Community Food Agriculture Coalition
OF MISSOULA COUNTY

- Training
- 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
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%)

* 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).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host Farms</th>
<th>Mentors</th>
<th>Land Owners</th>
<th>Land Seekers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower Crossing Farm</td>
<td>Two Bear Farm</td>
<td>You must have an approved Land Seeker Application in order to view this land owner's name.</td>
<td>Austin B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifeline Produce</td>
<td>AI Kurki – SARE Grant Advice for Farmers</td>
<td>Hay &amp; Forage, Large Animal (cattle, sheep, goats), Vegetable, Fruit/Orchard</td>
<td>Missoula</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ploughshare Farm of Moiese</td>
<td>Anaconda Community Market</td>
<td>You must have an approved Land Seeker Application in order to view this land owner's name.</td>
<td>Clayton M</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Spindrift Orchard and Vineyard</td>
<td>Large Animal (cattle, sheep, goats), Vegetable, Fruit/Orchard</td>
<td>Missoula</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>James S</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Missoula</td>
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<td>Fruit/Orchard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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 excess land available for new or growing ranches to transition from grazing to crop production to meet market needs.
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Questions?