

VILICUS FARMS

Hill County, MT

SIZE

7,400 acres of transitioning and certified organic farmland

FARMERS

Doug & Anna-Jones Crabtree



FARM VISION

Vilicus Farms is an experiment in sustainability at scale, where crops, conservation, and energy intersect. Organic has been integral to their holistically-designed operation since they became first generation farmers in 2009.

Anna and Doug's vision for Vilicus Farms is to have a net-zero, closed loop system where all energy needed to power the farm is produced on the farm.

ABOUT THE FARM

Anna & Doug specialize in growing heirloom grains and legumes (wheat, emmer, spelt, durum, kamut, oats, purple prairie barley, multiple kinds of lentils, flax, buckwheat and more), Vilicus Farms grows food found across brands including Timeless Seeds and Annie's. Their farm system is based on long rotations of five and seven years, intermixed with cover crops that build soil health, retain water, and suppress weeds. Conservation is an important pillar at Vilicus Farms: 27% of the land is in non-crop conservation. This means that 27% of tillable acres are left for other species and biodiversity purposes.

FARMING PRACTICES

Cultivating a biodiverse ecosystem compliments the dryland farming techniques used at Vilicus Farms. Their location in the Great Northern Plains means little rainfall. Doug and Anna work with nature and plant crops that can withstand drought conditions. Anna and Doug are pursuing biodynamic certification, that would recognize their regenerative farm as a living, individual, self-renewing organism. Vilicus Farms is committed to working at a scale that makes a difference in creating a sustainable food system that plays a significant role in solving climate change.

HOW WE HELPED

In 2016, Iroquois Valley purchased 320 acres for Vilicus Farms to expand their operation. In 2017, we purchased an additional 960 acres for lease to Anna & Doug, followed by a large purchase in 2019 of 2,200 acres. Iroquois Valley's purchases provided the land security Doug and Anna need to continue their work sequestering carbon in the soil and scaling their business.

