

Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Pathways

Winter 2024

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Important Dates to Remember

April 2024

Urban and Innovative Production Grants
Apply by
April 9, 2024

Urban and Innovative Production Committee
Meeting
April 10, 2024

May 2024

Conservation Innovation Grants
Apply by
May 31, 2024

June 2024

406 Grazing Academy
June 11-13, 2024

Montana Range Tour
June 20, 2024

July 2024

Montana State Technical Committee Meeting
July 16, 2024

A Note from the State Conservationist

Greetings,

I'd like to feature the historic conservation investments NRCS has made in cooperation with producers and partners statewide over fiscal year 2023.

In fiscal year 2023, USDA supported more than 45,000 conservation contracts, more than any year in the 89-year history of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), totaling over \$2.8 billion in financial assistance to producers for conservation efforts. NRCS also released updated [state-by-state data](#) showing where investments went in FY2023 for resources provided under both the Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Over fiscal year 2023, NRCS in Montana worked with landowners and managers to obligate a record conservation investment, which the agency is set to exceed in 2024. The total amount of funding obligated to contracts and easements with producers and partners was:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): more than \$41 million of which \$2.8 million was IRA funding
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): more than \$25.7 million of which \$4.8 million was IRA funding
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP): more than \$2.8 million in land management and restoration contracts of which there was no IRA funding
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): more than \$29 million of which \$6.5 million was IRA funding
 - Of the ACEP Agricultural Land Easement IRA funding, one of the three contracts is a parcel owned by a Tribal member. The investment in that easement will generate approximately \$2.4 M in economic stimulus to that community.
 - An investment in a large ACEP Wetland Reserve Easement project owned by a Tribal member will generate approximately \$364,406 in economic stimulus in the community.



*Tom Watson, NRCS State
Conservationist in Montana*

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A Note from the State Conservationist

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The successes of our first year of implementing the Inflation Reduction Act has set us up well for moving forward in 2024 and beyond. It is clear that producer demand for this conservation investment is strong. I encourage anyone interested in helping to guide local priorities for addressing natural resource concerns to participate in local working group meetings. Contact your local conservation district or NRCS office for information about these meetings or to express your feedback.

Three RCPP projects were selected for national funding in Montana. The projects focus on non-lethal predator risk management, irrigation improvement on the Blackfeet Nation, and forest landscape connectivity and health in the Bitterroot Valley. These projects are not yet open for producer applications.

The Stewarding the Working Wild project for non-lethal predator risk management will help producers address some of the many threats they currently face. The Heart of the Rockies Initiative, and other contributing partners, will provide a holistic approach to incentivize producers to implement solutions that benefit land, livestock, and wildlife. This project funding request is for \$16.6 million.

The Blackfeet Tribe and partners in the Blackfeet Irrigation Improvement project will provide sprinkler irrigation as on farm/ranch improvements to address conservation priorities as established by the Blackfeet Agricultural Resource Management Plan. These conservation activities will be located along rivers and streams in all six of the Blackfeet Nation's watersheds. This provides tribal producers with the opportunity to improve forage production for their livestock operations. This project funding request is for \$15.3 million.

The Bitterroot Partnership for Forest Conservation, Resilience, and Connectivity project will address forest health challenges the valley is facing and keep landscapes connected and resilient for the benefit of biodiversity, wildlife habitat, and safety of the local communities. This project funding request is for \$10.3 million.

A total of \$19.5 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act is available over several years for climate-smart agriculture and forestry mitigation activities, including through NRCS conservation programs – EQIP, ACEP, RCPP and CSP. Implementation began in fiscal year 2023, when NRCS made \$850 million available in financial and technical assistance through the Inflation Reduction Act. In fiscal year 2024, the second year of implementation, NRCS is making [over \\$3 billion available](#) from the Inflation Reduction Act in addition to the \$2 billion in Farm Bill funding.

That nationwide investment equates to \$1.65 billion for EQIP, \$472 million for CSP, and \$189 million for ACEP, and \$754 million for RCPP.

The current portion of this Inflation Reduction Act funding for 2024 in Montana is \$27.9 million for EQIP and \$13.5 million for CSP. This is in addition to the current allocation of Farm Bill funding for Montana of \$28.6 million for EQIP, \$20.7 million for CSP, and \$13 million for ACEP.

NRCS accepts applications for financial assistance year-round. Visit your local field office early in the year to begin discussing your goals, potential conservation strategies, and opportunities for program participation. The next application batching period will likely occur this fall, but early planning is crucial to make sure everyone is on the same page and to help us manage workload to provide the best customer service possible.

To learn more about NRCS programs, visit your local [USDA Service Center](#). Producers can also apply for NRCS programs, manage conservation plans and contracts, and view and print conservation maps by logging into their [farmers.gov account](#). If you don't have an account, [sign up today](#).

To learn more, visit nrcs.usda.gov/montana.

Take care,
Tom Watson, NRCS State Conservationist in Montana



USDA Announces Grants for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making available up to \$6.1 million for grants through its Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP). The competitive grants will support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects through two categories, Planning Projects and Implementation Projects. [USDA will accept applications on Grants.gov](#) until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on April 9, 2024.

Planning Projects initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers and the development of plans related to zoning and other needs of urban production.

Implementation Projects accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor and other agricultural practices that serve farmers and communities. Projects may improve local food access, include collaboration with partner organizations, and support infrastructure needs, emerging technologies, and educational endeavors.

A pre-recorded webinar on the [Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants](#) webpage provides an overview of the grants' purpose, project types, eligibility and basic requirements for submitting an application. You will also find a fact sheet and frequently asked questions on that page.

OUAIP was established through the 2018 Farm Bill. It is led by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and works in partnership with numerous USDA agencies that support urban agriculture and innovative production. The grants are part of a broad USDA investment in urban agriculture.

To learn more, visit usda.gov/urban/grants.

Urban Producers, Public Invited to Attend April Meeting of Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

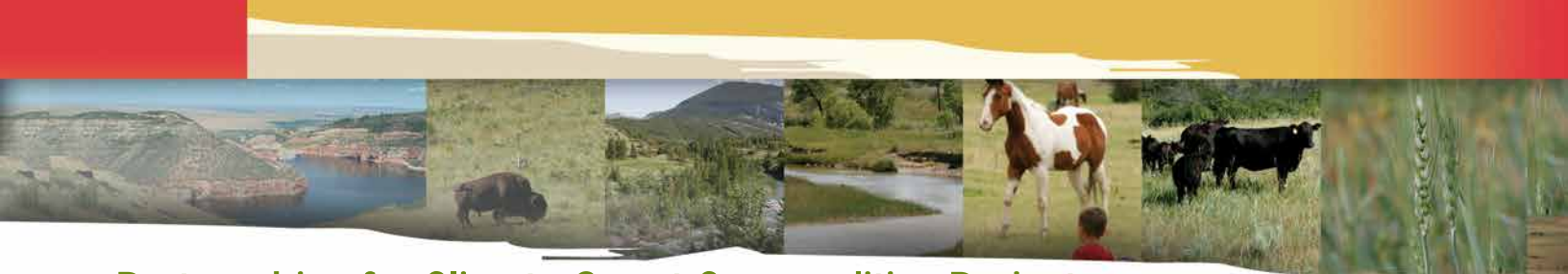
We're inviting urban producers, innovative producers, and other stakeholders to virtually attend a public meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production on April 10 from 2-4 p.m. Eastern.

Meeting details can be viewed in the [Federal Register Notice](#). Written comments can be submitted via UrbanAgricultureFederalAdvisoryCommittee@usda.gov by April 24 at 11:59 p.m. The Committee will deliberate and vote on proposed recommendations and address public comments during the meeting. USDA will share the agenda between 24 to 48 hours prior to the meeting on the [Committee's webpage](#).

The Committee is managed by the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production and was established through the 2018 Farm Bill and is part of a broad USDA investment in urban agriculture.

[Learn more or register.](#)





Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Projects Selected in Montana

USDA is committed to supporting a diverse range of farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners through Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities. This effort will expand markets for America's climate-smart commodities, leverage the greenhouse gas benefits of climate-smart commodity production, and provide direct, meaningful benefits to production agriculture, including for small and underserved producers.

USDA is investing more than \$3.1 billion for 141 projects through this effort and all the projects require meaningful involvement of small and underserved producers. Of these projects, 22 include Montana for a total of \$648.9 million. Of the projects inclusive of Montana, 10 specifically focus on support to Tribal nations for a total funding amount of \$385.8 million.

Project sponsors and partners of completed Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities agreements will begin outreach and marketing efforts soon. You may start to see information about opportunities through these agreements in your community or through your agriculture/conservation networks.

Questions about Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities should be sent to climate-smart-commodities@usda.gov. Find answers to many frequently asked questions on our [FAQs page](#).

Here are the projects in Montana with an emphasis on support for Tribal nations and producers. If you want more information about each project, visit usda.gov/climate-solutions/climate-smart-commodities.

1. The Growing GRASS and Climate-Smart Value-Added U.S. Commodity Markets Project (Growing GRASS Project) –

Expands markets for climate-smart beef and beef by-products in all states (except AK) and Tribal areas and supports farmer and rancher implementation and monitoring of climate-smart practices. The primary partner is American Sustainable Business Institute Inc.

2. Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative Farmer-Led Climate-Smart Commodities Initiative: Building Success from the Ground Up –

Expands climate-smart dairy and sugar markets in CA, CO, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS,

MI, MN, MT, ND, NE, OH, OR, SD, WA, WI, WY, and Tribal areas and supports farmer/rancher implementation and monitoring of climate-smart practices. The primary partner is Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative.

3. Improving Access to Grazing Resources for Native American Producers –

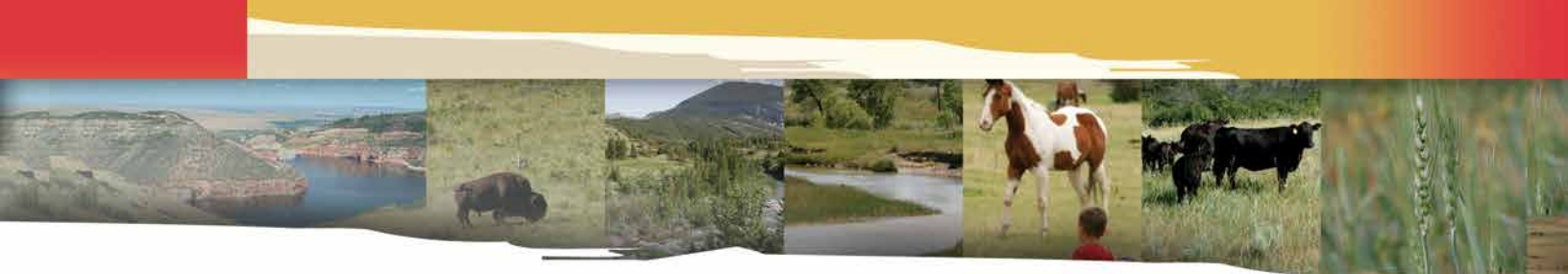
Expands markets for climate-smart beef in FL, MT, OK, particularly in Tribal areas, and supports rancher implementation and monitoring of climate-smart practices. The primary partner is Farm Journal Agricultural Foundation.

4. The Climate-Smart Agriculture Innovative Finance Initiative –

Expands climate-smart corn, soy, beef, and other row/specialty crop markets in 34 states and Tribal areas across the U.S. including AK and supports farmer/rancher climate-smart practice implementation/monitoring. The primary partner is Field to Market.

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Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Projects Selected in Montana

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5. Climate-Smart Camelina –

Expands markets for climate-smart camelina, soybeans and wheat in ID, CO, KS, MO, MT, ND, NE, OK, OR, SD, TX, WA, and Tribal areas and supports farmers in the implementation and monitoring of climate-smart practices. The primary partner is Global Clean Energy Holdings, Inc.

6. Strengthening Grassroots Leadership and Capacity to Scale Climate-Smart Production Systems and Facilitate Underserved Producers' Access to Markets –

Expands climate-smart row crops, livestock, forest and specialty crop markets nationwide and for Tribal areas and supports farmer, rancher and forest landowner implementation and monitoring of climate-smart practices. The primary partner is the National Association of Conservation Districts.

7. TRACT Program: Traceable Reforestation for America's Carbon and Timber –

Expands climate-smart forestry markets in AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, ID, LA, MS, MT, NC, NM, OK, OR, SC, TN, TX, WA, WY, and Tribal areas and supports forest landowners in the implementation and monitoring of climate-smart practices. The primary partner is the Oregon Climate Trust.

8. Growing the Impossible: Climate Smart Commodities in Tribal Homelands – E

Expands markets for climate-smart beef, bison, hogs, fruits and vegetables in Montana and supports farmer and rancher implementation and monitoring of climate-smart practices. The primary partner is the Piikani Lodge Health Institute (PLHI).

9. The Grass is Greener on the Other Side: Developing Climate-Smart Beef and Bison Commodities –

Expands markets for climate-smart beef and bison in CO, GA, IA, KS, MN, MO, MT, NE, NC, ND, SC, SD, WY, and Tribal areas and supports farmers and ranchers with implementation and monitoring of climate-smart practices. The primary partner is South Dakota State University.

10. Reducing GHG Emissions and Improving Soil Carbon Sequestration Potential through High-Carbon Soil Amendment –

The project expands markets for climate-smart sugar as a bundle with carbon offset in CO, MT, NE, WY and for the Crow Tribe and supports farmer implementation and monitoring of climate-smart practices that reduce greenhouse-gas emissions or sequester carbon. The primary partner is the Western Sugar Cooperative.

Montana Rangeland Resources Summer 2024 Educational Workshops

406 GRAZING ACADEMY

Join us June 11-13, 2024, in Miles City, Montana for the 406 Grazing Academy; a 3-day hands-on workshop for ranchers wanting to sharpen their skills for solving grazing management challenges on their ranch. The event will feature a field day, educational speakers, and hands-on learning opportunities. Workshop cost is \$200 per person and includes educational materials, monitoring kit, dinner and lunch all 3 days. Participants are responsible for travel and hotel costs. A limited number of scholarships to assist those interested in attending are available through the Montana Rural Employment Opportunities (REO) program; for additional details on REO visit <https://reomontana.org/>. A block of rooms has been reserved at The Miles City Inn & Suites, use code: 406 Grazing Academy to reserve your room. Room block and event registration both end 4/26/2024. Class size is limited, so register today!: <https://svc.mt.gov/doi/app/DNR406GrazingAcademyRegistration/cart>.



The Montana Department of
**Natural Resources
& Conservation**

MONTANA RANGE TOUR

Registration is also open for the Montana Range Tour that will be held on June 20, 2024, in Stanford, MT. This educational event will feature a tour of the 2023 Leopold Conservation Award winners, Kurt & PJ Myllymaki's ranching operation. The Montana Range Tour is an educational field day for ranchers desiring to learn from others who are leaders in implementing innovative on-the-ground grazing and agricultural practices. The cost of MRT registration is \$65 per person and includes the tour, presentations, a banquet breakfast, and lunch. Transportation from Lewistown to Stanford is also provided. Event registration ends 5/27/2024. To register, visit: <https://svc.mt.gov/doi/app/MTRangeTour/cart>.

If you need assistance registering, contact Stacey Barta at (406) 594-8481 or Shantell Martin at (406) 531-4584.



Joe and Kathy Kipp's Sacred Land: Partnering with USDA NRCS Montana for Sustainable Ranching



Cattle graze on Joe and Kathy Kipp's ranch.

In the heart of Glacier County Montana, Joe and Kathy Kipp have embarked on a remarkable journey. As proud Blackfeet tribal members, they not only inherited a tribal lease, but also a responsibility to honor their cultural heritage and preserve the land's deep historical significance.

For over three decades, the Kipps have been safeguarding this land, collaborating with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Their unwavering commitment to sustainable ranching practices has not only nurtured their cattle and the environment, but also protected the local wildlife, serving as a testament to the enduring harmony between humanity and nature.

Before the Kipps took over management of the land, a non-tribal member was encroaching on the property and using it as part of their wintering ground, running nearly 2,000 head of cattle. That intense grazing took a toll on the land, leaving it in a degraded condition.

"The ground was pretty poor and the water nonexistent," Joe recalls, explaining how they had inherited a "dustbowl" along with some old, outdated water systems that couldn't be used.

Undeterred, the Kipps reached out to the NRCS as well as the Blackfeet Nation for assistance. With their help, they were able to install stock water systems and cross fencing over time. These additions, along with a grazing plan, have transformed the land, which now serves as a productive summer pasture. The first project completed was to establish boundary fencing around the property so that Kathy and Joe could keep stray cattle from grazing their land. Water is scarce in the area, so the installation of cross-fencing also required water developments to be set up. All of these improvements collectively support rotational grazing across the four pastures on their property.

In 2017, NRCS Civil Engineer Meagan Heinen began collaborating with the Kipps, alongside NRCS Area Resource Conservationist Stacy Denny Eneboe and local field office staff. Together, they prioritized critical issues such as water scarcity and grass growth, aiming to foster resilience, even in challenging circumstances like the Category 3 drought experienced in 2022.

Preserving Sacred Lands

For Joe, also known as Kyiyo Tokon (Bear Head), the land holds immense spiritual and ancestral significance. As a fourth-generation survivor of the Bear River/Marias River Massacre, his connection to the Blackfeet People's history and cultural heritage is deeply rooted.

During World War II, a society known as the War Mothers was formed, which he says provided a place for people with loved ones serving in the military

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Joe and Kathy Kipp's Sacred Land: Partnering with USDA NRCS Montana for Sustainable Ranching

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overseas to bring offerings. Periodically, the women would gather these offerings and transport them in a wagon to a butte, indicated by Joe as a ridge in the distance. At the top of the butte, there was a special place where they would fast and pray.

"It was a very sacred spot," he says, "there's sacred sites all over."

The Kipps' dedication to maintaining and nurturing this sacred land runs deep, reflecting a commitment to preserving their heritage and the environment, while keeping in mind future generations, including Joe and Kathy's children and grandchildren.

Maintaining tribal owned property has not always been easy. Pointing out the sheer expanse of the land with such limited access to resources, Kathy describes the hardships previous Blackfeet members faced here.

"Back then they did everything on horseback. How could you survive on this and go and get groceries in town? How are you going to go and get to a job," she questions. "You'd have to leave and go somewhere and maybe come back on the weekend. It was just almost impossible."

At one point, it had become impossible for the former Blackfeet family who had worked the land here.

"Actually, the place we're at now," she says, "they are ancestors of Joe's." His family had owed a grocery bill in town at a local mercantile. Unable to pay it, the store owner took their land.

"The land is lost in different ways just because people are trying to survive," she says.

It's understandable then, why their cattle operation is so incredibly important to the Kipps who feel a sense of respon-



Joe and Kathy Kipp inspect a solar water pump on their ranch.

sibility to make sure the land remains within their family and the Blackfeet Nation.

Water Development

Although they've made great strides in improving the land, one major concern that remains is access to water for their cattle. Recognizing the need for sustainable water sources, the Kipps have worked closely with NRCS to address water scarcity on their property.

This is especially important as Joe and Kathy hope to increase the amount of cattle they run.

Previously installed spring developments were found to be low producing and snowmelt fed, according to Heinen, who joined forces with the Kipps about six years ago.

"Depending on the snowpack, they could be dry by the end of July," Heinen says.

Through the NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), a water well and a solar pumping plant were installed in 2018.

In 2021, the Kipp's began an additional project. "We were finding out the water wasn't keeping up with what the grass could support," says Heinen. "Our goal was to help them look into how we could improve water distribution and water quantity and work towards them being able to completely use their rotational pasture setup in the most effective manner."

They've found the solar pumping plant has allowed for more efficient and effective water distribution through a gravity-fed system, ensuring water availability in various pastures while reducing energy consumption.

"Without power nearby, we've had to rely on solar capacity," says Heinen who explains that to prepare for cloudy weather when solar production isn't optimum, they store at least three days of water needs in a buried storage tank.

The Kipps have also used the terrain's hills and elevation to their benefit, pumping the water uphill. "When the sun's

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Joe and Kathy Kipp's Sacred Land: Partnering with USDA NRCS Montana for Sustainable Ranching

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out, it's doing the work of lifting the water. And when the sun's not out, we've stored that water at a higher elevation which creates on-demand pressure to service drinking tanks downhill, so the buried storage tank becomes our system supply and they're replenished by the pump when it can run," Heinen says.

For Heinen, the ideal scenario would be to have a reliable water supply where and when it's needed. "We're trying to increase that flexibility which increases their bottom line and increases the health and productivity of the land," she says. "It's really one of NRCS's goals of protecting and enhancing the natural resources and intersecting with the producer's goals."

"This is to help us be sustainable," Joe explains. "It gives us a leg up on the environment to be able to collect this water and disperse it to the cattle as needed." Their cattle will drink out of the tank before they drink out of a spring, because it is colder, fresher, and they don't have to walk over marshy ground.

"Cows are just like people," adds Kathy, explaining how the cows preferred going where the grass was greener. Prior to installing the water systems, they had to move their minerals and salt around to get their cattle to graze areas further from water, so other areas could recover. Now, with the help of rotational grazing thanks to cross fencing and the new water systems, Kathy says the pastures recover a lot faster.

"You don't see it grazed out around the water holes and the well spots."

Joe and Kathy have engaged in the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for five years, which has helped them take their management up a notch and include practices from rotational grazing, manure sampling and analysis, taking photographs to monitor restored grasslands, fencing, and water management.

"It's helped us to be able to protect the land in the long run because we are taking better care of it."

Sharing Their Practices with the Community

The Kipp's holistic approach aligns with their deep respect for nature and their ancestral traditions.

"To be a good role model in our community, you can't preach," Joe says. Instead, they are hoping the results their neighbors are seeing will speak for themselves.

But their commitment extends beyond the needs of running cattle. They recognize the importance of preserving the land for the diverse wildlife that depend on it, like the elk, antelope, sharp-tailed grouse, and bears.

The Kipps have also been seeing a surplus in plant growth, like beautiful purple crocus, buttercups, sunflowers, shooting stars, and a variety of sagebrush vegetation. Kathy often gathers plants when she's out riding that can be made into medicines they use throughout the year. She loves working the land and seeing how it's improved in the last several years. "I believe that the land is native land, and we need to take care of it because it's taken care of us," she says.

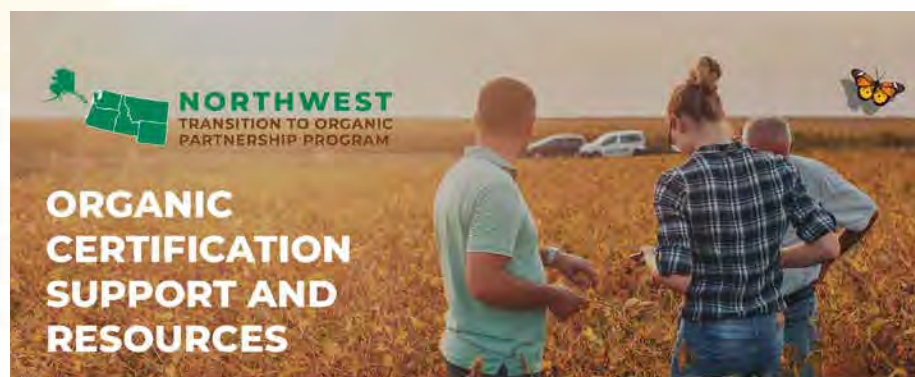


Landowner Joe Kipp (L) and NRCS Civil Engineer Meagan Heinen walk along cross fencing on a grassy rangeland at his family ranch.

USDA Transition to Organic Partnership Program

What is the Transition to Organic Partnership Program?

The Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) is a network assembled by the USDA's National Organic Program to support transitioning and organic producers with mentorship and resources. TOPP is segmented into six regions that span the United States and territories working together to grow the network of organic producers. To learn more about the TOPP program please visit <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/topp>.



The Northwest Transition to Organic Partnership Program (NW TOPP) provides support and resources to producers transitioning to organic and those who are currently certified organic. All programs offered free of charge.



Connect with a certified organic mentor through a farmer-to-farmer mentorship program. Learn directly from an experienced certified organic producer in your area of production, available in person and virtually.



Talk with an organic certification specialist for one-on-one assistance. We can help you prepare for certification, develop your organic system plan, and answer any certification questions you have.



Attend educational events, including workshops, webinars, field days and more all centered on organic production and certification.



Get help with navigating organic certification and production resources, including assistance programs for certification fees, national conservation programs for implementing organic practices, and locating publications, research, and online resources.

Let us know how we can help you!

Contact Hanna, Organic Transition Specialist, at TOPP@tilth.org or 541-286-7228.

The Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) is a network assembled by the USDA's National Organic Program to support transitioning and organic producers with mentorship and resources. A collaborative effort, TOPP involves many partners working together towards a common goal: to grow the network of organic producers.



Scan to
Learn more
about TOPP

Learn more at
[organictransition.org](https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/topp).

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program
Transition to Organic Partnership Program



Northwest TOPP Program Overview:

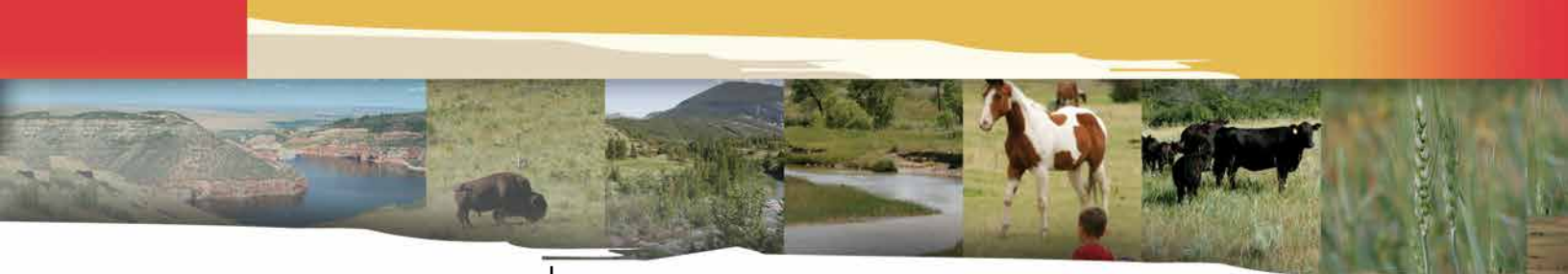
The Northwest TOPP region spans Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Idaho, Alaska, and Montana. Focused on providing mentorship, technical assistance, resource navigation, and outreach for transitioning and existing organic producers with the help of our partnerships.

Northwest TOPP farmer-to-farmer mentorship program connects producers transitioning to organic with a certified organic mentor. Learn directly from an experienced certified organic producer in your area of production, available in person and virtually.

Northwest TOPP provides one-on-one technical assistance for help with going through the organic certification process, developing an organic system plan (OSP), understanding organic regulations, and answering any certification questions you have. Northwest TOPP also provides resource navigation assistance on national conservation programs for implementing organic practices, and locating publications, research, and online resources.

Northwest TOPP offers free educational events, including workshops, webinars, field days and more all centered on organic production and certification.

Contact the Northwest Organic Transition Specialist, Hanna, at topp@tilth.org or 541-286-7228. Learn more at [organictransition.org](https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/topp).



If you or anyone you know would like to be added to the mailing list for the Montana NRCS' Conservation Pathways Newsletter, please send your email address to mt-nrcs-publicinfo@usda.gov. Subject: Conservation Pathways.

If you require a hard copy of the newsletter, send your mailing address to the email address above or:

USDA-NRCS
Public Affairs
Attn: Conservation Pathways
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Bozeman, MT 59715

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Bozeman, MT, 59715
www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov
406-587-6811

USDA is an equal opportunity provider,
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Tribal Field Office Directory

Browning Field Office

Serves: Blackfeet Reservation
Blackfeet Tribal Headquarters
640 All Chief's Rd.
Browning, MT 59417
Phone: (406) 338-3153

Tribal Conservationist - Latrice Tatsey
Email: latrice.tatsey@usda.gov
Phone: (406) 338-3153 ext. 100

Crow Agency Field Office

Serves: Crow Reservation
Hardin Service Center
205 13th West Street
Hardin, MT 59034-0205
Phone: (406) 629-3228

Tribal Conservationist-
Evan Van Order
Email: evan.vanorder@usda.gov
Phone: (406) 629-3228
Cell: (406) 551-3952

Fort Belknap Field Office

Serves: Fort Belknap Reservation
Currently serviced by the
Chinook Service Center
228 Ohio St.
P.O. Box 189
Chinook, MT 59523-0189

Tribal Conservationist - Michael Kinsey
Email: michael.kinsey@usda.gov
Phone: (406) 357-2320 ext 117
Cell: (406) 408-0417

Lame Deer Field Office

Serves: Northern Cheyenne Reservation
Phone: (406) 477-6494
19 W. Chief's St.
P.O. Box 330
Lame Deer, MT 59043-0330

Tribal Conservationist - Kathy Knobloch
Email: kathy.knobloch@usda.gov
Phone: (406) 740-0897

Pablo Field Office

Serves: Flathead Reservation
Phone: (406) 675-2700
Tribal Land Department
42487 Complex Boulevard
P.O. Box 871
Pablo, MT 59855-9700

Tribal Conservationist - Austin Allen
Email: austin.allen@usda.gov
Phone: (406) 768-3964

Poplar Field Office

Serves: Fort Peck Reservation
Phone: (406) 768-3964
500 Medicine Bear Road
Box 1027
Poplar, MT 59255-1027

Tribal Conservationist - Paul Finnicum
Phone: (406) 768-3964
Email: paul.finnicum@usda.gov

Rocky Boy Field Office

Serves: Chippewa Cree Reservation
Currently serviced by the
Havre Service Center
206 25th Ave. W., Ste. 1
Havre, MT 59501-6008

Tribal Conservationist - Lucas Head
Email: lucas.head@usda.gov
Phone: (406) 265-6792 ext. 3
Cell: (406) 879-3348