FARM
LINK
MONTANA

Community Food & Agriculture Coalition
OF MISSOULA COUNTY

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Program Manager

Community Food & Agriculture Coalition
OF MISSOULA COUNTY

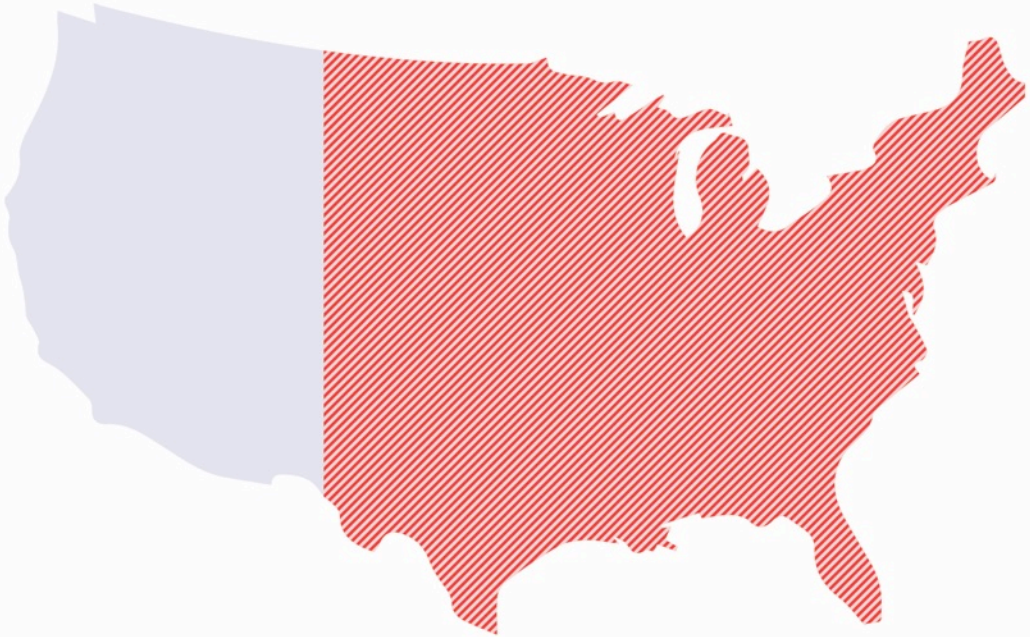
•Training

KIVA

•Financing

•Farm Link Montana

THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE AMERICAN FARMER IS 58.



OVER THE NEXT 25 YEARS, 2/3 OF ALL FARMLAND WILL NEED A NEW FARMER.

National Young Farmers Coalition, 2017

BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG AND BEGINNING FARMERS, AS IDENTIFIED BY FARMERS*

1. Lack of capital (78%)**
2. Land access (68%)**
3. Health care (47%)**
4. Access to credit (40%)**
5. Business planning and marketing skills (36%)**
6. Profitable markets (30%)**
7. Education and training (26%)**

From National Young Farmers Coalition Survey

* Farmer responses only. Additional farmer response data can be found in the Appendix.

** Percentages indicate number of farmer respondents that rated each program as the most important (farmers could select more than one choice).

FARM
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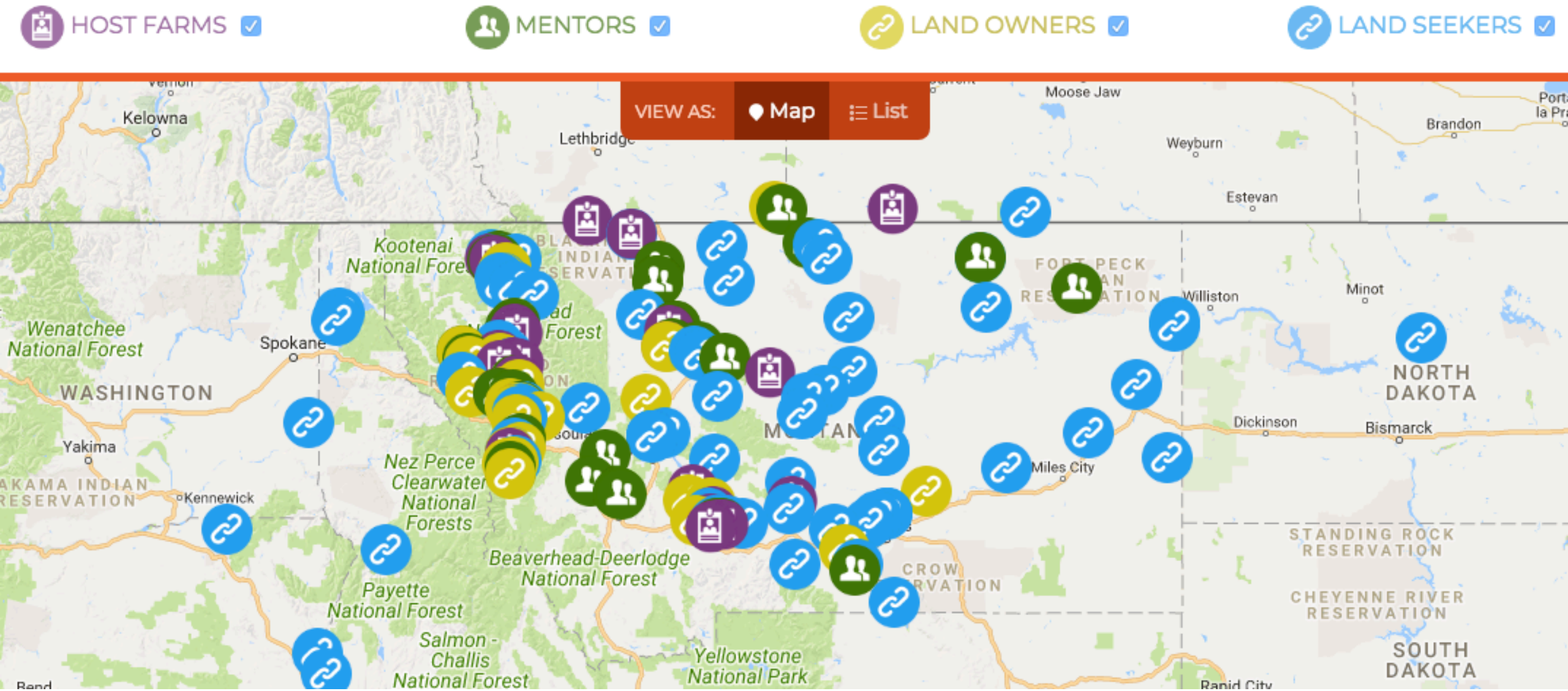
CONNECTING MONTANA'S
BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS
WITH THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED
Photo by Laurie Child

RESOURCES


HOST FARMS
MENTORS
LAND OWNERS
LAND SEEKERS
VIEW AS:
Map
List
Kelowna
Lethbridge
Moose Jaw
Weyburn
Brandon
Estevan
Kootenai National Forest
Wenatchee National Forest
Spokane
WASHINGTON
Yakima
Kennewick
Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
Payette National Forest
Salmon - Challis National Forest
Yellowstone National Park
FORT PECK RESERVATION
Williston
Minot
NORTH DAKOTA
Dickinson
Bismarck
Miles City
STANDING ROCK RESERVATION
CHEYENNE RIVER RESERVATION
SOUTH DAKOTA
Rapid City

HOST FARMS ☑ MENTORS ☑ LAND OWNERS ☑ LAND SEEKERS ☑

VIEW AS: Map List

HOST FARMS

Lower Crossing Farm
Hay & Forage, Large Animal (cattle, sheep, goats), Small Animal (pigs, rabbits, poultry), Vegetable

Lifeline Produce
Hay & Forage, Large Animal (cattle, sheep, goats), Small Animal (pigs, rabbits, poultry), Vegetable

Ploughshare Farm of Moiese
Hay & Forage, Grain, Large Animal (cattle, sheep, goats), Small Animal (pigs, rabbits, poultry), Dairy,

MENTORS

Two Bear Farm
Vegetable

Al Kurki – SARE Grant Advice for Farmers
Farm Service Provider

Anaconda Community Market
Other

Spindrift Orchard and Vineyard
Fruit/Orchard

LAND OWNERS

You must have an approved Land Seeker Application in order to view this land owner's name.

Hay & Forage, Large Animal (cattle, sheep, goats), Vegetable, Fruit/Orchard

You must have an approved Land Seeker Application in order to view this land owner's name.

Large Animal (cattle, sheep, goats), Vegetable, Fruit/Orchard

LAND SEEKERS

Austin B
Missoula

Hay & Forage, Grain

Clayton M
Missoula

Small Animal (pigs, rabbits, poultry), Vegetable, Fruit/Orchard, Other

James S
Missoula

Fruit/Orchard

LAND OWNER

WATSON RANCH

Hay & Forage, Grain, Large Animal (cattle, sheep, goats)

LISTING INFORMATION

Land Area
500+ acres

Current Use
Hay & Forage, Grain, Large Animal (cattle, sheep, goats)

Current Practices
Conventional

Water Sources
Pond/Lake, Stream/Large creek, Well, Irrigation system

Are water rights available to these sources?
yes

What are the soil types on your property?
sandy loam, varied

Contact Name
Mark & Shirley Watson

Contact Information
Phone: 406-875-2514

Email: mwatranch@gmail.com

Contact Form

GRASS LINK

Farm Link Montana has partnered with the Rancher's Stewardship Alliance to create Grass Link, a division of Land Link, to help connect beginning ranchers with retiring CRP land to support rural economies by creating opportunities for new ranchers to get started.

THE CHALLENGE

Ranching is not an easy business to get into, even if you're lucky enough to have been born into an existing operation. Most family ranches aren't big enough to be split among siblings, and generational transfers are never easy no matter the situation. For those not born into a family with land, the road can be even tougher. Despite the large and growing number of young people interested in the ranching business and way of life, opportunities for beginners are scarce and becoming scarcer with economic forces favoring consolidation and outside "amenity" owners buying land, driving prices out of reach.

RETIRING CRP LAND

Substantial reductions in budgets for the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are leaving

Search

RESOURCES

Business Startup Steps
Farm Site Evaluation
Production Planning
Marketing
Farm Financials
Financing
Legal & Risk Management
Accessing Land
- Finding Land
- Leasing Land
- Sample Leases and Rates
- Communication
- Transition Planning

Community Food & Agriculture Coalition of Missoula County

FARM LINK MONTANA

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Questions?