

2019 Indiana Organic Grain Farmer Meeting **DRAFT Agenda**

[Join us](#) for Indiana's only organic grain-focused educational and networking conference!

Wednesday and Thursday, March 6-7, 2019
[Beck Agricultural Center](#), 4550 U.S. 52 W, West Lafayette, IN 47906



Extension
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

www.purdue.edu/dffs/organicag/



IDEA Farm Network
ideas, experience, community

www.jaspercountyswcd.org/ • www.regenerateillinois.org/ifn

Day 1 – Transition to Organic Grain Production Workshop

Wednesday, March 6 (all times Eastern)

8:30 am Registration

9:00 Welcome, Opening remarks

Introduction to Organic Grain Production

Michael O'Donnell, Extension Educator, Organic & Diversified Agriculture
Purdue Extension

10:00 **Farmer Panel – Introduction to panelists' farms**

Jack Geiger, [Geiger Farm](#), Kansas
Thor Oechsner, [Oechsner Farms](#), New York
Andy Ambriole, [Bio-Steward Farms](#), Indiana
Joe Mills, [Mills Livestock Farm](#), Indiana
Moderator – Dan Perkins, Jasper County SWCD

11:00 Break

11:10 **Certification to the National Organic Program (NOP)**

Brad Schnitz, Certification Officer, [Ecocert ICO](#)
Mark Seeley, [OnMark Certification Services](#)

12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 **Farmer Panel (same as above) – Certification experiences**

- 1:30 **Organic Crop Budgets and Financials of Transition**
Michael Langemeier, Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics
Purdue University
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 **Organic Grain Prices and Market Trends**
Ariana Torres, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
Nick Lancaster, Graduate Student, Department of Agricultural Economics
Purdue University
- 3:00 **Organic Grain Buyer panel**
Lamar Bontrager, WOLF Coop
Craig Tomera, Grain Millers
Meaghan Berry, Wholesome Grain Solutions / Tri-State Crush
Matthew Moser, The Andersons
- 3:30 **The Basic Tools and Transition Strategies in Organic Grain Production**
Michael O'Donnell, Extension Educator, Organic & Diversified Agriculture
Purdue Extension
Dan Perkins, Jasper County SWCD and IDEA Farm Network
- 4:10 Break
- 4:20 **The Right Mindset**
Jack Geiger, [Geiger Farm](#), Kansas
- 4:50 **Farmer Panel (same as above) – Transition, Production, and Marketing Q&A**
- 5:45 -6:00 Closing remarks, Evaluation

Informal networking at location TBD at 6:30 pm.

Day 2 – Indiana Organic Grain Farmer Meeting

Thursday, March 7 (all times Eastern)

- 8:00 am Registration, Light Breakfast, Visit with exhibitors
- 8:30 Welcome, Opening remarks
- Morning General Session
Diverse Crop Rotations and Value-Added Markets
Thor Oechsner, [Oechsner Farms](#), New York
- 9:45 Exhibitor break

- 10:15 *Breakout A:*
Small Grains, Alternative Grains, and Value-Added Food-Grade Production:
 Getting into the details of production and markets
 (10:15-11:15)
 Thor Oechsner, [Oechsner Farms](#), New York
- Managing Stored Organic Grains**
 (11:15-12:15)
 Klein Ileleji, Professor and Extension Specialist, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Purdue University
- Breakout B:*
Better Hay the Organic Way:
 Dairy-quality hay production and diverse crop rotations at Woodlyn Acres Farm
 (10:15-11:15)
 Scott Myers, [Woodlyn Acres Farm, LLC](#)
- Grow Your Own Nitrogen:**
 Leveraging diverse rotations to manage nutrients and reduce input costs
 (11:15-12:15)
 Sandy Syburg, [White Oak Farm](#)
- 12:15 pm Lunch
 Visit with exhibitors
- 1:30 *Breakout C:*
Organic Weed Management
 (1:30-3:30)
 Gary McDonald, [Organic Resources](#)
- Breakout D:*
Organic Grain Markets Update
 (1:30-2:30)
 Ryan Koory, Senior Economist, Mercaris
- Navigating your Organic Insurance Options**
 (2:30-3:30)
 Roxann Brixen, Regional Crop Underwriting Manager, Great American Insurance Group
- 3:30 Exhibitor break
- 4:00 Afternoon General Session
Organic Grain Farming: Staying in it for the Long Haul
 Jack Geiger, [Geiger Farm](#), Kansas
 Gary McDonald, [Organic Resources](#)
 Thor Oechsner, [Oechsner Farms](#), New York
 TBD
- 5:00 -5:30 Closing comments
 Network and visit with exhibitors

Register today! <http://www.conf.purdue.edu/organicgrainmeeting>
Questions? Contact Michael O'Donnell at 765-284-8414 or modonnel@purdue.edu.

Thank you to our meeting sponsors!



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