



# Organic Grain Conference & Trade Show 2020

## PROGRAM

### FEBRUARY 5-6

I Hotel & Conference Center | Champaign, IL



— THE LAND —  
CONNECTION

## WELCOME

---

Dear Conference Participants,

Welcome to Champaign, Illinois for the 4th annual Organic Grain Conference & Trade Show! On behalf of The Land Connection staff, board of directors, and the many individuals who have worked to bring this conference to fruition, we are delighted for you to join us as we explore opportunities and challenges surrounding organic grain. This year's conference has a variety of great breakout sessions, workshops, roundtable discussions, and an exciting keynote address by David Vetter of Grain Place, Inc., all designed to spark curiosity, inspire questions, motivate discussion, and encourage us all to think about our current practices and opportunities for improvement.

We know that the demand for organic grain is growing, and in the Midwest, we are well-positioned to help meet this demand. But beyond the need in consumer markets, the need for responsible practices that promote the health and well-being of our bodies and environment is urgent. When we look out across our landscape neatly carved into productive fields, we can see the immense potential of this asset. Not only do our farms support families, communities, and local economies, but they also support wildlife, filter our water, pull carbon into the ground, and show us the potential of the world we live in.

We at The Land Connection are committed to supporting farmers as they create economically viable, environmentally responsible enterprises. We strive to provide high-quality resources, trainings, and opportunities to connect to each other and new ideas. Thank you for joining us for two days of organic grain insight. I hope that you enjoy yourself, learn something new, and make connections that will support you in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



**Cassidy Dellorto-Blackwell**

*Farmer Training Program Manager*

*The Land Connection*

## THANK YOU

---

Thank you for the insight, guidance, and support of all those that made this possible.

**Special thanks to:**

Dave Bishop | Brian Carlson | Jacquelyn Evers | Will Glazik

Taidghin O'Brien | Nicole Philyaw | Harold Wilken

*All of our volunteers, presenters, sponsors, and you!*

# SAVE THE DATE!

February 10-11, 2021

I Hotel & Conference Center, Champaign, IL

ILLINOIS  
**OGC**  
2021



Thanks for joining us, we hope to see you again next year as we explore insights and advancements in organic grain.

## DAY 1 - AGENDA

CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW | 9:00 A.M. - 6:30 P.M.

9:00 A.M.

REGISTRATION | REFRESHMENTS

10:00 A.M.

MORNING SESSION

PT. 1 - NAVIGATING THE ORGANIC  
CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Mark Seeley, OnMark Certification Services LLC

LINCOLN ROOM

MORNING SESSION

PT. 1 - UTILIZING A SYSTEMS APPROACH  
TO WEED MANAGEMENT

Sandy Syburg, Purple Cow Organics

QUAD ROOM

12:00 P.M.

LUNCH | TRADE SHOW OPENS  
ILLINOIS BALLROOM

1:00 P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION

PT. 2 - NAVIGATING THE ORGANIC  
CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Mark Seeley, OnMark Certification Services LLC

LINCOLN ROOM

AFTERNOON SESSION

PT. 2 - UTILIZING A SYSTEMS APPROACH  
TO WEED MANAGEMENT

Sandy Syburg, Purple Cow Organics

QUAD ROOM

5:00 P.M.

LOCAL BEER & SPIRITS MIXER | TRADE SHOW  
SCREENING OF DREAMING OF A VETTER WORLD  
ILLINOIS BALLROOM

6:30 P.M.

ADJOURN

SEE BACK COVER FOR THE CONFERENCE MAP

## DAY 1 - SESSIONS

LINCOLN ROOM | 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

### NAVIGATING THE ORGANIC CERTIFICATION PROCESS

**Mark Seeley**, *OnMark Certification Services LLC*

The aim of this workshop is to provide an overview of the transition to organic production and the process of getting National Organic Program certification. Topics will include the transition period and eligible land, material inputs, recordkeeping, traceability, and the annual certification process. Items of discussion will cover what to expect when applying for certification, including the on-site inspection.

#### ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

- 10:00 National Organic Program (NOP) Overview
- 10:30 Transitioning to NOP Certification
- 11:00 BREAK
- 11:15 Organic Records 101: What to Have, Keep, and Maintain for NOP Certification
- 12:00 LUNCH | TRADE SHOW OPENS
- 1:00 1st Year NOP Memories: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly  
*Panel Discussion with Will Glazik and Ross Wilken*
- 2:00 On-Farm Inspection Process - What to Expect and Prepare For
- 2:45 BREAK | TRADE SHOW
- 3:00 Ongoing NOP Compliance Issues: Annual Process
- 3:45 BREAK | TRADE SHOW
- 4:00 Best Practices from the Field  
*Panel Discussion with Dave Campbell, Will Glazik, and Ross Wilken*
- 5:00 BEER & SPIRITS MIXER | TRADE SHOW

QUAD ROOM | 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

### UTILIZING A SYSTEMS APPROACH TO WEED MANAGEMENT

**Sandy Syburg**, *Purple Cow Organics*

This workshop will cover cultivation history's nuggets of wisdom, as well as state of the art technology. The goal of the workshop is to develop a better understanding of weed ecology from a farmer's (layman) perspective.

#### ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

- 10:00 Introduction
- 10:30 Cultivation History
- 11:00 BREAK
- 11:15 Modern Day Cultivation Tools & Techniques
- 12:00 LUNCH | TRADE SHOW OPENS
- 1:00 Seed: Planting Conditions, Planting Rates, and Variety Choices
- 2:00 Things a Farmer Can Do to Control Weeds That Do Not Require Iron, Horsepower and Diesel Fuel
- 3:30 BREAK | TRADE SHOW
- 3:45 The Future of Cultivation: Cameras, Robots and Beyond
- 4:30 Resources, Questions, and Answers
- 5:00 BEER & SPIRITS MIXER | TRADE SHOW

## DAY 2 - AGENDA

### CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW | 8:00 A.M. - 4:45 P.M.

|            |   |   |  |
|------------|---|---|--|
| 8:00 A.M.  | REGISTRATION   REFRESHMENTS   TRADE SHOW<br>ILLINOIS BALLROOM   |   |  |
| 8:30 A.M.  | WELCOME - Cassidy Dellorto-Blackwell, <i>The Land Connection</i><br>OPENING REMARKS - Ivan Dozier, <i>Illinois State Conservationist, NRCS</i><br>CHANCELLOR BALLROOM |   |  |
|            | LINCOLN ROOM  | CHANCELLOR ROOM   | QUAD ROOM  |
| 9:00 A.M.  | BUILDING A SUPPLY CHAIN FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS<br><b>Tory Dahlhoff</b> , <i>Greater Peoria Economic Development Council</i>                      | TIPS FOR THE TRANSITION: Lessons Learned in Transitioning to Organic [PANEL DISCUSSION]<br><b>Moderator: David Hettenbach</b> , <i>NICS</i> | REVOLUTIONIZING CONSERVATION IN THE AG INDUSTRY THROUGH S.T.A.R.<br><b>Bruce Henrikson</b> , <i>Champaign Co. Soil &amp; Water Conservation District</i> |
| 10:00 P.M. | BREAK   TRADE SHOW  |   |  |
| 10:15 A.M. | MIDWESTERN GRAIN VALUE CHAINS: From Lab, to Mill, to Baker [PANEL DISCUSSION]<br><b>Moderator: Alyssa Hartmann</b> , <i>Artisan Grain Collaborative</i>               | FARMING SYSTEM STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN ORGANICS<br><b>Dr. Joel Gruver</b> , <i>School of Agriculture, Western Illinois University</i>     | QUANTIFYING THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF SOIL HEALTH<br><b>Dr. Emily Bruner</b> , <i>American Farmland Trust</i>                           |
| 11:15 A.M. | BREAK   TRADE SHOW  |   |  |
| 11:30 A.M. | TRANSITIONING TO REGENERATIVE ORGANIC: The First 45 Years. What's Next?<br><b>David Vetter</b> , <i>Grain Place Foods, Inc.</i><br>ILLINOIS BALLROOM                  |   |  |
| 12:30 P.M. | LUNCH   TRADE SHOW<br>ILLINOIS BALLROOM   |   |  |
| 1:00 P.M.  | SCREENING OF <i>DREAMING OF A VETTER WORLD</i> [77 MINUTE RUN TIME]<br>CHANCELLOR BALLROOM  |   |  |
| 1:30 P.M.  | ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS<br>QUAD ROOM   |   |  |
|            | LINCOLN ROOM  | CHANCELLOR ROOM   | QUAD ROOM  |
| 2:30 P.M.  | IS YOUR FARM STORY COMPLETE?<br><b>Arthur Littlefield, MBA &amp; Dennis Hens</b> , <i>CFP, MBA, Lincoln Financial Agribusiness Services</i>                           | MAKING CARBON OFFSETS WORK FOR FARMERS<br><b>Sam Schiller</b> , <i>Carbon Yield</i>   | CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADDING NEW CROPS TO YOUR ROTATION [PANEL DISCUSSION]<br><b>Moderator: Anders Gurda</b> , <i>Pipeline Foods</i>                        |
| 3:30 P.M.  | BREAK   TRADE SHOW  |   |  |
| 3:45 P.M.  | FARMLAND ACQUISITION VIA SELF-DIRECTED IRA<br><b>Wyatt Muse</b> , <i>Farmer &amp; Cash Grain Broker</i>   | THINGS I WISH I HAD KNOWN BEFORE I BOUGHT MY FIRST TRACTOR [PANEL DISCUSSION]<br><b>Moderator: Will Glazik</b> , <i>J&amp;W Organic</i>     | PAINLESS PARALLEL: Organic Certification Tips for Split Production<br><b>David Hettenbach</b> , <i>Nature's International Certification Services</i>     |
| 4:45 P.M.  | ADJOURN   |   |  |

SEE BACK COVER FOR THE CONFERENCE MAP

## DAY 2 - SESSIONS

### CHANCELLOR BALLROOM

#### 8:30 | WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

**Cassidy Dellorto-Blackwell**, *The Land Connection*

**Ivan Dozier**, *Illinois State Conservationist, NRCS*

#### 9:00 | TIPS FOR THE TRANSITION: Lessons Learned in Transitioning to Organic [PANEL DISCUSSION]

**Moderator: David Hettenbach**, *Nature's International Certification Services, Inc.*

**Panelists: Brian Carlson**, *Carlson Farm*; **Erik Weigand**, *Earlybird Feed and Fertilizer*

Considering a transition to organic production but not sure where to start or who to call? In this panel we'll walk through some dos and don'ts for transitioning ground to organic production. We'll talk about different strategies for organic transitions, from picking out what ground to transition first, to what to do once you've identified some acreage you'd like to transition. We'll also touch on different methods for record keeping during your transition, as well as what to expect at your first inspection and how to make it a success. You'll hear from other farmers and advisors on what they have learned working through the organic transition process and things they might have done differently if starting over. Join us for a discussion that will give you some helpful strategies when planning your own organic transition.

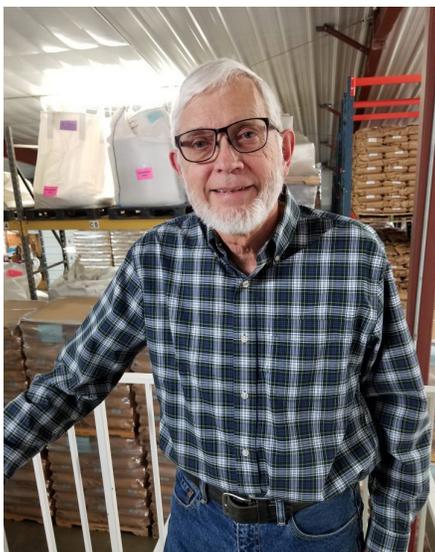
#### 10:15 | FARMING SYSTEM STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN ORGANICS

**Dr. Joel Gruver**, *School of Agriculture, Western Illinois University*

This presentation will explore how crop/cover crop diversity and sequencing, crop/cover crop row spacing including solar corridors, tillage rotations, integrated crop-livestock systems, and other farming system strategies are used to effectively manage weeds, pests, nutrient availability, and soil/crop health on successful organic grain farms across the Midwest region, including Western Illinois University's Organic Research farm.

#### [KEYNOTE ADDRESS]

#### 11:30 | TRANSITIONING TO REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE: The First 45 Years. What's Next?



**David Vetter**, *Grain Place Foods, Inc.*

David Vetter, President and CEO of Grain Place Foods, has been living an ongoing experiment in how to grow food in a way that is both regenerative to the soil and economically viable for the people who farm. He originally pursued a call to missionary service after college, which eventually led him back home to the family farm in Marquette, Nebraska to try farming methods that would improve the quality of the soil. That was 1975. His steadfast commitment has driven him past innumerable challenges and obstacles to develop an infrastructure for the marketing of organic grains in our area.

The mission of Grain Place Foods is to provide to its customers grain products that are grown and produced in an ecologically sustainable and socially responsible manner – with the conviction that how your food is produced does matter! In 2016, the Rodale Institute named him an Organic Pioneer, and the

Organic Trade Association awarded him with the Organic Leadership Award. In 2011, the Vetter family was named Organic Farmers of the Year by the Midwest Organic Sustainable Education Service (MOSES). David Vetter's journey as an organic farmer is told in an inspiring new documentary by filmmaker Bonnie Hawthorne, *Dreaming of a Vetter World*, whose executive producer is noted film actor, Steve Buscemi. David continues to live on the farm, and with his wife, Rogean, he raised his three children there: Allison, Darci and Madison.

## 1:00 | DREAMING OF A VETTER WORLD

[FILM SCREENING - 77 MINUTE RUN TIME]

*Dreaming of a Vetter World* comes at a time when interest in farming organically and regenerating soil has exploded worldwide. Others are realizing what the Vettters have known for decades: eating food grown with pesticides is bad for us, and soil is key to our very survival. That's why, on the Vetter farm, their most important "crop" is the soil.

## 2:30 | MAKING CARBON OFFSETS WORK FOR FARMERS

**Sam Schiller**, *Carbon Yield*

Agricultural lands have the potential to sequester a quarter to a half of annual global emissions. While markets have emerged to compensate forests and other industrial projects that reduce emissions, farmers have been largely ignored and are missing out on promising new revenues. Environmental markets have poorly compensated farmers for a variety of reasons. They have used outdated climate models that under count the benefits of important agricultural practices, and have burdened farmers with paperwork and verification expenses that outweigh carbon payments. Carbon Yield is looking to address these issues and make carbon markets work for farmers. We will present on what needs to happen to align emissions markets with opportunities in agriculture. We will also discuss our loan model that provides affordable capital to farmers transitioning to organic, thereby transforming relatively small carbon payments into meaningful resources that more dramatically impact a farm's bottom line.

## 3:45 | THINGS I WISH I HAD KNOWN BEFORE I BOUGHT MY FIRST TRACTOR

[PANEL DISCUSSION]

**Moderator: Will Glazik**, *J&W Organic Farm*

**Panelists: Brian Carlson**, *Carlson Farm*; **Adam Smith**; **Derek Stewart**, *Stewart Family Farms*

We all have moments where we look back and think to ourselves, "I wish that I had known *then* what I know *now*." In this panel, farmers will share insights from their experiences working the land—with the benefit of hindsight. Come hear these farmers' hard-fought lessons learned and gain the kind of understanding that usually only comes with time.

## LINCOLN ROOM

## 9:00 | BUILDING A SUPPLY CHAIN FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS

**Tory Dahlhoff**, *Greater Peoria Economic Development Council*

The number of organic farm operations in some Central Illinois counties continues to rise. With this in mind, the economic potential of organic agriculture should be seriously considered in the region. But beyond crop production, harnessing the full potential of the organics industry will rely on the ability to grow a more robust regional supply chain—the businesses providing goods and services to growers, and the businesses buying and using organics in their food, fuel, and fiber products. This session will take a look at the upstream and downstream businesses needed to build a supply chain and discuss strategies for growing and attracting those businesses to Central Illinois.

## DAY 2 - SESSIONS

---

### 10:15 | MIDWESTERN GRAIN VALUE CHAINS: From Lab, to Mill, to Baker [PANEL DISCUSSION]

**Moderator: Alyssa Hartman**, *Artisan Grain Collaborative*

**Panelists: Gilbert Williams**, *Lonesome Stone Milling LLC*; **Brian Jacobsen**, *University of Illinois*;  
**Greg Wade**, *Publican Quality Bread*

This Midwestern Grain Value Chain discussion will feature a conversation between Brian Jacobson (Assistant Director of the University of Illinois Food and Bioprocessing Pilot Plants), Gil Williams (Owner of Lonesome Stone Mill in Lone Rock, WI), Greg Wade (Head Baker at Publican Quality Bread in Chicago), and Alyssa Hartman (Executive Director of the Artisan Grain Collaborative). The conversation will center on how success in the local small grains economy takes a village, and how frameworks for regional grain production have the potential to improve both rural economies and human health.

### 2:30 | IS YOUR FARM STORY COMPLETE?

**Arthur Littlefield, MBA & Dennis Henks, CFP, MBA**, *Lincoln Financial Agribusiness Services*

For many families, passing the farm to the next generation can be a major challenge involving more than just the land. Equipment, rented ground, stored grain, asset protection, and entity structure, ownership, and value are some of the other items requiring consideration. Family dynamics and communications are becoming a greater concern as members leave the farm while others remain. The successor and a family's farm legacy are also critical factors. Trusts are an important part of an estate plan, but they cannot guarantee a secure future. A coordinated, highly customized succession, estate, and retirement plan is needed to address taxes and settlement issues, as well as specific needs of family members. Financial security and available cash flow for the "retiring" generation must be evaluated along with income taxes due as part of the transition. A team of advisors provides significant benefit. Planning is an on-going process, not a one-time event.

### 3:45 | FARMLAND ACQUISITION VIA SELF-DIRECTED IRA

**Wyatt Muse**, *Farmer & Cash Grain Broker*

Learn how one can purchase land within a retirement account. Join Wyatt Muse as he details an example of a farm that Mary Gelder purchased within a Self-Directed IRA and is selling to the tenant, Wyatt.

## QUAD ROOM

### 9:00 | REVOLUTIONIZING CONSERVATION IN THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY THROUGH S.T.A.R.

**Bruce Henrikson**, *Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District*

S.T.A.R. (Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources) is an innovative program that provides a free evaluation tool to increase stewardship on farms through outreach and technical assistance. S.T.A.R. evaluates and verifies the adoption of field-level conservation practices and encourages continuous improvement through potential value chain incentives. This presentation will provide details of the development and implementation of the S.T.A.R. Program and give some details on the scientific reasons for the management practices encouraged and rewarded with the S.T.A.R. rating system.

## 10:15 | QUANTIFYING THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF SOIL HEALTH

**Dr. Emily Bruner**, *American Farmland Trust*

American Farmland Trust is developing several two-page case studies that we will be useful to farmers and landowners who are interested in implementing practices to improve soil health. We used partial budget analysis to estimate the net economic benefits four farmers have experienced from investing in soil health practices (e.g., no-till, strip-till, cover crops, nutrient management, conservation cover, compost application, and mulching). We also used USDA's Nutrient Tracking Tool and USDA's COMET-Farm Tool to quantify the water quality and climate benefits of these practices. This presentation focuses on the results from the three grain farmers featured in our analysis.

## 1:30 | ROUNTABLE DISCUSSIONS

These interactive discussions provide a loosely-structured opportunity to explore specific issues surrounding farming and organic grain. For a full list of discussion topics and moderators, please refer to the following page (page 10).

## 2:30 | CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADDING NEW CROPS TO YOUR ROTATION

[PANEL DISCUSSION]

**Moderator: Anders Gurda**, *Pipeline Foods*

**Panelists: Aaron Butler**, *Butler Family Farms*; **Derek Schrock**, *Sandy Ridge Farm*; **Colin Cureton**, *UMN Forever Green Initiative*; **Gary McDonald**, *Consultant*

Now don't fall asleep just yet, but according to §205.205 in the National Organic Program (NOP) regulation, a crop rotation that controls erosion, effectively manages pests and nutrients, and maintains or improves soil organic matter is required. That last bit is the important part: "is required." There's room for interpretation here, but this most often looks like at least a three-year rotation, that in our region is most likely corn, beans, a small grain, and cover crops in between. Veteran organic farmers clearly see this as just a starting point, often going to 5 or more years in rotation. Adding new crops 1) keeps you on the right side of the regulation, 2) gets you the considerable benefits of a solid rotation including a comprehensive pest, weed, and disease package and 3) diversifies your markets, decreasing risk and increasing your operation's resilience. As you think about what crops to add as you transition or how to lengthen your organic rotation, there are a few things to keep in mind that will make it a good decision instead of an expensive mistake. Come hear from farmers, grain buyers, and others bringing new crops to market.

## 3:45 | PAINLESS PARALLEL: Organic Certification Tips for Split Production

**David Hettenbach**, *Nature's International Certification Services, Inc.*

Do you farm both non-organic and organic crops and are looking for strategies to ensure your split production doesn't jeopardize your certification? This presentation will offer a number of different tips for split production, from making sure you have proper equipment cleanout procedures, to making sure all necessary equipment is getting cleaned, and, of course, making sure it's all documented for your certifier. Having split production on-farm can cause headaches with your certifier – but it doesn't have to! You'll learn some about what the Organic Rule says about split production, what inspectors look for at split operation inspections, and what additional documentation your certifier will require to verify your split production. We'll discuss segregation and labeling strategies for crop inputs and stored crops, as well as maintaining auditable records for the whole operation (organic and non-organic production). Hopefully this presentation will lead you to a year of painless parallel production!

## DAY 2 - SESSIONS

---

### ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS | 1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Roundtable discussions will convene in the **Quad Room** immediately after lunch. Our roundtable discussions are an opportunity to talk informally in small groups about a variety of topics, each led by an expert guide to help keep the discussion on track. Feel welcome to grab a seat, join the conversation, and dig into the details.

### FARMLAND OWNER LISTENING SESSION

**Moderator: Nathan Aaberg**, *Liberty Prairie Foundation*

Farmland owners have many questions that affect the decisions they make about how their land is farmed and the future of their land. Questions like: How can I work with a farmer to develop goals and partner with me over time? How do I know if my land is getting healthier and able to support more life? How will I keep my land being farmed after I'm gone? Join us for an open conversation about any and all of your farmland ownership questions.

### IDENTIFYING NEEDS OF CROP ADVISORS TO BETTER SUPPORT ORGANIC FARMERS

**Moderator: Michael O'Donnell**, *Purdue University Extension*

Crop advisors often play an essential role in guiding farmers in sound decision-making for their operations. However, many crop advisors lack the resources and training to sufficiently support farmers addressing concerns specific to organic production. Join us in identifying the resource needs of crop advisors to better assist organic producers.

### OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE GRAIN VALUE CHAIN

**Moderator: Alyssa Hartman**, *Artisan Grain Collaborative*

As the market for organic grain expands, opportunities continue to emerge along the value chain. Join us in exploring ways to harness these opportunities to create efficiencies within the grain value chain.

### ORGANIC COMMODITY MARKET OUTLOOKS AND IMPLICATIONS

**Moderator: Megan Thomas**, *Mercaris*

Get an overview of U.S. organic commodity markets (acreage, production, trade, feed demand, price) and discuss what it all means for the 2020/21 marketing year.

### WEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

**Moderator: Dr. Joel Gruver**, *Western Illinois University, School of Agriculture*

Developing and implementing effective weed management strategies is key to successful organic production. Join us in discussing successes and failures in past approaches and talk through tactics for improving your weed management strategies.

## SPEAKERS

---



**Dr. Emily Bruner**, *American Farmland Trust*

Dr. Bruner has been a proponent of conservation agriculture for over a decade. Prior to her current role as the Midwest Science Director for American Farmland Trust, she served as the Director for the Vigo County Soil and Water Conservation District, as a Hydrologist with the United States Forest Service, and as an Extension Associate for Natural Resources. Dr. Bruner's work on nitrogen cycling in agricultural systems also led her to DC to investigate climate change mitigation policy as a Research Fellow with the Congressional Research Service. Bruner earned her PhD in Soil Science from Washington State University and has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Conservation and Natural Resource Management with a minor in Sustainable Agriculture from the University of Kentucky.

---



**Aaron Butler**, *Butler Family Farms*

Aaron Butler is a 5th generation farmer in northern Illinois who has been growing organic grains for 23 years. He, his daughter, and a small team are currently working together to manage Butler Family Farms. He has tried a few different things over the years and enjoys sharing his successes and failures with fellow farmers.

---



**Brian Carlson**, *Carlson Farm*

Brian and his farming partner, Jared, farm 2,400 acres of corn, soybean, wheat, hay, and cover crops in McLean and DeWitt counties in Illinois. They began farming organically four years ago and currently run a parallel farming operation moving toward increased organic production. The farm currently supports Brian's family of five and Jared's family of four. They believe that farming organically is the best way to be able to raise their families on the farm. (Or as Brian likes to say, my definition of sustainable agriculture.)

---



**Colin Cureton**, *UMN Forever Green Initiative*

As Supply Chain Development Specialist for the UMN Forever Green Initiative, Colin Cureton supports the commercialization of new perennial and winter annual crops for the Upper Midwest, with intensive focus in 2019 on Kernza®. He has worked in food systems development for over a decade, most recently providing research expertise for two consulting firms working at the intersection of food, agriculture, and health. Previously, he led supply chain and market development efforts for a regional farm-to-institution initiative in Southern CA, developed a multi-million dollar philanthropic platform for the Cargill Foundation, performed foundational research for several food hubs, staffed a City food policy council, and directed a community food project. He holds master's degrees in Applied Economics (MS) and Food & Energy Policy (MPP) from the University of MN, and lives in St. Paul, MN with his wife and two-year old son.

---



**Tory Dahlhoff**, *Greater Peoria Economic Development Council*

Tory Dahlhoff is the Director of Food Systems and Rural Development for the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council. He is a co-chair of the Regional Food System Council. In his programming at GPEDC he explores diversification and innovation opportunities for the agriculture industry such as organic production, agroforestry, and industrial hemp. Tory brings a background in journalism and marketing to his work in economic development and is currently enrolled in the Community Economic Development master's program at Western Illinois University. He is a board member of the Savanna Institute, a research organization working to establish agroforestry systems in the Midwest.

## SPEAKERS

---



**Ivan Dozier**, *USDA-NRCS — State Conservationist for Illinois*

Ivan Dozier has been the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's State Conservationist for Illinois since April of 2012. He was raised on his family's farm in Southern Illinois where they produced grain and cattle. Ivan's educational background includes a BS in Agriculture from the University of Illinois ('83) and an MA in Environmental Studies from the U of I—Springfield ('92). He started work with SCS/NRCS in 1983 as a part-time Soil Conservation Aide and was converted to a career Soil Conservationist position in 1984. Ivan's previous body of work with NRCS includes experience as a County Soil Scientist, Soil Conservationist, District Conservationist, American Indian Liaison and Assistant State Conservationist for Programs. Ivan is a past-President of the Illinois Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS). He served on the Illinois NRCS State Civil Rights Committee and on the National Civil Rights Committee as the American Indian Male representative. He is a former officer with the American Indian Council of Illinois and the past-President of the National American Indian Alaska Native Employee Association for NRCS. Ivan is also a veteran of the US Army Reserve. He graduated with honors from both Basic and Advanced Training. While in the Reserves, he served as a medical lab specialist.

---



**Will Glazik**, *J&W Organic Farm*

Will was raised on a diversified organic farming operation before studying Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois. After college, Will began work as a crop agronomist for a local fertilizer dealer where he learned the conventional side of farming. Currently he consults with conventional farmers interested in transitioning to organic row crop. He also farms with his parents and brother on an intensive cropping system, including some organic no-till.

---



**Anders Gurda**, *Pipeline Foods*

Anders joined Pipeline Foods in 2017 to build the Farm Profit Program – a series of tools and resources that help farmers see and seize the organic opportunity. Anders also founded the Organic Grain Resources and Information Network (OGRAIN), a program housed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison that provides resources and creates grower networks throughout the Upper Midwest. Anders holds a BS in Ecotheology from Northland College and an MS in Agroecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

---



**Dr. Joel Gruver**, *School of Agriculture, Western Illinois University*

Dr. Joel Gruver is an Associate Professor of Soil Science and Sustainable Agriculture in the School of Agriculture at Western Illinois University. In addition to teaching (his primary mission), Dr. Gruver conducts 10-15 large-scale trials each year at the WIU Organic Research Farm targeting solutions to the challenges faced by organic grain farmers, and speaks regularly at farmer meetings.

---



**Alyssa Hartman**, *Artisan Grain Collaborative*

Alyssa is the Executive Director of the Artisan Grain Collaborative ([graincollaborative.com](http://graincollaborative.com)). She has a background working on farms, in policy and advocacy work, and in food and agriculture law.

---



**Dennis Hens, CFP, MBA**, *Lincoln Financial Agribusiness Services*

Dennis grew up on a diversified family farm in west central Missouri where his family is still actively involved in production agriculture. He specializes in helping family owned farms and agribusinesses prepare and integrate future generations of business owners with financial, business succession, and estate planning services.

## SPEAKERS

---



**Bruce Henrikson**, *Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District*

Bruce was raised on a farm near Springfield, IL. After graduating from the University of Illinois in 1970, Bruce became the Agriculture Teacher in Paxton. After completing a Master's Degree, he became an Agriculture Instructor at Parkland College in 1975, teaching marketing and agribusiness management. Bruce resigned from Parkland in 1985 to become a farm marketing consultant in Champaign. He enjoyed helping farm families manage their marketing risks, but missed teaching. He returned to Parkland in 1989 and became the Agriculture Program Director and the Business & Ag Department Chair in 2003. After retiring in 2016, Bruce started part-time for the CCSWCD to help develop S.T.A.R.

---



**David Hettenbach**, *Nature's International Certification Services, Inc. (NICS)*

David's first "taste" of organic agriculture came at a 75-acre produce farm in southern Wisconsin, where he worked for 7 years. In his last year there, David split time between the produce fields and the lab at the USDA Dairy Forage Research Center in Madison, WI. Following his time at the USDA, David moved to California where he worked as a certification specialist for California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF). After a year at CCOF, David returned to the Midwest and took a role as a certification specialist/staff inspector at NICS, where he has been for the last 4 years.

---



**Brian Jacobson**, *University of Illinois*

Brian Jacobson is Assistant Director of the Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory and Food Science Pilot Processing Plant at the University of Illinois. These facilities assist university researchers and private companies with testing and scale-up activities related to food and bioprocessing technologies. He also serves as the chair of the variety testing working group for the Artisan Grain Collaborative, organizing research and testing activities related to small grains and looking for opportunities to expand their market. He has a strong background in operations and processing technologies and leads a team of processing specialists at the University.

---



**Arthur Littlefield, MBA**, *Lincoln Financial Agribusiness Services*

Art works with midwestern farm families, agribusiness, business, and landowners. The last 20+ years of his work have focused on helping clients successfully transition their businesses to the next generation and to accumulate, preserve, and protect their wealth using tax advantageous strategies that benefit present and future generations.

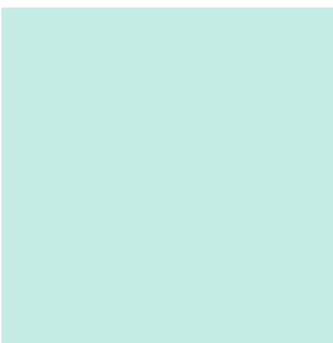
---



**Wyatt Muse**, *Farmer & Cash Grain Broker*

Wyatt raises crops in the Champaign area on a combination of Certified Organic and conventional acres. Additionally, he has worked in the cash grain business for the last 15 years with a focus on IP and specialty grains.

---



**Mark Seeley**, *OnMark Certification Services, LLC*

Mark is Founder and CEO of OnMark Certification Services, based in Northern Indiana, providing multiple farm audit services to producers throughout the Midwest. Before devoting his time to OnMark Certification Services, Mark spent nine years working as an independent organic inspector and consultant for several agencies in the US, successfully completing over 2,000 crop, livestock or handler/processor inspections. With 12 years of experience on his own organic, 300-acre row-crop farm north of the Detroit metro area, Mark recognizes how overwhelming certification paperwork can be, and how valuable a grower's time is. Mark has a lifetime of agriculture experienced combined with stints as a High School Ag. Teacher and FFA Advisor, Non-Profit Director overseas, and an Extension Agent.

## SPEAKERS

---



### **Sam Schiller**, *Carbon Yield*

Sam Schiller is the CEO of Carbon Yield, which helps farmers navigate emerging carbon markets and secure resources to transition to regenerative, organic practices. Sam also advises venture capital funds, food businesses, and nonprofit clients on carbon markets, climate bonds, and investments related to regenerative agriculture. Prior to founding Carbon Yield, Sam launched and scaled Wabashco and Tradewater, startups that develop carbon offset and clean energy projects. This work produced 21 carbon offset projects that credited and monetized over 2 million tons of greenhouse gas reductions. Sam serves as Board Vice Chair of the Delta Institute, a Midwest-based environmental nonprofit.

---



### **Derek Schrock**, *Sandy Ridge Farm*

Derek owns and operates Sandy Ridge Farm, a diversified operation near Tampico, IL. His father first went organic in '97 and by '02 they decided to go all in. Derek has grown popcorn, sweet corn, dry edibles, and much more.

---



### **Adam Smith**

Adam and his wife relocated to Peoria, IL, 15 years ago when Adam became a full time firefighter. The couple bought their first farmland in 2011 and their first tractor in 2015. Before that, all they had was a riding mower. Adam planted cover crops in the fall of 2015, starting the transition to organic. Since then he has purchased a full compliment of equipment, built a building, and added grain bins and a dryer. This year Adam will have 90 acres certified, 27 in T2, and 50 in T1.

---



### **Derek Stewart**, *Stewart Family Farms*

Derek Stewart farms near Eureka, IL along with his brother Garret and their families. The brothers are first generation farmers and planted their first crop in 2016. They got started when a landowner gave them a chance to pursue their lifelong dream of farming. Over the next 4 years the brothers grew their business into full-time careers and now have a mix of organic and conventional crops.

---



### **Sandy Syburg**, *Purple Cow Organics*

Sandy Syburg farms with his wife Mary in Stonebank Wisconsin. Four hundred acres of certified organic land is managed with a 6-year rotation and focused on a systems approach to minimize pest and weed pressure while optimizing nutrient cycling. Syburg, a self-taught advocate for soils, has traveled throughout North America, Central America, and Europe learning with and assisting growers through the application of bio-mimicry. Nature's classroom has taught Syburg that nothing is waste until it is wasted, and that the quality of the food we eat is directly related to the quality of the soil. With a collaborative leadership style and goal to foster organic processes, Syburg is embarking on the transition of an additional 2,000 acres for a local farmland preservation foundation.

---



### **Greg Wade**, *Publican Quality Bread*

Greg Wade is the Head Baker at Publican Quality Bread, a wholesale bakery in Chicago. Wade is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Art's Culinary Program and has worked in Chicago establishments including Taxim, Girl & the Goat, Little Goat, and Little Goat French Market. Specializing in whole grains and fermentation, Wade was honored with 2017 and 2018 James Beard nominations for "Outstanding Baker" and won the award in 2019.

## SPEAKERS



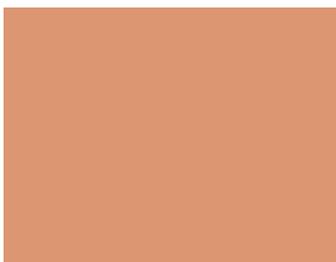
### **Erik Wiegand**, *Earlybird Feed & Fertilizer*

Erik Wiegand is an agronomist with Earlybird Feed & Fertilizer in Goodfield, IL. Erik has spent over 25 years in the agricultural industry working in crop consulting in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Erik also spent 9 years managing a feed mill in Indiana and 4.5 years farming and working with subsistence farmers in Zambia, Africa. Erik currently focuses most of his time on helping organic farmers reach their full potential and helping to find solutions to organic farming challenges.



### **Gilbert Williams**, *Lonesome Stone Milling LLC*

As a grandson of farmers, agriculture has always been a primary interest for Gil. After earning a BS in Chemistry at the University of Maryland, he was able to earn an MS in Agronomy at USDA Beltsville ARS. He moved to Wisconsin in 1986, in his first career, as an environmental chemist, working in Madison and Sun Prairie. In 2001, Gil moved to Sauk County to be in a more rural environment where he gained experience in food processing quality control. Gil started Lonesome Stone Milling in 2009, as a mill for locally sourced small grains and flint corn.



I'm a local farmer  
**Why should I join Illinois Farm Bureau?**

We can  
**support you**  
in the  
**local food system.**



You want to grow. We want you to thrive. Together we develop the culture, training, resources, and provide opportunities for you to succeed while building your legacy.

Together we can support agriculture and the local food system. Agriculture is more than farming—it's the food on your plate, fuel in your car, and the clothes on your back. Join over 380,000 members in supporting farmers, a safe food system, local food, and a strong business environment in Illinois.

When you join Illinois Farm Bureau, "your part" grows into something greater... something more connected... something that **benefits you, your community, and Illinois farming.**



**Skill Building**  
**Market Promotion**  
**Relationship Building**  
**Individualized Assistance**  
**Policy Development**

**Join Today!**



[www.myifb.org](http://www.myifb.org)





## CROPP COOPERATIVE

organic and farmer-owned since 1988



## Soil Fertility & Biological Solutions For Plant & Soil Health

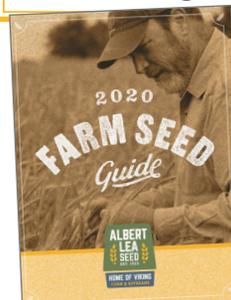
SP-1™ • Residue® • Myco Seed Treat®

Douglas Plant Health: AgriEnergy Resources  
(815) 872-1190 • 21417 1950 E. Street Princeton, IL 61356



## ORGANIC & NON-GMO SEED FOR THE WHOLE FARM

Small Grains • Cover Crops • Forage • Corn • Soybeans



REQUEST OUR FREE FARM SEED CATALOG  
(800) 352-5247

[WWW.ALSEED.COM](http://WWW.ALSEED.COM)

## EXHIBITORS

---

### **Albert Lea Seed**

1414 W Main, P.O. Box 127, Albert Lea, MN 56007

(800) 352-5247 | [www.alseed.com](http://www.alseed.com)

Albert Lea Seed is a family-owned, third-generation farm seed company that began in 1923. We provide farmers with conventional non-GMO and organic seed for the whole farm, from cash crops to cover crops. We don't just sell seed: our agronomists provide information to help farmers find the right seed choices for their operations, their rotations, and their ground. We support innovative research into crop improvements and practices that benefit soil health from universities and organizations like the Practical Farmers of Iowa. Our Viking brand corn and soybeans are in high demand for their non-GMO purity and performance – including outstanding results year after year in FIRST trials and other trials against the traited competition. Like you, we're local and independent. Check out the Albert Lea Seed catalog at [www.alseed.com](http://www.alseed.com).

### **American Farmland Trust**

1350 W Prairie Dr, Sycamore, IL 60178

(608) 963-2690 | [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)

American Farmland Trust (AFT) was founded in 1980 to save America's farms and ranches. We created the conservation agriculture movement, which speaks for the land—and for the people who grow our food. As the movement's leaders, we have three priorities: protecting agricultural land, promoting environmentally sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land. AFT is the only national agricultural organization that approaches its work in this comprehensive, holistic manner. We recognize the connection between the land, forward-looking farming practices, and the farmers and ranchers who do the work. We also recognize the power of combining on-the-ground projects with objective research and effective advocacy. Today, because of AFT, millions of acres of farmland that otherwise would have been converted into house lots and shopping malls remain in farming, and tens of thousands of farmers and ranchers have adopted better farming practices.

### **American Organic**

1676 County Rd 2200 East, St Joseph, IL 61873

(217) 469-2351 | [www.american-organic.com](http://www.american-organic.com)

American Organic is an independent, farmer-owned company that specializes in certified organic food grade yellow and white corn hybrids. American Organic is also a provider of Erisman certified organic wheat, a soft red winter wheat developed by the University of Illinois. Located in St. Joseph, IL, American Organic is a local company that was founded to meet the needs of non-GMO and organic growers in the Midwest. In 2018, American Organic was designated as the maintainer of Erisman certified organic wheat. Erisman wheat was specifically bred for organic and low-input production.

### **Bay Shore Sales, LLC**

4890 Bay Park Rd, Unionville, MI 48767

(989) 674-8429 | [www.bayshoresales.com](http://www.bayshoresales.com)

Bay Shore Sales is the North American distributor for Hatzenbichler equipment. We also offer a line of seed and fertilizers available for organic row crop production.

### **Clarkson Grain Company**

320 E. South St, Cerro Gordo, IL 61818

(217) 763-0096 | [www.clarksongrain.com](http://www.clarksongrain.com)

Clarkson is an Illinois-based grain, oilseed, and ingredient supplier to the food manufacturing and animal feed industries. We specialize in the growing, storage and processing of Identity-Preserved, Non-GMO organic and Certified Transitional corn, soybeans and soy ingredients. We procure our specialty corn and soy raw materials from our grower partners throughout the United States and Canada. Clarkson has a unique business model when it comes to our farmer partners. We contract with farmers to produce, store, condition and deliver select varieties of organic and Non-GMO corn and soybeans (maturity groups 2.8 through 4.6). We pay premiums to obtain what we need, when we need it, and operate as a true business partner with our farmers. Clarkson helps them minimize risk and maximize profits through growing Non-GMO and organic row crops. This supply chain management structure is simple, transparent, and profitable for our farmer partners.

## Compeer Financial

2600 Jenny Wren Trail, Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
(844) 426-6733 | [www.compeer.com](http://www.compeer.com)

At Compeer Financial, we take the time to understand your goals. With decades of experience in rural communities, we know exactly how to help. Whether you're looking for capital to buy or expand, exploring options for managing your operating budget or in the market for equipment, Compeer has financing options and the expertise to meet your needs. We offer flexible financing to non-traditional agriculture that might not have as many financing opportunities as traditional producers. If your operation is looking to transition from conventional to organic grain production, our new Organic Bridge Loan program will help maintain liquidity. Loan proceeds can be drawn for 2-3 years during the process and you're only required to pay the interest during the transition. No matter the shape, size or type of operation, Compeer is committed to building lasting relationships and working with you every step of the way.

## Douglas Plant Health: AgriEnergy Resources

21417 1950 East St, Princeton, IL 61356  
(815) 872-1190 | [www.douglasplanthealth.com](http://www.douglasplanthealth.com)

Douglas Plant Health provides proven innovation in plant health, soil fertility and biological solutions. Our company is the result of three industry leaders coming together: Growth Products, GP Solutions, and AgriEnergy Resources. Now, with nearly 70 years of combined talent, agronomic expertise, and proven results, we can offer solutions you need to be more efficient, productive, and profitable.

## ECOCERT

P.O. Box 158, Plainfield, IN 46168  
(888) 337-8246 | [www.ecocert.com](http://www.ecocert.com)

ECOCERT is a global organic standards and certification organization that certifies food, farms, cosmetics, cleaning products, and textiles in 158 countries. ECOCERT also provides fair trade and social certification, ecological and environmental management training, and carbon and reforestation standards.



**FARMER TESTED;  
PLANT APPROVED**



Available in:  
275 Gallon Totes  
Bulk Tanker Loads

[WWW.PURPLECOWORGANICS.COM](http://WWW.PURPLECOWORGANICS.COM)



### LET'S MAKE YOUR PLANS A REALITY, TOGETHER.

We see the potential in your plans. If you're considering a transition from conventional to organic grain production, our new **Organic Bridge Loan Program** is designed for you. And our specialists can help guide you every step of the way.

Partner with us to make your goals possible.

[COMPEER.COM/EmergingMarkets](http://COMPEER.COM/EmergingMarkets)



**Sai Thao**  
Lending Officer  
(612) 597-4086  
[Sai.Thao@compeer.com](mailto:Sai.Thao@compeer.com)



**Paul Dietmann**  
Sr. Lending Officer  
(608) 963-7763  
[Paul.Dietmann@compeer.com](mailto:Paul.Dietmann@compeer.com)



(844) 426-6733 | #CHAMPIONRURAL



Compeer Financial can provide assistance with financing and operations based on historical data and industry expertise. Compeer Financial does not provide legal advice or certified financial planning. Compeer Financial, ACA is an Equal Credit Opportunity Lender and Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer. ©2020 All rights reserved.

### Farm Credit Illinois

1100 Farm Credit Dr, Mahomet, IL 61821  
(217) 590-2160 | [www.farmcredital.com](http://www.farmcredital.com)

Farm Credit Illinois supports rural communities, farm families, and agriculture with constructive credit and financial services.

### Flanagan State Bank

301 W Falcon Hwy, Flanagan, IL 61740  
(309) 962-4707 | [www.flanaganstatebank.com/organic](http://www.flanaganstatebank.com/organic)

At Flanagan State Bank, we've understood the farming business for over 100 years and we're dedicated to supporting our agricultural community, whether organic or traditional. We offer Ag operating, real estate, and equipment loans, as well as industry news and support. Our established Ag team has decades of experience — talk with them today.

### Forest Agriculture Nursery

15662 County Hwy I, Viola, WI 54664  
(630) 728-3317 | [www.forestag.com](http://www.forestag.com)

We're a treecrops nursery located in Southwest Wisconsin that offers precocious cold-hardy bare-root seedlings of hybrid chestnuts, hybrid hazelnuts, as well as other fruit/nut treecrops suitable for Midwest Agroforestry systems.

### Illinois Farm Bureau

1701 Towanda Ave, Bloomington, IL 61702  
(309) 557-3363 | [www.ilfb.org](http://www.ilfb.org)

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) strives to support you in the local food system. Together, farmers and partners can develop the culture, training, resources, and provide opportunities for you to succeed while building your legacy. Together we can support agriculture and the local food system. Agriculture is more than farming — it's the food on your plate, fuel in your car, and the clothes on your back. Join over 380,000 members in supporting farmers, a safe food system, local food, and a strong business environment in Illinois. When you join Illinois Farm Bureau, "your part" grows into something greater... something more connected... something that benefits you, your community, and Illinois farming.

**Clarkson**  
grain company

**For over 40 years, Clarkson Grain Company has been an industry pioneer in the production and supply of Identity Preserved, Non-GMO and organic corn and soybeans.**

**Call us today!**

**Corn:**  
**Chelsea Campbell (217) 763-6792**  
[Chelsea.campbell@clarksongrain.com](mailto:Chelsea.campbell@clarksongrain.com)  
**Haley Wade (217) 763-0085**  
[Haley.wade@clarksongrain.com](mailto:Haley.wade@clarksongrain.com)

**Soybeans:**  
**Ashley Brown (217) 763-0096**  
[Ashley.brown@clarksongrain.com](mailto:Ashley.brown@clarksongrain.com)  
**Michael Youmans (217) 763-0086**  
[Michael.youmans@clarksongrain.com](mailto:Michael.youmans@clarksongrain.com)

[www.clarksongrain.com](http://www.clarksongrain.com)

**LOOKING FOR MORE LAND TO RENT?**  
**GROW STRONGER WITH TILLABLE.**

—“I’ve found Tillable to be a simple, intuitive way to search for, assess and put under lease additional farm ground.”  
—Chris G., Illinois Farmer

**Find farmland in your area.**  
**Create a free account.**

 **TILLABLE**  
*A New Lease on Land*

[Tillable.com/farmers](http://Tillable.com/farmers)  
**(833) 845-5225**

© 2020 Tillable, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

**Illinois SARE** (*Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program*)

3351 N President Howard Brown Blvd, Decatur, IL 62521

(217) 877-6042 | [www.illinoissare.org](http://www.illinoissare.org)

USDA program to support farmer focused sustainable agriculture research and education.

**Illinois Stewardship Alliance**

230 S Broadway St, Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62704

(217) 528-1563 | [www.ilstewards.org](http://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. We find, connect, train, and amplify the leadership of farmers and eaters who use their choices and their voices to shape a just and regenerative food and farm system. 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.

**Lincoln Financial Agribusiness Services**

1212 Banbury Cir, Naperville, IL 60540

(630) 408-0110 | [www.lincolnagservices.com](http://www.lincolnagservices.com)

Farm succession and estate planning specialists assisting farm families, agribusiness, and land owners with comprehensive, strategic ownership and wealth transition techniques.

**Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES)**

PO Box 339, Spring Valley, WI 54767

(715) 778-5775 | [www.mosesorganic.org](http://www.mosesorganic.org)

MOSES (Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service) offers training, information, and farmer-to-farmer support to help farmers grow. Get answers to your questions about farming and organic rules by calling the Organic Answer Line: 888-90-MOSES. 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.

**Nature's International Certification Services (NICS)**

224 E State Hwy 56, Viroqua, WI 54665

(608) 637-7080 | [www.naturesinternational.com](http://www.naturesinternational.com)

Nature's International Certification Services (NICS) is a USDA-accredited certification agency and an ECOCERT Group Company founded by an organic dairy farmer to provide friendly, common sense, and reliable service to producers nationwide seeking organic certification. NICS takes pride in providing organic producers and handlers of all sizes with consistent customer service – we want to get to know you and your operation, and recognize the importance of good communication to the certification process. We believe in a fair organic certification system where all producers and handlers are held to the same standards. With NICS you'll have a certification partner who is committed to clearly communicating the expectations for organic certification each step of the way. Give NICS a call today and join a growing organic family!

**OnMark Certification Services LLC**

60324 Missouri Ave., Goshen, IN 46528

(574) 971-8479 | [www.onmarkcertification.com](http://www.onmarkcertification.com)

With years of on-farm and certification experience, OnMark Certification Services LLC has the know how to ensure that your operation meets organic standards while simplifying the certification and renewal processes so that you can stay focused on your crops and animals. Farming for over 25 years, Mark Seeley understands the struggle of farming as well as the joy. OnMark understands the local markets and needs of farmers in the Upper Midwest. The dedicated staff at OnMark are passionate about organic agriculture and sustainability. They have decades of experience as both organic farmers and certifiers, so they understand both sides of certified organic agriculture. OnMark strives to uphold the high standards that make the organic label valuable and meaningful, while also streamlining the process to make it simple and efficient for busy farmers. If you are looking for a sound and sensible certifier with a common-sense approach and an understanding of farmers' needs, consider OnMark Certification Services LLC.

**Honeyville Feed**  
DIVISION OF W.O.L.F. CO-OP

**W.O.L.F. CO-OP**  
Wolcottville Organic Livestock Feed

**CENTER AG**  
ORGANIC & BIOLOGICAL FERTILIZERS  
DIVISION OF W.O.L.F. CO-OP

**BUILDING THE GROUND WORK FOR A HEALTHIER TOMORROW**

Organic Grain

Organic Livestock Feed

Organic Fertilizer

109 UNION ST. WOLCOTTVILLE, IN WWW.WOLFCO-OP.COM 260-854-9943

**NICS**  
CERTIFIED ORGANIC

Organic Certification  
With People You Trust

Crops, Livestock, Processing/Handling, Wild Crops

608-637-7080  
[www.naturesinternational.com](http://www.naturesinternational.com)

In Nature there is abundance, with Nature there is success

Specializing in organic and non-GMO corn hybrids

**american**  
**ORGANIC**

American Organic  
Now providing  
Erismen organic soft  
red winter wheat  
to organic growers

[american-organic.com](http://american-organic.com) (217) 469-2351



CERTIFICATION SERVICES

We have a strong agricultural background

and dedicated to supporting renewable, eco-friendly, and wholesome food systems



NOP Accredited Certifier,  
Grassfed and More!  
Phone: 574-971-8479  
Fax: 574-971-5424  
Website: [www.onmarkcertification.com](http://www.onmarkcertification.com)  
Email: [office@onmarkcertification.com](mailto:office@onmarkcertification.com)

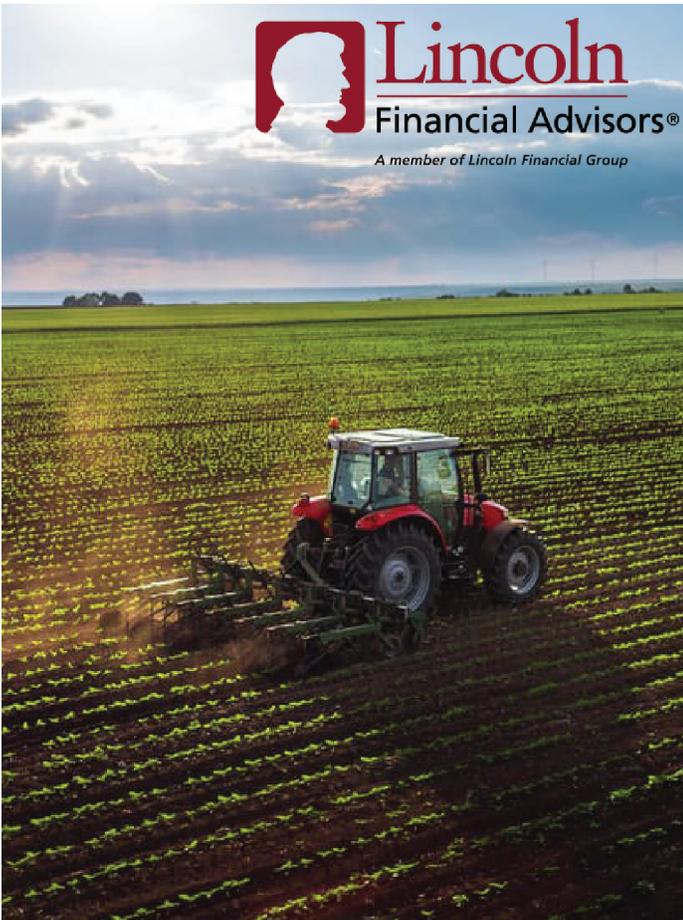


FARM CREDIT  
ILLINOIS

Helping Farm Families Succeed



A member of Lincoln Financial Group



One Family Helping Another  
since 1913



[www.flanaganstatebank.com](http://www.flanaganstatebank.com)

### **Pipeline Foods**

1250 East Moore Lake Dr, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55432

(612) 868-1208 | [www.pipelinefoods.com](http://www.pipelinefoods.com)

Pipeline Foods is accelerating the availability and reliability of organic, non-GMO and regeneratively grown food. We bring transparent, sustainable supply chain solutions to connect the dots for our farming partners and end users of organic grains and ingredients.

### **Pond Hill Sales & Service**

10407 Scribner Rd, Bancroft, MI 48414

(816) 691-0168

Pond Hill Sales & Service is a family owned business who prides themselves on supplying and supporting farmers with high quality technology and services. Efficiency, sustainability, and comfort is our top priority as we support non-GMO, organic, and transitional farmers. We stock Weed Zappers, an effective herbicide control system, and Lemken equipment — an internationally leading supplier featuring innovative equipment for soil cultivation, sowing, and crop protection.

### **Prairie Hybrids**

27445 Hoover Rd, Deer Grove, IL 61243

(815) 499-4944 | [www.prairiehybrids.com](http://www.prairiehybrids.com)

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.

### **Purple Cow Organics**

5935 County Hwy K, Waunakee, WI 53597

(608) 831-0349 | [www.purplecoworganics.com](http://www.purplecoworganics.com)

We believe the health of the soil directly impacts the health of all living things dependent upon that soil. Therefore, we are committed to growing our core business, crafting high quality products that feed the soil, for all growers, whatever the crop or garden, in an honest and profitable manner. Purple Cow Organics is based in Wisconsin and serves the greater Midwest area. We Utilize our proprietary processes to maximize the amount of diverse biology in our entire product line. We manufacture numerous products for professional growers, including a broad-spectrum liquid biologic that offers several input opportunities throughout the agricultural growing system, whether organic, biological, or conventional. We know that we produce a product line that is teeming with biology, but, more importantly, diverse biology. Purple Cow products are also approved for use in certified organic food production, OMRI listed.

### **Tillable, Inc.**

222 W Hubbard St, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60654

(833) 845-5225 | [www.tillable.com](http://www.tillable.com)

As the first true online marketplace for the \$32 billion U.S. farmland rental market, Tillable is using the power of data and technology to make renting farmland easier and more efficient than ever before, while ensuring that rented farmland is being well cared-for over the long term. For farmers, Tillable opens the door to new rental opportunities in your area, while making it easy to demonstrate your expertise and showcase your success. Gain unprecedented access to land, market your farming experience and build your reputation, while using the Tillable platform to ensure rent agreements are fair and farm performance is tracked and managed.

### **W.O.L.F. Co-op**

109 Union St, Wolcottville, IN 46795

(260) 854-9943 | [www.wolfco-op.com](http://www.wolfco-op.com)

W.O.L.F. Co-op has a unique three-pronged approach to serving our organic community: livestock feed, grain purchasing, and fertilizers. We believe everything starts from the ground up. Our experienced organic agronomists build and manufacture custom-tailored fertility programs for your fields and pastures that stimulate biological activity and promote soil health to enable your crops and livestock to succeed. We purchase locally supplied organic corn and soybeans, along with some small grains. Using these sources, we manufacture quality organic feed for dairy, beef, poultry, swine, and other livestock.

# CONFERENCE CENTER MAP

# PARKING

