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January 25-27, 2024

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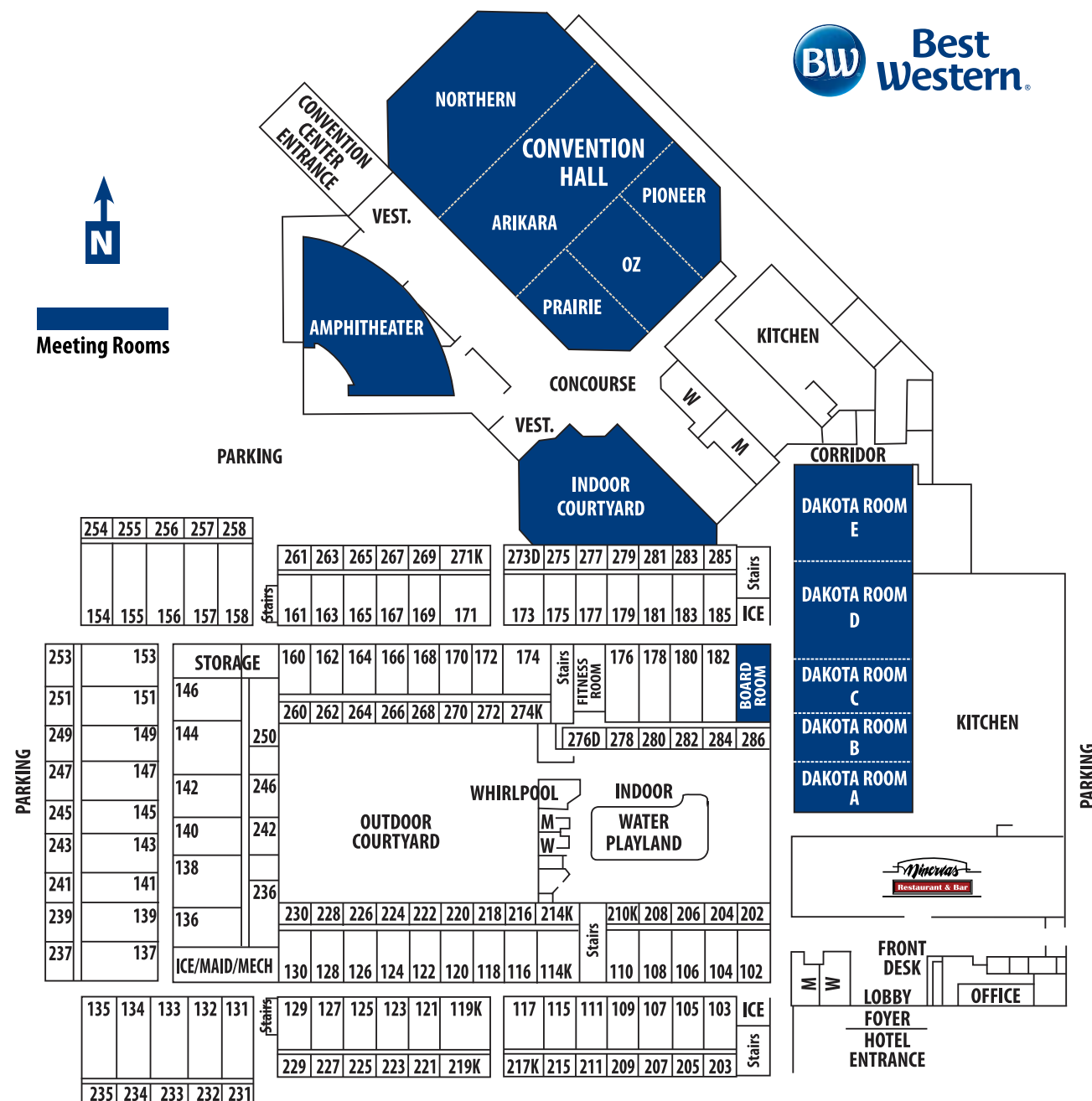
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While making reservations be sure to mention **NPSAS Food & Farming Conference**



Welcome to the NPSAS 2023 Food & Farming Conference

Thank you for joining us for our Annual Winter Conference and welcome back to Aberdeen. Your conference committee has put in a lot of work bringing this together with the goal of providing something of interest for all of our attendees.

This year we are once again partnering with the Organic Academy Road Show (OARS), who will be putting on workshops covering the many challenges and rewards of transitioning to organic farming and ranching as well as answer any questions you may have. We have three keynotes lined up for you beginning with Gary Zimmer, known as the “Father of Biological Agriculture” on Friday morning. We will then hear from Doug and Anna Jones-Crabtree on Friday following lunch, they are first generation organic farmers who have become nationally known for their unique farm operation in Montana. Last, but certainly not least; Nate Powell-Palm will discuss his operation of 1500 certified organic acres, and how he did it remaining debt free and other lessons in his transition process.

I would like to thank all of our sponsor’s, without them, we could not be doing this. Please visit their booths and help support them as well. As always, we are open to ideas to make next year even better as well as looking for motivated people to join our board and help us put these ideas into motion. Please do not hesitate to let one of your board members know if you have any questions or suggestions for us. Please take the time to complete the surveys, these help us to recruit new speakers and keynotes for future conferences, as well as help us find new content for our ongoing webinar series. We hope this year’s conference will not only be informative to you, but also to give you a chance to catch up with and socialize with old friends and connections and make some new ones in the process!

—Martin Goter,
NPSAS Board President



NPSAS Annual Meeting Reminder:

The NPSAS Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, January 26, 2024 from 1:00-1:45 pm 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, Brad Wolbert

Executive Director Report
Krysti Mikkonen

Election Results
President, Martin Goter

Adjourn Meeting

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Organic Transition Academy Schedule & Agenda

NPSAS - Aberdeen

9:30 - 11:00 am Registration and Breakfast

8:15 - 9:15 am Plenary Session I:

Getting started and building a resilient farm/ranch

9:30 - 11:00 am

- Grain & Specialty Crops - Developing an Organic System Plan
- Livestock - Developing an Organic System Plan

11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Lunch

12:15 pm - 1:45 pm - Session II:

- Grain & Specialty Crops - The economics and markets for your organic products
- Livestock - The economics and markets for your organic products

2:00 - 3:30 pm - Session III:

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

3:45 pm - 4:30 pm (panels) - 15 min presentations FSA/NRCS/INSURANCE

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm - PANEL with FSA/NRCS/INSURANCE

5:00 pm - 5:30 pm - Working with an organic consultant Q&A, small group discussion, survey plenary

6:00 pm - Ramkota - Dinner with Tradeshow Vendors

Organic Transition Academy Tracks & Agenda - Day 2

Track Session I:

Morning Presentations of NPSAS Conference

12:00 am - 1:00 pm - Lunch- Debrief with participants



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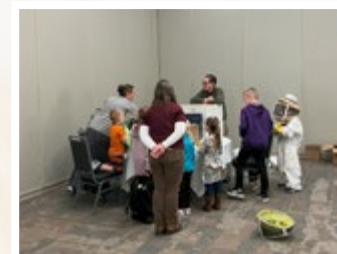
SCHEDULE

PRE-CONFERENCE THURSDAY, JANUARY 25		
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Intro to Organic - Organic Academy Road Show (OARS) with National Center for Appropriate Technology	Dakota Room E
12:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Tips from the Experts in Organic Ag - Organic Academy Road Show (OARS) with Jess Alger, Doug Crabtree & Anna Jones-Crabtree, & Nate Powell-Palm	Dakota Room E
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	NPSAS Farm Breeder Network and OARS	Dakota Room E
5:30 pm	OARS Community Night & Vendor Dinner	
3:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Vendor Set-up	Check-in
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26		
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast - Exhibits Open - Welcome Message By Martin Goter, NPSAS Board President	Convention Hall
BREAKOUT SESSIONS:		
8-30 am – 9:30 am	Marketing Your Farm – By Panel of Experience	Dakota Room A
	Brix Levels & Grasshopper/Insect Control – By Glen Philbrick	Dakota Room C
	Value-added Ag Endeavors – By Panel of Experience	Dakota Room E
	The Value and Implementation of Aquaponics By Bobbi Jo Horsted	Dakota Room D
	Kids Farming Workshop with Master Gardeners of Brown County	Theater
9:45 am	KEYNOTE – Gary Zimmer – What Needs Regeneration	Convention Hall
10:45 am	BREAK EXHIBIT HALL OPEN	
BREAKOUT SESSIONS:		
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Strip-till Corn in Established Rotational Organic Alfafa By Steve Enger	Dakota Room D
	Learning Microbes and Your Soil - By Brady Krchnavy	Dakota Room C
	Regenerate Your Farm - Gary Zimmer	Dakota Room A
	Insurance and Programs You Should Know By Panel of Experience	Dakota Room E
	Kids Farming Workshop with Master Gardeners of Brown County	Theater
12:15 pm	LUNCH - Exhibit Hall Open NPSAS Awards	
1:00 pm - 1:45 pm	NPSAS Annual Meeting	Convention Hall
2:00 pm	KEYNOTE - Doug Crabtree & Anna Jones-Crabtree - Is Farming Viable on the Northern Plains? Questions with No Simple Answers	Convention Hall
BREAKOUT SESSIONS:		
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	Systemize Your Crop Rotation - By Nic Podoll	Dakota Hall D
	Building A Stewardship Service Farming Business - By Doug Crabtree & Anna Jones-Crabtree	Dakota Hall A
	Menoken Regenerative Ag Study Success - By Seth Boechler	Dakota Hall C
	USDA Financing and Support for New Farmers By Gail Gullickson	Dakota Hall E
	Kids Farming Workshop with Master Gardeners of Brown County	Theater
5:00 pm	Taste of Ag - Auction - Down Home Music	

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27		
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast and Coffee - Exhibits Open	Convention Hall
8:30 am - 9:45 am	KEYNOTE - Nate Powell-Palm - Reclaiming the Rural Promise - Young Producer Builds a Farm from Scratch	Convention Hall
BREAKOUT SESSIONS:		
10:00 am - 11:00 am	DIY Projects: Building Your Own Equipment - Roller Crimper and Interseeder By Ryan Schmid	Dakota Room A
	Transitioning Farm and a Business - The Goosemobile - By Lisa Muth	Dakota Room D
	Listening Session: Building Resilience in the SD Local Food System By Blake William	Dakota Room C
	Organic Opportunity: Building Markets for the Next Generation of Growers - Nate Powell-Palm	Dakota Room E
	Kids Farming Workshop with Master Gardeners of Brown County	Theater
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	General Session - Carbon Questions with Ryan Eichler	Convention Hall
LUNCH - NPSAS Blaine Schmaltz - Exhibit Hall Open		
1:30 pm	Farmer Panel - A Crowd Favorite - Hear from Farmers and Ranchers & Ask Your Burning Questions	Convention Hall
2:45 pm	Closing Farmers Forum Brought to you by SARE	Great Hall



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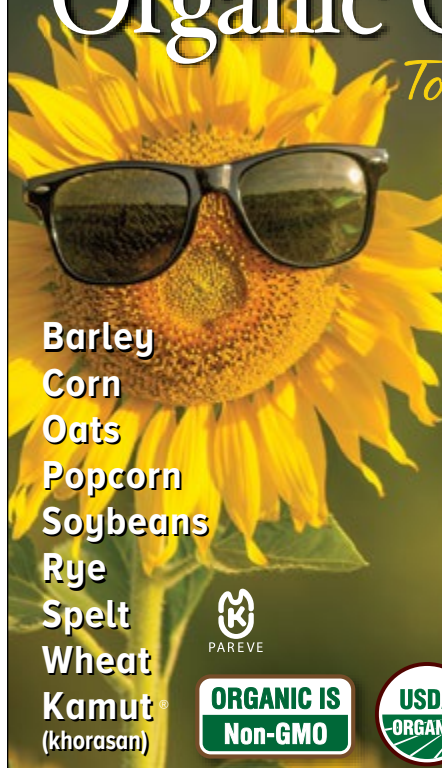
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NORTHERN PLAINS FOOD & FARMING CONFERENCE

WE RESTORE IN '24

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Doug and Anna will share their story of struggles and successes as first-generation farmers. Nationally known organic, dryland crop farmers in Northern Hill County, Montana, the Crabtrees grow a diverse array of organic heirlooms & specialty crops.



Nate will share how he grew his business from the ground up without debt. He grew his operation over the years from 40 acres to 1500+ and transitioned ground in 3 different ways. He will share which transition strategy was most successful. Additionally, he will share how we can revitalize rural communities by attracting young people back to the farm.



Gary Zimmer is one of the founders of Midwestern Bio Ag, also known as the "father of Biological Agriculture." Zimmer is an internationally known author, speaker, and consultant.

★ Food & Farming Conference Menu ★

THURSDAY

Lunch

Locally Grown Hydroponic Greens And Quinoa Salad, Grilled Chicken, Locally Raised Potato Soup, Dinner Rolls

Dinner

Organic Pasta Blend With House Alfredo, Pulled Chicken, Caesar Salad, Garlic Bread, Coffee Or Iced Tea

FRIDAY

Breakfast

Locally Raised Hardboiled Eggs, Assorted Whole Fruit, Caramel Rolls, Coffee, And For Guests Staying At The Ramkota There Is A Hot Breakfast At The Hotel

Lunch

Taco Bar- Organic Ground Beef, Fajita Seasoned Fired Pork, Organic Jasmine Seasoned Rice, Organic Black Beans, Shredded Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Jalapeno, Chips, Salsa, Sour Cream

Dinner

Organic Pasta, Red Sauce, And Organic Beef, Salad Bar, Assorted Dressings, Dinner Rolls, Coffee

SATURDAY

Breakfast

Locally Raised Hardboiled Eggs, Assorted Whole Fruit, Caramel Rolls, Coffee, And For Guests Staying At The Ramkota There Is A Hot Breakfast At The Hotel

Lunch

Organic Beef Meatloaf, House Vegetable, Locally Grown Potato Salad, Dinner Roll

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Marketing Your Farm - Panel

Telling your story adds value. There are a number of creative ways in today's communication environment to market your farm. Whether you're a smaller operation providing direct-to-consumer and farmer's market products or a large-scale farm or ranch selling by the truckload, it's important for people to know who you are and the why behind what you're doing.

Brix Levels & Grasshopper/Insect Control - Glen Philbrick

Grasshoppers have plagued North America many times. Most recently, grasshoppers have caused considerable damage in the Northern Great Plains in North Dakota and Montana since the drought of 2020 and 2021. Despite normal rainfall in 2022 in many areas, the grasshoppers are thriving. Through observation and testing with a refractometer, one can assess that grasshoppers dislike and avoid plants with high brix levels. Philbrick will share his study and testing methods for raising brix levels to not only stop grasshoppers from destroying crops but to also improve soil health.

Value-added Ag Opportunities for Success

Adding income through different opportunities that add value to what is already being produced on a farm can bring more money per bushel, more income per animal, or perhaps more income from a piece of property through creative use. What are some opportunities you might be able to engage in that can bring more to the bottom line of your farming operation?

The Value & Implementation of Aquaponics -Bobbi Jo Horsted

Aquaponic farming offers a sustainable and efficient approach to agriculture by combining aquaculture (fish farming) and hydroponics (soilless plant cultivation). This symbiotic system utilizes fish waste to provide nutrients for plants, while the plants naturally filter and clean the water for the fish. This closed-loop cycle minimizes water usage, eliminates the need for chemical fertilizers, and yields both fish and crops. The result is an environmentally friendly, resource-efficient, and integrated method of food production.

Kids Farming Workshop - What Lies Beneath - deep dive into soil with Extension Master Gardeners of South Dakota

From ages 4 - 14, come on in and learn about soil and/or work with the little ones in the group and help them learn about soil health with hands-on projects.

Strip-till Corn in Established Rotational Organic Alfalfa - Steve Enger

Sharing the successes and struggles is what helps make farming successful. Enger will share experience from his 43 years of farming and his endeavors transitioning to organic and different tilling methods. Ideally Enger would prefer no-till practices on his organic farm. While he's been using the no-till it can be a challenge yet rewarding endeavor.

Learning Microbes and your Soil - Brady Krchnavy

Knowing your soil's microbes, how they interact, and how to use

them to your advantage, can greatly increase soil health, farm sustainability, and profitability. Brady specializes in teaching the great producers of our nation how to get the most out of their current soils and how to increase the beneficial microbial activity, putting your soil to work for you!

Regenerate Your Farm - Gary Zimmer

As for what are you managing for: Are you chasing higher yields, only looking at ROI, want to be sustainable, know there are products out there that can help you and you want to try them all? Do you want to farm CLEANER? The mind change is first, let's have a discussion.

Insurance & Programs You Should Know

What do you know about crop insurance? Learn about various opportunities that can alleviate some of your farm stress. Learn more about all things insurance as it relates to getting the most out of your peace-of-mind investment.

Kids Farming Workshop - What is Brix? - Learn about sugar content in food with Extension Master Gardeners of South Dakota and Glen Philbrick

From ages 4 - 14, come on in and learn about brix testing for sugar levels in plants and how it impacts insect invasions.

Systematize your Crop Rotation - Nic Podoll

Do you have it all figured out. Systematizing crop rotation is advantageous for sustainable agriculture. It helps maintain soil health by preventing nutrient depletion and controlling pests and diseases. Get tips, examples, and ideas on how the systematic approach fosters long-term soil fertility, increases yields, and mitigates environmental impact, making it a key strategy for resilient and eco-friendly farming practices.

Building a Stewardship Service Farming Business - Doug and Anna Jones-Crabtree

At Vilicus Farms they do so much more than grow food. The CSSA program was developed to provide direct support for a system of life-giving land management practices that support all creatures. This is the service of stewardship.

Menoken Regenerative Ag Study Success - Seth Boechler

It's research at Menoken Farm that is exciting. Let's talk about the livestock, multi-species grazing, and the benefits, I could talk about how the cattle performed in this type of scenario. All obviously with soil health and the 5 principles in mind

DIY Building your Own Equipment - Ryan Schmid

Innovation is a key component to any farm endeavor but it is particularly more so with organic farming and the variety of testing, trial, and error. Learn how to develop a do-it-yourself guide for repurposing a disc into a low-cost roller-crimper (Figure 1). We'll talk more about the cost of building this machine. The latest SARE cover crop survey reports a doubling of cover crop acres over the past 5 years, which has improved soil health on cropland acres. However, farmers regularly rely on disturbances like tillage or herbicides to terminate cover.

Kids Farming Workshop - What Lies Beneath - deep dive into soil with Extension Master Gardeners of South Dakota

From ages 4 - 14, come on in and learn about soil and/or work with the little ones in the group and help them learn about soil health with hands-on projects.

Transitioning Farm and a Business - The Goosemobile - By Lisa Muth

The SD Goosemobile, which originated over 40 years ago by Tom and Ruth Neuberger, was an icon for SD Farmers Markets. The Neuberger's were in their mid-eighties when the Muth's expressed interest in learning the business and taking over operations. Lisa will speak about the rewards and the challenges of taking over an established market farm business and address some pitfalls to watch out for during a transition. She will also discuss how the pandemic and Derecho changed their business model from Farmer's Markets to direct marketing by concentrating on strong customer relationships.

DIY Projects: Building Your Own Equipment - Ryan Schmid

Develop a do-it-yourself guide for repurposing a disc into a low-cost roller-crimper (Figure 1). The cost of this machine will be 30% of a new brand-name crimper. Detailed plans will accompany how-to videos hosted on Ecdysis' YouTube channel and SARE's webpage. We will also conduct cover crop termination trials to test the tool's efficacy on the region's most abundantly planted cover crops.

Listening Session: Building Resilience in the SD Local Food System

Join the discussion about building resilience in the local food system. Blake Pulse will guide attendees through an interactive listening session to discuss challenges and opportunities to strengthen the local food system within our state. We are eager to learn more about the challenges that you face and hear your ideas on how to strengthen the local food system. Your perspective is extremely valuable to this ongoing research conducted by SDSU in partnership with the SD Local Foods Coalition.

Organic Opportunity: Building markets for the next generation of growers by Nate Powell-Palm.

There are a number of opportunities out there to build markets. It takes tenacity, creativity, and some out-of-the-box thinking.

Learn about the opportunities available, the why, and the how of generating markets in the organic industry.

Kids Farming Workshop - Create some garden fun - with Extension Master Gardeners of South Dakota

We've got a number of projects planned so if you're From ages 4 - 14, come on in and learn about seeds and the garden and/or work with the little ones in the group and help them learn about soil health with hands-on projects.

General session: Carbon Questions - Ryan Eichler

Get an introduction to the Carbon Credit program. You'll gain insight and information regarding the changes in the landscape of carbon and organic farming. We will delve into a discussion regarding sustainable farming practices and financial security for organic growers. Explore the dynamic landscape of crop insurance tailored to the unique needs of organic farming. Join us for insights, strategies, and expert guidance to safeguard your organic crops and cultivate a resilient future in agriculture. Let's empower your journey towards sustainable and insured farming practices together.



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Contact ND-SARE Co-Coordinators:
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karl.hoppe@ndsu.edu • 701-652-2951
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OCIA R&E Mentorship Program



Paid Mentor Opportunities for Organic Growers:

As a Core Partner in the USDA's Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP), OCIA Research & Education is looking for organic growers in the Great Plains Region (NE, CO, KS, OK, ND, SD) to serve as mentors to farmers who are transitioning to organic.

Mentors need to be certified by any USDA-NOP certifier and in good standing OR have a minimum of 3 years experience in organic production. A commitment to 45 hours per 12-month cycle will include 2 on-farm visits, 3 touch points during the growing season, and mentor trainings. Mentors will be provided a \$3,000 yearly stipend for their participation and travel.

If you are interested in being contacted further regarding a mentor training for this exciting new program, please email at info@ocia.org.

Thank you,

Angie Tunink

Executive Director
OCIA Research & Education, Inc.

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



A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CO-SPONSORS!

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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.

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