



Organic Breaking New Ground

Montana Organic Association 7th Annual Conference

November 12-14, 2009
Holiday Inn, Great Falls, MT

Welcome!

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the participants of the Montana Organic Association's 7th Annual Conference. We hope you leave Great Falls with new ideas, business connections, enthusiasm, fun memories and a belly full of delicious organic food.

Whether you have a small organic garden in your backyard, or a 5,000-acre grain farm, we have sessions that pertain to you! If you currently aren't certified and want to learn more about transitioning to organic, our Organic University is an incredible resource. If you're a bit more established in organic production, you'll find the two days of general sessions to be a wealth of timely information. If you're involved with the trade or are a consumer, Saturday's sessions will be of particular interest to you.

The MOA Conference Committee has been dedicated in finding top-notch speakers who are on the cutting edge of research, development, farming practices and policy. We are extremely happy with the level of speakers we have on our agenda this year and we hope you are too. Should you have any suggestions or comments, please let us know—we always appreciate your feedback.

Heading up our Conference planning has been a rewarding experience because help was always just a phone call away. MOA is full of extremely dedicated folks who don't think twice to help, even when their own plates are mighty full. I hope you find value in the conference and your MOA membership in general. Our organization and its members have a depth and breadth of knowledge that I believe we can all benefit from.

So now...sit back, relax and ENJOY!

Tara Blyth

2009 Conference Committee Chair



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Session Highlight: Organic University

Montana Organic Association is proud to offer a full day agenda for our Organic University (OU) in 2009. From its humble beginnings in the early 2000s as a single conference session, OU has evolved into a full day, eleven-session curriculum. Targeted for people interested in becoming organic farmers or ranchers, OU is also valuable for established professionals, including NRCS personnel and ag extension agents, wanting to know more about the entire certification process, various organic entities and their roles, resources available to farmers, and how to address the fundamental issues of certification and production in organic agriculture.

"This year, Organic University is more streamlined and balanced in its offerings," says Ole Norgaard, MOA Board Chair and co-organizer of the 2009 OU program. "We have speakers that are experts in their respective fields who will present the courses in a logical order that will increase understanding of the essential aspects of organic farming and ranching."

Organic University is a compact, thorough program offered nowhere else in Montana. We are happy to have you join us for this unique opportunity to build a strong foundation for a successful future in organics.

Organic University runs from 10:00 AM to 5:10 PM on Thursday, November 12, 2009.

Session Highlight: Organic Seed Sessions

Locating quality organic seed is one of the challenges organic farmers face in today's market. With the quickly evolving world of seed production and the potential of new NOP regulation, organic seed production is more important than ever.

"Organic growers are required to use organic seed when commercially available," states Micaela Colley, Director of Research and Education for the Organic Seed Alliance (OSA) and co-presenter of the two-part Organic Seed Production sessions at this year's Conference. "But today, there is more demand than supply of organic seed with appropriate genetics, so organic producers have a fabulous marketing opportunity available to them."

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Conference Agenda at a Glance

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009

ORGANIC UNIVERSITY

All Organic University sessions held in Aronson/Mansfield room.

9:00 AM Registration Opens in Lobby

10:00 AM Welcome and Introductions

10:10 AM Foundation, Margaret Scoles (IOIA)

10:40 AM Certifying Agents in Montana, Doug Crabtree (MDA) and Shawn Matteson (OCIA)

11:00 AM Organic Standards, Doug Crabtree

11:35 AM Organic Inspection, Margret Scoles

12:15 PM Lunch

12:55 PM Economics, Chad Lee (MDA)

1:45 PM Weed Management for Transition Years, Fabian Menalled (MSU)

2:35 PM Funding for Transitioning to Organic, Kris Berg (EQIP)

3:00 PM Break

3:30 PM MSU Extension Service Resources, Jim Knight, (MSU)

3:45 PM NCAT and ATTRA Resources, Susan Tallman (NCAT)

4:00 PM Converting CRP Acres, Shawn Matteson (OCIA) and Dee Turner (OCIA)

4:20 PM Where to Sell Your Organic Products, Buyers' Panel

5:00 PM Wrap up/questions, adjourn at 5:10

6:30 - 9:30 PM Informal Get Together at The Sting (next door to Holiday Inn) for music by the Thrillbillies, dancing, food and drinks

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

7:30 AM Registration Opens in Lobby

9:00 AM Welcome and MSU Updates, Jeff Jacobsen, with Mary Stein, Pat Hatfield and Bruce Maxwell (all MSU), Aronson/Mansfield room

10:30 AM Break and Visit with Vendors

11:00 AM Break Out Sessions

-----Carbon Credits, Jim Sargent (MFU), Trailsend room

-----Land Monitoring and Grazing Management Part 1, Charley Orchard (Land EKG), Aronson/Mansfield room

-----Organic Seed Production: Challenges and Opportunities for Farmer to Farmer Collaboration, Jan Tusick (LCCD) and Micaela Colley (OSA), Trigg room

12:30 PM Lunch, including: Legislative Update, Jacob Cowgill (Senator Tester's office) and messages from Senator Baucus and Congressman Rehberg. NOSB Update, Barry Flamm (NOSB Board), Aronson/Mansfield room

1:45 PM Break Out Sessions

-----MSU Researchers: Information Exchange, Clain Jones, Perry Miller, Bruce Maxwell and Catherine Zabinski, Aronson/Mansfield room

-----Land Monitoring and Grazing Management Part 2, Charley Orchard, Trailsend room

-----Organic Seed Production Basics, Micaela Colley (OSA), Trigg room

3:15 PM Break and Visit with Vendors

3:45 PM Keynote Speaker, Paul Hepperly, (Rodale Institute), Aronson/Mansfield room

5:15 PM Social Hour, no-host bar, Missouri room

7:00 PM Dinner with Guest Speaker, Ron de Yong, (MDA) and MOA Awards Ceremony, Aronson/Mansfield room.

8:30 PM Entertainment, Chuck Fulcher in Lobby

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2009

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

7:30 AM Breakfast in Aronson/Mansfield room

8:30 AM Break Out Sessions

-----Cooking with Chefs Sedgie and Howard, (Holiday Inn, Great Falls), Aronson/Mansfield room

-----Off Site Tour of Montana Milling, Sam Schmidt (Montana Milling), ride share in Lobby

10:00 AM Break and Visit with Vendors

10:30 AM Break Out Sessions

-----From the Farm to the Fork: A Retailer's Perspective, Paul Rosen (Good Food Store), Trailsend room

-----Ready to Break New Ground: Panel Discussion about CRP Land with Organic Farmers Dave Turner, Randy Hinebauch and Roy Benjamin, and OCIA members Shawn Matteson and Dee Turner, Aronson/Mansfield room

12:30 PM Lunch in Aronson/Mansfield room

1:30 PM Don't Give Up the Farm, Guest Speaker Sandra Hare (S-Hare Solutions), Aronson/Mansfield room

3:00 PM MOA Annual Meeting, Aronson/Mansfield room

5:00 PM Conference Adjourns

6:00 PM MOA Board Meeting, Trigg room

Some details subject to change.

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Seed Sessions - continued from page 2

Co-presenter Jan Tusick, Program Manager of the Mission Mountain Market Cooperative Development Center, will discuss the results of the 2009 Seed Survey in the Friday, 11:00 AM session. Colley will share lessons learned from seed production groups in other regions and present opportunities and resources for seed farmers. The feasibility of the formation of an organized seed group in Montana will also be explored.

The Seed Session's second-part, Friday 1:45 PM session, will feature Colley discussing the basic skills and resources needed to successfully grow and save seed. Topics include field planning, managing isolation distances, selection practices, recommended populations sizes, and harvesting, threshing and cleaning techniques—all critical information to help launch a successful endeavor towards growing and saving seed.

Farmers, seasoned producers and gardeners alike will benefit from both sessions. "Using our collective knowledge and the experience of other groups," says Colley, "we have an incredible opportunity to improve the sustainability of organics using holistic approaches to seed production."

Organic Seed Production: Challenges and Opportunities for Farmer to Farmer Collaboration runs from 11:00 Am to 12:30 PM on Friday, November 13. Organic Seed Production Basics runs from 1:45 – 3:15 PM on Friday, November 13.

'Doing it nature's way' has the potential to change the way we grow food, make materials, harness energy, heal ourselves, store information, and conduct business.

*~Janine Benyus
MT Author of Biomimicry*

Detailed Conference Agenda

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009

ORGANIC UNIVERSITY

Organic University covers the basics on how to begin work in, or the transition into, organic agriculture. These sessions will cover the rules and regulations of certification, standards, organic inspection, economics, weed management, funding and other resources, converting CRP acres and how to sell your products. *All Organic University sessions will be held in the Aronson/Mansfield room.*

9:00 AM Registration Table Opens in Lobby.

10:00 AM Welcome and Introductions

Welcome, introduction and overview of the program sessions for the day.

10:10 AM Foundation, Margaret Scoles (IOIA)
The history of organic production, overview of the National Organic Program (NOP), the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) and certifying agents.

10:40 AM Certifying Agents in Montana, Doug Crabtree (MDA) and Shawn Matteson (OCIA)
Overviews of the Montana Department of Agriculture's organic program and the Organic Crop Improvement Association's certification program.

11:00 AM Organic Standards, Doug Crabtree (MDA)

Organic standards for Montana producers.

11:35 AM Organic Inspection, Margret Scoles (IOIA)

Details of the inspection process.

12:15 PM Lunch

12:55 PM Economics, Chad Lee (MDA)

Economics of organic production, transition period, comparisons to conventional production and organic crop pricing.

1:45 PM Weed Management for Transition Years, Fabian Menalled (MSU)

Studies from MSU and practical advice.

2:35 PM Funding for Transitioning to Organic, Kris Berg (EQIP)

Funding opportunities for organic transitioning, such as developing pest management plans, cost share on crop rotations and buffer zones.

3:00 PM Break

3:30 PM MSU Extension Service Resources, Jim Knight, (MSU)

The MSU Extension Service's role in organic agriculture and how the Extension can assist landowners in decision-making and resources.

2009 Conference Program

3:45 PM NCAT and ATTRA Resources, Susan Tallman (NCAT)

Coverage of the extensive and varied resources of both the National Center for Appropriate Technology and the National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service.

4:00 PM Converting CRP Acres, Shawn Matteson (OCIA) and Dee Turner (OCIA)

With over 3 million acres of CRP contracts in MT, landowners should consider their options well in advance of the expiration. A contract holder's environmental responsibility extends beyond the contract. This session covers a variety of sustainable options available to landowners.

4:20 PM Where to Sell Your Organic Products, Buyers' Panel

Practical advice from the experts.

5:00 PM Wrap up / Questions. Adjourn at 5:10.

6:30 PM Informal Get Together at The Sting (next door to Holiday Inn) for music by the Thrillbillies, dancing, food and drinks.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009

GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

7:30 AM Registration Table Opens in Lobby.

9:00 AM Welcome and MSU Updates, Jeff Jacobsen, with Mary Stein, Pat Hatfield and Bruce Maxwell (all MSU)

Aronson/Mansfield room.

Dean Jacobsen will present information on the latest agricultural developments at MSU including USDA funding for MSU programs that benefit organic producers, creation of an interdisciplinary B.S. degree in Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems, and plant variety research and the need for protection of related intellectual property. Mary Stein, Pat Hatfield and Bruce Maxwell will cover the latest updates on various MSU agricultural endeavors.

10:30 AM Break and Visit with Vendors

11:00 AM Break Out Sessions

11:00 AM ----Carbon Credits, Jim Sargent (MFU). Trailsend room.

How the carbon credits market works and how organic farmers can use these systems on their farms and ranches.

11:00 AM ----Land Monitoring and Grazing Management Part 1, Charley Orchard (Land EKG).

Aronson/Mansfield room.

Intro to land monitoring, tips and core strategies

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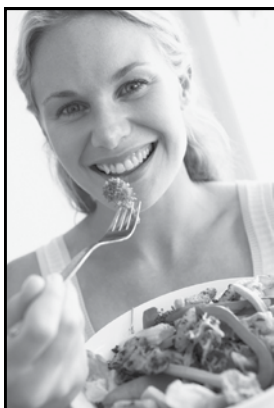


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Friday Agenda continues from page 5

to optimize return from the land.

11:00 AM ---Organic Seed Production: Challenges and Opportunities for Farmer to Farmer Collaboration, Jan Tusick (LCCD) and Micaela Colley (OSA). Trigg room.

Results of the Montana Seed Survey, resources of the Organic Seed Alliance, opportunities and challenges in organic seed production, and potential of setting up a regional seed production structure in Montana.

12:30 PM Lunch, including Legislative Update: Jacob Cowgill (Senator Tester's office) and messages from Senator Baucus and Congressman Rehberg. NOSB Update, Barry Flamm (NOSB Board). Aronson/Mansfield room.

Update from Montana legislators and an update on the work of the National Organic Standards Board. Silent Auction bids open.

1:45 PM Break Out Sessions

1:45 PM ----MSU Researchers: Information Exchange, Clain Jones, Perry Miller, Bruce Maxwell and Catherine Zabinski. Aronson/Mansfield room.

MSU Faculty will present recent organic farming research findings and challenges, field questions on cropping systems, weed management, nutrient cycling, and soil biological processes and request ideas for future research that could be conducted by MSU researchers in collaboration with organic growers.

1:45 PM ----Land Monitoring and Grazing Management Part 2, Charley Orchard. Trailsend room. Hands-on exercises to determine forage balance and stocking rates, grazing indexing and ecosystem monitoring.

1:45 PM ----Organic Seed Production Basics, Micaela Colley (OSA). Trigg room.

Presentation covering the basic skills to successfully grow and save seed, including field planning, isolation distances, selection, population, harvesting, threshing and cleaning. Beginning seed session for farmers and gardeners.

3:15 PM Break and Visit with Vendors

3:45 PM Keynote Speaker, Paul Hepperly, Rodale Institute. Aronson/Mansfield room.

Rodale Institute's latest work, with emphasis on organic production techniques and their positive impact on climate change.

5:15 PM Social Hour, no host bar, Missouri room. Great opportunity to relax, visit and network.

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7:00 PM Dinner with Guest Speaker, Ron de Yong, (MDA). MOA Awards Ceremony, Aronson/ Mansfield room.

Updates on the MDA's organic certification and marketing programs. Followed by MOA Awards Presentation.

8:30 PM Entertainment, Chuck Fulcher
An eclectic variety of acoustic guitar music, in Lobby.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2009 **GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS**

7:30 AM Breakfast in Aronson/ Mansfield room.

8:30 AM Break Out Sessions

8:30 AM ----Cooking with Chefs Sedgie and Howard. Aronson/ Mansfield room.

Cooking session showcasing variety of flavors around the world, such as Mediterranean, Cajun and Asian.

8:30 AM ----Off Site Tour of Montana Milling, Sam Schmidt (Montana Milling). Ride sharing options at registration table in Lobby.

10:00 Break and Visit with Vendors

10:30 AM Break Out Sessions

10:30 AM ----From the Farm to the Fork: A Retailer's Perspective, Paul Rosen (Good Food Store). Trailsend room.

Discussion of organic product trends and consumer issues.

10:30 AM ----Ready to Break New Ground: Panel Discussion about CRP Land with Organic Farmers

Dave Turner, Randy Hinebauch and Roy Benjamin, and OCIA members Shawn Matteson and Dee Turner, Aronson/ Mansfield room

Topics include options for land coming out of CRP, legalities, land considerations, how CRP fits into organic production and more.

12:30 PM Lunch in Aaronson/ Mansfield room.
Silent Auction bids close.

1:30 PM Don't Give Up the Farm, Sandra Hare (S-Hare Solutions). Aronson/ Mansfield room.

Improving inter-generational communications within ranching and farming families.

3:00 PM MOA Annual Meeting

Including report from Chair and Treasurer, MOA business and Board of Directors' Election. Aronson/ Mansfield room.

5:00 PM Conference Adjourns

6:00 PM MOA Board Meeting, Trigg Room.



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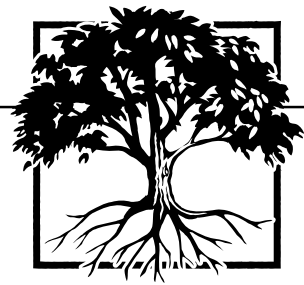
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Our Presenters

Roy Benjamin has been farming for five years. He grows a variety of cereals and legumes and is certified organic. Roy has organic experience with irrigation, expired CRP, native sod breaking, and transitioning conventional land. He and his wife, Kaylee, are at home east of Shelby.

Kris Berg is with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Bozeman, MT. She serves as a Program Specialist managing the agency's largest conservation cost-share assistance program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), within the state. She has worked with the agency as a Soil Conservationist in Lewistown, Sheridan, and Glasgow, and a District Conservationist in Dillon and Missoula before taking on the Program Specialist position with the Bozeman State Office.

Micaela Colley is the Director of Research and Education for Organic Seed Alliance. She manages participatory plant breeding, research and education projects with farmers, university researchers and other seed professionals. She is the chair of the biennial, national Organic Seed Growers Conference.

Jacob Cowgill was recently appointed by Senator Jon Tester as State Agriculture Liaison. He will serve as a point of contact for Montana farmers and ranchers, often traveling the state to visit with and hear from them on Tester's behalf. Cowgill is originally from Sand Coulee, southeast of Great Falls. He is a graduate of the University of Montana, where he earned a Master's Degree in science with a focus on food and agriculture. Jacob and his wife Courtney raise wheat, lentils, vegetables and heritage turkeys on a farm near Conrad.

Doug Crabtree currently serves as organic certification program manager for the Montana Department of Agriculture. Crabtree and his wife, Anna, own and operate a diverse organic dryland crop farm north of Havre. His affiliations include IOIA, the National Association of State Organic Programs (NASOP), the Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) and the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society (NPSAS). Since joining the department in 2001, Crabtree has worked to develop and implement the certification program. He previously worked as an organic inspector, educator, researcher, farm manager, and farmer. Crabtree is a strong advocate for organic agriculture, which he sees as a viable social, economic and environmentally responsible system for producers and consumers.

Ron de Yong was appointed the Director of the Department of Agriculture in 2007. A member of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, de Yong serves as vice chair of the Rural Development and 2009 Conference Program

Financial Security Committee, which advises federal officials and Congress on farm program and policy issues. He also serves as the President of the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture from September 2009 through September 2010. de Yong owns and operates a 320-acre family farm near Kalispell that produces wheat, barley, peppermint, peas, lentils and alfalfa. For seven years prior to becoming director, he was a lecturer at Cal Poly State University, teaching agricultural policy and economics. de Yong earned a master's degree in economics at the University of Montana and undergraduate degrees from Montana State University in agricultural science and philosophy. In his capacity as director, de Yong serves on the Rail Service Competition Council, Noxious Weed Summit Advisory Committee, Montana Wheat & Barley Committee, Montana Agriculture Development Council and various other committees. He and his wife Dee have three children and three grandchildren.

Barry R. Flamm was one of the founders of MOA, served as Vice Chair and Board Member and is a Life Member. He served on the Governor's Council to help develop the Montana's DOA organic certification program and owned and operated the first certified organic sweet cherry orchard in Montana. Barry received a BS in forest management from Colorado A&M (now CSU), MPA in public administration/policy from the American U and Ph.D. from George Mason U with research on the silvicultural effects on biodiversity in the George Washington National Forest. In 2008, he was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to a 5 year term on the National Organics Standard Board in an environmental position. Barry is chair of the NOSB Policy Development Committee and serves on the Executive, Crops and Compliance/ Accreditation/ Certification Committees.

Sandra Hare is a nationally recognized trainer and professional speaker specializing in Communication, Emergency Management, Business, Education, and Leadership. As a Public Information Officer in Wildland Fire and DES, as well as a business leader, Sandra is highly experienced and can relate to all audiences. Through her presentations she has established herself as leader in communication, management, group dynamics and motivational training for over 15 years. Sandra has worked in both corporate and non-profit settings as well as with many volunteer organizations. Her warm and energetic style makes her presentations inviting, fun and educational. She believes laughter and chocolate are two of the most important ingredients to a life well-lived.

Pat Hatfield has been a professor at MSU since 1996. Prior to that, he worked at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho for eight years. Pat has a Ph.D.

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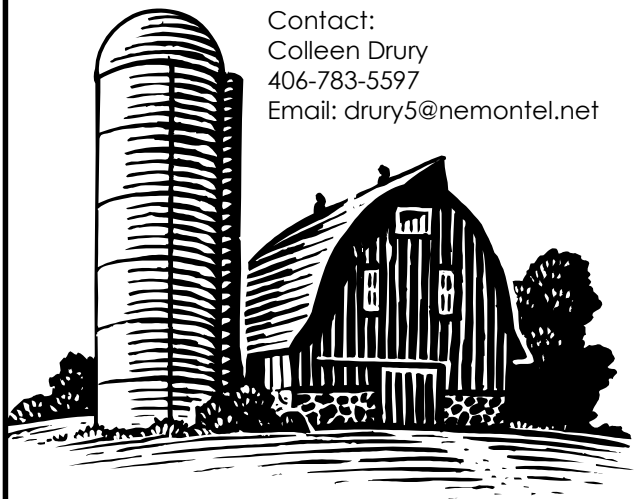
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from the University of Nebraska, an M.S. from New Mexico State University, and a B.S. from MSU in Range Science.

Paul Reed Hepperly, research director, Rodale Institute, holds a doctorate in plant pathology, a master's degree in agronomy and a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the University of Illinois. He has worked with farmers from regions around the world. He has extensive expertise in organic and conventional agriculture and has contributed to more than 150 publications on topics such as plant pathology, fungal diseases, plant disease resistance, disease management, epidemiology, diagnosis, fungal ecology, seed pathology, agronomy, horticulture, weed management, carbon sequestration and research program management. In September of 2007, Hepperly was honored as a recipient of a Fulbright Scholar Award.

Randy Hinebauch and his wife Lisa operate an 11,000-acre wheat / green manure / fallow farm, one of the oldest certified organic operations in the state. They currently have 350 acres in CRP.

Jeffrey S. Jacobsen is Dean and Director of MSU's College of Agriculture and the Agricultural Experiment Station. Dean Jacobsen holds a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University, a M.S. from Colorado State University and a B.S. from California Polytechnic State University. He is a Friend of Farm Bureau (2005, 2007) a Fellow, Soil Science Society of America (2005) and a Fellow, American Society of Agronomy (2000).

Clain Jones is the Extension Soil Fertility Specialist for the state of Montana, and has been at MSU since 1993. His work on organic systems has included evaluating soil fertility changes following transition to organic in plot studies and at Bob Quinn's. He has also helped lead a project determining methods to increase phosphorus availability on organic farms through a mix of green manures and certified organic fertilizers.

James E. Knight is the Associate Director of Extension for Montana State University. Jim was Program Leader for Ag and Natural Resources at MSU from 1999 to 2002. Prior to beginning his current position, Jim served as Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist in the Animal and Range Sciences Department at MSU. Dr. Knight came to Montana State University from New Mexico State University in 1994 where he had served as Extension Wildlife Specialist for 13 years. He began his Extension career in 1981. Knight holds a Ph.D. in Natural Resource Management from the University of Michigan and a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from Michigan State University. Jim and his wife, Denise, reside in Livingston, Montana, and when not visiting their grandchildren, they take advantage of the hunting, fishing,

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horseback riding and many other recreational opportunities that Montana offers.

Chad Lee is the Business Development Officer at the Montana Department of Agriculture. Chad's focal areas include business recruitment and assisting new and expanding agriculture-related businesses by gathering financial, regulatory, market information and helping individuals and businesses make connections. Chad has developed decision tools to assist farmers compare the potential economic returns of different crop rotations and compare the economics of organic farming with conventional farming. Chad's past farming experience and ongoing dialogue with numerous farmers across Montana help ensure that his work is relevant and takes into account an understanding of Montana farmers' thought processes.

Shawn Matteson is the Chapter administrator for the NCMT # 1 Chapter of OCIA. She has served in this position since 2003. She has also served at the International level of OCIA for 6 years on the Member Chapter Licensing Committee, which oversees the licensing of all OCIA chapters, and has also served for 3 years on the Accreditation, Government Relations committee. Shawn & her husband Greg farmed & ranched in the Peace River area of Northern BC before relocating their family to Montana where her husband was raised. The Matteson's family farm has been certified organic by OCIA since 1990 and will proudly celebrate it's 100th homestead anniversary in 2010.

Bruce Maxwell is the interim department head for the Land Resource and Environmental Sciences Department in the College of Agriculture. His work includes agroecology and weed biology research on the design and development of nonchemical weed management strategies for annual and perennial weeds in cereals, row crops and forage cropping systems. His past and current research includes crop-weed competition, economic thresholds of weeds, weed population dynamics and identifying measures of ecosystem integrity.

Fabian Menalled is a Cropland Weed Specialist. His research and extension programs are focused in developing and delivering information on the integrated management of agricultural weeds. He is interested in understanding the mechanisms conditioning the abundance and distribution of annual and perennial weeds in agricultural systems. Current research includes weed population and community dynamics, crop-weed competition, herbicide resistance, and weed management in conventional and alternative cropping systems.

Perry Miller is a Professor in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences at Montana

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The Natural Resources Conservation Service in Montana is helping Organic Producers *Break New Ground!*

Our thanks to Montana organic producers and those transitioning to organic production for participating in the 2009 EQIP Organic Special Initiative!

The 2008 Farm Bill allows NRCS to help organic producers of all commodities meet conservation goals and become environmentally sustainable. For more information, contact your local NRCS field office or go to:

www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2008

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State University, conducting cropping systems research since 1998. His research focuses on systems-level water and nitrogen-use-efficiency in diversified wheat-based farming systems. Research emphases include no-till and organic cropping systems, pulse crop agronomy and ecology, winter broadleaf crops, crop energy budgets, and best management practices for greenhouse gas mitigation.

Charley Orchard, is founder of Land EKG Inc., a Bozeman-based agricultural training/consulting firm providing innovative grazing, monitoring and management techniques to land managers across North America. Land EKG Monitoring has become widely accepted as a core decision management system by progressive ranchers and many agency field specialists. Land EKG is recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in the field of innovative, user friendly, grazing workshops, land monitoring training and data storage techniques.

Paul Rosen earned an MS in Environmental Studies at the University of Montana in 1996 and promptly began milking cows at Lifeline Dairy in Victor, MT. The father of three fine boys, Paul teaches Sunday School at Congregation Har Shalom in Missoula and plays drums in a heavy metal band. He has been the Produce Manager at Missoula's Good Food Store for 11 years.

Jim Sargent is the Membership Director for the Montana Farmers Union. Since 2007, Jim has been working with the North Dakota Farmers Union on Carbon Sequestration and storage of Carbon Credits. Jim has promoted the program for the past two years throughout the state of Montana.

Sam Schmidt is the Purchasing Manager for Montana Milling, Inc. He is also a MOA Board Member and the Chair of the Farm Tour Committee. Sam has a B.S. in Grain and Milling Science from Kansas State University. He and his wife Roberta currently live in Great Falls.

Margaret Scoles is the Executive Director of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association. She has 18 years of experience inspecting organic crops, livestock, and processing facilities and has trained and apprenticed numerous inspectors. She and her husband have a cow/calf operation near Broadus.

Sedgie - Chef Sedgie (Davis) specializes in creative international dishes, has over 30 years of experience as a professional chef and is currently the Certified Executive Chef for the Holiday Inn in Great Falls.

Mary Stein earned an M.S. in Nutrition Science from Colorado State University and a B.S. in Biology from Tufts University. Since 1991, Mary has been with the

continued on page 13

Department of Health and Human Development at Montana State University as a Nutrition Education Specialist and Adjunct Instructor. Most recently, Mary's work has focused on sustainable food systems work throughout Montana. When not in her office, you may find Mary enjoying the beautiful trails (running, hiking, skiing) or hanging with her family and friends relishing in delicious locally grown food.

Susan Tallman works as the field crops specialist for the National Center for Appropriate Technology. She has worked with Montana Flour and Grains on their Kamut® organic farmer recruitment program and as the grain buyer for the Great Harvest Bread Company franchise in Dillon. Susan grew up on a dryland wheat farm near Ingomar and graduated from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York with a BS in Agronomy.

Dave Turner of Thunder Plains Organics, has been certified organic since 1993. He started dabbling with farm certified organic in 1976. He joined the Montana North Central chapter in the fall of 1989 and was certified organic in 1993. Dave joined the certification committee in 1996 and became vice president/certification chairman in 1999. Dave took over the farm in 1987 and at his dad's request put a portion of land into the CRP program in 1988 and 1989. By 1998, he decided totally organic was the only way to farm so that very

dry fall, Dave started breaking CRP while his wife Dee combined the wheat fields.

Dee Turner was a 4-H leader for many years, a food buying coordinator, church treasurer, and is currently on the OCIA International Promotions and Internal Review Committees. Dee was the secretary of North Central Montana Chapter #1 and is currently on her fourth year as President. She is past Secretary of MOA and is currently serving as Vice Chair. Dee and her husband Dave became certified organic in 1993 and sold their first whole crop to an organic buyer in 1997 and have never looked back. The Turners raised five kids and currently live in Oilmont, MT. They will celebrate their farm's 100th anniversary in 2010.

Jan Tusick has a background in agriculture, finance and capitalization, networking and marketing. She is presently the Program Manager of the Mission Mountain Market Cooperative Development Center and the Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center. Jan has effectively facilitated cooperative groups and value added agricultural ventures in their business development and assisted with business and market planning, capitalization, and feasibility analysis. Jan holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Agricultural Science, from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA.

Catherine Zabinski is an Associate Professor at Montana State University, has a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Minnesota, and a B.A. in Biology from the College of St. Benedict. Her research and teaching is focused on restoration ecology, and plant and soil ecology. Specifically, she studies plant-microbe interactions that affect plant community dynamics and plant growth on extreme sites, mycorrhizal ecology and soil processes that contribute to ecosystem function.



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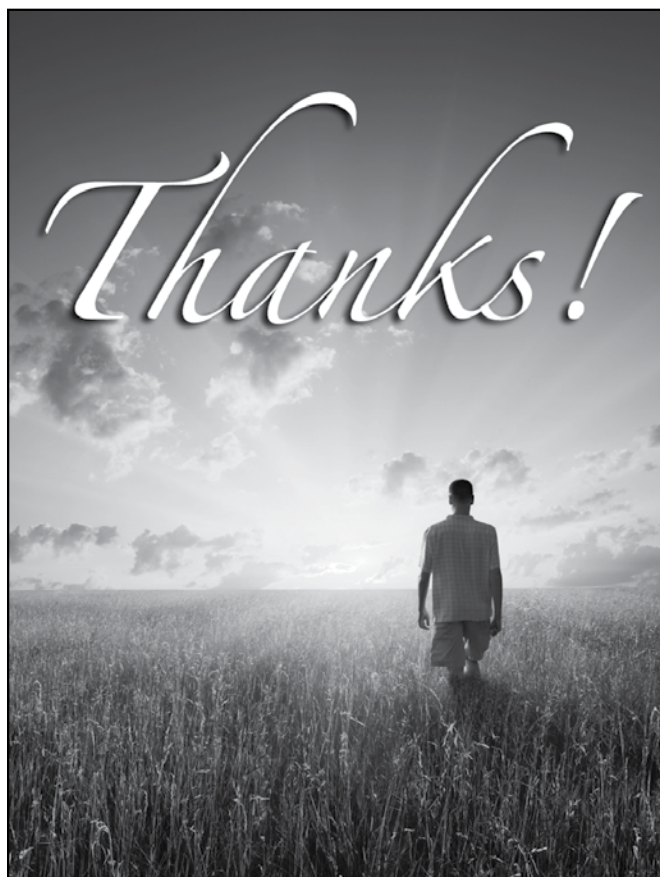
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