarion calls. Long before these recent episodic catastrophes, we have been witnessing the fraying of natural systems that make the earth as we know it work—the soil biome, the pollinators, the migrations, the predator-prey dynamics, and even the hydrologic cycles are exhibiting disruption.

A rich literature of agricultural examination and critique has been analyzing this disruption for decades, and it is intertwined with an equally vast and complex record of non-agricultural human disruptions. We have persisted in expanding a corn-based system that pumps carbon into our atmosphere, both by consuming fossil fuels and by respiring, not restoring, our own soil carbon. The question now, is what role can agriculture play in healing our atmosphere, and our communities, via restoration/mitigation/resilience?

The preceding list of perspectives from a range of disciplines reads primarily like a litany of critiques of the corn-soybean-feedlot (and now ethanol) machine that the Farm Bill and other institutions have perpetrated over the last half-century on the U.S. and beyond. It is that, but embedded in that same list, are the seeds of its own repair.

Organic farming, as a set of technical and cultural principles regarding microbe/plant/animal diversity; regarding functional natural ecosystems and human communities, and a framework for “Farming as if Nature Matters,” can provide both benchmark and guideposts for a pathway toward successful function, including climate resilience. Organic farming, if viewed and managed merely as a market niche, a fashionable consumer choice, or a nostalgic statement of values for a precious elite, will fail to achieve its original mission of healthy self-sufficient farming, and its greatest potential for climate change mitigation.

Many people are already working on specific tasks needed to advance such a forward-looking agenda. There is much foment, for example, in the research and practice of using cover-crop mixtures in diverse farm rotations to restore soil health and nutrient density; in re-integrating cropping and livestock for more efficient fertilization and for both crop and livestock health; in restoration of grassland economies in service of restoring grassland ecosystems while reducing confined animal feeding operations. There are farmers all over the U.S., especially a younger generation, struggling to return vegetable and fruit production to a diverse and accessible geography, instead of relying on overburdened and increasingly fragile California. Even within some federal agencies, many personnel have worked to incorporate elements of organic farming principles into agency practice. NRCS programs to encourage pollinator habitat, erosion control, cover crop rotations, tillage reduction, for example, are steps toward carbon storage and crop resilience. But for many decades, farmers and researchers in this realm have operated at the periphery of mainstream agriculture, Farm Bill politics, and federal budgets. Organic farmers are indeed grateful that the Farm Bill and other USDA budgets have included items like Cost Share for Organic certification, transition assistance, young farmer programs, farmers markets and food hubs.

-Continued on page 8.



*Continued from page 7.*

But honest farmers are also acutely aware that as long as these tiny programs operate at the periphery of a commodity universe, where the center of gravity is constituted by price supports, crop insurance, and other federal programs that favor the mainstream status quo, then Organics may remain a marginal phenomenon, and its mission will remain unfulfilled. Those of us who want organic farming to reach its potential need more than crumbs off the table. We need USDA's right and left hands to stop working at cross purposes.

The broadest questions that could be climate-management game changers will not be fully addressed unless voters and Congress express such priorities through budgets and the Farm Bill. Such systemic shifts, not mere sideshows, are required. What if, for example, we redesigned incentives to favor crop diversity while reducing dependence on imported, expensive, and fossil-fuel-intensive chemical fertilizers?

What if we phased out protections and crop subsidies that prop up a monopolized packing infrastructure and thereby opened opportunities for a decentralized packing industry coupled to a diverse grassland/forage crop system? What if we redesigned crop insurance programs that currently favor a very few commodity crops and thus leveled the playing field for more experimentation and profitability with crop diversity and livestock integration? What if livestock producers were decoupled from a CAFO system that generates groundwater pollution, greenhouse gases and a bad reputation for meat, and instead encouraged them to hitch their wagons to grassland ecology, carbon sequestering root systems, and fertility for local vegetable, fruits, and regionally-adapted diverse grains, as well as radically healthier (and less excessive) meat?

Food and farm systems have changed before, and they will do so again. Farm country and cities alike are full of food-related and climate-related foment these days. Both often cross generational, cultural and even partisan boundaries better than most facets of our society. This foment, combined with the generational and land tenure shifts facing much of rural America, and the climate freight train the seems to be bearing down us, represent opportunity as threat.... if we listen.

Farmers are pragmatists, and we know that such changes will not occur overnight, with or without Congress. But unless this nation articulates a vision and implements policy to enable acceleration of the positive foment that is underway, instead of propping up well-intended but misguided habits of a previous generation, we will neither mitigate climate nor feed ourselves into the future.



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# **News and Resources**

## **Sharing Seeds, Swapping Gardening Tips**

Despite frigid temperatures and roaring winds, March 6 dawned sunny and beautiful for the Free the Seeds Event in Kalispell. MOA Treasurer Heather Estrada was one of the key organizers and Board Member Judy Owsowitz co-tabled with Executive Director Jamie Ryan Lockman. Judy shared carrots and auroc seed. The event drew more than 1250 attendees and nearly 20,000 seed packets were given away to an array of gardeners, homesteaders, educators, and kids. The event included 22 free workshops where attendees learned to prepare, grow, improve, and harvest seeds.

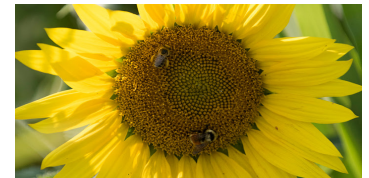


MOA Member Robin Kelson, Good Seed Company is one of the founders of Free the Seeds and one of this year's organizers. The event strives to build resiliency throughout the food chain by conversation, education, and encouraging community. MOA also participated in the Missoula Seed Library Seed Swap. This event was smaller, but still was a good way to connect to Missoula's local gardeners. Five Valley Seed Library maintains a collection for gardeners to "check out" and grow and hopefully return some seeds at the end of the season. Find out more at Five Valleys Seed Library.



## **Montana NRCS Announces 2019 Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative**

Montana NRCS Announces 2019 Honey Bee Pollinator Initiative  
Contact: Jerry Shows  
406-587-6967



BOZEMAN, Mont., April 11, 2019—The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering additional funding through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to target honey bee pollinator resource concerns in Montana in 2019.

While NRCS accepts EQIP applications on a continuous basis, NRCS has set a deadline of May 10, 2019, to apply for this 2019 initiative funding.

**Honey Bee Pollinators:** NRCS will work with agricultural producers to combat future declines by helping them to implement conservation practices that provide forage for honey bees while enhancing habitat for other pollinators and wildlife. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to eligible participants to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land. Conservation practices must be implemented to NRCS standards and specifications. In Montana, socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and

beginning farmers and ranchers will receive a higher payment rate for eligible conservation practices applied.

For more information about EQIP, or other programs offered by NRCS, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit [www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov).



## **USDA Seeks Five Nominees for the National Organic Standards Board**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) seeks nominations of qualified individuals for five open seats on the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The 15-member advisory board considers and makes recommendations on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances and other issues involving the production, handling and processing of USDA certified organic products.

Each member serves a five-year term and represents specific sectors of the organic community.

Current openings include:

- One individual with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation.
- One individual who owns or operates an organic farming operation or an employee of such individuals.
- One individual who owns or operates a retail establishment with significant trade in organic products or an employee of such individuals.
- Two individuals who own or operate an organic handling operation or an employee of such individuals.

USDA is also accepting nominations of qualified candidates to fill future unexpected vacancies in any of the seven categories representing the scope of the organic agricultural community.

Deadline for nominations is **May 17, 2019**.

Visit <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/nosb/nomination-process>

## **OTA Award Nominees**



Nominees are “game-changers” who have made significant contributions to growing the organic industry through leadership and action in areas such as consumer education and marketing, new market development, public relations, standards development, advocacy, and research.

### **ORGANIC FARMER OF THE YEAR**

Nominees are professional farmers\* who have made significant contributions to support and advance organic agriculture and trade at the farm level, such as increasing the amount of land under organic management, expanding the number of farmers using organic practices, or advancing organic agriculture through farm policy advocacy, community education, or innovative land stewardship and technical practices.

\*For the purposes of the OTA Leadership Award, a farmer is defined as someone who:

Owns, leases, or is a partner in an organic farm;  
and has a full-time functional role as an organic farmer;  
and derives their primary income from an organic farm.

### **RISING STAR**

Nominees are emerging leaders who have distinguished themselves professionally for their pursuit, zeal or notable advancements to programs, initiatives, new categories, or product development that promotes the growth, sustainability, or influence of organic agriculture and trade.

For more information visit: <https://ota.com/about-ota/organic-leadership-awards>





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**Farm Field Days!**  
**SAVE THE DATE**

**Wednesday, July 17, 2019**  
Organic Principles Review

Central Agricultural Research Center (CARC)  
Moccasin, MT  
Organic Advisory and Education Council (OAEC)

**Thursday, July 18, 2019**  
Montana Organic Association Farm Tour

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Hinsdale, MT

Look for details soon!




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## Note MOA Address Change:

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## Where's Bob Quinn?

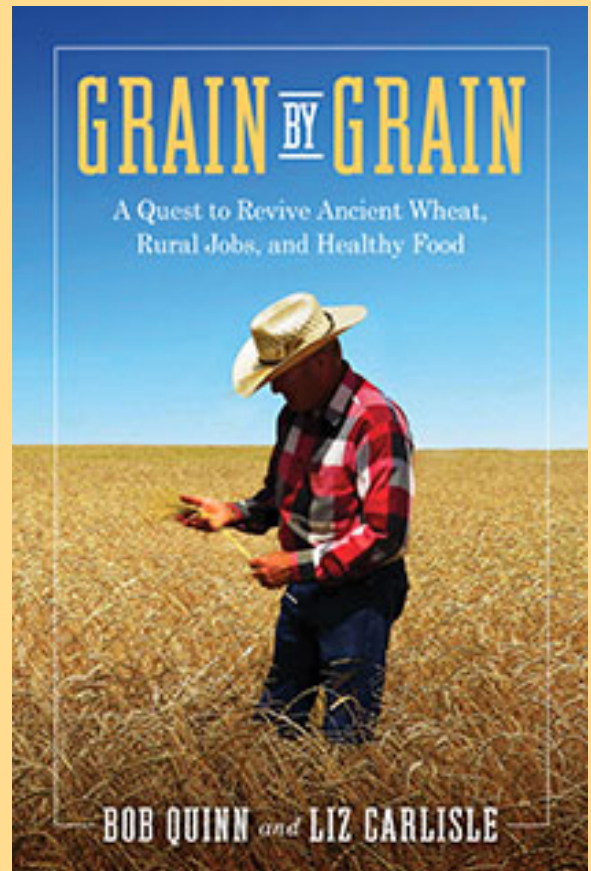
He's on a book tour!

Bob and "Lentil Underground" author Liz Carlisle are promoting "Grain By Grain," a book that shares Bob's story, his wisdom, and his vision for a sustainable agriculture and food system based on organic principles that supports the environment, communities, and better health. Farmer, entrepreneur, business man, researcher, activist, leader, neighbor, and patriarch; Bob is a renaissance man.

Bob and Liz have events scheduled in Montana and around the US throughout the spring.

The book is available at your favorite local book store or on Amazon.

Visit [www.bobquinnorganicfarmer.com](http://www.bobquinnorganicfarmer.com) or his Facebook Page to learn more.



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## A View From the Director

Greetings from Missoula, MOA members!

I'm pleased to let you know that after months of work by the board and myself, we have developed a contract for my position as executive director. The last two months have been busy with setting up an office, working on reports, working on legislation, attending events like Free the Seeds in Kalispell, as well as planning the conference, communicating with members, sponsors, and potential members and sponsors, writing a SARE mini-grant, and sitting in on committee and board meetings. It is a testament to our volunteer board and membership about how much has been accomplished without a person dedicated to the day-to-day MOA activities. We are indebted to them and our contract employees who have moved MOA to a place where an executive director can be hired on to oversee the organization.

Our face-to-face board meeting in Helena took place in the conference room at the Montana Department of Agriculture and consisted of two half-days of concentrated work. Leadership from the Montana Department of Agriculture met with the board for nearly an hour and a half letting us know of their interest in organic agriculture and soliciting the MOA board's input for developing a strategic plan based on MOA's priorities. The board was asked to identify the issues that are likely to be on the horizon at two-, five-, and ten-year intervals and the problems that should receive attention within this span. Among the identified issues included climate change and water management; the structure and policy of federal crop insurance; consumer demand and industry growth; pesticide enforcement; encouraging and supporting new farmers; weed control; and research. Additionally, committees were set up and meetings set. If you would like to get involved with the MOA board, volunteering for committee work is an excellent place to start.

Late last summer, MOA was approached to assist with developing a bill that would address pesticide contamination. The policy committee under Nate Powell-Palm as chair, along with volunteers Kiki Hubbard, Steve Baril, Bob Quinn, Jim Barngrover, David Oien, Trevor Blyth, and others worked to develop language for the state to undertake a study identifying the challenges from pesticides, GMO's and other technologies that are or could affect Montana's organic agriculture. In the process of developing the bill, the team was able to identify some commonalities with conventional farmers. The bill was tabled and failed to move forward; however, MOA was able to share its concerns about chemical and GMO contamination with the lawmakers.

The MOA Farm tour date has been set for July 18, 2019 for the Matt and Sonja Johnson Farm and Ranch at Hinsdale Montana. Once again you can expect a day full of education, insight, camaraderie, and great organic food. The MOA Farm Tour is preceded on July 17, 2019 by a field day at the Montana State University Central Agricultural Research Center at Moccasin. Don't forget to wear appropriate clothing and to bring your camp chairs.

There are many opportunities to get involved in the organic community; from farm tours, to committee work, to national boards, to sharing your opinions in an article, and recognizing your friends and neighbors; there is always something going on!

Please note that MOA's contact information has changed. Our mailing address is Montana Organic Association, 3312 Street, Missoula, MT 59801. Ph: (406) 728-1167 or (406) 546-6572. MOA can still be reached at [moamembership@gmail.com](mailto:moamembership@gmail.com) or I can be reached at [jamieryanlockman@gmail.com](mailto:jamieryanlockman@gmail.com)

Wishing you good spring work -

Jamie Ryan Lockman  
Executive Director

Organic Matters, Spring 2019



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## 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.

## MOA on Facebook

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

## MOA on Instagram

Montana agriculture is beautiful! Share your photos with MOA and tag #montanaorganic <https://www.instagram.com/montanaorganicassociation/>

## Calendar of Events

Find the organic events in your area by visiting [www.montanaorganicassociation.org/events.htm](http://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)
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- Business card ad --- \$30 (Size: 3-1/2W x 2H")

\*\*\*If you are a Farm/Ranch Business level member, you will receive a 5% discount on your ad. If you are an Organic Business or Lifetime member, you will receive a 10% discount on your ad. All ads must be print ready.

Visit: <http://www.montanaorganicassociation.org/omadrates.htm> for details, call (406) 728-1167 or email: [moamembership@gmail.com](mailto:moamembership@gmail.com)

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Annual Membership Levels:

- ☐ Individual.....\$30
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- ☐ 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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