

# [***Mont. Gov. Gianforte Proclaims Montana Soil Health Week***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BPG-3DT1-JC11-10D6-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

Gov. Greg Gianforte, R-Montana, issued the following news release on April 1, 2024:

Today, Governor Gianforte held a roundtable discussion to recognize ***Soil Health*** Week in Montana and raise awareness about how healthy ***soils*** can increase crop yields, improve nutrition, and strengthen food security.

"Montana ***Soil Health*** Week serves as an opportunity to highlight our farmers, ranchers, and all producers working toward better ***soil health*** stewardship," Gov. Gianforte said. "By being good stewards, we are creating opportunities for the next generation and cultivating a future where Montana producers can continue to drive our economy and produce high-quality commodities."

Joining Montana Department of Agriculture Director Christy Clark, legislators, ranchers, business owners, and community partners, the governor convened the group to highlight the importance of healthy ***soil*** for agriculture, food security, and nutrition.

"Working to maximize ***soil health*** is critical to maximizing profitability," said Dir. Clark. "By implementing ***soil health*** principles like rotational grazing, cover cropping or no-till, our farmers and ranchers can preserve their operations for future generations while harvesting better profits."

Last spring, the Montana Legislature passed a bipartisan resolution sponsored by Sen. Butch Gillespie, R-Ethridge, and co-sponsored by Sen. Janet Ellis, D-Helena, designating the first week of April as Montana ***Soil Health*** Week and the first Wednesday in April as Montana ***Soil Health*** Day.

"***Soil health*** is something we've been interested in on our ranch and have been practicing for a number of years now. It's a neat time of year to highlight healthy ***soils*** because Mother Earth is waking up and things are getting warmer, so the seeds are starting to sprout and are ready to be seeded on our farmlands," said Sen. Gillespie.

Discussing ways to promote the stewardship of Montana's ***soil***, the group heard from Cole Mannix, founder of the Old Salt Co-op and owner of The Union restaurant set to open this month in Helena.

"Our market will showcase products that come from the landscapes of Montana, so I view ***soil health*** as a tremendous opportunity - an opportunity to increase fertility to increase crops. So, it's a win-win," Mannix said.

Concluding the roundtable, the governor read and signed the proclamation declaring this week Montana ***Soil Health*** Week.

The governor's proclamation may be viewed here ([*https://gov.mt.gov/Documents/GovernorsOffice/Proclamations/View?doc=PROC\_240401\_****soil\_health****\_week.pdf*](https://gov.mt.gov/Documents/GovernorsOffice/Proclamations/View?doc=PROC_240401_soil_health_week.pdf)).

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Original text here: [*https://news.mt.gov/Governors-Office/Governor\_Gianforte\_Proclaims\_Montana\_****Soil\_Health****\_Week*](https://news.mt.gov/Governors-Office/Governor_Gianforte_Proclaims_Montana_Soil_Health_Week)

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