



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
(PRODUCE/FRUIT/ FLOWERS/BEDDING PLANTS)**

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.
3. Previously Certified Organic? If so, for how long?
4. How long have you been farming? What is your agricultural sales and harvest history?
Where do you sell your products?
5. Please list your crops.
6. Do you use any treated seeds? If so, please describe.
7. Do you start your own plants? If so, please describe any greenhouse materials used –
soil mix ingredients, foliar sprays, pest and disease inputs, etc.
8. What are the major components of your soil and crop fertility plan? Please include crop
rotation, green manure plow-down, summer fallow, compost, animal manure, soil
amendments, foliar fertilizer, mulches, etc. If compost or manure is used, please
describe the source.
9. What type of irrigation system do you use?
10. What is the source of your irrigation water?
11. What disease prevention strategies do you use? Please list all disease management
inputs.
12. What are your problem pests and how do you control them? Again, include prevention
and any inputs used.
13. What weed control methods do you use? If you incorporate any mulch, please list the
materials used and the source.
14. What type of conservation practices are used on your farm? Please address soil erosion
issues, riparian management, wildlife habitat, etc.

15. What, if any, buffer areas do you maintain to protect your crops from possible contamination?
16. Do you share any equipment with other farmers? If yes, is that equipment used to apply synthetic chemicals?
17. Are your crops washed? Of so, please describe your source of water.
18. What types of containers are used for harvest and where do you source them?
19. Please describe your post-harvest handling procedures and equipment.
20. How are your crops stored before being transported to market?
21. What is your labor plan? Do you have seasonal workers, interns, paid apprentices, or volunteers?
22. 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 the Farmer's Pledge, as stated in our brochure. We also agree to attend the twice yearly meetings and to participate in the 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