



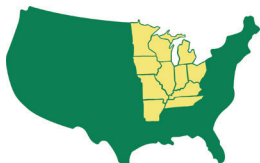
**10 GRAIN  
YEARS**



# 2026 WINTER CONFERENCE

January 22-24, 2026

Madison, Wisconsin



**MIDWEST**  
TRANSITION TO ORGANIC  
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

United States Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
National Organic Program  
Transition to Organic Partnership Program



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Thanks to the  
Artisan Grain Collaborative  
for being a conference partner!



## Tips

**Wear your name badge.** It is your 'ticket' into sessions, panels, and - very importantly - breakfast and lunch.

### Get CEUs for attending the conference!

Scan or sign the sheet located at the entrance to the session's room.

**Have fun!**

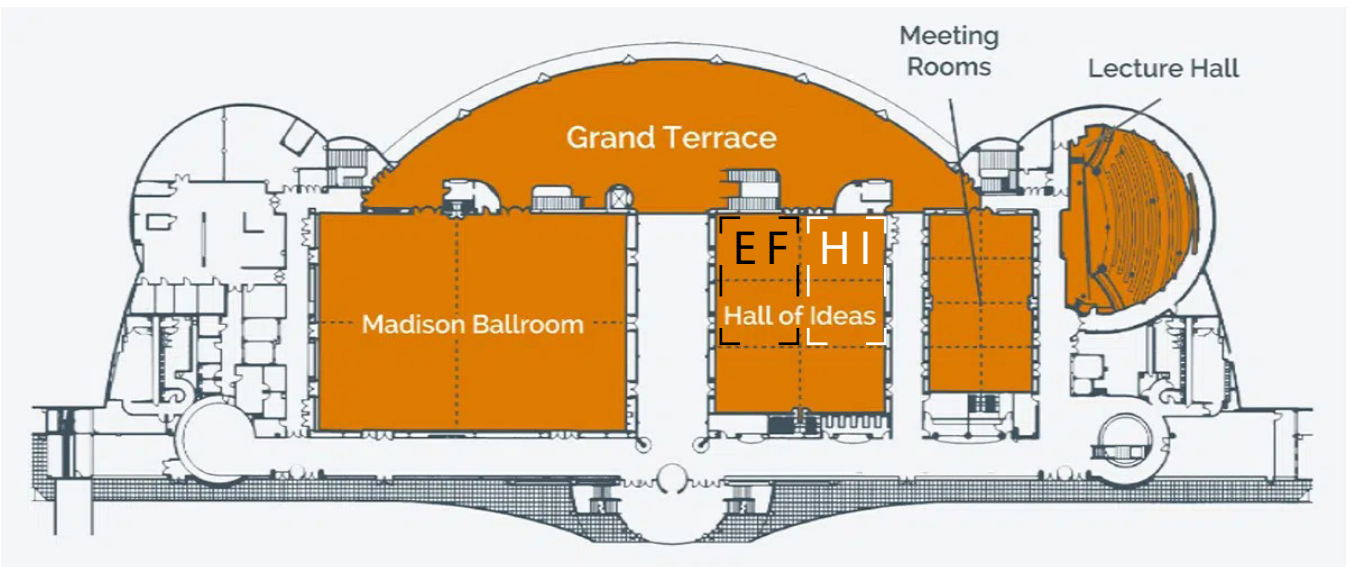
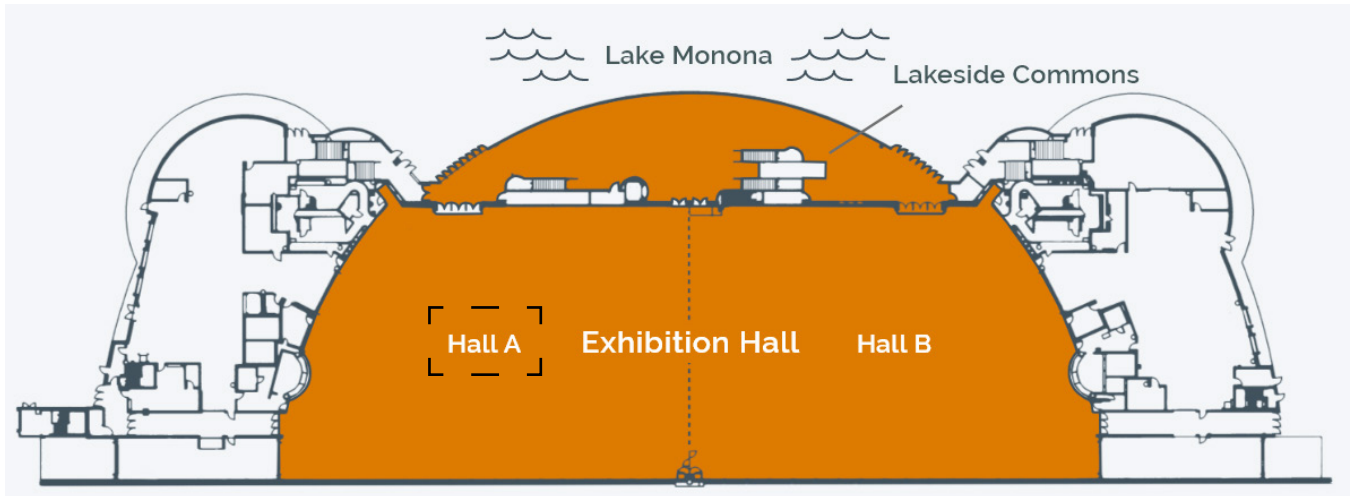
## Community Wall

Got equipment, land, services or anything else you're looking to buy, sell, or rent? Add a note or check out postings on our Community Wall. Looking to make a particular connection or share some business cards?

There's space for that, too. Check out the Community Wall within the main event space, Exhibition Hall A (located next to the exhibitor area).

# Information

Welcome to the 2026 OGRAIN Winter Conference at Monona Terrace.  
Here is a map to help find your way around the venue.

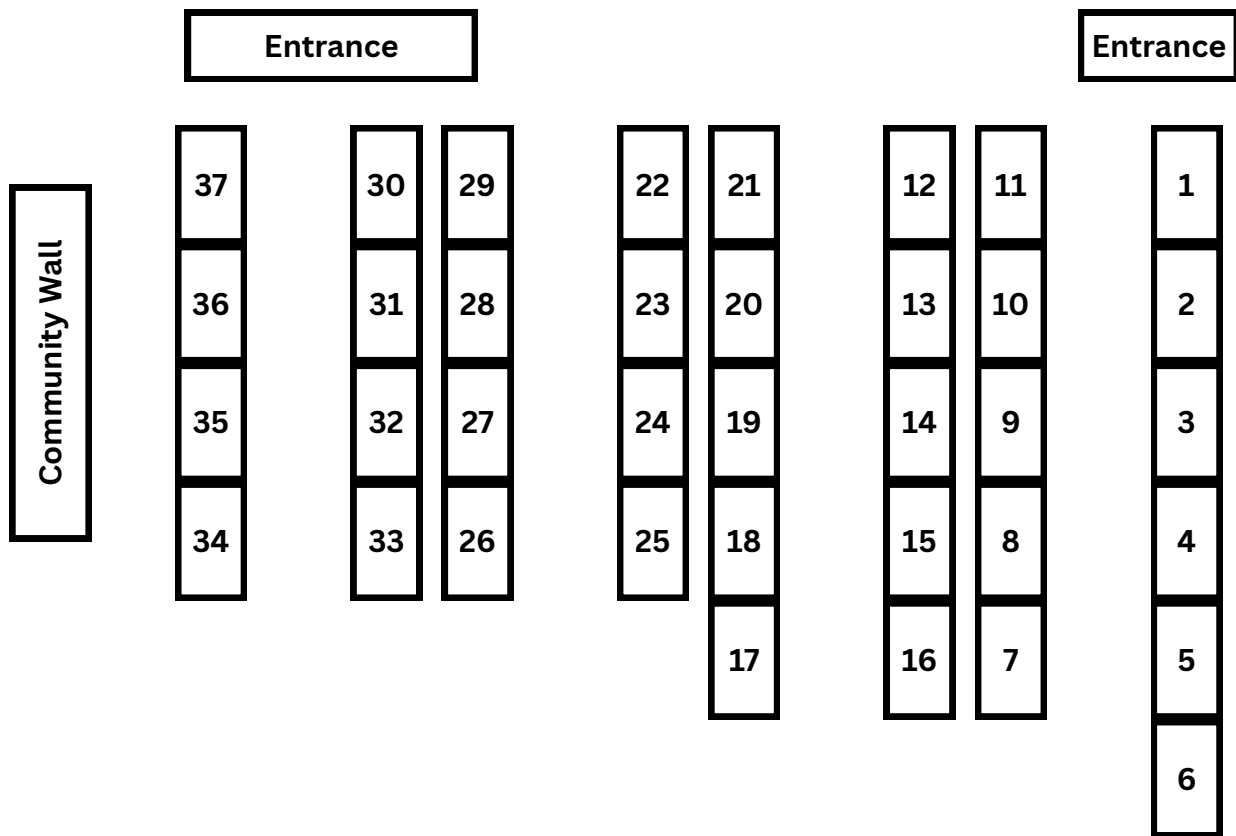


## Monona Terrace Map

The conference will take place in **Hall A on the 1st floor** and in the **Hall of Ideas on the 4th floor**.



# Exhibitor Map



## Seating Area with Round Tables

### Stage

1 - Compeer Financial	10 - AFI	19 - Organic Farmers Association	29 - Zone Products
2 - Albert Lea Seed	11 - Ag Organic	20 - Trackside Solutions	30 - Cashton Farm Supply LTD
3 - Mad Capital	12 - Quality Roasting	21 - Einböck / Farm Power Distribution	31 - AgriEnergy Solutions
4 - MOSA Certified Organic	13 - Foundation Direct Seeds, LLC	22 - Crop Fertility Services	32 - TH Fabrication, LLC
5 - Marbleseed	14 - Wendt Crop Insurance	23 - Treffler-Man@ Machine	33 - Prairie Hybrids
6 - Wisconsin Farmers Union	15 - CERTIS Biologicals	24, 25 - Bay Shore Sales	34 - Great Harvest Organics
7 - OCIA International	16 - Practical Farmers of Iowa	26 - Henke Buffalo	35 - The Delong Company
8 - Grain Millers	17 - KinnanFAB, INC	27 - Rodale Institute - Midwest Organic Center	36 - Mandaamin Institute, Inc.
9 - Michael Fields Agricultural Institute	18 - Yorktown Organics LLC	28 - SureSource Commodities	37 - Farmland Solutions LLC



# Celebrating Our 10th Anniversary<sup>5</sup>

**2016**

69 attendees  
Began as a training course for organic grain growers

**2017**

100 attendees  
Expanded to a full conference

**2018**



**2019**

220 attendees  
Topics: no-till, climate resiliency, values-oriented decision making

**2020**



**10 GRAIN  
YEARS**

**2022**



**2023**

201 attendees  
Topics: cultivation equipment, rice production, disease management, oilseed crops

**2021**

Paused for COVID and held virtual winter workshops

**2024**



**2025**

235 attendees  
Topics: SOE update, flame weeding, funding, compost, profitability

# Friday Schedule

TIME	EVENT	ROOM
8:00 AM - 5:30 PM	Registration	Hall A Entrance
8:00 - 9:40 AM	Breakfast	Hall A
8:00 - 8:30 AM	Coffee Connections	Hall A
8:30 - 8:40 AM	Welcome & Exhibit Hall Opens	Hall A
8:40 - 9:40 AM	Solving the Weed Management Puzzle	Hall A
9:40 - 9:50 AM	Break	
9:50 - 10:50 AM	<div>Integrating Livestock in a Row Crop System</div> <div>Transitioning to the Organic Mindset</div>	<div>Hall of Ideas EF</div> <div>Hall of Ideas HI</div>
10:50 - 11:10 AM	Break	
11:10 AM - 12:30 PM	<div>Challenges and Opportunities with Direct Marketing Food-Grade Grains</div> <div>Farm Ownership Transition Panel</div>	<div>Hall of Ideas EF</div> <div>Hall of Ideas HI</div>
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Lunch & Exhibit Hall	Hall A
1:30 - 2:30 PM	<div>Forages in Organic Crop Rotations-Making it Work</div> <div>Funding Opportunities Panel</div>	<div>Hall of Ideas EF</div> <div>Hall of Ideas HI</div>
2:30 - 2:45 PM	Break	
2:45 - 3:45 PM	<b>Keynote   Organic Farmers, the World Wants You More Than Ever</b>	Hall A
3:45 - 4:00 PM	Break	
4:00 - 5:30 PM	Roundtable Social Hour & Trade Show	Hall A
5:30 PM	Closing	Hall A
6:30 - 8:30 PM	Buyer & Seller Mixer Hosted with Rodale Institute and Artisan Grain Collaborative	Giant Jones Brewing

# Saturday Schedule

7

TIME	EVENT	ROOM
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM	Registration	Hall A Entrance
7:30 - 9:30 AM	Breakfast	Hall A
8:00 - 8:10 AM	Welcome & Exhibit Hall Opens	Hall A
8:10 - 9:10 AM	Soil Health's Complimentary Role with Soil Fertility	Hall A
9:10 - 9:30 AM	Break	
9:30 - 10:30 AM	<u>Farmers Have Policy Power, Learn How to Use It!</u> How Do We Know a Soil is Healthy? Advances in Soil Health Testing, Interpretation, and Benchmarking	Hall of Ideas EF Hall of Ideas HI
10:30 - 10:45 AM	Break	
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM	<u>Food-Grade Grains: Best Practices from Seed to Loaf</u> <u>Navigating the Organic Transition Process:</u> Budgeting & Recordkeeping	Hall of Ideas EF Hall of Ideas HI
12:00 - 1:30 PM	Lunch & Exhibit Hall	Hall A
1:30 - 2:30 PM	<u>Organic No-Till Corn and Soybean Production:</u> Research Updates from UW-Madison Soil Manipulation	Hall of Ideas EF Hall of Ideas HI
2:30 - 2:45 PM	Break	
2:45 - 3:45 PM	US Organic Market Update	Hall A
3:45 - 4:00 PM	Closing Remarks and Conference Evaluation	Hall A



Please fill out the conference evaluation form!

Your feedback helps us improve our programming to best serve organic grain growers of the upper Midwest, and for growing the organic movement.



# Here for



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# Keynote Speaker

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Philip Taylor, Ph.D. is the CEO and Co-Founder of Mad Agriculture and its two sister organizations, Mad Capital and Mad Markets. He co-founded the organization in 2016 with his life partner, Nicole Brinks, to reimagine and restore our relationship to the land, sea, and each other through good agriculture. Prior to founding MAD!, Phil was a career global ecologist who specialized in rainforest ecosystems. His research ranged widely, from understanding soil ecology and ecosystem biogeochemistry to exploring solutions to the sustainability challenges of agriculture. Most importantly, Phil grew up on an old farm in Maryland and has spent countless hours in fields, hay barns and milking parlors.



Philip Taylor



KinnanFAB, Inc. is a manufacturing business located in Nebraska. Justin Kinnan, owner/designer at KinnanFAB, is a 5th generation farmer with both conventional and organic acres. KinnanFAB designed an organic row crop weed flamer – the 'Big Burn' with uniquely designed dual torches that promise high-heat output (1.5 million BTU/row) for a full, even burn with optimal efficiency. The Big Burn allows for higher speeds along with all the conveniences of cab control, full ignition system and top safety features. Follow us on social media – X, Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram.  
[www.KinnanFAB.com](http://www.KinnanFAB.com) Contact us: 308-784-4211 or [email-sheena@kinnanfab.com](mailto:email-sheena@kinnanfab.com)



MOSA Certified Organic is a non profit, USDA accredited organic certification agency. We certify farms, processors, handlers & retail establishments. We have the experience you need to access the growing organic marketplace.

# Featured Event

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## The Future of Organic Row Crops: Balancing Technology & Ecology

**Thursday, January 22, 2025**

**3:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Monona Terrace**

**Join us next year!**

The pre-conference event will focus on the technological advances that are poised to aid organic row crop farmers in the coming years, plus explore how those technologies can be paired with ecological practices to enhance organic management. This event will feature farmers, researchers, and technology industry professionals. Separate registration is required.



**Sandy Syburg** farms with his wife Mary in Stonebank Wisconsin. Their certified organic land is managed with a unique system that focuses on soil building in alternating years of cash grains focused on a systems approach to maximize nutrient cycling. The passion that drives Syburg's farming operation is the knowledge that the quality of the food we eat is directly related to the quality of the soil.



**Whilden Hughes** of W. Hughes Farm in Janesville, Wisconsin. The family farm has been growing certified organic grain since 1991 and currently raises a large variety of non-GMO and organic crops, ranging from grains and oilseed to seed production and produce.



**Jack Fehr** is a 100% organic farmer whose family transitioned to organic agriculture in 1998. Their operation produces organic corn, soybeans, and oats, with farms located across northwest Iowa, southwest Minnesota, and Colorado. Jack is deeply passionate about organic farming, organic certification, and the role technology plays in advancing organic agriculture. He is married to his beautiful wife, and together they are raising four sons while continuing to build a sustainable, forward-thinking farming operation for the next generation.



**Matthew Fitzgerald** is a second-generation organic grain farmer based in central Minnesota, where he manages a diversified, USDA-certified organic operation growing corn, soybeans, wheat, edible beans, and alfalfa. He is also a certified organic inspector and works closely with farmers transitioning to organic production and building resilient farm businesses. Matthew is the founder of Farm Flow, a farmer-built technology platform that began as a whiteboard on his own farm and evolved into a digital tool for task planning, recordkeeping, weather tracking, and organic certification support. His work sits at the intersection of hands-on farming, data, and human-centered software design—focused on reducing administrative burden while improving agronomic outcomes and team coordination. Through on-farm research and farmer collaboration, Matthew explores how practical data collection



can support better decision-making, stronger compliance, and shared learning across organic systems. He regularly speaks at farmer conferences and works with researchers, nonprofits, and developers to ensure technology is built with farmers, not just for them. At the OGRAIN conference, Matthew will share lessons from the field on designing useful farm technology grounded in real farm work.



**Brian Luck** is an Agricultural Engineer focused on the area of Machinery Systems. His research interests include machine/soil/plant interactions, precision agriculture, and equipment design and development.



**Eric Taipale** is a founder and Chief Technology Officer of Sentera, a digital agriculture business that was acquired by John Deere in May of 2025. He has a technology background in signal and image processing, information fusion, and unmanned systems. For the past 10 years, he has led a technical team that brings high-resolution imagery, weather, field activity, and other sources of information to machine learning models that help customers make better in-season and inter-season agronomic decisions.



**Clint Brauer** is the Founder and Head of Innovation of Greenfield Robotics, based in Cheney, Kansas. A graduate of Kansas State University, Clint began his career as a technology executive in Los Angeles, where he helped lead early innovations in digital systems. At Sony, he pioneered Data Science Systems and launched the company's first e-book platforms in the North American market. He later served as Vice President of Marketing at Fox Interactive Media.

Despite success in tech, Clint ultimately returned home to Cheney to run his family farm, continuing a third-generation farming legacy built alongside his father. That return marked a turning point. When Clint's father developed Parkinson's disease—believed to be linked to long-term exposure to agricultural chemicals—Clint began rethinking how food is grown and how farmers protect their fields. Determined to reduce reliance on toxic herbicides, he envisioned a new approach rooted in precision, automation, and farmer-first design. Out of that vision came Greenfield Robotics. Clint and his team developed autonomous farming robots that mechanically cut weeds close to the ground, offering farmers an effective, chemical-free alternative to traditional weed control. Built by a farmer for farmers, Greenfield's technology helps protect crop yields while prioritizing soil health, farmer well-being, and the future of food production.



Michael Fields Agricultural Institute is a nonprofit that has focused on soil health and regenerative practices since 1984. With a broad coalition of public and private partners, the Institute supports farmers, food systems and communities in the Upper Midwest and beyond through research, education, and policy programs and initiatives. In the regenerative agriculture ecosystem, MFAI plays a connective role at the intersection of primary agronomic research, citizen science, farmer outreach, consumer education, market development, economic analysis, coalition building, and issue organizing. Rooted in our research farm near East Troy, WI, we empower land stewardship through peer connections, on-farm crop trials, educational outreach, and farmer-led advocacy.



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# Session Descriptions & Speaker Bios<sup>13</sup>

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## FRIDAY, JANUARY 23RD

### 8:40 - 9:40 AM | Solving the Weed Management Puzzle | Hall A

*Participants will learn about overcoming challenges with weeds, recent advances in tools and technology, and using insights from ecology to strengthen weed management.*



**Matthew R. Ryan** is a Professor in the School of Integrative Plant Science at Cornell University where he studies agroecology and leads the Cornell Sustainable Cropping Systems Lab. He works with organic and regenerative farmers to co-develop practical management strategies that combine cultural, biological, and mechanical practices to overcome production challenges. As part of his research program, Dr. Ryan quantifies cropping system performance in terms of crop productivity, system profitability, resilience to extreme weather, pest suppression, soil health, and other ecosystem services. He also conducts research on overcoming obstacles that limit cover crop adoption, reducing tillage in organic crop production, and integrating perennial grains into cropping systems. Ecological weed management is a common theme throughout his research program as Dr. Ryan uses insights about weed-crop competition, population dynamics, and weed community assembly to advance field crop production. As part of his extension program, he collaborates with OGRAIN, New York Soil Health, the Northeast Cover Crops Council, and other farmer-focused organizations.

### 9:50 - 10:50 AM | Concurrent Sessions

#### Integrating Livestock in a Row Crop System | Hall of Ideas EF

*Livestock can play a major role in developing soil health, but also adding crop diversity into a rotation. We will discuss how we've integrated cattle into our row crop system, allowing cattle to graze in several different situations between cash crops.*



**Damon DeSutter**, alongside his wife and two children as well as his two brothers and their families, has a constant goal to extend their family's mission to leave the land in better condition than it was. He received his undergrad from Indiana University in business in 2018 and came back to the farm full-time in 2019. Their farm has been on a steady trajectory of soil health practices starting in the 1980's with ridge-till. Damon's dad quickly steered the farm to full no-till in the early 1990's and began experimenting with cover crops in the early 2000's. That led them to using cover crop cocktails and adding as much diversity to their farm as they could. As Damon and his brothers started to eye their return to the farm, farming organically became an obvious route to continue to bolster their soil's health, but also to sustain 3 more families on the same amount of land or less. That has led them to where they are today, using row crops and cattle to farm as regeneratively as they can.



**Dylan DeSutter** is a 3rd generation farmer, working alongside his dad, Dan, and two brothers, Damon and Dalton. He is supported by his wife, Tayler and daughter, Sage. DeSutter Farms raises organic corn, soybeans, small grains and forages. Hoosier Grassfed Beef is an integral part of their crop rotation. Whether cattle graze cool season annuals before cash crops are planted, warm season annuals after small grains are harvested or spend the winter on stockpiled forage, they add diversity to the farm. Their business focuses on finishing beef on diverse pasture and provides a nutrient dense product to their customers.



## Transitioning to the Organic Mindset | Hall of Ideas HI



*Hear firsthand the transition stories and lessons learned from two organic farmers. Learn what drew them to organic and what keeps them in it. They'll share what they wish they were told and advice they wish they would have followed from the start. This honest discussion will include both successes and mistakes made along the way. Bring your questions on any transition topic - from weed control to equipment to fertility and beyond.*



**Corey Johnson** is a fifth-generation farmer from Peotone, Illinois, who has been deeply rooted in agriculture since joining his family's operation in 2006. After earning a degree in Crop Sciences and Agribusiness from the University of Illinois and gaining experience with Syngenta and a soil testing company, Corey returned home in 2016 to expand the family farm while launching his own soil fertility business. Today, he and his family manage a diverse operation of organic and conventional crops—including corn, soybeans, wheat, rye, popcorn, and sweet corn—across more than 1,400 acres. Committed to conservation and sustainability, Corey employs practices like no-till, cover cropping, and precision nutrient management, and his farm has been recognized as a Conservation Farm Family of the Year. As a board member of the Will/South-Cook Soil and Water Conservation District, Corey continues to champion soil health and environmental stewardship while growing a legacy for future generations.



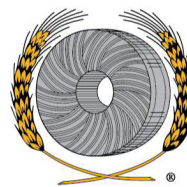
**Shane Bailey** is the co-owner and operator of Savannah Ridge Farms. A University of Illinois graduate with a bachelor's in Crop Science, Shane began farming in 2006 at age 16. Since 2016, he has focused on transitioning their land to organic production, specializing in white corn, soybeans, oats, and hay. Alongside his father and brother, Shane also runs a direct-to-consumer, grass-fed yak meat business, employing rotational grazing practices to ensure animal welfare and sustainability. Shane lives with his wife, Amy, and their six-month-old son, Sawyer, and is dedicated to advancing organic agriculture in his community.



**Tom Bryan** has been a member of the UW-Madison Teaching Faculty since 2020. He serves students interested in food and sustainability.



Founded in 2007, Iroquois Valley partners with organic, regenerative, and transitioning farmers across America to grow healthy food and build soil health for future generations. As a certified B Corp, we work with impact-driven investors to provide capital to farmers through long-term leases, flexible mortgages, and post-investment support. Our investment approach is designed to support farmers with fair terms that are tailored to growth, success, and generational goals. Our current portfolio of farmers manage over 36,000 acres of diverse row crops and livestock on pasture. Learn more and reach out to start a conversation at [iroquoisvalley.com](https://iroquoisvalley.com)



## GRAIN MILLERS

Grain Millers is rooted in our mission: to create good things for and with good people. Over the years, we have expanded across the continent, adapted and reinvented processes as needed, and embraced an evolving supply chain. With every step forward, the roots of our original mission grow deeper.

Founded in 1986 as a small oat milling company, we've grown steadily by finding the right opportunities at the right time. Today, Grain Millers is a leading international agribusiness with interests in whole grain manufacturing and merchandising, organic and conventional consumer food products, and global imports and exports.

## 11:10 AM - 12:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions

### Challenges and Opportunities with Direct Marketing Food-Grade Grains | Hall of Ideas EF



*Join three Midwest farmers as they share their insights on direct marketing food-grade grains to bakers, distillers, consumers, and more.*



**Will Glazik**, from Paxton, IL, is a second generation organic farmer and crop advisor. Will was raised on a mixed row crop and livestock certified organic farm before he studied Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois. After graduation, Will went to work in agriculture retail sales prior to share crop farming 1000 acres. Currently he is utilizing some no till organic practices on his farm as well as consulting for organic row crop transition farmers. Will is a cofounder of the IDEA Farm Network which is a learning community for organic and conservation minded farmers in the Midwest. He raises corn, soybeans, oats and wheat as well as specialty grains like open pollinated corn and grains for brewers and distillers. Along with his brothers Clayton and Dallas, Will is a founder of Silver Tree Beer & Spirits LLC. Through Silver Tree Beer & Spirits, LLC the family is able to market products like Down East Vodka and whiskeys directly to the consumer utilizing grain grown on the farm.



**Graham Adsit** is a lifelong farmer in the Southern Kettle Moraine who chose to diversify and intensify rather than expand. Graham operates a mixed operation, and recently scaled his grain cleaning and toll milling services to supply wholesale customers for use and repackaging.



**Beth McConnon** is a 6th generation farmer at Askegaard Organic Farm in rural Moorhead, MN. The farm has been certified organic since 1997 and encompasses approximately 950 acres. The primary crop rotation includes wheat (spring and winter), soybeans, flax, oats, and cover crops. Askegaard Organic Farm adds value to their crops by milling, packaging, and distributing their food grade grains, oilseeds & legumes to various markets including retail grocery stores & food co-ops, hospitals, bakeries, farm to school, and direct to consumer.



**John Clarke** is the Market Development Manager and Brewing & Distilling Member Group Coordinator for the Artisan Grain Collaborative (AGC). John is a marketing professional with over a decade of experience building consumer support for mission-based brands in the food and beverage industries. At the AGC, John develops educational programming for end-users, like craft brewers and distillers, to support greater local grain sourcing and strengthen the Midwest grainshed.

### Farm Ownership Transition Panel | Hall of Ideas HI



*Farm transition is a most pressing challenge facing many farmers and future farmers. This panel brings firsthand experience from farmers, advisors, and next-generation leaders to explore the financial, legal, and emotional challenges of transitioning a farm to new hands. Panelists will share real-world experiences from the Midwest, highlighting unique considerations and strategies for organic operations. Attendees will gain practical tools and fresh perspectives to help them start, or continue, their own succession journey with confidence.*



**Noah Wendt** is from Huxley, IA. He farms organically in Central Iowa. His crops include corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, Kernza, sunflowers, and alfalfa. Noah has also been a farmland real estate broker and crop insurance agent for 20 years. Recently, he has started to specialize more in organic/specialty crop insur-

ance. He also serves on the Iowa Organic Association board of directors. Noah has a great passion for helping farmers organize and manage their farm assets, insure their crops and income properly, and for Organic Farming!



**McKane Wells** is a 30 year old that works with his dad and grandpa on the family farm in southeast Iowa. They milk around 110 organic cows and farm around 2,000 crop acres. Half of the acres are organic and half are farmed conventionally. McKane attended Iowa State University and got his bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences education with a minor in Ag Education. He taught for a few years after college before deciding to return to the farm. Once he returned, they started to plan out what it would take to continue farming for generations to come.



**Paul Wells** became responsible for a 320-acre farm at the age of 14 when his dad died. Although his dad thought he had a good estate plan, it did not turn out as he had envisioned. Paul is now the senior partner of a three-generation farming operation. His goal has been to ensure the next generations wanting to continue this 2200-acre farming operation and 120 cow organic dairy, can do so. He and his wife have just finished their fourth revision of the estate plan they started in 1994. Paul looks forward to the opportunity to share some of what they learned in this 30-year search for a fair transition.



**Kelly T. Wilfert** is the statewide Farm Law Outreach Specialist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension. In this role, Kelly teaches farmers and agriculture service professionals to identify and mitigate legal risk in farm operation and transition. Prior to joining Extension, Kelly assisted farm, business, and banking clients with a variety of legal issues. She is licensed to practice law in the state of Wisconsin and is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin and the American Agricultural Law Association.





## 1:30 - 2:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions

### Forages in Organic Crop Rotations---Making it Work | Hall of Ideas EF

*Forages fit well in organic crop rotations where livestock are part of the farm enterprises. Would adding a livestock enterprise dovetail with your organic crops? Opportunities for marketing forages off the farm will also be included in the discussion.*



**Brett Runde**, along with his wife Laurie and four children, milk 150 cows and farm 450 acres on their fifth generation dairy farm. They became certified Organic in 2018 and continue to enjoy this lifestyle. He has stayed involved in the agricultural community by being a leader in the local 4-H club and by being a board member for Fields Of Sinsinawa, a local regenerative ag group.



**Michael Dolan** and his family farm in southwest Wisconsin. Seven seeds farm is an 800 acre diversified pasture based livestock operation. They raise grass fed beef, pastured pork and chicken. The livestock is certified organic and they grow row crops, hay and small grains to feed the livestock and sell to other farmers.



**Margaret Smith** is the Forage Agronomist for Albert Lea Seed in Albert Lea, Minnesota. She earned her PhD at the UW–Madison in Cropping Systems and Crop Ecology and previously worked for Iowa State University Extension and taught in the ISU Agronomy Department. Her professional interests include profitable forage and small grain production, growth of organic food systems in the U.S., and international agricultural development with small-holder farmers. Margaret and her husband also operate an organic grain farm in northcentral Iowa. Cattle on the farm are currently managed by a young neighbor. Other focus areas, both professional and personal, include the use of forages, cover crops, and prairie plantings to improve soil health, erosion management, weed control, and wildlife habitat.

### Funding Opportunities Panel | Hall of Ideas HI



*Join this panel to gain a stronger understanding of several funding opportunities. First, we'll briefly explain the purpose of core financial assistance programs offered through Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and explain the application process. Next, explore Organic Farmers Association's worksheets and an easy-to-follow road map to accessing funds from a variety of government programs, including those offered through NRCS. Iroquois Valley will share how farmer-friendly, long-term leases remove barriers to organic transition—giving farmers the stability, runway, and partnership they need to grow profitable organic operations. Finally, Mad Capital will introduce how they make flexible, long-term capital accessible to regenerative and organic farmers who have unique needs and are often overlooked by traditional lenders.*



**Levi Miller** was raised on a fifth-generation family farm in central South Dakota, an upbringing that shaped his deep understanding of the challenges facing American farmers and the structural inefficiencies of today's food system. He brings more than 20 years of experience across consumer and agricultural finance, sales, and leadership roles. At Mad Capital, Levi works directly with producers transitioning to regenerative and organic systems, helping them access flexible, long-term capital that supports soil health, operational resilience, and farm profitability. He is motivated by Mad Capital's mission to deploy patient, outcomes-driven capital that enables farmers to strengthen their businesses while improving America's food supply from the ground up.



**Meagan Duberstein** has been serving the public through Wisconsin NRCS for 15 years. She worked in several field offices around the state to directly work with producers and landowners. She has now been serving as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) coordinator for several years and helping implement Farm Bill policy in the state to meet the diverse needs of Wisconsin's agricultural producers.



**Joe Mantoan** is based in Wisconsin and serves as a key link between farmers in the Midwest and the Iroquois Valley team. With deep firsthand experience in agriculture, he understands the challenges and opportunities farmers face when transitioning to organic systems. As a first-generation farmer, Joe understands the process of starting a farm from scratch and navigating the transition from conventional row crop land into an Organic Systems Plan. He personally manages 120 acres of a pasture grazing system and 70 acres of hay ground. Joe is enthusiastic about supporting the Midwestern farmers in the Iroquois Valley portfolio as they work to transform the region's agricultural landscape within a generation.



**Harriet Behar** has been an organic agriculture educator, inspector and advocate for many decades (Organic Farmers Association, UW–Madison, MOSES), visiting thousands of organic operations. Having experienced the wide-ranging benefits of organic agriculture, she enthusiastically promotes organic to policy makers using stories and examples. Reaching out to legislators and agency personnel with specific projects is an important aspect of expanding organic production. She and her husband have run an organic farm since 1989, and worked with NRCS on many projects. She has written conservation plans with a focus on promoting organic.

## 2:45 - 3:45 PM | **Keynote - Organic Farmers, the World Wants You More Than Ever** | Hall A

*The organic movement is one of the most important revolutions that humanity has embarked upon. I will discuss the ingredients of revolution, where we are now, celebrate wins, and discuss challenges to making organic inevitable and 'the norm'.*



**Philip Taylor**, Ph.D. is the CEO and Co-Founder of Mad Agriculture and its two sister organizations, Mad Capital and Mad Markets. He co-founded the organization in 2016 with his life partner, Nicole Brinks, to reimagine and restore our relationship to the land, sea, and each other through good agriculture. Prior to founding MAD!, Phil was a career global ecologist who specialized in rainforest ecosystems. His research ranged widely, from understanding soil ecology and ecosystem biogeochemistry to exploring solutions to the sustainability challenges of agriculture. Most importantly, Phil grew up on an old farm in Maryland and has spent countless hours in fields, hay barns and milking parlors.

**Free event, separate registration required**

## 6:30 - 8:30 PM | **Buyer & Seller Mixer** | Giant Jones Brewing

*Join OGRAIN, the Artisan Grain Collaborative, and the Rodale Institute for an engaging evening designed to spark new connections and strengthen relationships across the organic supply chain. Supported by the USDA's Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP), this mixer brings together the people who help organic agriculture thrive — growers, sourcing teams, food companies, millers, processors, and many others shaping our regional food system. Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of Giant Jones Brewery along with delicious pizza and desserts from ORIGIN Breads. Come meet new partners, reconnect with colleagues, discover sourcing opportunities, and share ideas that inspire a stronger, more transparent marketplace for organic ingredients. We're excited to gather with those who grow, source, craft, and champion organic products — and to build the collaborations that move our industry forward. We hope to see you there!*



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**4:00 - 5:30 PM | Roundtable Social Hour and Trade Show | Hall A****Durable Disease and Weed Management**

*This roundtable is designed to facilitate conversations to identify major disease and weed challenges that are limiting organic farm production. While our initial focus is on wheat diseases, we expect discussions about major weeds in organic production to transcend a specific crop. The Cereal Genetics Lab at UW uses novel genetic solutions to manage weeds or breed for durable disease resistance. Please stop by and share your input on key challenges and farm needs to help guide our research efforts.*



**Raj Khangura** leads a lab that is broadly interested in understanding the genetic basis of plant phenotypes in cereal crops relevant to improving agronomic performance. Specific projects in the lab include characterizing novel sources of durable disease resistance in maize, sorghum, and wheat. These projects have direct implications for crop health, yield, and environmental sustainability. Other genetics-heavy projects include understanding plant architecture, optimizing hybrid seed production, and producing high-quality silage, all of which have practical applications in agriculture.

**Modern Row Crop Organic Producers**

*This is a chance for Modern Row Crop Organic Producers Facebook group members to put faces with names and have some casual, in-person conversation.*

**Rusty Olson** farms in Iowa and started the Modern Row Crop Organic Producers Facebook group, which has become a sounding board and a source of positive reviews and feedback on practices and ideas in modern row crop organic production. Rusty is diligent about screening membership requests to maintain a membership of certified organic producers (with a few exceptions per special requests). If you're looking for a community to bounce ideas off of and find examples of successes and failures in organic production, look no further.

**Small Grain Varieties for Organic Food-Grade Grain Production**

*If you are a farmer, what varieties are you using for food-grade organic markets? If you are a processor or end-user, what varieties or characteristics work for you? Come discuss your choices and options with other food-grade grains professionals.*

**Julie Dawson** is a Professor in the Department of Plant and Agroecosystem Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Research interests include the use of genetic resources in plant breeding for organic systems and methods for participatory selection and variety development. She is also the state Extension specialist for regional food systems and does applied research for growers serving local food markets.

**Supporting Kernza Production through the Wisconsin Kernza Supply Chain Hub**

*Learn about how Kernza can fit into your crop rotation and the efforts of the WI Kernza Supply Chain to build a regional supply chain.*



**Steffen Mirsky**, Emerging Crops Outreach Program Coordinator with UW-Madison Extension and partner on the Wisconsin Kernza Supply Chain Hub, provides technical assistance to Kernza growers throughout the state to help build a regional Kernza supply chain. Besides Kernza, his work on the Emerging Crops Program encompasses a variety of perennial fruit and nut crops.



## Tools for Navigating Farm Succession

*Join fellow farmers for a candid conversation on the challenges and opportunities of farm succession. We'll follow your lead but can explore practical tools, emotional dynamics, and strategies to ensure a smooth transition that honors both legacy and future growth.*



**Kelly T. Wilfert** is the statewide Farm Law Outreach Specialist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension. Kelly is a licensed Wisconsin attorney who teaches farmers and agriculture service professionals to identify and mitigate legal risk in farm operation and transition.

**Nikki Lennart** is the Financial Consulting & Farm Transition Specialist with the WI Farm Center at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Nikki works one-on-one with farmers across the state providing free and confidential business planning services.

## NRCS Financial Assistance Programs & OFA Funding Access Worksheets

*Missed today's Funding Panel or have follow up questions? Stop in to learn more about the programs Natural Resources Conservation Service offers and/or take a deeper dive into the roadmap and worksheets Organic Farmers Association has created to help farmers navigate and prepare for a variety of government programs.*



**Meagan Duberstein** has been serving the public through Wisconsin NRCS for 15 years. She worked in several field offices around the state to directly work with producers and landowners. She has now been serving as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) coordinator for several years and helping implement Farm Bill policy in the state to meet the diverse needs of Wisconsin's agricultural producers.



**Harriet Behar** has been an organic agriculture educator, inspector and advocate for many decades (Organic Farmers Association, UW-Madison, MOSES), visiting thousands of organic operations. She and her husband have run an organic farm since 1989, and worked with NRCS on many projects. She has written conservation plans with a focus on promoting organic.

## Real Organic Project: The Problem of Fraudulent Imported Organic Grain & Our No-cost Add-on Certification

*Join us for a discussion on how Real Organic Project supports organic grain farmers by speaking out against the trend of fraudulent grain in organics. Learn about our no-cost add-on certification program: how to apply, how to join the movement, and how to distinguish your farm through our high integrity organic label.*

**Caroline Wright** has worked for a decade in organic farming and food justice initiatives, including co-founding an organic vegetable farm in Ann Arbor, MI in 2021. She has been working with Real Organic Project as the Midwest Regional Coordinator since May of 2024.

## First-hand Farmer Funding Experiences

*Curious about some of the impact-driven or non-traditional capital sources out there? Join this conversation about farmer experiences with different funding sources. Representatives from several funding sources are available to connect with during the conference, but we ask that this roundtable remain limited to farmers only.*



**Paul Hoffman** farms in LaSalle County, Illinois with his family where he's raised certified organic crops since 2014. Winifred Hoffman (Paul's mother) maintains a grass-fed, dual-purpose cattle herd and genetics business that works symbiotically to allow extended rotations for the organic row crop system.

Additionally, Paul's wife Trisha and their children help maintain a small, grass-fed, hair sheep flock.



**John Wepking** and his wife Halee own Meadowlark Organics Farm & Meadowlark Community Mill in Ridgeway, WI. Their team manages over 1,000 acres of diversified field crops and cattle, and operates a stone mill which sources grain from fellow organic farmers to be processed and distributed regionally.

Their focus is to create direct grain markets, helping farmers maximize profitability and keep their grains within the foodshed.



**Matthew Fitzgerald** is a second-generation organic grain farmer based in central Minnesota, where he manages a diversified, USDA-certified organic operation growing corn, soybeans, wheat, edible beans, and alfalfa. He is also a certified organic inspector and works closely with farmers transitioning to organic production and building resilient farm businesses.

## Farmers Sparking Policy Action

*If you want to make a change in your community but struggle to sift through the policy process, this roundtable is for you! Since 1930, farmers have been coming together through Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFO) to build power and create change in the state through policy action. Learn more about how you can plug in to this policy process and discover your options for advancing the issues you care about!*



**Michelle Ramirez-White** works as the Government Relations Director for Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFO), doing state-level lobbying work and engaging WFO members in state and federal-level advocacy. While originally from the west coast, Michelle graduated from UW-Madison with her B.A. in Political Science and History and continues to call Wisconsin her home working for Wisconsin Farmers Union. She loves visiting farms and bringing WFO members' stories to elected officials.

**Allison Crook** works as the Region 2 Membership Coordinator for Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFO), where she provides strategic planning, leadership development, adult education, and organizing support for WFO chapters throughout eastern and southern Wisconsin. Originally from the South, Allison has called Wisconsin home since 2018. She holds a M.S. in Human Ecology from UW-Madison's Department of Civil Society and Community Research. In her free time, she proudly shepherds a flock of heritage meat/wool sheep with her partner.

## Organic Transition Tips - Mentorship & Technical Assistance Opportunities

*Transitioning to organic production could well be the best decision you make for your farm, but success requires careful planning and building a supportive team. Bring your questions and let's talk!*

**Tay Fatke** is the Farmer Education Manager for Marbleseed. Tay's prior experiences include on-farm food safety, organic certification and farmer-to-farmer peer education. He lives with his wife in Milwaukee and during the growing season helps out at a local orchard. He enjoys being active outside, eating good food and helping family farmers thrive.

**Mark Geistlinger** is the Client Services Coordinator at MOSA Certified Organic. Mark assists organic farmers and food handlers as they transition to organic production, apply for organic certification, or address concerns in their organic operations.

## What's New with Organic No-till?

*Interested in organic no-till production? Come discuss the latest research in this area, how to get started, and learn from the experiences of other organic no-till farmers.*



**Erin Silva** is the director for the Center of Integrated Agricultural Systems, the Clif Bar Endowed Chair in Organic Agriculture and Outreach, and Professor in the Plant Pathology Department at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Her research and extension program focuses on sustainable and organic cropping systems, including cover crops and cover crop-based no-till production, and the impact of organic management on soil biological and physical properties.



**Matthew Ryan** is a Professor at Cornell University where he studies agroecology and leads the Cornell Sustainable Cropping Systems Lab. He works with farmers and other researchers to evaluate cropping system performance in terms of crop productivity, system profitability, resilience to extreme weather, pest suppression, soil health, and other ecosystem services. He also conducts research on overcoming obstacles that limit cover crop adoption, reducing tillage in organic crop production, and integrating perennial grains into cropping systems.

## Soil Health, Nitrogen, and Organic Integrity

*This roundtable will be an open, farmer led discussion on soil health, nitrogen management, and organic integrity in organic grain systems. The session will begin with a few framing questions and then focus on farmers' experiences, challenges, and observations related to organic nitrogen sources, soil variability, and management decisions. The goal is to learn from on farm perspectives and connect those insights to research and practical solutions.*



**Xia Zhu-Barker** is an Assistant Professor of Soil Biogeochemistry in the Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She leads research focused on soil health, nutrient management, and climate resilience in organic grain systems. Her work integrates field experiments, laboratory analyses, and stable isotope tools to better understand organic nutrient sources, soil processes, and system resilience. Dr. Zhu-Barker also studies the use of nitrogen stable isotopes to help verify organic integrity and protect organic markets. She works closely with farmers, extension specialists, and students to advance science based, practical solutions for organic agriculture.

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## SATURDAY, JANUARY 24TH

### 8:10 - 9:10 AM | Soil Health's Complimentary Role with Soil Fertility | Hall A

*Good soil health and "biology" are several of the many terms commonly being used by the farming community as indicators of a soil's productive ability. However, while all these terms accurately refer to the functionality of an agricultural ecosystem to support an abundance of crop growth, there are some who are conflating this with soil fertility and are mistakenly replacing the importance of soil fertility with soil health. This session will explain how good soil health practices are complimentary not exclusionary to good soil fertility practices and both are necessary for successful long-term organic farming.*



**James Schroefer** is a Certified Crop Advisor and Organic Farmer located in Central MN. Growing up on a small 60 Acre Organic farm in N. Illinois, he worked on a number of different organic and conventional farms until going to South Dakota State University for Agronomy to try and understand the scientific connection between crops, soils, and animal health. After a number of years working as a private crop consultant for a small soil testing lab in Albany MN, James with his brother bought into an Organic Crop & Cow/Calf Operation in Central Minnesota. In addition to crop consulting for farmers through Crop Fertility Services LLC, he currently farms around 700 Acres organically with his brother with a small beef herd. In conjunction with a solid nutrient and manure management plan on the farm, they grow a diversity of crops intertwined with a heavy mixture of cover crops and other soil health practices on their farm to build and maintain fertility across their acres.

### 9:30 - 10:30 AM | Concurrent Sessions

#### How do we know a soil is healthy? Advances in Soil Health Testing, Interpretation, and Benchmarking | Hall of Ideas HI



*Global interest in improving soil health to minimize soil degradation, sustainably intensify agriculture, and adapt to extreme weather requires guidance on soil health interpretation and goals for farmers, policymakers, and other stakeholders. This presentation will focus on advances in soil health testing, interpretation, and benchmarking to inform management.*



**Dr. Joseph Amsili** is a Senior Extension Associate and the Director of the Cornell Soil Health Program. He leads New York efforts to advance soil health through applied research, outreach, and farmer engagement. Joseph has helped co-lead important advances in soil health indicator interpretation and benchmarking through the Soil Health Assessment Protocol and Evaluation (SHAPE) interpretation tool and Production Environment Soil Health Benchmark approach.

#### Farmers have policy power, learn how to use it! | Hall of Ideas EF

*Are you frustrated that the government seems out of touch with your needs? Your elected officials can be educated and influenced, and are especially interested in hearing from individual farmers! The Organic Farmers Association has developed policy and program ideas you can use, based on national organic farmer priorities.*



**Harriet Behar** has been an organic agriculture educator, inspector and advocate for many decades (Organic Farmers Association, UW-Madison, MOSES), visiting thousands of organic operations. Having experienced the wide-ranging benefits of organic agriculture, she enthusiastically promotes organic to policy makers using stories and examples. Reaching out to legislators and agency personnel with specific projects is

an important aspect of expanding organic production. She and her husband have run an organic farm since 1989, and worked with NRCS on many projects. She has written conservation plans with a focus on promoting organic.

## 10:45 AM - 12:00 PM | Concurrent Sessions

### Navigating the Organic Transition Process: Budgeting & Recordkeeping | Hall of Ideas HI



*Join this discussion to learn more about the financial aspect of transitioning to organic. The economic strain of following organic practices while not receiving organic premiums can be challenging. Hear stories and advice from firsthand experiences covering both the farmer and farm credit perspectives. Learn potential strategies for your farm and tips for success.*



**Shane Bailey** is the co-owner and operator of Savannah Ridge Farms. A University of Illinois graduate with a bachelor's in Crop Science, Shane began farming in 2006 at age 16. Since 2016, he has focused on transitioning their land to organic production, specializing in white corn, soybeans, oats, and hay. Alongside his father and brother, Shane also runs a direct-to-consumer, grass-fed yak meat business, employing rotational grazing practices to ensure animal welfare and sustainability. Shane lives with his wife, Amy, and their six-month-old son, Sawyer, and is dedicated to advancing organic agriculture in his community.



**Tom Schwarz** is a 5th generation farmer from south central Nebraska. He originally farmed with his father on a large scale conventional farm through the 90s. Following his father's death in 1997, he began the organic transition process and has farmed organically ever since. He currently farms about 1500 certified organic acres with his wife Linda and their two children. Tom and his family focus primarily on growing row crops and small grains, but have experience in cattle, vegetable, and hemp production. They are currently at the beginning stages of transitioning an additional 500 acres to organic production. They also have a commercial hay grinding business.



**Linda Schwarz** started her journey as an organic recordkeeping specialist in 1997 when her husband Tom began transitioning their land to certified organic production. Coming from a non-farm background, Linda worked in an accounting firm before joining the farm full time in the late 90s. Since that time she has worked to refine her recordkeeping process and frequently receives praise from organic inspectors due to her thoroughness and attention to detail. In addition to singlehandedly keeping the organic operation in compliance, Linda enjoys arts and crafts, reading, and spending time with her husband and the sea turtles in the Florida Keys.



**Paul Dietmann** is Vice President of New Markets at Compeer Financial, a member-owned Farm Credit System cooperative in the upper Midwest. He leads Compeer's Emerging Markets program, providing loans and business planning assistance to farmers who market their products directly to consumers or who are engaged in value-added production, processing, or marketing. He also leads the co-op's Young, Beginning and Small (YBS) Farmer program. He is based in Prairie du Sac, WI. Dietmann has been helping family farmers with farm financial management issues since the mid-1990s, first as a county agricultural agent, then as Director of the Wisconsin Farm Center, as Wisconsin's Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and now with the Farm Credit System. He is co-author of the book *Fearless Farm Finances: Farm Financial Management Demystified* and author of *Turning Grain Into Dough: Farm Financial Management for Organic Grain and Crop Rotation*. He teaches dozens of workshops each year on a variety of topics related to farm finances.



*This panel discussion featuring a farmer, a miller, and a baker will discuss what it takes to grow and process food-grade regional grains. We'll be talking about variety selection, food safety tests and protocols, best practices in the fields and kitchens, and how to work with what Nature gives us. While this panel features some voices outside of the agricultural sector, increased understanding across the grain value chain leads to stronger relationships between farmers, middle-of-the-supply-chain processors and end users.*



**Tim Schacht** is a first generation farmer from central Ohio. He and his wife, Michelle, operate Ohio Till Farmstead, a certified organic grain farm that produces crops for commodity markets, specialty crops for wholesale buyers, and a line of direct-to-consumer products under their own brand.



**Kirk Smock** is the owner and head baker at ORIGIN Breads, a small bakery in Madison, WI that specializes in naturally leavened sourdough breads, pastries and pizzas made with 100% regionally grown organic and stone milled grains. Kirk started the bakery in 2016 after 11 years of ardent home baking.

Before starting ORIGIN Breads, Kirk worked for 12 years as a writer, communications specialist and international adventure travel consultant on a variety of economic development projects in Guyana, Palestine, Mozambique and North Macedonia. He lives in Madison with his wife and two sons.



**Jill Brockman-Cummings** is the Manager of Janie's Mill. Together with Harold and Ross, Jill was involved in the research and planning for Janie's Mill, and has worked on the mill floor from Day One. She oversees all of the Mill's day-to-day operations — from monitoring quality of grains and milled products, to developing new products, to working with bakers and wholesale customers.



**Halee Wepking** is co-owner of Meadowlark Organics and Meadowlark Community Mill, a diversified grain and cattle farm and on-farm stone ground flour mill in Ridgeway, WI. Together with her husband, John, and their team of farmers and millers, they manage 1,000 certified organic acres and produce and distribute thousands of pounds of flour weekly. They are passionate about creating direct, value-added markets for grain, helping farmers to maximize their profitability and keep the grains they grow within their local economy and foodshed.

## 1:30 - 2:30 PM | Concurrent Sessions

### Soil Manipulation | Hall of Ideas HI



*With speed and sweep, the cultivator sends a controlled wake of exploding soil between the rows—violently dislodging weeds and roots while leaving behind a clean, flowing seedbed that captures rain, dries weeds on the surface, and redirects soil to finish off what remains in the row. Join Dale for this in-depth exploration of soil manipulation.*



**Dale Kumpf** brings more than four decades of hands-on experience, global perspective, and unwavering passion for soil health and agricultural innovation. A graduate in Agribusiness in 1980, Dale began what would become a lifelong pursuit of one revolutionary tool—the Buffalo Cultivator. For more

than 45 years, he has traveled the world championing its unique ability to manipulate soil structure, improve residue

management, and transform field performance in organic and conventional systems alike. From Australia to Hungary, Canada to Mexico, Dale has worked directly with farmers, dealers, and service managers across multiple continents. His career spans every angle of the industry—sales, service, troubleshooting, product development, dealership setup, and hands-on training clinics. Few people understand both the machine and the soil it works like Dale does. Beyond the field, Dale is a devoted husband and father of three sons. When the work boots come off, you'll likely find him at the racetrack. If it goes fast, chances are he's raced it, built it, fixed it—or at least dreamed of doing all three. Today, Dale's knowledge, real-world experience, and deep connection to soil stewardship make him a powerful voice in the future of organic agriculture.

### **Organic no-till corn and soybean production: Research updates from UW-Madison | Hall of Ideas EF**

*This session will explore both best management practices and share the latest research results from UW-Madison on organically managed reduced tillage corn and soybean systems. We'll explore results from new data showing tradeoffs with planting dates, optimizing weed management, and improving on planter set-up in rolled-crimped systems. We'll also discuss advances in the space of living mulch management for corn systems.*



**Ben Brockmueller** has been working as a researcher with Dr. Erin Silva for 5 years on organic crop production with a focus on the development of minimal tillage organic systems. He received his M.S. in Agronomy from South Dakota State University exploring cover crop-based systems. Underlining his work is passion for working together with farmers to develop agricultural systems that merge ecological and agronomic objectives.

### **2:45 - 3:45 PM | US Organic Market Update | Hall A**

*Argus Media Senior Reporter Alexander Schultz will provide a timely overview of the organic grain and oilseed markets, offering insights for stakeholders across the supply chain. The session will examine the sharp rise in organic soy imports from the Black Sea region, the continued strength of feed demand driven by the organic poultry sector, and the persistent risks to trade posed by tariffs and shifting policy. With a focus on global trade flows, domestic consumption trends, and trade uncertainty, this presentation will help market participants better understand the forces shaping pricing and supply in the organic sector.*



**Alexander Schultz** is a Senior Reporter at Argus Media where he covers agricultural commodity markets with a focus on feed-grade organic grains and oilseeds. Prior to Argus, he worked in market analysis for a large dairy co-op and interned at the USDA's Economic Research Service. Alexander holds an M.S. in Applied Economics and Management from Cornell University and a B.S. in Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota.





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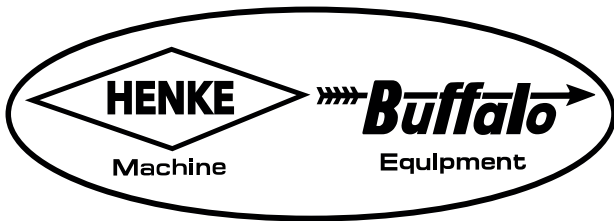
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# Future OGRAIN Programming

33

The **Organic Grain Resource and Information Network (OGRAIN)** offers an educational framework for supporting organic grain production in the Upper Midwest. OGRAIN works with university researchers, extension experts, and community partners to develop and share resources, build relationships, and connect with farmers and other organic grain stakeholders.

## Join the OGRAIN listserv

Stay connected year-round to the OGRAIN community, ask questions, learn from other farmers, and hear about upcoming events.

**To join, send an email to [ograin+subscribe@g-groups.wisc.edu](mailto:ograin+subscribe@g-groups.wisc.edu).**

**"The OGRAIN listserv is one of my most valuable sources of knowledge and education..."**

- OGRAIN farmer participant

## Online resources

The **OGRAIN website** has many additional resources on organic grain production and marketing, archived videos of the conference presentations and webinars on our YouTube channel, events and more.



## Transitioning Organic Mentorship Program

This mentorship program is a **great opportunity to gain mentorship during your transition to organic production**. TOPP is a network assembled by the USDA's National Organic Program to support transitioning and organic producers with mentorship and resources.

Learn more at the OGRAIN website.

## Summer field days

**OGRAIN hosts field days for farmers interested in organic grain practices.** These field days highlight the latest in university research, innovative farmers in organic grain production, and bring in experts from across the industry. Stay tuned for the 2026 field day season schedule!

## Contact us!

**OGRAIN is directed by Dr. Erin Silva** in the University of Wisconsin - Madison Department of Plant Pathology. Call her at 608-890-1503 or email [emsilva@wisc.edu](mailto:emsilva@wisc.edu). **We'd love to hear your suggestions for future programming!** You can also contact our outreach specialist, Kelly Debbink, at (608) 262-4592 or [kdebbink2@wisc.edu](mailto:kdebbink2@wisc.edu).



OGRAIN



OGRAIN - Organic  
Grain Resource  
and Information  
Network



[ograin\\_uw](#)

# Future AGC Programming

The **Artisan Grain Collaborative** is a network of farmers, millers, maltsters, bakers, chefs, food manufacturers, brewers, distillers, researchers, and advocates working together to promote a regenerative grainshed in the Upper Midwest.



## OUR REGIONAL GRAIN CHAIN

THE PEOPLE MOVING GRAIN FROM SEED TO TABLE IN THE MIDWESTERN GRAINSHED



The Artisan Grain Collaborative is a network of farmers, millers, maltsters, bakers, chefs, food manufacturers, brewers, distillers, researchers, and advocates working together to promote a regenerative food system. More information at [www.graincollaborative.com](http://www.graincollaborative.com).

## Become a Member of the Artisan Grain Collaborative!

AGC members come from the Midwest states of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Members share a commitment to create a diverse regional grainshed built upon regenerative agriculture practices that steward the health of our communities, local economies, and natural resources.

**Scan the QR code to learn more about becoming a member!**



Artisan Grain Collaborative



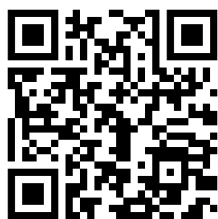
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# Notes

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## Fill out our evaluation survey!

Your feedback helps us improve our programming going forward to best support organic grain growers of the Upper Midwest.

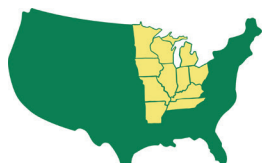


## Visit the OGRAIN website!

The **OGRAIN website** has many additional resources on organic grain production and marketing, archived videos of the conference presentations and webinars on our YouTube channel, events and more.



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