Jovaag Family Farm
Austin, Minnesota

OUR TRANSITION TO ORGANIC

- 2011: Returned to family farm
- Corn and soybeans rotation (with some hay)
- 2014: Certified first field as organic
  - Started small (knowing I had a lot to learn)
- 2018: 130 acres now certified as organic
  - 50 acres in year 2 transition
  - 100 acres in year 1 transition
  - 140 acres still conventional (will start 36 month transition in 2019)
- 2022: Hope to have all entire farm certified as organic
OUR CROP ROTATIONS

Rotation A
- Oats Interseeded with Hay/Pasture Mix
- Hay/Pasture/Graze
- Hay/Pasture/Graze
- Corn

Rotation B
- Oats or Field Peas/canning crop
- Rye Cover Crop
- Soybeans – Roller Crimp
- Cover crop mix
- Corn
- Interseed cover crop mix

Rotation C (if field is weedy)
- Oats
- Cover Crop
- One Year Alfalfa
- Corn

CHALLENGES

- Weeds
- Can’t just call the elevator to spray
- Finding and acquiring equipment
  - Cultivators, tine weeder, no till drills, roller crimper, rotavator, etc.
- Getting the timing right
  - When to cultivate, rotary hoe, roller crimper, etc.
- Cleaning everything because we still have some conventional crops to keep separated
  - Will be MUCH easier when 100% organic
- Record keeping
- Cash flow during transition
- Overspray

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT TRANSITION

- Amount of records required
- My concern about GMO contamination
- The more I learn, the more I realize how little I know
- A lot of people may look at the organic income potential … but like many things … there is risk

Thank You