

## CCA Credits at the Montana Organic Conference

For the first time, the Montana Organic Association offered Certified Crop Advisor continuing education credits at the Vilicus Farms Tour. Practicing CCAs were able to earn up to 5 CEUs for Soil & Water Management (1 CEU); Crop Management (2.5 CEU); and Professional Development (1.5 CEU). Plans are in the works to offer additional CCA credits on Friday, December 3 at the Montana Organic Conference.

The CCA program is professional recognition by the American Society of Agronomy to ensure integrity and knowledge for those providing agronomic consulting and advising. The certification was established in 1992 and recognized in the United States and Canada.

The purpose of a certification program is to ensure the integrity of the profession by establishing professional standards. CCAs demonstrate they have the commitment, education, expertise, and experience to provide informed advice. There are more than 13,000 CCAs in North America; Montana has more than 70 throughout the state.

Contact Gary Iverson, a CCA for almost 20 years, to learn more and sign up for these credits. (406) 450-1106 or [giverson@montanaglutentfree.com](mailto:giverson@montanaglutentfree.com)



**CERTIFIED  
CROP ADVISER**

## MOA and NCAT Recieve USDA NIFA Grant to Train Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

MOA together with NCAT have been awarded a significant USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grant, **Preparing a Resilient Future: Beginning Farmer and Rancher Training for Organic Field Crop and Livestock Producers in the Northern Great Plains.**

This collaboration will serve to educate and support beginning farmers and ranchers seeking to explore organic field crop farming in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Nebraska (the Northern Great Plains). The project intends to work with over 300 beginning farmers and ranchers, including military veterans, limited resource, tribal and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

The project team will provide intensive trainings through one and one-half day "Organic Academy Road Show" (OARS) sessions, based on the Organic University workshop, that will include not only farmer and ranchers, but also additional efforts to inform the wider agriculture community in which the beginning farmer trainees live. The community will include civic leaders, county extension, and USDA agencies like FSA and NRCS. The grant will fund partner organizations and trainers for their time and contributions.

From previous research and many years of farmer and rancher training experience, NCAT and MOA know that engaging farmers and ranchers and their communities can provide necessary reinforcement that will improve prospects for success.

A big thanks to Jeff Schahzcenski and NCAT for leading the proposal.






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