



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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It's Healthy Soils Day at the Livingston Farmers Market!

Livingston, Montana - This Wednesday, July 18th, from 4:30 – 7:30 pm, is Healthy Soils Day at the Livingston Farmers Market, sponsored by Western Sustainability Exchange (WSE), Bank of the Rockies, and First Interstate Bank. Healthy soils can increase drought and flood resilience, improve HUMAN health through healthy farms/ranches/ecosystems, and promote our biodiverse landscape. Learning how is fun!

WSE and We Are For The Land are partnering with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Health Specialist Marni Thompson to demonstrate what soil health is and how it affects the landscape.

Through a rainfall simulator demonstration, attendees will learn the importance of covering bare ground, having multispecies vegetation, and how the health of the soil determines how much water it can hold - another fundamental lesson with the current drought and torrential rain events.

Attendees will also learn what a pair of cotton undies can tell you about your soil health. "Who would have thought you could determine how healthy your soil is by burying a pair of cotton underwear?" asked We Are For The Land Board Member Michael DeChellis. Thanks to the USDA's Soil Your Undies Challenge, backyard gardeners, farmers, and ranchers can determine how alive their soil is by how fast it breaks down the underwear. Healthy soil contributes to nutrient dense food and forage. Market-goers can ask questions and observe the various underwear brought in by participating landowners while also witnessing the unveiling of the Miles Park Band Shell underwear. "We buried some cotton underwear in the Miles Park a couple of months ago," said DeChellis, "It's going to be interesting to learn how healthy the soil is or is not!".



Kate Bryan & the Treble Makers will perform starting at 5 pm, sponsored by Yellowstone Sporting Goods. Enjoy some three-part harmony, great yodeling, and fiddle music with a Country/Americana, old-timey feel, and songs that will make you smile and celebrate the joy of Outdoor Summer Music! This musical trio features Alice Alan, Ray Erickson, and Kate Bryan.



Their songs will make you smile and yearn for the days of the past when music was simple and beautiful! Instrumentation includes guitar, upright bass, fiddle, and percussion.

PARTNER INFO:



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

WESTERN SUSTAINABILITY EXCHANGE Founded in 1994, Western Sustainability Exchange believes in preserving the best of the West – wide open spaces, fish and wildlife habitats, and farm and ranching heritage – by providing sustainable solutions that promote environmental stewardship and rural economic prosperity. We accomplish this by advocating, teaching, and incentivizing regenerative ranching practices.

WE ARE FOR THE LAND FOUNDATION is a Park County nonprofit connecting consumers to food & land. We are a Savory Influencer Hub Candidate and an OpenTeam hub, bringing together eaters, producers, and land stewards to promote healthy lives and healthy land.

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (USDA NRCS) helps America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners conserve the nation's soil, water, air and other natural resources. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based solutions that benefit both the landowner and the environment.

Western SARE is a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute for Food and Agriculture and Montana State University that provides competitive grants and educational materials. Our grants programs are conducted cooperatively by farmers, ranchers, researchers, and ag professionals to advance farm and ranch systems that are profitable, environmentally sound, and good for communities.