



# Farming, Ranching & Forestry in Missoula County

***Ranching, farming and forestry are integral components of Missoula County's history, economy, landscape, open space, wildlife, lifestyle and culture.***

***Missoula County celebrates the importance of this lifestyle and has policies in place to protect and enhance ranching, farming and forestry within the county.***

The Missoula County Right to Farm, Ranch and Practice Forestry Policy was adopted in 2016 by the Board of County Commissioners.

[tinyurl.com/MC-RightToFarm](http://tinyurl.com/MC-RightToFarm)

Missoula County believes landowners, residents and visitors alike should be prepared to accept the activities, sights, sounds and odors of agricultural operations as a normal aspect of living in a county with a strong rural character and a healthy agricultural sector.

We have many areas in Missoula County where non-agricultural land uses extend into agricultural, ranching and forest areas, or they exist side by side. People in these areas should be prepared to encounter noises, odors, lights, mud, dust, smoke, and livestock and machinery on public roads at all hours of the day and night. The storage and disposal of manure and responsible application of chemicals, fertilizers, soil amendments, herbicides and pesticides are part of a responsibly-managed agricultural operation.

When living in rural areas near agricultural, ranching and forest lands, there are numerous potential hazards. Farm and forestry equipment, ponds, irrigation ditches, electric powered fences, pumps and pivots, traffic, use of agricultural chemicals, territorial farm and ranch dogs, and livestock can present a real threat to children and adults.

Missoula County promotes a good neighbor policy between agricultural, ranching, forestry, and other property owners. ***It is our desire that all existing and new residents of Missoula County are aware of potential inconveniences and discomforts that may arise from agricultural, ranching and forestry activities.*** We also encourage conservation and retention of productive agricultural, ranching and forest lands across the county.

***For more information, please contact***  
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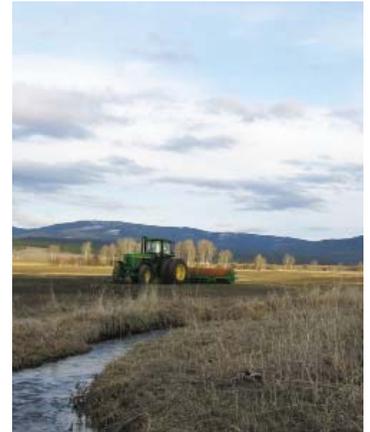


***The Right to Farm, Ranch and Practice Forestry Policy in its entirety can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/MC-RightToFarm>  
The Good Neighbor Handbook, information for rural landowners, can be found at <http://apps.missoulacounty.us/go/gnhb>***

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## What could be a nuisance?

*If an agricultural, ranching or forestry activity is operating in a manner consistent with current good management practices, then it is unlikely to be considered a nuisance. However, if the activity or practice has a substantial adverse effect on public health and safety, then a nuisance complaint may be valid. Agricultural practices may be subject to varying conditions, including geographical location, weather, soil types and conditions, type of crop or livestock. Agricultural practices shall comply with all local, state and federal regulations.*



Missoula County will not take action to prohibit or restrict usual and customary agricultural, ranching and forestry activities. This applies throughout the county, including areas considered more urban. Such activities may occur 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and may include:

- Repair, maintenance or replacement of agricultural buildings, including housing and roadside stands
- Productive use of agricultural, ranch and forest lands such as tilling, plowing, planting, harvesting, land management, spraying, processing or drainage
- Repair, maintenance or replacement of fencing, freshwater ponds, irrigation and drainage ditches and structures.

## As a neighbor

*Living next to a working agricultural property, you may have an impact on those agricultural operations. Dogs can be particularly troublesome and stressful to livestock and should be contained to avoid any conflict. The Good Neighbor Handbook (<http://apps.missoulacounty.us/go/gnhb>) provides additional information for new rural landowners.*

Missoula County recognizes an individual's right to choose the foods, crops and livestock they plant, produce, process, prepare, raise, sell, purchase, distribute, retain, preserve, store or consume, except as otherwise prohibited by Montana state law.

### Disclosure

*Missoula County encourages, prior to the transfer of real property by sale, exchange, gift, real estate contract, lease with an option to purchase, any other option to purchase, ground lease coupled with improvements or any other means, the delivery of the disclosure statement, which is contained in the County's Right to Farm, Ranch and Practice Forestry Policy. The Policy in its entirety, including the disclosure statement, can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/MC-RightToFarm> and Montana's Right to Farm Law (MCA 27-30-101(3)) and the County's Right to Farm, Ranch and Practice Forestry Policy.*

