



Hello!

Welcome to Homegrown: Montana Sustainable Growers Union. We thank you for your interest and participation. The enclosed questionnaire will help us learn more about you, your farm, and your products. Please submit your application before the spring meeting in March.

As a member of Homegrown, you will be asked to attend two meetings per year, pay annual dues of \$50.00, and participate in the farm visit program – you will visit one farm each year, and another farmer will visit you. There is a rotating, volunteer leadership style of management for this group, which means that some year you may be asked to take on a task.

As a member you will be listed on the Homegrown website (www.homegrownmontana.org), along with a farm bio and pictures, given brochures to offer customers, and be supported by a group of knowledgeable growers and producers.

Please read about us on the website, and review our mission and pledge before filling out the application. If you are primarily a vegetable grower, please fill out the produce application and mention any farm animals you may have. If you will be attaching the Homegrown label to any livestock you may be raising, please fill out the livestock questionnaire – or both if appropriate.

Please use extra sheets, or fill out the form online. You are not limited by the space provided.

Based upon your farming experience and skill level, you may be asked to spend a year or more in transition before using the Homegrown logo. During this time, you may choose to work with a mentor: a more experienced Homegrown farmer.

The membership committee will review your questionnaire, and assign someone to visit your farm. After all is said and done, you will receive a call with questions, comments, and welcoming hello's.

Please return the questionnaire to:
Home Acres Orchard / Montana Homegrown
839 Groff La,
Stevensville MT 59870

Email Contact: homeacresorchard@gmail.com

**MONTANA SUSTAINABLE GROWERS UNION
HOMEGROWN QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NEW FARMERS
(LIVESTOCK)**

Farm Name: _____ Contact: _____

Farm Location: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

1. Why do you want to join the Montana Sustainable Growers Union?
2. Briefly describe your operation. Including: size in sq ft or acres, type of livestock, size of herd or flock.
3. Previously Certified Organic? If so, for how long?
4. Please describe what farm products are produced by your animals.
5. Are all of your animals Montana born and raised? If not, please explain.
6. Are all animals identified, so that their origin can be tracked?
7. How far are your animals transported for slaughter? How are they transported? How do you insure humane handling and transport?
8. Please describe your water source and how it is made available for your livestock.
9. Do your animals have access to the outdoors, sunlight, fresh air, shade, exercise areas year-round? If not, please explain reasons, length of time, and seasons that they are confined.
10. Do your animals have access to pasture? How often?
11. Please list any fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides used on your pasture within the last year.
12. Do you grow your own feed? Please list all feed crops and describe any fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides used on them.
13. If you purchase your feed, please list all feed sources and ingredients including supplements and trace minerals.
14. Do you feed any urea, mammalian slaughter by-products, manure, mineral oil, or plastic pellets for roughage? If so, please explain
15. Do you routinely use any synthetic parasiticides (i.e. Ivomec) in your operation? If so,

- please describe.
16. Do you vaccinate your animals? If so, please list vaccines used and what age they are administered.
 17. Do you use synthetic hormones in your operation? If so, please explain.
 18. Do you use antibiotics in your operation? If so, what kinds?
 19. What kinds of medical problems do you routinely treat in your animals and how do you treat them?
 20. Do you use insecticides on your animals? If so, how long after use do you wait before slaughter?
 21. What physical alterations (i.e. dehorning, castration, beak trimming, tail docking) do you use and how do you minimize suffering for the animals?
 22. Are your animals finished at a feedlot? Please describe finishing process.
 23. Where do you sell your animal products?
 24. What is your labor plan? Do you have seasonal workers, interns, paid apprentices, or volunteers?
 25. Would you like to be paired with a mentor - a more experienced farmer in your area - from the group?

The members of Montana Homegrown have made a commitment to abide by the Mission Statement and Farmer's Pledge (as stated in our brochure and website www.homegrownmontana.org). We also agree to attend the twice yearly meetings and to participate in annual farm visits. These are vital components of our organization. Can you make these commitments?

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail this questionnaire to:
Sustainable Grower's Union (MSGU)
Home Acres Orchard/MSGU
839 Groff Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870

Or email: homeacresorchard@gmail.com

