



MT AGRITOURISM FELLOWS

SEMINAR THREE

-----RECAP



Agritourism Fellows Seminar Three in Hamilton and Missoula

BANANAS IN MONTANA?

Our first stop was at ABC Acres, a farm stay in Hamilton. They rent out cabins for guests as well as host a petting zoo and nature preserve. One of the highlights was visiting their geothermal greenhouse. They were growing bananas, mangos, lemons, limes, and pineapples! I never thought I would see a banana tree growing in Montana!

The next stop on our tour was Homestead Organics, owned by Fellow, Laura Garber. She made us several excellent meals during the seminar using vegetables and meat sourced from her farm. She hosts a campus "farm classroom" for local youth and school groups to learn about agriculture. The farm also hosts monthly skill-building or knowledge-sharing workshops, under the 'Building A Stronger Bitterroot' project of Cultivating Connections Montana. On the farm, they grow organic mixed veggies, fruit, meat chickens and turkeys, egg layer chickens, heritage turkeys, potbelly pigs, goats, ducks, geese, and community!

Photo: Bananas growing in the geothermal greenhouse at ABC Acres

Agritourism Radar

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 3, 2024

The Fellows are planning a statewide agritourism conference in Bozeman on May 3, 2024. Seminar Three allowed the fellows to brainstorm and discuss details of the conference.

Photo: Fellow Andy Fjeseth stops to pet some piglets at Homestead Organics



Get to Know the Fellows

SEEING AGRITOURISM IN ACTION
AT ABC ACRES, HOMESTEAD ORGANICS AND TURNER FARMS



On the last day, the Fellows visited Turner Farms in Missoula. The Turners host a pumpkin patch and a petting zoo. Their “Pumpkin-Tober” event was starting the next day, so it was extremely busy. We were able to do a walk through on their grounds and learn about the evolution of the operation and family involvement.

The Turners farm on 18 acres just 4 miles from downtown Missoula. They raise beef, pork, sheep, chickens, ducks and geese along with a diverse selection of fruits and vegetables. Being so close to an urban population, they feel a responsibility to educate the public about local foods, soils and the importance of local farming. They host farm tours, field trips and monthly Farm Markets at the farm.



Photos: (Top) Fellows on a tour of the Community Kitchen at ABC Acres (Hamilton, MT.) (Bottom Left) The Canens basking in the tropical greenhouse at ABC Acres. (Bottom Right) Fellows touring the gardens at Turner Farms (Missoula, MT).



Following the Fellows

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Coming Up

SEMINAR FOUR

In March, the fellows will be meeting in Billings, MT for Seminar Four.

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FIND US IN THE NEWS

Check out this article in the Wall Street Journal about the Mahlstedt Ranch owned by our Fellows, Tana and Tienna Canen

[FEATURED ARTICLE](#)



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