

## Meet Your Farmers Conni and John Mahoney



Location: Manhattan, Montana

**Year Founded:** The vegetable farm was founded in 2012; the family farm it sits on has been in the family since the 1800s

**Farm Size:** 8 acres surrounded by 640 acres of family farm and ranch land

**Livestock:** Small herd of sheep that eat cover crops and help fertilize

**Products Available:** A wide variety of fresh, delicious vegetables

Products Distributed Through: Several local Montana schools, on-farm U-Pick, Market Day Foods, local grocery stores and local restaurants

Conni Mahoney is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation farmer on her family's land. Conni and her husband, John Mahoney, began Gallatin Grown as a small vegetable farm on part of her family's larger ranch and farmland. Farming is important to them because they are able to provide fresh vegetables to their community that enables community members to live healthy lifestyles. Being part of a supportive, welcoming community has benefited Gallatin Grown as a new farm in Montana.

Gallatin Grown was started on the principle of providing healthy food without use of chemicals or synthetic fertilizers. In their dedication to conservation, they employ techniques such as crop rotations, cover crops, water conservation, drip irrigation, compost to replenish soil, and sheep to eat cover crops and fertilize the land. Being new farmers does not come without it challenges but in the words of Conni, "It's going to be hard, harder than you can imagine but you're going to see the benefits of it, tenfold of what you ever thought you could see."