



Organic Grain Conference & Trade Show 2019

Exploring Advancements and Issues in Organic Grain Farming, Together.



PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 13-14

I HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
CHAMPAIGN, IL



206 N Randolph St., Suite 400 | Champaign, IL | 217.840.2128 | thelandconnection.org | info@thelandconnection.org

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Advisory Council for the Organic Grain Conference:

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Jack Erisman (Goldmine Farm) | **Will Glazik** (Cow Creek Farm) | **Wyatt Muse** (Dirt Road Farm)
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Dr. Carmen Ugarte (University of Illinois) | **Woody Woodruff** (Illinois Stewardship Alliance)
Dr. Michelle Wander (University of Illinois) | **Harold Wilken** (Janie's Farm Organics)

Thank you to Randy Hughes and Hughes Farms for donating the Blue Corn Chips for the Mixer.

AGENDA

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP | Chancellor Ballroom | February 13, 2019

Sponsored by Valent USA, LLC

CERTIFICATION, DEHULLED - A DEEP DIVE INTO ORGANIC GRAIN CERTIFICATION

David Hettenbach (Nature's International Certification Services)

Organic certification can seem overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be that way! We'll take a hard look at what to consider when looking into organic certification, with information to help your certification process run smoothly and for you to get that organic premium. Bureaucratic talk will be left outside and all certification topics are on the table; from choosing and communicating with a certification agency to record keeping systems, crop rotation, and more! Join us to simplify your certification experience and get your organic certification questions answered!

9:00 AM	Check-In & Refreshments Chancellor Ballroom
10:00	OVERVIEW OF ORGANIC CERTIFICATION AND THE HISTORY OF THE NOP
10:30	TRANSITION TIME: WHAT TO DO DURING YOUR TRANSITION TO ORGANIC
11:15	Break
11:30	PILES OF PAPERWORK: SUBMITTING INITIAL PAPERWORK TO YOUR CERTIFIER, DOCUMENTATION TO MAINTAIN DURING THE GROWING SEASON, AND GETTING READY FOR THE FIRST INSPECTION
12:45 PM	Lunch
1:30	READING THE RECORDS: PAPERWORK FROM AN INSPECTOR'S POINT OF VIEW
2:15	Break
2:30	WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WE INSPECT: SURPRISE-FREE APPROACH TO INSPECTION DAY
3:30	Break
3:45	CONTINUED COMPLIANCE: PROCESS FOLLOWING YOUR INSPECTION AND CONTINUING CERTIFICATION
5:00	Adjourn

MAIN CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW | February 14, 2019

8:00 AM	Check-In Trade Show Refreshments <i>Illinois Ballroom</i>		
9:00	<i>Lincoln Room</i>	<i>Chancellor Ballroom</i>	<i>Alma Mater Room</i>
	ORGANIC MARKETS, FARM BUDGETS, AND INDUSTRY CHALLENGES Michael O'Donnell (<i>Purdue University Extension</i>) & Ryan Koory (<i>Mercaris</i>)	HOW FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO TRANSITION LEASED LAND (PANEL DISCUSSION) Moderator: Nathan Aaberg (<i>Liberty Prairie</i>) Panelists: Harold Wilken (<i>Janie's Farm Organics</i>), Rob Woodrow (<i>Farmland Solutions LLC</i>), David Miller (<i>Iroquois Valley Farms</i>), Cecelia Gunther	WHERE IS THE N GOING ON YOUR FARM? A WORKSHOP TO HELP ORGANIC FARMERS MANAGE NITROGEN FOR CROPS, SOILS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT Dr. Michelle Wander (<i>University of Illinois</i>), Dr. Heather Darby (<i>University of Vermont Extension</i>), Ho-young Kwon (<i>Argonne National Laboratory</i>), et al.
10:00	LEGAL ISSUES FOR ORGANIC GROWERS Brianna Schroeder (<i>Janzen Ag Law</i>)	LIFTING THE FOG: A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH ORGANIC GRAIN BUYERS Moderator: Wyatt Muse (<i>Farmer and Broker</i>) Panelists: Matt Moser (<i>The Andersons</i>), Rick Herzberg (<i>Clarkson Grain</i>), Anders Gurda (<i>Pipeline Foods</i>), Barb Barcal (<i>All Star Trading</i>)	
11:00	DEFENDING THE CORE OF THE ORGANIC STANDARDS Keynote Address – Dr. Francis Thicke (<i>Radiance Dairy</i>) <i>Chancellor Ballroom</i>		
12:15 PM	Lunch Trade Show <i>Illinois Ballroom</i>		
1:00	Trade Show <i>Illinois Ballroom</i>		Round Table Discussions <i>Alma Mater Room</i>
2:15	<i>Lincoln Room</i>	<i>Chancellor Ballroom</i>	<i>Alma Mater Room</i>
	SUCCESSFUL PARALLEL PRODUCTION: HOW TO AVOID COMMON PERILS AND PITFALLS Randy Hughes (<i>Hughes Farms</i>)	INTEGRITY OF THE USDA LABEL: ARE ADD ON LABELS A GOOD IDEA OR JUST CONFUSING? (PANEL DISCUSSION) Moderator: Michael O'Donnell (<i>Purdue</i>) Panelists: George Kalogridis (<i>Ecocert ICO</i>), Dr. Francis Thicke (<i>Radiance Dairy</i>), Anders Gurda (<i>Pipeline Foods</i>)	PARTICIPATORY BREEDING AND TESTING NETWORKS: A MAIZE BASED CASE STUDY FOR ORGANIC SYSTEMS Drs. Carmen Ugarte, Martin Bohn, and Michelle Wander (<i>University of Illinois</i>); Dr. Walter Goldstein (<i>Mandaamin Institute</i>); Binod Ghimire, Christopher Mujjabi, and Mario Nunez (<i>U of I students</i>)
3:15	OPTIMIZING SOIL HEALTH PROVIDES MORE FERTILITY FOR THE CROP Dr. Dan Davidson (<i>Woods End Laboratories/Solvita</i>)	THE FUTURE: GROWING THE ORGANIC MARKETS WITH INTEGRITY AND FARM PROFITABILITY IN THE FACE OF WORLD MARKETS, FRAUD, AND TARIFFS John Bobbe (<i>OFARM</i>)	NITROGEN FIXING CORN: MAKING IT A REALITY Dr. Walter Goldstein (<i>Mandaamin Institute</i>)
4:15	Social Hour Trade Show <i>Illinois Ballroom</i>		

SESSIONS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS | Chancellor Ballroom | 11:00 - 12:15 PM

DEFENDING THE CORE OF THE ORGANIC STANDARDS

Dr. Francis Thicke (*Radiance Dairy*)

The National Organic Standards have been weakened through lax enforcement and lowering of some standards. USDA now allows organic certification of hydroponic production, allows CAFO-style dairy and poultry production, has withdrawn the organic animal welfare standards, and has been lax in stopping fraudulent grain imports. As organic farmers, we need to call for a return to rigorous organic standards. Efforts are also underway to create an add-on standard and label, to bring USDA organic back to the expectations of real organic farmers and consumers.

SESSION 1 | Lincoln Room | 9:00 - 9:55 AM

ORGANIC MARKETS, FARM BUDGETS, AND INDUSTRY CHALLENGES

Michael O'Donnell (*Purdue University Extension*) & **Ryan Koory** (*Mercaris*)

Farmers need solid financial data to make informed decisions about their operations, particularly when exploring a new enterprise or diversification opportunity. Michael will share current results from a Purdue AgSeed funded project that includes development of organic crop enterprise budgets and transition decision-making tool. The transition decision-making tool compares a conventional corn-soybean rotation to longer organic rotations in a phased transition. A summary of the latest (2017) FINBIN data from University of Minnesota comparing organic and conventional crop rotations will also be reviewed. To understand the trade gap, and the opportunities within trade Mercaris has developed data and market insights including the latest organic market production, trade, and price information. An in-depth examination of this data highlights how consumer demand is the driving force behind the booming organic soybean import trend, as well as the opportunities for U.S. organic small grain markets that hide within trade.

SESSION 1 | Chancellor Ballroom | 9:00 - 9:55 AM

HOW FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS CAN WORK TOGETHER TO TRANSITION LEASED LAND (PANEL DISCUSSION)

Moderator: Nathan Aaberg (*Liberty Prairie Foundation*)

Panelists: Harold Wilken (*Janie's Farm Organics*), **Rob Woodrow** (*Farmland Solutions LLC*), **David Miller** (*Iroquois Valley Farms*), **Cecelia Gunther** (*Landowner*)

As ownership transitions from older farmers/landowners to the next generation, there is more scrutiny as to how land, water and the environment is treated. Right now there is a shortage of organic farmers to meet the growing demand for organic grains as well as the land owners who are looking to make changes. In 2001, Herman Brockman approached Harold Wilken to farm 32 acres organically and in 2006, David Miller asked Harold to identify a parcel of land in Danforth Township to transition for a Small Investment group to buy, landowners have been changing the landscape in East Central Illinois. Over the past 18 years, 17 land owners who have become frustrated with GMO's, glyphosate in food, and reliance on chemical fertilizers have approached Harold and Ross to transition their farms to organic. Today, David Miller one of the first landowners and Cecilia Gunther, the most recent landowner will join Harold in a discussion of why they sought this change and the relationships that developed. Rob Woodrow is a farm manager with Farmland Solutions LLC and he will share his insights in navigating landlord/tenant conversations from a farm manager's perspective.

SESSION 1 | Alma Mater Room | 9:00 - 10:55 AM

WHERE IS THE N GOING ON YOUR FARM? A WORKSHOP TO HELP ORGANIC FARMERS MANAGE NITROGEN FOR CROPS, SOILS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Dr. Michelle Wander (*University of Illinois*), **Dr. Heather Darby** (*University of Vermont Extension*), **Ho-young Kwon** (*Argonne National Laboratory*), **Yushu Xia** (*University of Illinois*), **Kelly Aves** (*University of Illinois*), **Emily Marriott** (*University of Illinois*), **Lindsey Ruhl & Penelope Hobbs** (*University of Vermont Extension*)

This workshop will share results from our cover crop sampling campaign and use a nutrient management application to demonstrate how various organic practices impact soil organic matter, soil nitrogen supply to crops, and N loss through leaching and nitrous oxide emissions, before inviting farmers to explore how management factors like the type and timing of tillage and fertilization interact with weather to determine the fate of nitrogen on individual farms.

SESSION 2 | Lincoln Room | 10:00 - 10:55 AM

LEGAL ISSUES FOR ORGANIC GROWERS

Brianna Schroeder (*Janzen Ag Law*)

Organic producers face legal issues particular to their way of growing crops. Pesticide drift and genetic contamination can wreak havoc on a sensitive organic farm. Securing and retaining the organic designation is key. Organic farmers are also subject to common agricultural issues, like contract disputes, employment issues, and zoning questions. This session will give an overview of agricultural legal issues for organic producers with a special focus on pesticide drift and genetic contamination.

SESSION 2 | Chancellor Ballroom | 10:00 - 10:55 AM

LIFTING THE FOG: A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH ORGANIC GRAIN BUYERS

Moderator: Wyatt Muse (*Dirt Road Farm*)

Panelists: Matt Moser (*The Andersons*), **Rick Herzberg** (*Clarkson Grain*), **Anders Gurda** (*Pipeline Foods*), **Barb Barcal** (*All Star Trading*)

Knowing your market options provides opportunity for the organic grower. The traditional grain elevator is the closest point to your farm but most of the time the closest point to your farm is not who buys your organic grain. Organic grain must travel further to reach the right market. Having a trusting relationship that goes both ways is critical to navigating the world of organic grain marketing. At this panel discussion, we will explore the ins and outs of working with various grain buyers so that you can begin to market your organic grain with confidence.

SESSION 3 | Lincoln Room | 2:15 - 3:10 PM

SUCCESSFUL PARALLEL PRODUCTION: HOW TO AVOID COMMON PERILS AND PITFALLS

Randy Hughes (*Hughes Farms*)

Many farmers find it impractical and risky to transition their entire operation to organic production at one time. Transitioning a bit of ground each year helps weather these challenges. Randy Hughes, a producer who manages a 5,000 split operation, will describe how he manages running a parallel production system. This presentation will include the costs associated with transitioning and the potential rewards. Randy will give guidance on field choice, maintaining isolation, equipment considerations, crop insurance difference, questions your banker or landlord might ask, and maintaining records detailing the equipment cleanout process needed to obtain certification.

SESSION 3 | Chancellor Ballroom | 2:15 - 3:10 PM

INTEGRITY OF THE USDA LABEL:

ARE ADD-ON LABELS A GOOD IDEA OR JUST CONFUSING? (PANEL DISCUSSION)

Moderator: Michael O'Donnell (*Purdue University Extension*)

Panelists: George Kalogridis (*Ecocert ICO*), Dr. Francis Thicke (*Radiance Dairy*), Anders Gurda (*Pipeline Foods*)

The USDA Organic label has achieved record-level of awareness and demand among American consumers. But, with this demand has come challenges to its core principles. In response, several groups have put forward alternative, or add-on labels to help differentiate practices and goals (such as the Real Organic Project, Rodale's Regenerative Organic Certification, Savory's Ecological Outcome Verification, among others). This panel discussion will explore this recent trend and its potential implications on consumer awareness and the marketplace.

SESSION 3 | Alma Mater Room | 2:15 - 3:10 PM

PARTICIPATORY BREEDING & TESTING NETWORKS:

A MAIZE BASED CASE STUDY FOR ORGANIC SYSTEMS

Drs. Carmen Ugarte, Martin Bohn, and Michelle Wander (*University of Illinois*); **Binod Ghimire, Christopher Mujjabi, Ece Gulkirpik, and Mario Nunez** (*U of I students*)

This presentation will provide an overview of participatory work that researchers from the University of Illinois and organic grain farmers are conducting to identify factors that influence the performance of organic maize cultivars in the region. We are interested in evaluating high-yielding cultivars that are nutritious, nitrogen efficient, and robust competitors against weeds. In 2018, we established replicated trials at two on-farm locations and evaluated indicators of soil health and their relationship to corn root architecture and overall crop performance. We will share yield and root response to gradients of soil fertility from these two studies. In addition, we will report on the genotype by environment interaction from strip testing at 13 on-farm locations.

SESSION 4 | Lincoln Room | 3:15 - 4:10 PM

OPTIMIZING SOIL HEALTH PROVIDES MORE FERTILITY FOR THE CROP

Dr. Dan Davidson (*Woods End Laboratories/Solvita*)

Soil health is important to maintaining the sustainability of soil and productivity of agriculture. Soil respiration, or carbon mineralization is a common gauge used to assess soil health, microbial activity and to estimate nutrient mineralization. Organic production systems usually have better soil health than conventional production systems due to the use of diverse rotations, manures, composts, teas, and cover crops. This presentation will cover the elements of measuring soil health, nutrient mineralization and availability, importance of carbon cycling and role in improving aggregate stability of soils farmed organically. Growers will leave with a better understanding of how soil health impacts soil productivity, how to measure the impact of practices on soil health, and how to plan a fertility program based on soil health.

SESSION 4 | Chancellor Ballroom | 3:15 - 4:10 PM

THE FUTURE: GROWING THE ORGANIC MARKETS WITH INTEGRITY AND FARM PROFITABILITY IN THE FACE OF WORLD MARKETS, FRAUD, AND TARIFFS

John Bobbe (*OFARM*)

This workshop will discuss growing organic markets, especially for grain in what has now become a world market. Organic grain farmers have lost hundreds of millions of dollars due to depressed prices from fraudulent import shipments. This workshop will address, how it all started, what has been done to date, and what farmers can do to help grow the market demand for domestic organic grain as well as fight organic fraud.

SESSION 4 | Alma Mater Room | 3:15 - 4:10 PM

NITROGEN FIXING CORN: MAKING IT A REALITY

Dr. Walter Goldstein (*Mandaamin Institute*)

Dr. Goldstein will share his work to breed corn with high protein quality and N efficiency/Nitrogen (N₂) fixation and ongoing efforts to test the hybrids on organic farms. Microbial relationships with corn that enable N₂ fixation will be described based on the scientific literature and on Dr. Goldstein's work. The basis for N efficiency and protein quality in the Mandaamin Institute cultivars appear to be due to shifts in root efficiency, microbial relationships, and protein metabolism. Results are greater nutrient value of grain and greater N efficiency for plants. These are probably based on the corn plant's responses to reducing fertilization, including fostering beneficial plant/microbial partnerships. Results indicate the potential and importance of breeding under biodynamic-organic conditions and utilizing 'emergent' evolution processes that occurred under N-limited, biodynamic-organic conditions.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS | 1:00 - 2:15 PM

Roundtable discussions will convene in the Alma Mater Room immediately after lunch. This is a space and time where you can gather with small groups of people to discuss your thoughts and have your burning questions answered on a number of topics.

USING COMPOST IN ORGANIC SYSTEMS

Moderator: Randy & Crystal Clair (*Sunset Lake Organics*)

Fertility management in organic systems requires creative thinking. Many farmers are turning to compost as a soil building amendment that can help produce vigorous healthy crops. The Clair's have used compost on their farm for more than five years and are eager to share their experiences.

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

Moderator: David Hettenbach (*Nature's International Certification Services*)

Organic certification expert David Hettenbach is available to answer any and all of your burning questions from choosing a certifier to crafting an organic systems plan.

WILDLIFE AND THE FARM

Moderator: Dallas Glazik (*Pheasants Forever*)

An amazing benefit of organic production systems is the support of wildlife on the farm. Dallas Glazik is available to speak to interested farmers about the benefits of wildlife on the farm and ways they can enhance habitat to support natural systems.

WHEN RIGHT TO FARM DOESN'T INCLUDE ORGANIC GRAIN

Moderator: Liz Stelk (*Illinois Stewardship Alliance*)

Organic grain farms don't operate in a bubble -- the actions of our neighbors, especially nearby farmers, often have big and lasting impacts on our operation and our organic certification. Join organic grain farmers Crystal and Randy Clair of Adams County and Brian Severson of Grundy County for a roundtable conversation about bad neighbors and what organic growers face to defend their right to farm.

THANK YOU



Thank you to Prairie Rivers Network for the use of their equipment to video record the sessions. This will allow more sessions to be available online to those around the country who could not attend.

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SPEAKERS



Nathan Aaberg (*Liberty Prairie Foundation*)

After a business career, Nathan Aaberg has worked for Friends of the Chicago River, Conserve Lake County, and now for the Liberty Prairie Foundation (LPF). Located in the Prairie Crossing conservation community in Grayslake, Illinois, LPF has launched a variety of sustainable farming and food programs from its 100-acre organic farm. Nathan leads LPF's land access activities, funded by Food:Land:Opportunity. A key tool for this work will be the Northeast Illinois FarmLink website (www.illinoisfarmlink.org). This site is scheduled to be launched by the time of this conference. In light of the large percentage of land leased out for agriculture in Illinois, Nathan has been keenly interested in questions around land access, sustainable farming, and farmer-landowner relationships. One of those questions is how more landowners (both public and private) can be inspired and equipped to enhance the stewardship of their farmland. Another is how to help farmers and landowners work out close, rewarding partnerships around a deep commitment to the health of the land and translate those shared values into good, practical leases. Along the lines of this second question, LPF, in partnership with The Land Conservancy of McHenry County, is organizing a workshop entitled "Building Good Relationships and Good Leases" on Saturday, February 16, in McHenry County.



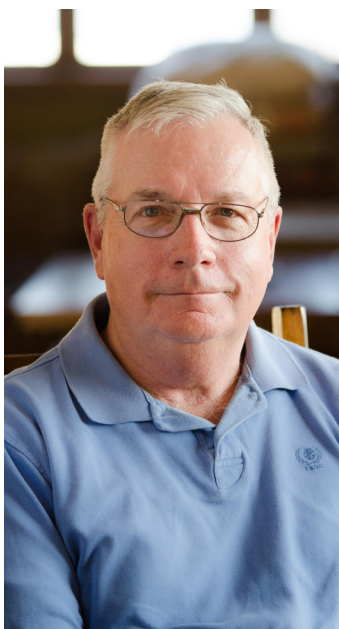
Kelly Aves (*University of Illinois*)

Kelly Aves is a graduating senior at University of Illinois and analyzed cover crop data being for Dr. Wander's "Organic Decision Tools" project, which is being used to improve model estimates of plant available N.



Barb Barcal (*All Star Trading*)

For the past 10 years, Barb has been helping organic farmers bring their grains to market and get fair prices as a grain trader for All Star Trading. Prior to her work in grain marketing, Barb worked in advertising, sales, and marketing in Chicago for 14 years. Barb feels privileged to have been a stay-at-home mom until she entered the advertising business at age 39.



John Bobbe (*OFARM*)

John Bobbe is the Executive Director of the Organic Farmers' Agency for Relationship Marketing (OFARM Inc.), an organic grain and livestock marketing cooperative with organic producer members in 19 states. John is the author of "Marketing Organic Grain, A Farmer's Guide" which has received positive reviews from organic grain farmers in the U.S. He has met with European organic leaders and spoke at the international conference "Maintaining Integrity of Organic Supply Chains" in Odesa, Ukraine, in September 2017 and was invited to speak on a panel before the National Organic Standards Board about maintaining organic integrity and combating organic fraud. He holds a master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri-Columbia and taught economics at Silver Lake College in Wisconsin for 25 years. He and his wife own a third-generation Wisconsin family farm and the Bobbe Sawmill and Lumber Company. In his work on organic integrity and fighting organic fraud, he has met with organic leaders in Europe and Western Asia. OFARM has found and tracked more ships in its quest to combat organic fraud and filed more complaints with USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) than any other organization. In his position as OFARM's executive director, he has worked with sustainable and organic organizations representing farmers and consumers and legislators in Congress from both political parties to get action on maintaining organic integrity.

SPEAKERS



Heather Darby (*University of Vermont Extension*)

Heather Darby is an Extension agronomist at the University of Vermont Extension who leads development of the 'goCrop' application which uses integrated web and mobile applications to help farmers plan, analyze and report nutrient management practices.



Dr. Dan Davidson (*Woods End Laboratories / Solvita*)

Dr. Dan Davidson is an agronomist who has worked in research, communications, education, and technology transfer. He was staff agronomist for DTN as well as Director of Research for the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA). Currently, he works as an agronomist and consultant for companies and is an Associate of Woods End Laboratories in Mt. Vernon, Maine. He has a passion for soil health. He delivers presentations on soil health topics, evaluates metrics for characterizing soil health and tests products and practices that improve soil health. He was raised on a farm in Northeast Nebraska and is the managing partner in a corn, soybean and hay operation and strives to adopt biological practices into a commercial farm.



Dr. Walter Goldstein (*Mandaamin Institute*)

Since 1989, Walter Goldstein, Ph.D. has been breeding hybrids with high protein quality and carotene content in their grain. He also breeds for Nitrogen efficiency/Nitrogen fixation. Dr. Goldstein was research director at Michael Fields Agricultural Institute in Wisconsin for 25 years, founded the Mandaamin Institute in 2011, and the Nokomis Gold Seed Company in 2016. He cooperates with UI to test hybrids on organic farms and is working to develop a quality crop association.



Anders Gurda (*Pipeline Foods*)

Anders joined Pipeline Foods in 2017 to help build the Farm Profit Program, a comprehensive suite of resources that seeks to address each of the many challenges a farmer faces when transitioning to organic production. Anders also founded the Organic Grain Resources and Information Network (OGRIN), a program housed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison that provides resources and creates grower networks throughout the Upper Midwest. He's worked as a research scientist in organic and sustainable cropping systems, interfacing with farmers at all scales and cropping systems, gaining valuable insight into the challenges and opportunities for farmers exploring regenerative agriculture. Farmer-focused and farmer-generated content are the hallmarks of good extension and research, guiding the programs that Anders creates and informing solid educational design. Anders holds a B.S. in Ecotheology from Northland College and an M.S. in Agroecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Rick Herzberg (*Clarkson Grain*)

Rick Herzberg is Director of Merchandising for Clarkson Grain Company in Cerro Gordo, IL. Clarkson Grain excels in developing specialized logistics solutions to deliver identity-preserved, non-GMO, organic and variety-specific grains to customers throughout the world. A thirty-year veteran of the grain industry, Rick has been involved in grain merchandising, commercial cattle feeding, wheat flour milling and has experience in accounting and control and information technologies as they relate to the grain industry. His passion lies in the markets and the economics of the agriculture industry. Participation in the non-GMO and organic grain markets is relatively new to Rick, having only been involved since joining Clarkson August 2018.



David Hettenbach (*Nature's International Certification Services*)

David got into organic agriculture working for seven years on a 75-acre produce operation in southern Wisconsin. He obtained a B.S. in agronomy from University of Wisconsin-Madison, and moved on to work at Madison's USDA Dairy Forage Research Center. His first work in organic certification was with CCOF in Santa Cruz, California, and he's been in his current position with NICS, conducting inspections and doing certification reviews, for about three years.



Penelope Hobbs

Penelope Hobbs is an independent Web and Mobile Developer working with Dr. Wander's "Organic Decision Tools" team to develop the N for crop growth and environment interface.



Randy Hughes (*Hughes Farms*)

Randy Hughes is a fifth-generation farmer raised on his family's farm in Janesville, Wisconsin. He has been farming some of the same land his great great grandfather once managed over 150 years ago. Today, Hughes Farms is a 5000 acre parallel production farm raising row crops, small grains, and specialty crops. Randy attended the University of Wyoming and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. After college, he moved back to Janesville to join his Dad farming. He then went on to marry his wonderful wife, Judy, and have two kids. Randy converted his first acres to organic in 1991, and has been running a parallel operation ever since. He is currently managing about 3,800 acres conventionally and 1,200 organically. In addition to farming, Randy also produces and distributes a value-added product. The organic blue corn that he grows is used in the production of his own brand of blue corn chips known as Blue Farm Tortilla Chips. Randy's mission at Hughes Farms is to produce wholesome food in an environmentally sustainable way. Randy, along with his family and crew, strive to have a good quality of life that exemplifies solid family and community values. They pride themselves on being a prompt, organized, safe and a well-maintained operation ready to tackle any challenge.



George Kalogridis (*Ecocert ICO*)

George has been active in Organics since the late 1980's when he opened the first Organic Produce Wholesale Market in Plant City Florida. Eighteen months later, a devastating freeze put an end to that venture. But he quickly found a home with a start up in VT, the first Organic Baby Food company, Earth's Best. As VP of Grower Operations, he instituted a policy to only buy ingredients from Certified Organic Growers. In the late 80's certification was not common and there was a lot of grower resentment for supporting "Corporate Organics". In 1991, George started Ojai Organics International; for 18 years he supplied Organic ingredients to processors and packaged good companies worldwide. As a Certified Organic farmer, he managed 65 acres of mixed citrus and 100 acres of small grains & oil seeds. After an extended health crisis George joined ECOCERT ICO LLC in 2012; he coordinated Transitional Organics at Clarkson Grain and currently works at ECOCERT as a Certification Officer.



Since the 80's, George has been active in the development of Organic Standards and Regulations: He was a founding member of the Florida Organic Growers and the Florida State Organic Committee; was a Former Board Member of the Organic Trade Association, he also served as Chair of OTA's Manufacturing Processing Packaging and Labeling Committee, Chaired the GMO task force and recently was a member of the OTA Fraud task force. He's worked on developing and updating USDA Organic Regulations since the 90's.

SPEAKERS



Ryan Koory (*Mercaris*)

With more than six years' experience providing custom market analytics and strategic pricing forecasts to stakeholders in the agricultural supply chain, Ryan brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to the Mercaris team. Previously with IHS Markit, Ryan developed econometric models forecasting US and global agricultural markets for top global agriculture businesses. While studying Agricultural Economics, Ryan joined IHS Markit as a graduate research assistant, before being promoted to Senior Economist, focusing on delivering livestock, dairy, and biofuels market analytics. Ryan has also produced research focusing on the impacts of weather, technology, policy, trade, population demographics, and culture on global agricultural markets. Ryan studied economics at Missouri State University and the University of Missouri-Columbia.



Mallory Krieger (*The Land Connection*)

Mallory Krieger is the Farmer Training Manager at The Land Connection. Mallory is the founder and lead organizer of the Organic Grain Conference, co-chair of the Organic Agronomy Training Series (OATS), and member of the policy committee for the Organic Farmers Association (OFA). Through her work with TLC, Mallory strives to facilitate community building and networking opportunities for organic and regenerative farmers. Mallory is also the principal investigator of a SARE funded research project exploring farmer decision-making regarding conservation farming practices.



Hoyoung Kwon (*Argonne National Laboratory*)

Hoyoung Kwon is the Principal Environmental Analyst at Argonne National Lab's Systems Assessment Group for the Energy Systems Division and is working with Dr. Wander on the "Organic Decision Tools" project.



Emily Marriott (*University of Illinois*)

Emily Marriott is a liaison with eOrganic and a project coordinator for the "Organic Decision Tools" project with Dr. Wander.



Matt Moser (*The Andersons*)

Matt Moser has been with The Andersons since 2017. Since joining The Andersons, Matt has originated, merchandised, and researched both conventional and organic grains. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Ashland University, a Master of Business Administration and Doctorate in Leadership from Bowling Green State University. Currently, Matt is the Ingredient Account Manager of Organic and Specialty Feed and Food.



Wyatt Muse (*Dirt Road Farm*)

Wyatt Muse farms a combination of organic and conventional row crops in Champaign County, Illinois. He has 15 years experience working in the grain industry at elevators and as a trader of organic grains. Wyatt grew up in Montecello and graduated from the University of Illinois. He started his career in the conventional grain industry and gained his first real exposure to specialty grains in 2006. By 2009, Wyatt was completely focused on organic and specialty grains in his career at Clarkson Grain. As his organic production came into certification, Wyatt left the office life to gain the time he needed to focus on his growing farm.



Michael O'Donnell (*Purdue University Extension*)

Michael O'Donnell is an Organic and Diversified Agriculture Educator with Purdue University Extension. He organized many educational opportunities for Indiana and midwestern farmers including the Indiana Small Farms Conference, the Indiana Organic Farmer Meeting, and co-chair of the Organic Agronomy Training Series (OATS).



Lindsay Ruhl (*University of Vermont Extension*)

Lindsay Ruhl, with University of Vermont Extension, contributes research, data collection, and outreach activities to the "Organic Decision Tools" project led by Dr. Wander.



Brianna Schroeder (*Janzen Ag Law*)

Brianna grew up on a family farm in northeastern Indiana. Now she focuses her legal practice working for farmers and agribusinesses. Brianna has litigated complex environmental and agricultural matters, including insurance coverage, regulatory compliance, tort claims, zoning appeals, and employment claims. Brianna also negotiates and drafts contracts for agricultural companies and farms, including farm leases, employment agreements, sales agreements, and privacy contracts. She is licensed in Indiana and Illinois and has represented a wide variety of clients from start-up companies and livestock farmers to large agricultural businesses, vineyards, and trade groups.



Dr. Francis Thicke (*Radiance Dairy*)

Francis Thicke, with his wife Susan, is the owner and operator of a 730-acre organic dairy and crop farm near Fairfield, Iowa. They process the milk from their 90 Jerseys on the farm and market organic dairy products through local grocery stores and restaurants. Francis first began farming organically in Minnesota in 1975. In the 1980s, he completed a Ph.D. in agronomy/soil fertility and then served as National Program Leader for Soil Science for the USDA Extension Service in Washington, D.C. He has been farming organically in Iowa for the past 27 years. Francis recently completed a five-year term on the National Organic Standards Board. Currently, he serves as Chair of the Policy Committee of the Organic Farmers Association. He also serves as Chair of the Standards Board of the newly formed Real Organic Project.



Dr. Carmen Ugarte (*University of Illinois*)

Carmen Ugarte was born and raised in southern Bolivia on a peach farm. She received her B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Zamorano University, Honduras, MSc and PhD in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from the University of Illinois with a focus on soil biology and ecology. Currently, Carmen works at the University of Illinois as a Research Specialist in Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Biology in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. Her research focuses on understanding the effects of soil management practices on soil quality and function. She is especially interested in studying the dynamics of soil food webs and their influence on soil ecosystem services such as nutrient cycling, carbon storage, and the regulation of population densities of deleterious soil organisms. Carmen is the Project Director of a USDA NIFA-funded project that investigates the biotic and abiotic factors influencing corn performance in organic farming systems.

SPEAKERS



Dr. Michelle Wander (*University of Illinois*)

Michelle Wander, is a soil scientist and Professor of Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Illinois who leads this "Organic Decision Tools" project which was funded by USDA's Organic Transitions Program.



Rob Woodrow (*Farmland Solutions, LLC*)

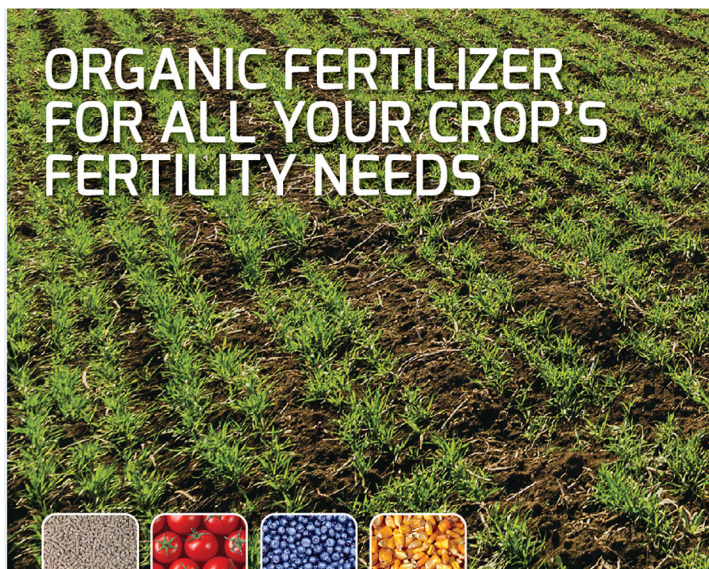
Rob Woodrow is a partner at Farmland Solutions, LLC where he provides professional farm management and farm real estate brokerage services. Rob provides organic farm management for absentee landowners using a production system of three-year crop rotations, cover crops, legumes, no-till, and rolled rye to help landowners convert their ground into certified organic production.



Yushu Xia (*University of Illinois*)

Yushu Xia is a PhD student at the University of Illinois, whose research is contributing to PCSOM development and its on-farm validation and is a contributor to Dr. Wander's "Organic Decision Tools" project.

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AgriEnergy Resources

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320 E. South Street, PO Box 80, Cerro Gordo, IL 61818

Rick Herzberg | rick.herzberg@clarksongrain.com | www.clarksongrain.com

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Antoine Mathieu | antoine.mathieu@ecocert.com | www.ecocertico.com

Ecocert is the global leader in the certification of organic farming and organic cosmetics. Ecocert has specialized in the certification of organic agricultural products and has diversified its range of services to include organic and natural cosmetics, ecoproducts, fair trade, inputs, etc.

EXHIBITORS

Grain Millers

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Grain Millers, Inc. is a leader in the manufacturing of whole-grain ingredients and whole-grain food products, with mills and locations in the US and Canada. We utilize state of the art technologies and systems to manufacture myriad flakes, fibers, brans, and flours with a high degree of customization for many larger and smaller food companies – conventional, gluten free, Non-GMO, and organic grain based products. We source the majority of our grains directly from farmers and work closely with them to ensure the highest quality grain and food ingredients.

Illinois Farm Bureau

1701 Towanda Ave, Bloomington, IL 61702

Raghela Scavuzzo | rscavuzzo@ilfb.org | www.ilfb.org

Illinois Farm Bureau is a voluntary membership organization with over 400,000 members. Agriculture is more than farming -- it's the food on our plate, a safe food system, and a strong business environment in Illinois.

Illinois Stewardship Alliance

230 S Broadway, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701

Liz Stelk | liz@ilstewards.org | www.ilstewards.org

Illinois Stewardship Alliance is a statewide membership organization based in Springfield. Our mission is to grow and expand an economically and socially just local food and farm system in our state and keep family farmers as stewards of our natural resources. Our Buy Fresh Buy Local program drives demand for local food, our Conservation program promotes soil health practices and training soil health champion farmers, and our Policy program advances local food and sustainable agriculture policy at the state and federal level.



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Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES)

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The Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) provides education, resources, and practical advice to encourage farmers' success in sustainable, organic production. The nonprofit's flagship event, the MOSES Organic Farming Conference, is the country's largest event on organic agriculture. It takes place every February in Wisconsin.

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Rachel Jackson | rjackson@pipelinefoods.com | www.pipelinefoods.com

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Prairie Hybrids

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Prairie Hybrids is a family owned business, specializing in non-GMO and organic seed corn. Prairie Hybrids was started by our grandfather, H.W. Hostetler in 1970. Two generations later, we are fortunate to carry on the family business. Our goal is to provide seed that enables the farmer to grow a crop that is environmentally healthy for the soil, animals, and humans. Our hybrids are selected and produced with your family in mind.

Saddle Butte Ag - Forage and Cover Crop Seeds

Brian Wieland | brian@saddlebutte.com | www.saddlebutte.com

Saddle Butte Ag is a family owned and operated seed company located in the beautiful Willamette Valley in the state of Oregon. The farm has over 60 years of experience in production, processing, packaging and shipping forage and cover crop seeds utilized throughout the US and internationally. Saddle Butte Ag has consistently been in the forefront of the cover crop and forage seed market and our customers can be assured of the highest quality seed. Our "family" remains committed to helping our customers achieve higher returns through more productive soils and crops. Our brands include Bio Till Cover Crops and 360 Forages offering a wide variety of proprietary and common products as well as custom mixes with several warehouses and mixing facilities to serve our growing customer base.

Terramera

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Mallory Krieger | mallory@thelandconnection.org | www.thelandconnection.org

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Will Brinton & Dan Davidson | solvita@woodsends.com | www.solvita.com

Woods End Soil Lab is the developer of Solvita Soil Tests and offers independent Soil Health Testing designed for organic growers.

Yorktown Organics, LLC

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