



NORTHERN PLAINS FOOD & FARMING CONFERENCE

47TH ANNUAL REGIONAL
WINTER EVENT

THE FUTURE OF FARMING

January 21-23, 2026

Best Western Ramkota Inn,
Aberdeen, SD



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





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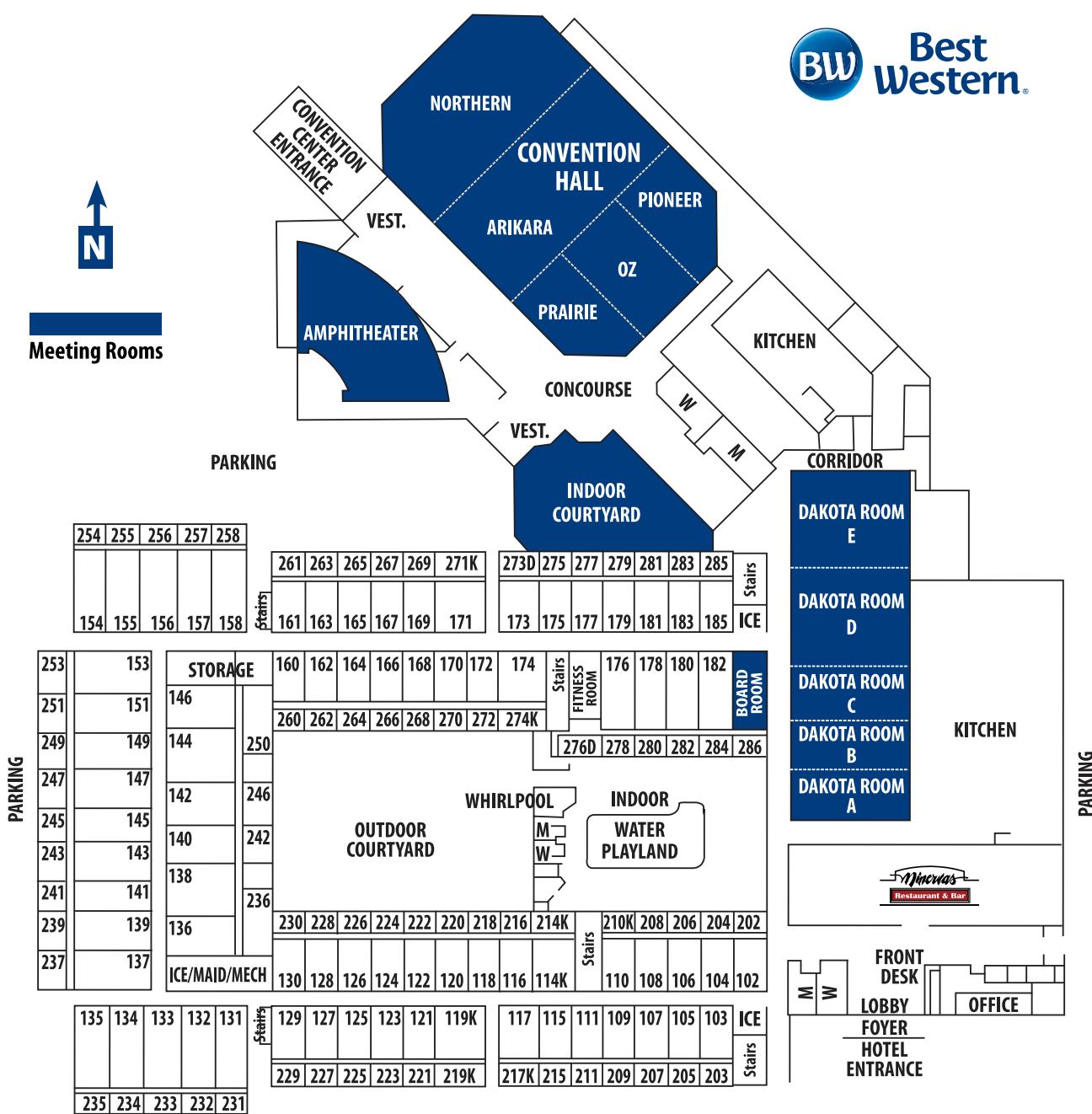
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While making reservations be sure to mention NPSAS Food & Farming Conference



Welcome to the NPSAS 2026 Food & Farming Conference

Welcome to the 2026 NPSAS Winter Conference! I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of familiar faces here this year as well as many new ones. To those of you joining us for the first time, thank you and I hope that you take at least one good tidbit of information or make one good connection while you are here. To those of you that have been here before, you will notice we are trying something a bit different this year with the conference starting on Wednesday and wrapping up on Friday. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on this as well as the rest of the conference...please fill out and return your surveys, they offer us valuable insight.

We have put together a good variety of workshops this year as well as some excellent keynote speakers each day. I would like to draw your attention to our Farm Breeder Network workshop at 4:30pm on Wednesday, we are again working on our Buckwheat project and will have some updates and discussion on that. Please also take note of our Annual Meeting following lunch on Thursday; we will be discussing the challenges and successes of the last year, our current financial position, and election of board members. If you are interested in a position on the board, please let one of the board members or someone at the front table know and we can get you added to the slate. There will also be an opportunity for floor nominations during the meeting.

Throughout the conference, our team and board members are available to help, so please feel free to stop by the front table or reach out at any time. We also want to recognize and thank our sponsors — their continued support is what makes this event possible. We encourage you to visit them and share your appreciation. We hope your time here brings new insight, meaningful connections, and friendships that continue well beyond this weekend.

—Martin Goter,
NPSAS Board President



NPSAS Annual Meeting Reminder:

The NPSAS Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2026 from 12:45 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Central Time during the Annual Winter Conference. The Annual Report will be distributed at the meeting and on our website after the conference.

Meeting Agenda:

Call Meeting to Order & Year in Review

President, Martin Goter

Presentation of Financial Reports

Treasurer, Larry Sax

Executive Director Report

Krysti Mikkonen

Election Results

President, Martin Goter

Adjourn Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS

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Dakota Organic Academy Roadshow

Ramkota Inn- Aberdeen, SD



TRANSITION TO ORGANIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Plenary Session I:

Getting Started and Building a Resilient System

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Session II:

Developing an Organic System Plan

The economics and markets for your organic products

- Grain & Specialty Crops - Transitioning your operation: production, timeline, & considerations
- Livestock - Transitioning your operation: production, timeline, & considerations
- Livestock Integration

12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- Break for lunch

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Session III:

Smarter Farming with AI: Planning, Risk, & Profit

- Intro to AI Models
- AI In Organic Farm Decision Making
- Applying AI Strategies
- Building a Farm AI Workflow
- What Actually Works in AI

2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

- Break

2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Session IV:

- The Future of Agri-tech

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Session V:

Working with an organic consultant, Q&A, small group discussion, survey plenary

Organic Academy Road Show Tracks & Agenda - Day 2

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Session VI :

- Welcome and Intro by Martin Goter, Certified Organic Farmer
- Diversity Leads to Legacy - by Daniel Salatin

10:45 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.

- Participants Choose from workshops Biology that Benefits Crop Production with Larry Sax, Pastured Poultry with Daniel Salatin, Risk Management for Organic Operations with Megan Vaith

11:35 a.m.

- Meet Organic Exhibitors and Network

12:00 a.m.

- Lunch



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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Time	Description	Room
Wednesday – January 21		
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Registration & Check-in	Main Conference Hall
10:00 am – 10:00 pm	Vendor Set-up	Exhibit Hall
10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Dakota Organic Academy Road Show (OARS) – Free to transitioning organic farmers	Dakota Room E
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	KEYNOTE: Dr. Angela K Jackson & Randy Stratton – Smarter Farming with AI: Planning, Risk & Profit	Theatre
4:30 pm	Farm Breeder Network	Dakota Room E
5:30 pm	OARS Community Information Night with Vendors	Dakota Room E
Thursday – January 22		
8:00 am – 9:15 am	Breakfast – Exhibits Open	Convention Hall
9:30 am	Welcome Message by Martin Goter, NPSAS Board President	Convention Hall
9:35 am – 10:30 am	KEYNOTE: Daniel Salatin - Diversity Leads to Legacy	Convention Hall
10:45 am – 11:35 am	Workshop/Breakouts*	
	Crops: Biology that Benefits Crop Production – Larry Sax	Dakota A/B
	Livestock: Pastured Poultry – Daniel Salatin	Convention Hall
	Homesteading/Health: Save Your Farm – Tiffany Hoeft	Dakota E
	Business: Risk Management for Organic Operations – Megan Vaith	Dakota D
	Business/Land - Being a Land Entrepreneur: Building Cashflow, Not Just Soil – Taylor Henry	Theatre
	Kids Ag Workshop – Master Gardeners of Brown County	Indoor Courtyard
11:45 am-1:00 pm	Exhibits Open	Exhibit Hall
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch	Convention Hall
12:45 pm – 1:15 pm	Annual Meeting	Convention Hall
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	KEYNOTE: Taylor Henry – Standing on the Shoulders of Soil Giants	Convention Hall

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Time	Description	Room
2:35 pm – 3:30 pm	General Session: Ag Marketing – Making Your Farm Work	Convention Hall
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Exhibits Open	Exhibit Hall
4:00 pm – 4:50 pm	Workshop/Breakouts*	
	Crops: Using Data to Make Farm Decisions – Blake Burggraff	Dakota A/B
	Livestock: Grass-Fed Beef & Diverse Grazing – Scott Kronberg - SARE Farmers Forum	Dakota D
	Homesteading/Health: Rabbits – The Forgotten Protein – Daniel Salatin	Theatre
	Business: Holistic Management – Matt Stone	Dakota E
	Kids Ag Workshop – Master Gardeners of Brown County	Indoor Courtyard
5:00 pm	Taste of Ag – Happy Hour Social & Cash Bar	Conference Center
6:00 pm	Dinner & Auction	Convention Hall

Friday – January 23

7:00 am	Breakfast – Exhibitors Open & Networking	Exhibit Hall
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Workshop/Breakouts*	
	Crops: Managing Pesticide Drift: Preventative, Detection and Response by Dr. Angela K. Jackson	Dakota A/B
	Livestock: Comparing compost tea and compost extract by Mike Seifert a SARE Farmers Forum	Dakota D
	Homesteading/Health: The next generation of your farm/ranch – who will it be? by Carmen Fernholz & Charlie Johnson	Dakota E
	Business: Understanding the Efficacy, Economics and ROI of Robotics and Autonomous Technology by Randy Stratton	Theatre
	Kids Ag Workshop – By Master Gardeners of Brown County	Indoor Courtyard
9:30 am – 10:30 am	General Session: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly – Farmer Panel	Convention Hall
10:40 am – 11:30 am	Roundtable discussions - Pick a Table and Chat with facilitators and other attendees about: Financing - Marketing - Biology - Livestock - AI - Pest/Weed Management - Cover Crops - Govt. Programs or Organic Certification/Transition	Convention Hall
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch & Exhibitors Open	Convention Hall
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	KEYNOTE: Angela Jackson - Managing Pesticide Drift: Preventative, Detection and Response	Convention Hall

Please check For Final Schedule here or in your conference book for any changes upon Conference Check-in.



Conference Speakers – Biography



Tayler Henry

Taylor Henry is a farmer, entrepreneur, and realtor, and the owner of Acres U.S.A.® and Henry Pastures. He carries forward a regenerative farming legacy, managing over 250 acres across multiple farms in the Driftless Region. A former police officer turned entrepreneur, Taylor integrates cattle and hogs into his holistic farming system and helps others acquire land for regenerative use. Passionate about supporting the next generation of farmers, Taylor shares pathways for young people to enter regenerative agriculture, from innovative land access models to financing strategies and mentorship opportunities. Through Acres U.S.A., he continues to inspire and educate farmers nationwide.



Dr. Angela Jackson

Angela has been active in South Dakota organic food and feed production for many years as an inspector/auditor, educator, and a producer. She is currently working with SDSPA OCIA TOPP and the OTI Regenerative Agriculture Pathway Program. Since 2006, she has been the owner/operator of Prairiesun Organics, a family farm located in Clay County, South Dakota. Prairiesun Organics is certified to the USDA NOP and Regenerative Organic Certified® program. Along with her husband, she raises row crops, vegetables, laying hens for eggs, broiler chickens for meat, and processes their chickens on site.

Angela has a doctoral degree from the University of South Dakota. She taught previously as adjunct faculty in ag business and animal nutrition at a community college in Iowa for nearly a decade. She is actively involved with the Regenerative Organic Alliance, Independent Organic Inspectors Association, South Dakota Specialty Producers Association, and Organic Farmers Association. She is passionate about seeing organic production grow in South Dakota.

Conference Speakers – Biography...



Daniel Salatin

Daniel is multi-generational farmer. He's grown up in the farming landscape in Swoope, VA. Farming right out of the gate has given him a lifetime of experience, mastery and confidence that comes from a life's work and passion. Today he leads an ever-growing team at Polyface Farm. Daniel finds the most joy in his family, teaching, team building, healing soil, farm design, a growing relationship with Jesus, working with livestock and hunting.

Managing the day-to-day flow of the farm, he works with cattle, hogs, meat birds, layers, turkeys, rabbits, sheep, and forestry, but most importantly- People. This keeps him learning something every day in a high energy, outdoor workplace. With over 30 years on hands-on experience in the land healing, healthy food growing world, Daniel is practical in his approach and teaching.

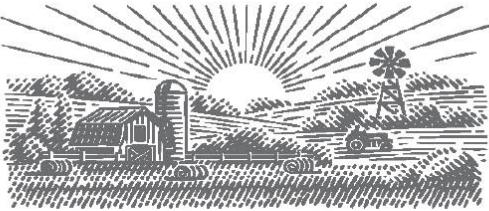
Kids Workshops at the Conference

One of the unique elements of the NPSAS conference is that we encourage people to bring their kids. In many cases, farms and ranches are a family businesses. We welcome young kids and work to include them by hosting

workshops for them at the same time as the adults. This allows parents to pay attention and get more from the presentations, while the kids can learn something too. Our evening auction and entertainment is fun for kids as

well. We often have items kids will enjoy in the auction, not to mention the great pool area at the host facility, the Best Western in Aberdeen, SD. Bring your kids and enjoy!





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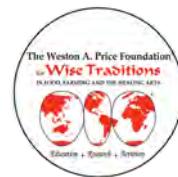
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NORTHERN PLAINS FOOD & FARMING CONFERENCE

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CONFERENCE MENU

Wednesday Lunch	Deli Sandwich Buffet with Soup of the Day, Coffee/Iced Tea
Wednesday Dinner	Gluten-free organic pasta, Alfredo sauce, Organic pulled chicken, Caesar salad, Garlic bread, Coffee/Iced Tea
Thursday Breakfast	Hardboiled eggs, Assorted whole fruit, Caramel rolls, Coffee
Thursday Lunch	Taco bar, Organic Ground Beef, Whole grain taco shells, Whole grain tortilla chips, Spanish Organic Rice, Corn-potato chowder, Coffee/Iced Tea
Thursday Dinner	Marinara sauce, Organic Ground beef, Organic gluten-free pasta, House salad with dressings, Dinner rolls, Coffee/ Lemonad
Friday Breakfast	Hardboiled eggs, Assorted whole fruit, Pastries, Coffee
Friday Lunch	Baked potato bar, Baked potatoes, Butter, sour cream, shredded cheese, Organic Beef Chili, Coffee/Iced Tea

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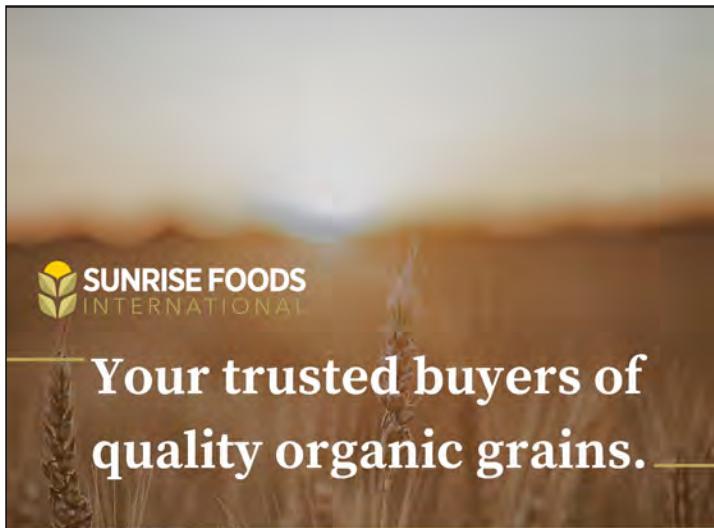
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2026 Food & Farming Conference Keynotes and Workshops & Keynotes



Dr. Angela K. Jackson & Randy Stratton

Smarter Farming with AI: Planning, Risk & Profit

This 3-hour, hands-on workshop introduces organic and regenerative farmers to practical ways artificial intelligence (AI) can support — not replace — farmer decision-making. Participants will learn what AI actually is and explore real-world applications for whole-farm planning, crop rotations, cost of production, breakeven analysis, and evaluating new or value-added enterprises. Using current research and real farm scenarios, the session will demonstrate how simple, accessible AI-based tools can help reduce uncertainty around organic transition, tillage and cover crop decisions, and long-term soil health while maintaining profitability. Attendees are encouraged to bring one real farm challenge to work through live, gaining clarity around trade-offs, risk, and economic outcomes.

Keynote - Daniel Salatin

Diversity Leads to Legacy

How do we build farms that last as the world changes, new generations try to get started and what we did years ago don't produce the same results as before? Join Daniel as he discusses practical ways to involve the next generation of farmers and how adding diversity in livestock contributes to sustainability—not just financially but also in healing soil and enhancing earnings per acre. He will also address sensitive topics in family farms, such as compensation for kids, financial decision-making, and inheritance. As someone deeply committed to farm sustainability and with extensive experience managing a diverse team, Daniel is passionate about fostering the future of farming."

Crops - Larry Sax

Biology that Benefits Crop Production

Overview of OMRI-certified biological inputs, covering five key categories. Discussion will include the benefits of each category, impacts on plant physiology, and key differences among products in the marketplace. The session will feature hands-on, live crop examples demonstrating biological product effects, followed by a Q&A.

Livestock - Daniel Salatin

Pastured Poultry. How to get started with meat birds on pasture.

From getting your first chicks and setting up your brooder, to having your first on farm harvest day, this talk will be very how to. With returns of \$3-6,000.00 per acre, poultry is a great way to add value to small, out of the way land, become a great side business or a great stepping stone for the new/young farmer.

Homesteading/Health - Tiffany Hoeft

Save your Farm: Holistic Management – Take regenerative ag to the next level

Tiffany Hoeft of Minds Matter PLLC breaks down dementia prevention in a way that actually makes sense for rural life. As a farmgirl herself, she understands what really works to keep you strong and living on the farm you love. Tiffany walks through the small, realistic changes that can make a big difference in keeping your mind sharp and your life independent. Tiffany was recently recognized by South Dakota's first lady with a South Dakota Rising Award for her commitment to rural brain health.

Business/Land - Taylor Henry

Being a Land Entrepreneur: Building Cashflow, Not Just Soil

In 2026, resilient farms won't be defined solely by soil health or production efficiency—they'll be defined by cashflow, communication, and systems. This talk reframes the farm as an entrepreneurial platform, where land supports not only crops and livestock, but also brands, relationships, and diversified income streams. We'll explore how farmers and landowners can shift from being operator-dependent to system-driven by improving how they market, tell their story, and connect directly with consumers. Grounded in core principles of cashflow-based business design, this session focuses on building farm enterprises that generate income beyond labor, reduce financial fragility, and reward long-term thinking. This talk is for farmers who want their land working for them—not the other way around.

Keynote - Taylor Henry

Standing on the Shoulders of Soil Giants

A Journey into Regenerative Agriculture and how the next generation can cultivate profitable operations

Long description: Join Taylor Henry as he shares his journey from entrepreneurship to regenerative agriculture. Standing on the Shoulders of Soil Giants highlights how blending traditional wisdom with modern innovation to restore soil health and build resilience. Taylor reflects on the pivotal moments that led him to acquire Acres U.S.A.® and relocate its headquarters, ensuring the ongoing legacy of regenerative agriculture. He also explores practical strategies for young people looking to break into



farming today—whether through land access, creative financing, or leveraging mentorship and innovative farm models. This session offers insights into land management, livestock integration, and scaling a regenerative business, providing a forward-thinking perspective for farmers, investors, and land stewards eager to build a profitable, sustainable future in agriculture”

Crops - Blake Burggraff

Using Data to Make Farm Decisions

Finding your way around farming and figuring out how to make decisions on what to plant, where, and how can be as daunting or even more so than the work itself sometimes. Hear Blake provide his explanation of how easy it can be to record data and make informed decisions about trying different farming practices.

Homesteading - Daniel Salatin

Rabbits- the forgotten protein!

How adding rabbits can supply the family with year around meat. Rabbits are great for young people/farmers, can become a fulltime business or just stay small for the family. They don't take much time or space and are very easy to harvest.

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Business - Matt Stone

Holistic Management – Take regenerative ag to the next level

Holistic Management picks up where regenerative ag stops, helping you to develop a holistic mindset that includes not only your operation, but your family and community. Giving you the ability to plan and address challenges of achieving your goals while maintaining your values.

Livestock - Scott Kronberg (SARE)

Is Grass Fed Beef from

Cattle Grazing a Diverse Mixture of Plants Healthier for Consumers?

Want to hear if our hypothesis was right. We thought grass-fed beef along with pasture-based pork, chicken and chicken eggs produced on pastures with more diversity of plant species and plant parts available and consumed by the animals would have greater diversity of chemicals in the animal-based foods and will provide health benefits to consumers compared to these conventionally produced foods in pens with a high dietary level of concentrate feeds and less diversity of plant materials consumed. Do you think we were right?

Keynote - Dr. Angela K. Jackson

Farmer-in-the-Loop for AI Assisted Decision Making

Did you know AI can strengthen farmer judgment by connecting financial signals to real-time field choices in organic and regenerative systems? This keynote reframes “precision” as making timely decisions for constraints like market volatility, land, labor, equipment, and cash flow—while exploring ethics around data transparency, agency, and responsibility.

Livestock - SARE Speaker - Mike Seifert

Comparing compost tea and compost extract

Join us for a workshop on the benefits of compost extract and compost tea in enhancing soil biology. This workshop is perfect for both seasoned farmers and those looking to incorporate sustainable methods into their operations. Learn how to create and manage these low-cost solutions on your farm to promote a healthier ecosystem and boost crop production. We will cover the science behind these practices, provide step-by-step methods for producing your own soil biology stimulants, and share practical tools for transforming your farming practices.

Business - Randy Stratton

Understanding the Efficacy, Economics and ROI of Robotics and Autonomous Technology

Advancements in robotics, AI, and autonomous vehicles are transforming agriculture by supporting soil health, reducing weed pressure, and helping growers save time, labor, and resources. From drones and autonomous tractors to robotic arms, these technologies increase efficiency by handling repetitive tasks, allowing farmers to focus on improving yields. Common applications include harvesting, weed control, mowing, pruning, seeding, spraying, and thinning.

Homesteading/Health - Carmen Fernholz & Charlie Johnson

The next generation of your farm/ranch - who will it be?

Have you thought about how you will transfer your operation to the next generation, whether it's a relative or someone you've not yet met. Each of these long-time, respected certified organic farmers has transferred land they owned and/or managed and brought in a new generation to their operation for eventual transfer. You will hear their stories of struggles and successes in their endeavors to their transfer.

Crops - Dr. Angela K. Jackson

Managing Pesticide Drift: Preventative, Detection and Response

Let's look at both proactive planning and follow-through. Drawing from her own pesticide drift case as an organic farmer—and her field experience as a lead auditor—Angela Jackson shares practical prevention strategies, detection and documentation methods, and best practices for responding, remediation, and protecting certification, crops, and neighbor relationships.



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- Triticale
- Wheat
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- Barley
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- Rye
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Northern Plains
Sustainable Ag



Let's keep building a sustainable future together.

Join NPSAS or renew your membership today!

Growing nutrient dense food, using environmentally sound farming methods that support the long-term sustainability of human communities, soil, and water resources has been the focus of NPSAS for 40+ years. When we started, there were few others interested in our ideas, and markets for our products were hard to find. All that has changed. Your new membership or membership renewal will help us continue to build our community of support as we work to meet the increasing demand for knowledge and tools to build a more sustainable way of life.

Not sure of your membership status? Email info@NPSAS.org with questions

Northern Plains Sustainable Ag EDUCATION / COMMUNITY / ENVIRONMENT

Name: _____

Farm/Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to **NPSAS**, or donate with a credit card:

VISA MasterCard Signature _____

Name on card _____ Amount: \$ _____

Card number _____ Expires _____ CVV _____

Return this section to: NPSAS • PO Box 444 • Frederick, SD 57441

Renew or join NPSAS

Student \$40 Family \$75

Business \$300 Lifetime \$1500 \$ _____

Single \$50

Optional: Please accept my generous gift of:

\$35 \$50

\$100 \$150

\$1,000 Other \$ _____

\$ _____

Designate my gift to go toward:

Beginning farmer training General operating

Farm Breeding Club support

Food & Farming Conference scholarships Matching gift for online

giving programs/ year-end appeal

TOTAL \$ _____

Thanks for your continued support of NPSAS!

The NPSAS Board & Staff are committed to honoring and building on what the founders created and previous boards and staff nurtured. We will serve the mission of the organization to the highest standard to ensure NPSAS is here to serve for generations to come.



**Scan to start
your NPSAS
Membership
Today!**





*Join us the evening of
January 22, 2026 in Aberdeen, SD
at the Best Western Aberdeen
for the 2026 Taste of Ag.*

This is an evening of fun, networking, storytelling, and delicious bites, sips, and tastes of local and sustainably and/or organically grown food and drink. The evening also includes a fun auction.

KIDS WORKSHOPS

Prairie Partners at NPSAS Conference Jan. 22-23

THREE SESSIONS IN THE ATRIUM AT THE RAMKOTA:

Thursday, 10:45 - 11:35 a.m.

Thursday, 4 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.

Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

Topics #1: Exploding seeds, dancing seeds, oh my!

- Making plantable paper
- Exploding seeds activity
- See how we can make corn dance
- Make plant impressions in dough creations

Topic #2: The secrets of growing plants

- Paint your own container and select a plant to put in it
- Learn about the life cycle of the plants
- See how a plant drinks --- flower in colored water
- If time, paint a spring ornament

Topic #3: Chia pets and marching ants

- Is grass a plant? What makes it different
- Make a chia pet and how to take care of it
- Scavenger hunt
- Make your own ant
- Stickers for bug jars



USDA Organic Program

Transition to Organic Mentor Program

Join the Mentorship
Mission Today



**BECOME PART OF THE ORGANIC
MOVEMENT!**

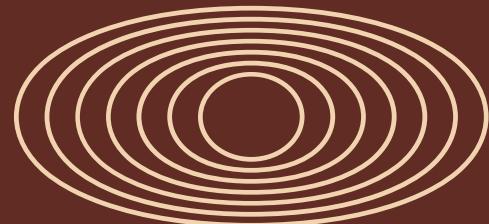
Transitioning producers will receive free mentorship from an experienced organic producer.

Mentors and transitioning producers will work together to set goals for the mentorship year and will form a strong network of organic producers across the region.



Qualified Mentors Have:

- At least three years of experience with organic production and certification
- A strong understanding of the organic rules and regulations
- Experience with the challenges and benefits of organic production and certification
- An interest in sharing knowledge and giving back to the organic community



Learn More At: www.organictransition.org

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CO-SPONSORS!

Your support makes this conference possible!

The following is a list of those who have generously cosponsored the 2025 Food & Farming Conference. We apologize for any omissions or errors.

THANK YOU!

Please let our cosponsors know how much you appreciate their support and participation in this event!



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



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their support and participation in this event.*