## Soil Health Workshop coming to Great Falls in January

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For more info, contact Ann McCauley [ann@macdnet.org](mailto:ann@macdnet.org) or (406) 443-5711.

A series of soil health workshops aimed at helping Montana producers learn new strategies and techniques for improving soil health on their land is coming to the Holiday Inn in Great Falls on January 17, 2018.

The workshop will feature well known soil health speakers Brendon Rockey and Dr. Wendy Taheri.

Brendon Rockey is a biotic farmer in Colorado. [On his farm](https://www.facebook.com/Rockey-Farms-LLC-189647860594/), Brendon utilizes biological inputs like companion crops, animals, cover crops and flowers to replace synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. His system sustains yields, has greater water efficiency, and supports a flourishing ecosystem encouraging beneficial insects, soil microbes and carbon cycling. In addition to managing the farms’ annual potato crop, he grows quinoa, flax and lentils, and welcomes bees and livestock into his biotic farming system.

Dr. Wendy Taheri is a research soil scientist from Georgia. She specializes in arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, which are plant symbionts that affect every aspect of plant physiology. Dr. Taheri explains the basics of mycorrhizal fungi, their importance in cropping systems and how they are affected by management decisions.

The practice of improving soil health on farms and ranches is a movement that is sweeping across the nation. These workshops will introduce soil health principles for producers both large and small who are interested in improving the soil health on their land. The workshops will also talk about practical ways to implement soil health practices effectively and how improving soil health can ultimately increase production and bottom lines.

This workshop is part of a 5-workshop series held across the state and is presented by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, NRCS, and Montana Soil & Water Conservation Society. For more information, agendas, and other workshop locations and speakers, visit: [www.swcdm.org/soil-health](http://www.swcdm.org/soil-health).

Those interested in attending should register in advance at [www.swcdm.org/soil-health](http://swcdm.org/soil-health). Workshops are $15 online through Monday, January 8, and $20 at the door. Doors open at 8am, and workshops begin at 9am and end in the mid-afternoon. Contact Ann McCauley, 406-443-5711, with questions or to inquire about sponsor and vendor opportunities.