



Montana Organic Association Organic University 2019

December 5, 2019

8:30 AM- 5:15 PM

The Commons, 1794 Baxter Lane East, Bozeman, MT 59718

Organic University (Organic U) is offered to beginning farmers and those new-to-organic as an almost day-long workshop taking part on the first day of the MOA Annual Conference and Business Meeting. It offers the chance to meet seasoned inspectors, producers, and other professionals to learn about how organic certification and production can work for you. The instructors have experience in diverse operations; from small scale direct-to-market farms, to large scale grain, pulse, and livestock operations, as well as having experience with alternative crops such as hemp and other oilseeds.

As part of Organic U, Organic Inspector Margaret Scoles will help you develop your own Organic System Plan. Clif Bar & Company is supporting this outstanding opportunity to help you on the path to become a certified organic producer. The sessions are also appropriate for those with questions about their existing certified operations. To register visit the [Organic U Registration page](#) or for more information please contact Jamie Ryan Lockman, moamembership@gmail.com or (406) 546-6572.

- 8:30 AM **“Welcome & Introductions “Why am I Organic & Why are you interested in Organic Certification?”**
Doug Crabtree – Vilicus Farms and MOA Board Chair
- 9:00 AM **“The Story of Vilicus Farms”** – Doug and Anna Jones-Crabtree share the story of Vilicus Farm north of Havre and their organic system model incorporating multi-crop rotations on a dryland farm.
- 9:30 AM **“Systems Thinking: What about Crop Rotations and Weed Management?”**
Tim Seipel - MSU, Weed and Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Group, Adjunct Professor
Becky Weed – Thirteen Mile Lamb and Wool, Co. and MOA Board Vice Chair
- 10:15 AM Break
- 10:30 AM **“Introduction to the Organic System Plan”**
Margaret Scoles, Executive Director, International Organic Inspectors Association
- 11:00 AM **“Organic Standards, Certification, and Inspection: Fitting it all together”**
Georgana Webster, Montana Department of Agriculture, Organic Program
Nate Powell Palm – Cold Springs Ranch and Organic Inspector
- 11:30 AM **“Developing and Preparing Your Organic System Plan: Organic Round Table Discussions”**
- Grain/Pulses: Doug and Anna Jones- Crabtree, Vilicus Farms
 - Livestock: Jess Alger – Alger Ranch and Georgana Webster, MT Department of Agriculture
 - Direct Market Fruits & Vegetables: Judy Owsowitz – Terrapin Farm & Margaret Scoles, IOIA
 - Hemp and other Alternative Crops: Ty O’Connor – O’Connor Crops and Cattle
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 12:30 PM **“Open Mic: What Questions do you still have?”**
Facilitated by Doug Crabtree
- 1:00 PM **“Is Organic Farming Risky? How to Protect the Farm with Federal Crop Insurance”**
Jeff Schahczenski – National Center for Appropriate Technology Agricultural and Natural Resource Economist
- 2:00 PM **“Financing Options from the Farm Services Agency”**
Shelley Rolando – Farm Program Chief, FSA



4:00 PM

“Marketing Panel: Meet up with Organic Buyers and Producers”

- Grain/Pulses: Doug and Anna Jones- Crabtree, Vilicus Farms
- Livestock: Jess Alger – Alger Ranch and Mark Smith, Aspen Island Ranch
- Direct Market Fruits & Vegetables: Judy Owsowitz – Terrapin Farm & Margaret Scoles
- Hemp and other Alternative Crops: Ty O’Connor – O’Connor Ranch

Visit the MOA Conference site for more information. <https://montanaorganicassociation.org/moa-annual-conference-and-business-meeting/> Thank you Clif Bar & Co for sponsoring Organic U.