

# The Germinator

WINTER 2023

VOL. 43 NO. 5

Page 11

## FOOD & FARMING CONFERENCE: IT'S ABOUT FAMILY!

Page 24

## A GIFT OF OPPORTUNITY:

ANONYMOUS \$5000  
DONATION SPARKS  
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NPSAS  
2024 CONFERENCE

Page 12

## DOCUMENTATION BIG REQUIREMENTS FOR CARBON CREDIT SUCCESS







Photo by Krysti Mikkonen

## Cover Credits

This picture was taken during one of the kids' workshops Ken Meyer of AH Meyers and Sons presenting to kids about beekeeping in Fargo at the 2023 Food and Farming Conference. It is a rare gift that kids and families are encouraged to come to a professional development conference. Agriculture is a family affair and so too should the learning opportunities be as well. If you want to come and want to bring your kids but the cost is too great, reach out to Krysti, the NPSAS director. She has scholarship money to help ensure anyone who wants to come to the conference or bring their kids, but cannot afford to do so, can make it happen.



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BRANDON SANDERSON

From the President	4
From the Executive Director	5
Board Minutes	6
Apply for 40 Climate Change Fellowship	8
Agriculture Future of America & USDA Partner to Prepare Young People for Careers in Agriculture	9
Organic Valley Flips the Script in 2023 by Welcoming Dozens of Family Farms into the Cooperative Amidst Farm Crisis	10
Documentation Big Requirements for Carbon Credit Success	12
Flax Bread	22
Emmer Pilaf	23
A Gift of Opportunity: Anonymous \$5000 Donation	
Sparks Scholarships for NPSAS 2024 Conference	24
The Power of Community	26
Classified	30
Books You Should Read	31

## Advertising Directory

MOSA	02	NuLine	19
OFARM	12	Sunrise Foods International	19
Crop Fertility Services	04	Grain Millers	19
FW COBS Company	05	Blue River Organic Seed	21
Bio Flora	08	Red River Commodities	21
Bay Shore Sales	09	Stengel Grain	21
Fertify Premium Fertilizer	10	WFCF Organic	21
Grain Place Foods	10	Healthy Oil Seeds	22
Healthy Food Ingredients	10	Mountain High Organics	22
OCIA	10	Nature's Best LLC	22
Best Western	17	Soil Works LLC	26
Albert Lea Seed	18	MCIA	27
Cashton Farm Supply	18	Dramm Corp.	31
SARE	18	Rodale Institute	31

## Mission Statement

Northern Plains Sustainable  
Agriculture Society  
promotes sustainable food  
systems through education,  
advocacy, and research.

## Staff

### Executive Director

Krysti Mikkonen | director@npsas.org | (605) 380-3770

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Clinton, MN | (320) 273-2437

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### Secretary: Randy Nelson

Moorhead, MN | nels1657@umn.edu | (218) 299-5020

### Rich Horsley

Fargo, ND | richard.horsley@ndsu.edu | (701) 231-8142

### Steve Zwinger

Carrington, ND | steve.zwinger@ndsu.edu | 701-653-5584

### Nichole Hensen

Fargo, ND | nichole@nicholefinepastry.com

### Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society

PO Box 444 | Frederick, SD 57441

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e-mail: [info@npsas.org](mailto:info@npsas.org)

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President Martin Goter

## From the President

Now that winter is finally here, your board is reaching its busy season as we gear up for our Winter Conference and our return to Aberdeen this January. It was a longer and wetter harvest than expected for me; once I finally got it squared away, thankfully I still had some nice weather to get my soil tests done. This year I enrolled in a program which allowed me to do some more comprehensive soil tests on my fields along with the Haney soil test and work directly with Liz Haney in interpreting my tests. I was happy to learn that my tests proved that my farming practices have improved my soils over the years; which has always been my goal. I have never been a stickler for soil tests, as I don't bring a lot of off-farm inputs onto my fields. As I have progressed in my farming processes, I've relied on observations while field scouting as well as simple in field tests. I have done some testing through the years, but never on a regular basis and usually didn't alter my field plans based on the tests. In the limited amount of time I had to discuss my tests with Liz Haney, I learned more about the value of the Haney test and being able to use it to assess your biology, activity of the biology, and choosing next years crop using the carbon to nitrogen ratio. I swear I am not being paid to say this; but if I could recommend a test to do, that would be the one.

Speaking of periodic tests, your board also needs an evaluation every once in a while. With your input, we can learn from our mistakes, discover what is working and what is not, and be better prepared to provide you more value in the coming years. You can help us out by giving us this valuable input by contacting your board members or shooting us an email; better yet, come on down to our Winter Conference in Aberdeen this coming year and let us know there!



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## It's a Family Affair

This year is the 44th annual NPSAS conference and we're sure it won't disappoint. It has evolved over the years, it's moved around to various locations, and attendees have been they've been snowed out and also snowed in. There is one thing that has been consistent that makes the NPSAS Conference stand apart from other conferences, the fact that kids are encouraged to come. This conference is a family affair and it's important that it stay that way.

The fact that parents are encouraged to not only bring their kids but also have them participate and even attend workshops designed specifically for the kids. I have never been to another conference where kids are actually part of the conference and encouraged to actively participate.

It is more than appropriate that kids are part of this event. I don't know official statistics, but I would guess, more than any other industry, children I assume are an active part of their parent's business far more often than any other business if that business is farming or ranching. They need to be as much a part of their parent's business as possible, especially if there's a chance they want to come back and take it over and it should start young.. I had an NPSAS member tell me more than once recently, "I lost my best workers when they went off to kindergarten." If they are part of the business, they should be around it in the field and with the ag-related activities and endeavors off the field.

In addition, organic and regenerative agriculture are very strategic and there's a lot of trial and error to be done. It's helpful to hash through that strategy with like-minded individuals on a regular basis with your peers is helpful. Teaching kids the value of networking and sharing thoughts and ideas by coming to the conference and seeing it in action is invaluable. The connections will be invaluable down the road.

I can't encourage you enough to bring your kids to the conference. If money is tight, email or call and we'll see if we still have some scholarship money available to help offset your costs.

Know that if you want the next generation to be a part of your farm later, let them fully be part of the farm now. Know that this conference is unique and a fun way to make the conference a little family vacation.



Executive Director Krysti Mikkonen

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# Board Minutes

## NPSAS MINUTES SUMMARY - June 2023

**Financial Report** - Brad noted that a donation was received. Membership sign-up is now available on the website. Some buckwheat seed was sold.

### Executive Director Report

- TOPP Grant has been submitted
- The Germinator will go out by the end of June, and an E-Sprout was sent out.
- Membership appeal has been ongoing. Emails and phone calls were made to a combined curated list of previous members. Membership is also advertised on E-Sprout, Facebook, and in Germinator. Positive feedback and excitement were received for the location of the upcoming conference.
- BFRD Building a Resilient Future Grant Project, also known as (OARS) - Continue to have monthly meetings with participating states, speakers, organizers, and agencies. OARS Preconference on Thursday, January 25th, and may have a speaker at Stengel Field Day on August 25
- The search continues for women land-owners in North or South Dakota to serve as Stewardship Ambassadors.
- Changed sponsorship program to a package deal.
- Doug and Anna Crabtree are confirmed speakers for the winter conference.

### Governance/Strategic Planning

Discussion was held on open board seats.

### Farm Breeder Network Update

- Rich gave an overview of the last meeting. Discussions were had about seed availability and crops of interest to the group.
- A bid came in for a piece of equipment, there also was interest in a combine. Calls will be placed to individuals that have expressed interest.

## NPSAS MINUTES SUMMARY - July 2023

**Financial Report**- Brad gave a high-level overview of June and year-to-date preliminary financial reports and noted we are a little in the red this month.

### Executive Director Report

- Summer Germinator went to the printer Jun 10.

• Summer events were posted on social media & on the website. Upcoming events are the Carrington Research Center and the Johnson farm tour.

• BFRD Building a Resilient Future Grant Project - Bringing in Nate Powell Palm, to speak at Stengel's Field Day on August 25th.

• TOPP Grant was submitted for the 3rd time on June 10

• Women, Food and Agriculture Network Grant - \$7600 Grant will be discussed for possible submission before year-end.

• Working on a second keynote for the winter conference. Will call for speakers and content in The Germinator

• System for Award Management (SAM) file needs updating

• The 990 is about to be completed.

• An E-Sprout newsletter was sent.

• Member profiles will start on social media, and maybe The Germinator

• NPSAS was Invited to the Organic Farm Innovation Expo - August 17, 2023, in Cokato, MN

### Farm Breeder Network

Dylan wheat is being grown at several locations in the US to look at the environment and grain quality. Devyatka buckwheat is being grown at three locations to look at flowering dates, yield, and other agronomic data. Radish work is going to continue. And there is still discussion about white sorghum.

### Governance/Strategic Planning

• Martin and Krysti have been working on filling vacant board seats.

• Discussion was had about priorities made during the past two board retreats. Many priorities have been completed or are in progress.

• Attending farmer's markets to promote the organization and possibly selling small bags of flour made from Dylan wheat.

• Discussed setting up a membership committee.

## NPSAS MINUTES SUMMARY - August 2023

**Financial Report**- Brad gave an overview of July, the year-to-date preliminary financial report, and noted there are plans

with TOPP Grant projects.

### Executive Director Report

**Summer Events:** The first 3 summer events went well with great attendance. We will have a booth at the Organic Farm Innovation Expo. Remaining events include Stengel Seed on August 25, Brad Wolbert's field day on August 29-POSTPONED to 2024

**Fall Germinator content will include articles on the following topics:** Biochar, SD farmer who took over organic farmland, and land donated to NPSAS

Winter Conference Planning is underway, and currently looking for an additional keynote speaker. Aberdeen CVB will be able to help with registration, and there will be a preview of keynote speakers in the Germinator. Sponsorship/registration information will be out in the middle of October. Workshops and breakout sessions will be lined up in the next month.

Categories for interviews for the TOPP Grant online learning for beginning organic farmers include Requirements, inspection, weed control, fertilizer, crop varieties, plant breeding, planting timing and tips, certification, hydroponic, documentation/data, storage/grain bins/dryers, marketing, seed saving & cleaning, and understanding plant variety protection.

### Farm Breeder Network

A material transfer agreement was presented for seed sales that are developed by the FBN. Radish Research that was started, looks like the seed can be developed for a good fall cover crop. The buckwheat project has potential for growth. There is enough growing that Krysti was asked to reach out to seed companies to see if there's interest in purchasing seed for resale. Participants in the meeting were asked for input on speakers for the conference. It was suggested that a Specialty Block Grant may be a good idea for furthering the radish research. Other grant opportunities might be AURI grant, Bush Grant, and MDA AFREE Minnesota Demonstration Grant Research

### Governance/Strategic Planning

-There are still two seats on the board. Ideally, it would be beneficial to have representation meeting one or more of the following: from SD, a producer/farmer, and/or a sponsor/business/organization that supports the organic industry.

# Board Minutes

## NPSAS MINUTES SUMMARY - September 2023

**Financial Report** - Brad gave a high-level overview of July and the year-to-date preliminary financial report. He noted there are plans with TOPP projects and the conference next July should look better.

**Questions on MN State Unemployment tax, Dylan Wheat, Stackable Totes** - Questions on the equipment Steve, Glen, Dylan remove equipment from the financials, send invoice to Tommy.

**Proposed budget** - Motion made by Rich and 2nd by Mike to approve the 2023-2024 budget

Motion made and approved to accept the financial report as presented.

### Executive Director Report

**Reviewed Summer Events** - The first 4 events went well. Good attendance.

- o Event in Milbank at Stengels was good with about 50 in attendance

- o Final event will be held at Menoken Farms on Sept 28 in collaboration with Acres USA

BFRD Building a Resilient Future Grant Project - (AKA OARS) - Ongoing monthly meetings to work on the 2024 event in Aberdeen

### Winter Conference Planning

- o Final keynote for a total of 3 - Doug & Anna Jones-Crabtree, Gary Zimmer, & Nate Powell-Palm

- o Sponsorship/registration information plan is for registration to start Oct. 15

- o Selections for Friend of the Farmer is Carolyn Lane & for Steward of the Year is Doubting Thomas Farm

Krysti is looking for a new employee with Assistant Kelly's resignation

First TOPP Grant due at the end of this month, first check should come in October

- o Continuing work on final projects

- o Next application is due by December 31, 2023

### Governance/Strategic Planning

- Discussion was held on the terms for Board members: Mike will look into determining the terms of each board member for consistency moving forward

The NPSAS policy manual for the

organization was presented for board review

## NPSAS MINUTES SUMMARY - October 2023

**Financial Report** - Brad gave a high-level overview of September and year to date preliminary financial Reports.

### Executive Director Report

- Bob Quinn Grain by Grain Transition Journey

- o October 18 online

- Common Ground Movie Showing on Friday, Oct. 20 in Fargo. Movie promotes regenerative agriculture

- Building a Resilient Future (OARS) grant

- o Planning underway for January event in Aberdeen

- South Dakota Day of Giving registered for Tuesday, November 28

- o Social media posts will be scheduled

- o Will be Promoted in e-Sprout

- Winter Conference Planning

- o Conference registration opens this week

- o Sponsorship went out

- o Planning meeting following meeting

- TOPP Grant Update

- o First Report was submitted for TOPP grant

- o Invoice sent & check received on Oct. 16 for \$48,500

- o Projects needed to complete this next quarter include:

- Resource Directory

- Seed saving workshop

- New website with resources for transitioning farmers

- Online Learning Center - Road to Organic

- Staff training for organic certification

- Common Ground watch party

### Program Committee

2024 winter conference budget was presented.

**Action:** motion made and approved to accept the proposed 2024 winter conference budget as presented.

### Governance/Strategic Planning

Krysti and Mike J. are reviewing board terms of each board member for consistency moving forward. NPSAS policy manual is being reviewed.

## NPSAS MINUTES SUMMARY - November 2023 - Special Meeting

### Executive Director Report

- Krysti said Hannah was recently hired to support NPSAS. Hannah was hired as a contract employee.

- Krysti talked about a recently developed promotional newsletter for NPSAS. Krysti suggested mailing the newsletter to a list of organic certified farmers, processors, and seed producers.

## NPSAS MINUTES SUMMARY - November 2023

**Financial Report** - Brad gave a high-level overview of October and year to date preliminary financial Reports. Brad noted that October was a profitable month.

**Action:** Motion to correct inventory discrepancies by removing the extra zero in the number of Dylan wheat bags, which was a typo; removing stackable totes, and removing 50lb seed bags.

**Action:** Motion made and approved to accept the financial reports as presented.

### Executive Director Report

- Scheduled World Soil Day event for December 5, 7:00 pm – Kiss the Ground & Common Ground Discussion on Zoom

- Trying to get clearance to view Kiss the Ground and Common Ground.

- Need ideas for 2024-2025 TOPP Grant at \$135,000/year.

- Hosted a learning session on the inspection process which I recorded for the online learning portal.

- Still working on the learning portal for the TOPP grant to be launched by Dec. 31

- Working on the online & printed Directory

- Hired and placed Hannah Moser as the new Communications & Events Coordinator

- Facilitated a 4-page Mailing to All current and past members of NPSAS to promote the conference, donations, and membership.

*Continued on page 25*



# Apply for 40 Climate Change Fellowship

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 2023 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that it is hiring 40 Climate Change Fellows to help with the record numbers of applications from farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses seeking funding for clean energy projects under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). The new positions are being funded by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, the nation's largest-ever investment in combatting the climate crisis, a key pillar of Bidenomics and part of the Investing in America agenda.

"The Biden-Harris Administration is hard at work making sure as many people as possible can access historic funding to make clean energy improvements at their farms, ranches and businesses," Agriculture Deputy Secretary Torres Small said. "These innovations will help them increase their income, grow their businesses, address climate change and lower energy costs for American families."

The positions are part of the USDA Climate Change Fellows Program, which hires new staff with a range of skills to carry out USDA's activities to address climate change and find solutions to agricultural challenges, enhance economic growth and create

new streams of income for farmers, ranchers and producers. The program brings expertise and fresh perspectives to the federal workforce and expands the climate consciousness of state offices around the country. These historic investments in future agricultural leaders will help USDA attract the best and brightest to face the growing challenges of the agricultural economy.

The Inflation Reduction Act provided REAP with \$2 billion of funding to meet growing demand from farmers and small business owners looking to expand their use of wind, solar and other forms of clean energy and make energy efficiency improve-

ments that save business owners money and in some cases generate new revenue sources through net metering and power purchase agreements. So far, USDA has made \$1.25 billion of that available and has seen a dramatic increase in grant applications under the program. The program is part of President Biden's Justice40 Initiative which made it a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

Three of the new positions will report to USDA Rural Development's national office. To apply, visit this USA Jobs posting.

Two fellows each will be based in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota.

One fellow each will be based in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware/Maryland, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Jersey, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming and Puerto Rico.

To apply for a position in one of these states, visit this USA Jobs posting. To apply for a position in Puerto Rico, visit this USA Jobs posting.

Initial appointments may be for up to two years. Additional one-year extensions may be made up to four years. Most states will receive additional funds, announced at a later date, to provide REAP technical assistance in addition to these staffing positions.

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# Agriculture Future of America & USDA Partner to Prepare Young People for Careers in Agriculture

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12, 2023 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Agriculture Future of America (AFA), formalizing a partnership to promote the common goals of strengthening the future competitiveness and sustainability of the U.S. agriculture industry by preparing more young people for careers in agriculture.

"This partnership will enhance USDA's involvement with AFA and its leadership development and education mission," said Secretary Vilsack. "This agreement reinforces USDA's commitment to preparing students for future careers in agriculture with an emphasis on federal sector employment."

USDA and AFA will continue to collaborate on leadership development efforts, and link these young leaders with career opportunities in food, agricultural science, natural resources, and related fields. Under the MOU, USDA commits to advancing opportunities for AFA delegates to participate in USDA programs, including internships. AFA will provide occasions for USDA to meet with AFA delegates to share information about these opportunities.

The MOU will be administered by USDA's Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE), which develops and maintains partnerships focused on solutions to challenges facing rural and underserved communities and connects those communities to the education, tools, and resources available to them through USDA programs and initiatives.

"Our collaboration with USDA signifies a shared vision for the future of American agriculture," said Mark Stewart, President and CEO of AFA. "This MOU is not just a document; it's a commitment to bridging the gap between talent and opportunity. This agreement reinforces our belief that connecting young leaders with USDA initiatives will enrich their careers and contribute to a more resilient and competitive agriculture industry."

AFA builds bridges for young leaders to foster engagement and innovation in food and agriculture through

premier leader and career development experiences. With program participation increasing 28% in the last five years, AFA has provided 26,000 leader development experiences to college leaders and young professionals from more than 200 colleges and universities throughout 43 states since its inception in 1996. AFA has awarded more than \$11 million in academic and leader development scholarships. For more information about AFA, visit [www.agfuture.org](http://www.agfuture.org).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration,

USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, promoting competition and fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).



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# Organic Valley Flips the Script in 2023 by Welcoming Dozens of Family Farms into the Cooperative Amidst Farm Crisis

As farmers and rural communities face the effects of increased consolidation, an organic dairy cooperative seeks not just more milk but more farmers.

LA FARGE, Wis., December 19, 2023 — In a year marked by significant challenges for small family farms and rural communities, Organic Valley, the largest cooperative of organic farmers in the nation, is not just seeking more milk but actively welcoming more farmers. The cooperative has brought 84 family farms into its fold in 2023, demonstrating a robust response to the trend of farm loss and agricultural consolidation.

This expansion is not just about numbers; it's about a growing movement. With plans to welcome more farms in 2024, Organic Valley is set to redefine the landscape of organic farming in America, demonstrating its steadfast commitment to nurturing organic farmers, protecting the environment and feeding communities with wholesome, organic products.

"This is who we are," said Shawna Nelson, Organic Valley executive vice president of membership. "Last year, we brought in farms that were abruptly dropped by their milk buyers, and this year, we've welcomed 84 more into our organic dairy community. Our commitment to organic family farmers is unwavering, and we aim to be the go-to option for those seeking a stable future in farming."

The cooperative welcomed 26 organic family farms from Pennsylvania,

a dozen more from Wisconsin, 22 in New York, six from Ohio, and several others from Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota and Vermont. By doing so, Organic Valley continues to strengthen its supply chain across multiple regions, bringing an organic market and sense of community to farms nationwide.

"We can't do this alone," said Jaclyn Cardin, Organic Valley chief brand officer. "If you care about how your food is produced and who is producing it, we think we offer a lot. We want consumers to buy with both heart and head, knowing that Organic Valley products come from a place of integrity. Because we're a farmer-owned cooperative, when you purchase our products, the farmers who dedicate themselves to caring for the land, the animals and their communities receive stable and farmer-determined compensation. We believe good food comes from good, small family farms."

The addition of these 84 farms sets the stage for more significant growth. Looking ahead to 2024, Organic Valley will continue supporting small organic family farms, further solidifying its role as a leader in sustainable organic farming. This growth is a testament to Organic Valley's commitment to protecting organic farmland in the U.S. — more than 460,000 acres of organic farmland — and growing.

In 2023, Organic Valley built a stable market for another 84 organic family farms and continued a movement that values the role of small family farms in America. This year's expansion is a clear indicator of Organic Valley's dedication to a future where family farms can thrive.

## Applications Open for the 1890 National Scholars Program

WASHINGTON, December 15, 2023 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting applications for the USDA 1890 National Scholars Program, which aims to encourage students at 1890 land-grant universities to pursue food and agriculture career paths. The application deadline is March 1, 2024.

Young people around the country are invited to complete and submit their applications online through an e-application. Administered through USDA's Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement (OPPE), the USDA 1890 National Scholars Program is available to eligible high school seniors entering their freshman year of college as well as rising college sophomores and juniors.



### About Organic Valley

Organic Valley is the leading organic farmer-owned cooperative on a mission to save, serve and safeguard small organic family farms. The brand's products are ethically sourced, which we define as food raised on organic farms where families manage the daily care for the animals and the earth while living up to the requirements of the USDA National Organic Program as well as our cooperative's high standards and practices designed to promote the principles of organic agriculture, including respect for the dignity and interdependence of human, animal, plant, soil and global life. Founded in 1988, today the cooperative is owned by over 1,600 organic family farms. Visit [ov.coop](http://ov.coop) for more information. Organic Valley is also @OrganicValley on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest and Twitter and @therealorganicvalley on TikTok.

# Documentation Big Requirements for Carbon Credit Success

Regenerative soil practices make a huge difference in the farming operation of Frank Kralicek, who farms organic and conventional ground in Yankton, SD. Besides seeing marked improvement in the soil health of his fields, he's pocketing extra cash by enrolling in Bayer's Carbon Credit program.

## Editors Note:

Finding various streams of income can be helpful for any agricultural operation, particularly one that is transitioning to organic. Many of the strategies used in organic production and regenerative organic production provide potential value for carbon credit. Do your due diligence to ensure this is right for your operation as this may be an option to enhance the fiscal position of your operation.

Frank started by explaining, "In past years, we enrolled in the Natural Resources Conservation Service's conservation stewardship program (CSP), switching to no-till and planting cover crops. We were one of the first ones that did it."

Using those conservation measures led them to become no-till farmers and advocates of soil-building practices. Frank said they started out on the land they owned and then began those practices on fields owned by landlords.

They learned to apply a split application of nitrogen after the corn crop is up which feeds the soil as the crop needs it. Frank said the soil benefits from these practices. With the incentive of carbon credit payments for sustainable ag practices, he is getting paid for conservation by reducing carbon emissions. "Using no-till practices and cover crops, we collect more carbon in the soil, which reduces the nitrogen needs. Rotation is a big part of our operation."

"Documentation of all the practices really is key to making the carbon credit program work," Frank said. "I keep track of the details. Working with the Bayer program, I'm assigned a field manager who comes out to check on my practices and who reviews my seed receipts. I take dated photos to keep in my portfolio. I keep all of that docu-

mentation, so it's easily accessible."

This program provides look-back payments for practices that Frank started in 2020. "Everything I'm doing is to make my ground more productive. I changed from spring tillage to strip tillage and earn bonus dollars."

While the Bayer program doesn't currently allow signups in South Dakota for the look-back program, he believes they will open it up to South Dakota farmers in the future.

"Do the research on the different carbon programs," he said. "Some offer payments for year-to-year practices, some are for 5 to 10 years. I suggest starting with one less than three years. That way, you can have the flexibility to change it if needed."

Frank said he researched several programs before he went with the Bayer program. Some will provide credits for pastures, with incentives to begin a rotational grazing program.

"It takes a year or two to get everything to work when you start no-tilling your fields," he said. "It takes time for the good bacteria to go to work in the soil to break down corn stubble. The root mass decays and breaks down to feed the soil, which allows for more water to infiltrate. I'm already seeing that not as much water stands in my fields when compared to my neighbors' fields on the same quarter."

He said that people watch what you are doing and when they see the results, they try it, too. "I admit I've had some failures on some things I've tried, but this works."

He warns that when changing to no-till planting, you need to know you will not be the first in your neighborhood to get in the field in the spring. The increased residue takes longer to warm up. But the benefits are that there



**These are organic beans that were planted on Kralicek's ground with rye and after the rye was cut for hay, these beans came up.**

is more microbiology and the ground is much healthier.

For cover crops, Frank said, "I plant different mixes with rye as I use a lot of the ground for grazing. I plant turnips, canola, different legumes and like to add in some peas and oats. It will depend on how I want to use it if I want it to winter kill." NRCS worked with him to come up with combinations to fit his needs. Some covers can increase soil fertility; others increase feed for cattle. Those such as turnips, can reduce soil compaction. When he plants rye on fields that have had soybeans, the following year there is not as much weed pressure. It's like having mulch on the ground.

Frank found that drilling in the cover crop seed when he's spreading fertilizer on the corn gives the cover crops a chance to germinate before the corn takes off. He believes that using a liquid starter when planting gives the plants a good start. The cover crops really won't show until after combining is finished. In a dry year, they may come a lot quicker after harvest.

*Continued on page 16*



Tentative



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## THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

9:00 p.m. – **Beginners Organic - Organic Academy Road Show** *Dakota*  
12:00p.m. (OARS) with National Center for Appropriate Technology *Room E*

### LUNCH - Exhibit Hall Open

12:00 p.m. – **Organic Ag For Beginners & Refresher Organic**  
– 3:00 p.m. **Academy Road Show (OARS)** with Jess Alger, *Dakota*  
Doug Crabtree & Anna Jones-Crabtree, & Nate *Room E*  
Powell-Palm

3:30 p.m. – **NPSAS Farm Breeder Network and OARS** *Dakota*  
5:30 p.m. *Room E*

5:00 p.m. – **OARS Community Night** *Dakota*  
7:00 p.m. *Room D*

7:30 a.m. – **Breakfast - Exhibits Open- Welcome Message** *Convention*  
8:30 a.m. by Martin Goter, NPSAS Board President *Hall*

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

9:30 a.m. – **Marketing Your farm** - By Panel *Dakota*  
8:30 a.m. – *Room A*

8:30 a.m. – **Brix Levels & Grasshopper/Insect** *Dakota*  
9:30 a.m. **Control** - By Glen Philbrick *Room C*

8:30 a.m. – **Learning Microbes and your Soil -** *Dakota*  
9:30 a.m. By Brady Krchnavy *Room E*

8:30 a.m. – **The Value and Implementation of Aquaponics** *Dakota*  
9:30 a.m. by Panelists *Room D*

8:30 a.m. – **Kids Farming Workshop** with Master *Theater*  
9:30 a.m. Gardeners of Brown County

9:45 p.m. – **General Session: Value-added Ag Endeavors** *Convention*  
- Panel of experience *Hall*

10:45 a.m. – **KEYNOTE - Gary Zimmer** - Father of *Convention*  
biological farming *Hall*

### BREAK & EXHIBIT HALL OPEN

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS

11:15 a.m. – **Strip-till Corn in Established Rotational** *Dakota*  
12:15 p.m. **Organic Alfalfa** by Steve Enger *Room D*

11:15 a.m. – **Marketing For Your Farm** - Panel *Dakota*  
12:15p.m. *Room C*

11:15 a.m. – **Expanding On His Keynote** - Gary Zimmer

11:15 a.m. – **Insurance and Programs You Should Know** By *Dakota*  
12:15p.m. *Room E*

11:15 a.m. – **Kids Farming Workshop** with Master *Dakota*  
12:15 p.m. Gardeners of Brown County *Room A*

12:15 p.m. **LUNCH - Exhibit Hall Open** *Harvest Hall*

1:00 p.m. – **NPSAS Annual Meeting** *Theater*  
1:45 pm

3:00 p.m. **KEYNOTE - Doug Crabtree and Anna Jones** *Convention*  
**Crabtree** *Hall*

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

3:15 p.m. – **Systemitize your Crop Rotation** - By Nic Podoll *Dakota*  
4:15 p.m. *Hall D*

3:15 p.m. – **Building a Stewardship Service Farming Business** *Dakota*  
4:15 p.m. - By Doug Crabtree & Anna Jones-Crabtree *Hall E*

3:15 p.m. – **Menoken Regenerative Ag Study Success -** *Dakota*  
4:15 p.m. By Seth Boechler *Hall C*

3:15 p.m. – **SARE Farmer Forum** Presentation TBD *Dakota*  
4:15 p.m. *Hall C*

3:15 p.m. – **Kids Farming Workshop** with Master Gardeners *Theater*  
4:15 p.m. of Brown County

5:30 p.m. – **Taste of Ag - Auction - Down Home Music**  
9:00 a.m.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

7:30 a.m. – **Breakfast and Coffee - Exhibits Open** *Convention*  
8:30 a.m. *Hall*

8:30 a.m. – **KEYNOTE - Nate Powell-Palm** Reclaiming the Rural *Convention*  
9:45 a.m. Promise - Young producer builds a farm from scratch *Hall*

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

10:00 a.m. – **SARE Farmer Forum** Presentation *Dakota*  
11:00 a.m. TBD *Room E*

10:00 a.m. – **Transitioning Farm and a Business - The** *Dakota*  
11:00 a.m. **Goosemobile** - By Lisa Muth *Room D*

10:00 a.m. – **Listening Session: Building Resilience in the** *Dakota*  
11:00 a.m. **SD Local Food System** By Blake William *Room C*

10:00 a.m. – **Expanding On His Keynote** - Nate Powell-Palm *Dakota*  
11:00 a.m. *Room E*

10:00 a.m. – **Kids Farming Workshop** with Master *Dakota*  
11:00 a.m. Gardeners of Brown County *Room A*

1100 a.m. – **Carbon Questions** with Ryan Eichler *Convention*  
12:00 p.m. *Hall*

### LUNCH - Exhibit Hall Open

1:30 pm – **Farmer Panel** - A crowd favorite opportunity to hear from *Convention*  
farmers and ranchers and ask your burning questions. *Hall*

2:45 pm **Closing** *Great Hall*

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# Documentation Big Requirements for Carbon Credit Success

*Continued from page 12*

"At least try some regenerative practices on one field, even if it means borrowing equipment," he advised. "If you like what you see, then you can expand. I started on my own ground. After I saw how well it worked, I explained what I did to my landlords and they could see my results. There is still money out there, so check it out."

He believes carbon will be worth more down the road. "I only wish I'd started these practices sooner," Frank said. "It's been a learning experience. The best advice I can give is to talk to people who have used it and learn about possible directions to succeed."

## Payments in the Carbon Program Explained:

Bethany Huls, Service Lead for Bayer Crop Sciences Ecosystem services, explained the Bayer Carbon program for farmers. In her position, she works with a lot of farmers to help them understand eligibility questions to be included in the Bayer Carbon program. A critical component depends on data and being able to verify practices. Farmers need to commit to continue the soil-enhancing practices in the future. She explained that "the historical payback is dependent on when the grower newly adopted the practices continuously."

The program is designed to encourage change toward good stewardship practices and the historical payback is dependent on when the grower newly adopted the practices continuously. Payments are made on a per-acre basis, contingent on state eligibility. The program accepts new practice changes of no-till, strip-till, and/or cover crop from Oct 1st, 2020 with the potential to earn up to a three-year historical payment. Depending on which state they are in, farmers can earn up to \$6/acre for eligible practice changes. The opportunity doubles to \$12/acre for fields enrolled in both cover crops and strip-till/no-till.

Some farmers will be compensated with a review with credit given for qualifying regenerative practices begun on or after Oct. 1, 2020, and continuing those practices at the present time. "There would be the potential to earn back up to three years of a historical

one-time sum payment," she said. "You could be eligible by implementing newly adapted practices in 2020 and then the current cash crop year which is 2023." Those farmers can earn up to \$6/acre per practice per year for continuously adopted eligible practices on or after October 2020.

Bethany said, "This is a pretty standard protocol that comes from the carbon registries. Overall, we align our eligibility requirements as to what would actually generate a carbon credit in order to pay growers on a per-acre basis. We align ourselves where we can generate the highest quality agricultural carbon credit."

"One of the questions I get, is 'Why don't you take my no-till practices for the last 20 years?' Overall, we are looking to make a change in our environment. A new practice change is brought to us by a carbon registry."

"Consumers are shifting their spending towards sustainable products, including those with ESG-related claims. (ESG stands for 'Environmental, social and governance.' It refers to the criteria that companies must meet in order to qualify as environmentally responsible.) So, think of low-carbon products. There is value in connecting farmers to those revenue opportunities as they are the ones who are growing



**Frank Krilicek at their farm with his sons Jake (in orange) and Patrick**



**Krilicek on his planter at his farm**

the grain behind many of these products."

"The other component from a Bayer standpoint is that we are a consumer packaged goods company. Bayer is looking to act on their sustainability equipment and essentially decarbonize their supply chains which begins with the farmer and what they are doing in their operation to produce that grain." She continued by saying, "Given Bayer's unique position from the agricultural standpoint and our relationship with growers, and being a trusted partner, we feel we cannot only co-create programs through our ForGround by Bayer we're looking to decarbonize their supply chains which begins with the farmer and what they are doing in their operation to produce grain."

She said as an example, if you want a rebate from Menards or for a water softener, there is always some level of documentation to get paid. Most farmers are used to dealing with paperwork for the USDA Farm Program. Bayer outlines the expectations as far as what is required to be in the program and the data that must be submitted to verify that.

The Bayer team will help with data collection and then an internal Bayer team will verify the practices through receipts for cover crop seed, photos, etc., before issuing a payment. The internal verification for the 2023 cash crop year is beginning with payments made between January and March of 2024.





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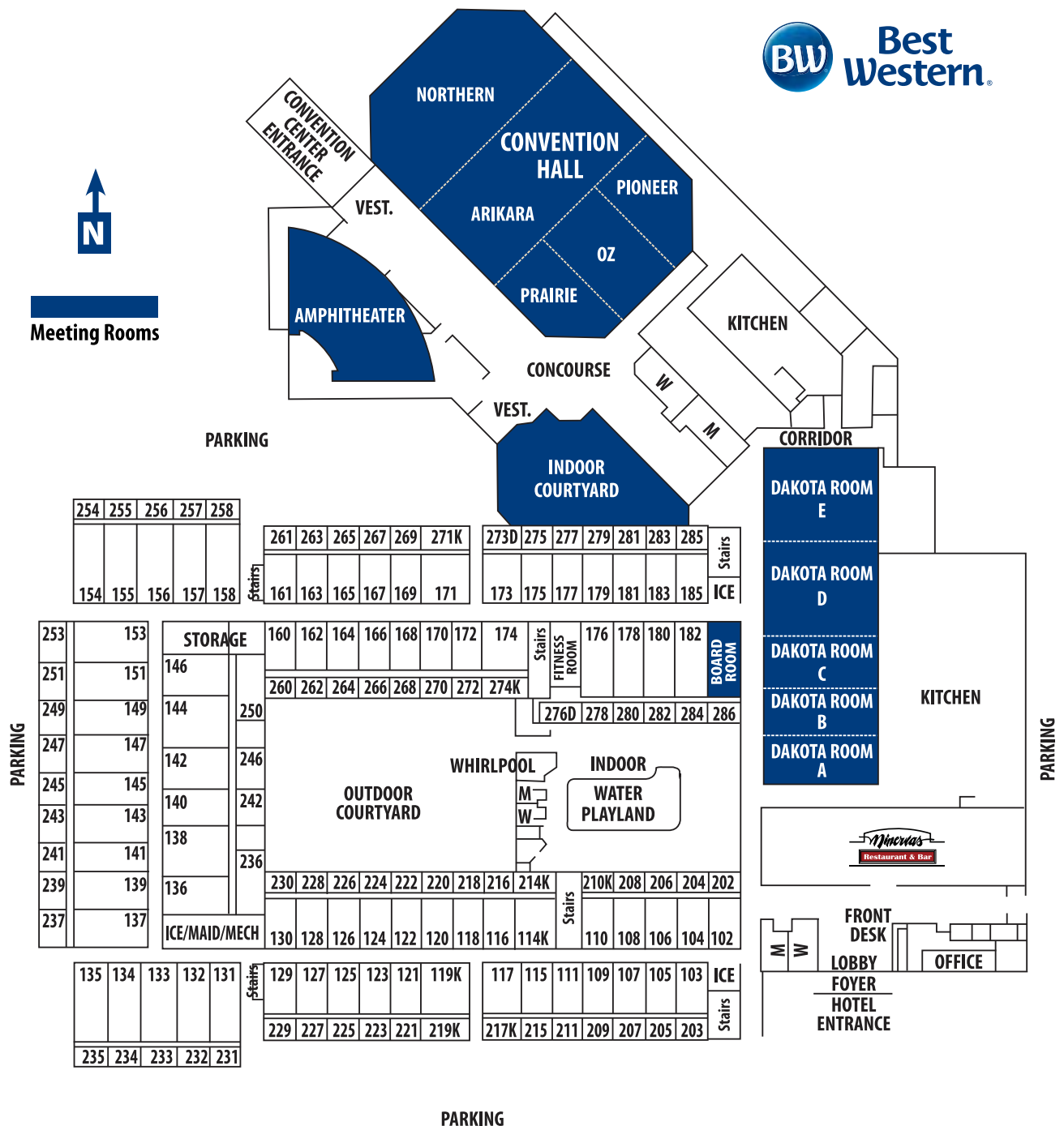
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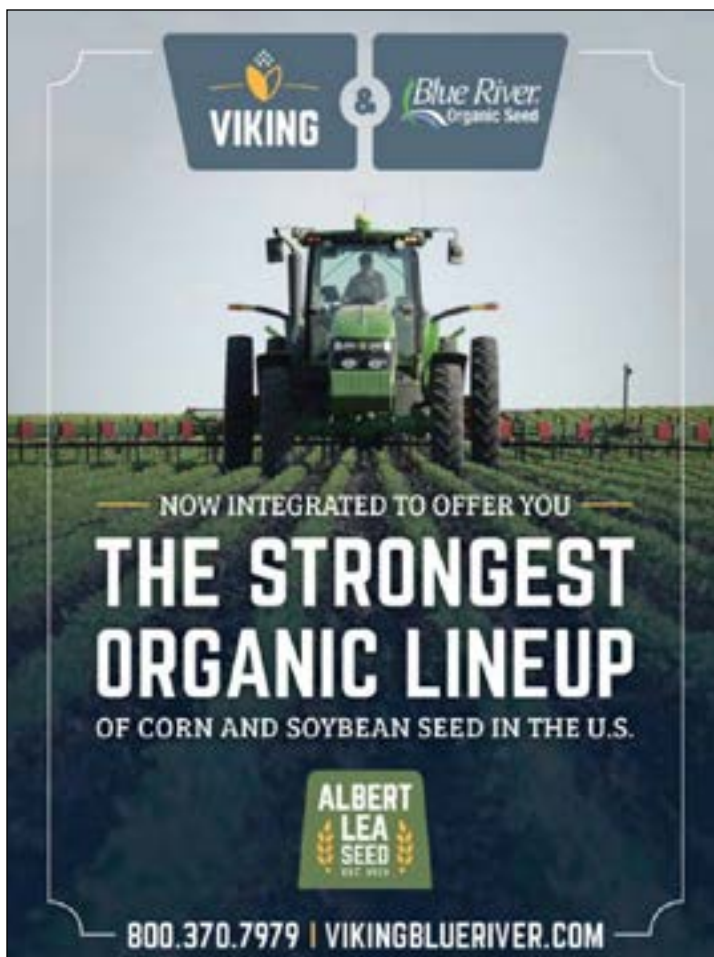
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***The NPSAS Board & Staff are committed to honoring and building on what the founders created and previous boards and staff nurtured. We will serve the mission of the organization to the highest standard to ensure NPSAS is here to serve for generations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



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## Flax Bread

Blaine and Suzie Schmaltz



### Ingredients

- 1C Warm Water
- 2T Softened Butter
- 1 ¼ C Whole Wheat Flour
- 1 ½ C All Purpose Flour
- 1/3 C Ground Golden Flax
- 1/3 C Raw Sunseeds
- 2 T Honey
- 1 ½ t salt
- 2 1/2t yeast



### Instructions

1. Place in bread machine in the order recommended.
2. Choose whole wheat cycle and medium crust.
3. ENJOY!!






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## Emmer Pilaf



### Ingredients

- 1 ½ T Extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 ½ T Butter
- 1 Cup chopped onion (chop small)
- ½ Cup chopped carrots (chop small)
- 1 ½ Cups Split Emmer Farro
- 2 ½ Cup Chicken Broth
- 1 T Honey
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 T Chopped fresh parsley (optional)



### Instructions

1. Heat the oil and butter over medium heat in a medium kettle.
2. Add the onion and carrots and sauté until tender, about 5 minutes.
3. Add the split emmer farro and stir to get the farro coated in the oils. Let the split emmer farro toast for about 30 seconds.
4. Add the broth and 1 T honey, bring to a boil.
5. Cover the kettle, turn the heat down to low (you want to maintain a simmer) and cook for 30 minutes.
6. Turn the heat off and fluff the split emmer farro. Place a towel over the kettle and place the lid back on the kettle. Set aside for 5 minutes.
7. Place the pilaf in a serving bowl and garnish with the fresh parsley if desired.

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# A Gift of Opportunity: Anonymous \$5000 Donation Sparks Scholarships for NPSAS 2024 Conference

In a heartening turn of events, the Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society (NPSAS) received a generous gift from a longtime member who has experienced exceptional value from the Food and Farming Conference, formerly known as the Winter Conference. The anonymous donor, deeply moved by the insights gained over the years, has generously contributed \$5000 to fund scholarships for individuals aspiring to attend the Northern Plains Sustainable Ag 2024 Food and Farming Conference.

## A Silent Benefactor's Gratitude

The story begins with an emotional call from a member who has been inspired to make a difference as a token of gratitude for all that they gained as a member of NPSAS over the years. This long-time supporter, having reaped extraordinary value from the annual winter conference and NPSAS as a whole, expressed a desire to pay it forward. The \$5000 donation is earmarked specifically for scholarships, a testament to the silent benefactor's wish to extend the transformative experience to others who may need a financial boost to attend.

The scholarship money is provided to eliminate financial barriers for those eager to participate in the NPSAS 2024 Food and Farming Conference. Recognizing the diverse backgrounds and financial constraints of potential attendees, the donor hopes to cultivate a more inclusive environment, ensuring that anyone with a passion for sustainable agriculture can access the wealth of knowledge and networking opportunities the conference offers.

## Fulfilling Dreams on a Budget

For many, the prospect of attending a conference can be hin-



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dered by financial constraints. This scholarship addresses that challenge directly, providing a pathway for aspiring farmers, students, and sustainable agriculture enthusiasts to immerse themselves in an environment teeming with expertise, innovation, and community

support. It's not just about the great tradeshow vendors or attending workshops; it's a chance to forge connections, gain insights, and catalyze positive change within the realm of sustainable agriculture.

*Continued on page 25*

**NOTE:** If you need assistance to attend the conference with help with hotel, registration fees, scholarship money so your family can attend with you, or even simply a boost of money for fuel, send an email to [director@npsas.org](mailto:director@npsas.org) or call Krysti at 605-380-3770. The only requirement stipulated by the grantee is that the recipient pay for the membership to NPSAS so there is an investment on their part in helping them grow in the industry.



## Board Minutes

### Continued from page 7

- Facilitated a second 2-page Mailing to certified organic farmers in ND, SD, & MN to promote the conference & introduce NPSAS.
- Continued meeting discussions Scheduled the BFRD Building a Resilient Future Grant Project as part of the conference on Thursday.
- o 30 is the goal for attendance.  
Working on the Germinator to go out the last week in December.
- o E-sprout was done as well

- Winter Conference Planning
  - o Still Securing Speakers and getting ready
  - o Sponsorship income is \$38,000 compared with \$10,000 this time last year
  - o Applied for \$6000 SARE Grant for the Conference and it is approved
    - o Registration Open.
    - o Scholarships or special pricing for those attending the OARS
- General office work  
Discussed offering scholarships to

those attending OARS who also want to attend the NPSAS conference. Discussed offering a student rate to those individuals. Discussed ways to pay for scholarships.

### Governance/Strategic Planning

No report.

### Farm Breeder Network Update

Steve Z. noted that the buckwheat experiment was successful. The crop was harvested. Martin noted that some growers in his area were having issues with sprout damage at harvest time.

### Continued from page 24

The anonymous donor's decision to allocate funds for scholarships reflects a desire to create a ripple effect within the NPSAS community. Having personally experienced the conference's impact, the donor envisions a network of individuals who, armed with newfound knowledge, can become mentors and catalysts for positive change in their own communities.

The scholarship money, therefore, goes beyond financial assistance; it symbolizes an investment in the collective future of sustainable agriculture. As recipients return to their communities with enhanced skills and perspectives, the ripple effect is expected to extend far beyond the conference itself, fostering a culture of mentorship and collaboration.

### Empowering the Next Generation

The NPSAS 2024 Food and Farming Conference has always been a beacon for sustainable agriculture enthusiasts. The scholarship fund, however, marks a significant step towards empowering the next generation of farmers and advocates. It's a nod to the belief that everyone, regardless of financial means, should have the chance to contribute to the discourse surrounding sustainable practices and innovation.



The announcement of the anonymous donation has sparked excitement within the NPSAS community. Social media platforms have lit up with expressions of gratitude and anticipation. Members are eager to share their own conference experiences, highlighting how the NPSAS gatherings have been instrumental in shaping their approaches to sustainable agriculture.

As the 2024 conference approaches, there is a palpable sense of anticipation. The scholarships are not just about attendance; they represent an investment in the collective knowledge and passion of the NPSAS community. Attendees are gearing up for a conference that promises to be not only a source of information but also a melting pot of ideas and collaboration, thanks to the inclusivity made possible by the anonymous donor's generosity.

In the vast landscapes of the Northern Plains, where the soil is rich with potential, the anonymous \$5000 donation has sown the seeds of opportunity. The scholarship, like shoots emerging from the ground in spring, represents a chance for growth and change within the sustainable agriculture community.

As the NPSAS 2024 Food and Farming Conference unfolds, the impact of the scholarships will become evident. There are already people who've reached out asking if there are scholarships or any help for them to attend. The silent benefactor's act of generosity serves as a reminder that, within the world of sustainable agriculture, the most significant harvests often come from the seeds of opportunity sown by those who believe in fostering growth and cultivating positive change.

# The Power of Community

Blaine and Suzie Schmaltz are long-time members of NPSAS. They are past honorees of the Steward of the Year award for their work in seed development and sales for the organic community. In their years of farming, they've learned some invaluable lessons. While there was an awareness of the lessons, it wasn't until Blaine was recently diagnosed with prostate cancer that there became an urgency about life and wanting to say and do the things that we think we have "forever" to do. One of those things Blaine wanted to share is what he believes to be the biggest secret to success: Most success will come when you incorporate and value the power of community because the greatest of things are never done alone.

## FAMILY:

One of the first places Blaine found the power of community was with family. First, it was when he was growing up with his dad on the farm, always wanting to be innovative and a risk taker trying new things. That mentality of innovation stuck with Blaine as his family expanded and grew to include his wife and their children.

"I don't know if you remember when we'd come to the NPSAS Winter Conference in January and have the booth for our seed company, but I'd have my children stand up front and explain things about our farm and our seed business." He went on to explain with pride, "It was the greatest learning experience for them. As parents, we were so proud watching them grow and build confidence and communicate with a diverse group of people."

The biggest gift of the community and social structure of NPSAS was how much Blaine's family became a part of things because of NPSAS. "What Northern Plains did was involve my family. When I went there, I wasn't going to leave for three days and come home and tell them what I did. We took them with us. They experienced it. We eventually had a seed booth and did presentations of our farm experiences to the group."

Blaine often comments about how much success was also attributed to his wife, "The other thing that is important to note is that my wife was not only my companion, but she was my partner in the thoughts and ideas that were transpiring. I was the business, she was the social and family

communicator."

## MENTORS:

The power of community in mentors cannot be oversold. Sometimes mentors are like those available for new and transitioning farmers through the Transition To Organic Partnership Program. Each interested transitioning farmer is assigned a mentor to work with them and help them answer questions, share knowledge, and maybe even get boots in the dirt and do a site visit.

There is also the intrinsic unplanned mentorship, meeting a

speaker and gaining insight and knowledge that is so inspiring and useful that it impacts you forever. "Just for example, Gary Zimmer, he's going to be one of our presenters (at the conference). I will tell you one of my biggest goals when I started this whole endeavor was to be Gary Zimmer. The irony of that is so interesting. I read his first book and bought into biological farming, and I knew it was sound. I knew that there was way more living life underneath the soil than we had above the soil, and we needed to feed that to make the land better, and it was fun."

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



## KNOWLEDGE OF OTHERS

The importance of continual learning is not lost on Blaine. He encourages people to invest in opportunities to learn where you'll find the community gathering in knowledge. Whether it's going to field days or going to conferences. "It's important to attend events and conferences to learn all you can. Never stop learning. Taking opportunities for education and learning through things like the NPSAS Conference, Acres USA, and the No-Till Conference, live-stock grazing workshops and many others." Listen and take it in and actually go home and implement the ideas to fit your operation.

## ORGANIZATIONS

The depth of community in organizations like NPSAS has been a big part of Blaine's success. "It's a social family group that we always look forward to at least once a year, getting together and sharing the experiences of the year, listening to tradesmen, listening to speakers, and getting new ideas." The table conversation and community that is present when creating and maintaining friendships throughout the years sharing successes and struggles, happiness and sometimes tears.

## SHARE WITH OTHERS

One of the more important points Blaine wanted to make about the biggest tip for success is the importance of building community by sharing your knowledge with others. "Let others share their knowledge with you and take that home, apply it, and don't keep it to yourself, you should share it." Be a mentor, speak at a conference, host a field day at



Blaine and Suzy Schmalz and family

your farm, and post on social media about what you're doing. Whatever you do tell your story and build that community because as Blaine said, no one succeeds alone. You have the power to offer help toward success

producing friendship, mentorship, strength, creativity, ideation, productivity, camaraderie, inspiration, and the satisfaction of seeing others succeed. .



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Aberdeen, South Dakota | Jan. 25-26, 2024**

Beginning farmers and ranchers may be eligible for scholarships up to \$200 each to defray the cost of travel and accommodation.

Questions? Please contact Andrew Coggins at [andrewc@ncat.org](mailto:andrewc@ncat.org).

**[NCAT.ORG/EVENTS](https://ncat.org/events)**



# 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](mailto: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



# NPSAS Equipment for Sale

The following pieces of equipment are for sale. Interested parties have until Aug 1 at 8:00 am to submit a bid for any of the following pieces of equipment to [director@npsas.org](mailto:director@npsas.org). Bids will be presented to the board at the board for approval. Questions Call Krysti Mikkonen at 605-380-3770

## RESIDENT FARMER/ ORGANIC ADVOCATE

The Grain Place, a pioneering organic farm, is looking for a resident farmer to help operate a 280-acre diversified farm on behalf of Grain Place Foundation. This is a full-time year-round position requiring a variety of skills. In addition to basic farming operations this position offers an opportunity to participate in research and education to encourage regenerative and organic agriculture. Compensation includes a cash salary in the \$40,000 to \$60,000 range (depending on qualifications), on-farm housing, health insurance, retirement savings plan, garden space, etc. Learn more at Get Involved - The Grain Place Foundation.

## Push Planter

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## Allis Chalmers

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## 2011 Bumper Hitch Trailer - 20 ft



## HELP WANTED



### Seeking Part-time NPSAS Assistant

If you're looking for extra income and want to work from home, this opportunity might be for you. NPSAS is looking for assistance with events planning, communications, membership development, and more. We need someone for 10-20 hours per week who is:

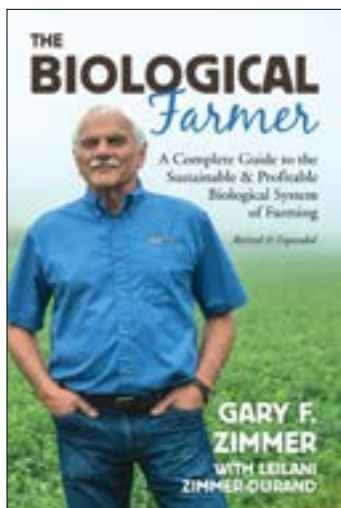
- Is excited about organic, sustainable, and regenerative farming
- Has strong oral, written, and verbal communication skills
- Willingness to take initiative and share ideas
- Able to do some regional travel
- Possesses strong computer skills

If this sounds like you, please send a letter of inquiry and resume to Krysti Mikkonen at [director@npsas.org](mailto:director@npsas.org).



# Great Reads for Better Farming

*This issue's of The Germinator features book reviews featuring one of our 2024 keynote speakers for the conference.*



## The Biological Farmer

Gary Zimmer not only outlines the principles of biological farming but also offers practical insights and techniques that empower farmers to cultivate healthier soils and crops. His writing style is accessible and engaging, making complex agricultural concepts understandable for both novices and seasoned farmers.

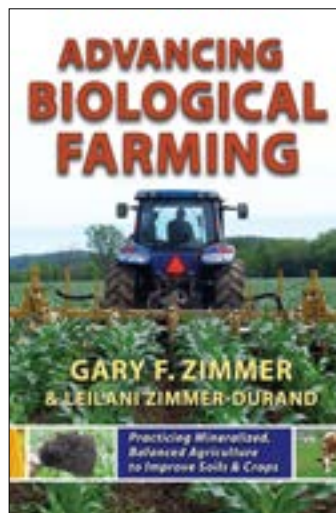
The heart of Zimmer's message lies in the understanding that a farm is a living ecosystem. Through a holistic approach, he encourages readers to work in harmony with nature, leveraging the power of biology to enhance soil fertility and crop resilience. The book serves as a beacon of encouragement for those seeking a more sustainable path in Zimmer's passion for sustainable practices is

evident on every page, and readers are likely to find inspiration and practical guidance to implement biological farming methods on their own land. "The Biological Farmer" stands as a testament to the transformative potential of adopting ecologically mindful approaches, offering hope and a roadmap for a more sustainable and resilient agricultural future.

In essence, Zimmer's book is not just a manual for farmers; it's a call to action, an invitation to join a movement towards a healthier planet through regenerative agriculture. "The Biological Farmer" is a must-read for anyone looking to cultivate not just crops but a more sustainable and harmonious relationship with the land.

## Advancing Biological Farming

Across USA and Amazon where both of Gary Zimmer's books are available describe this book as "one of the leading authorities on biological farming, Gary Zimmer is recognized for improving farming by restoring soils. Arguing that an optimally productive soil contains a balance of inorganic minerals, organic materials and living organisms, he relies less on modern improvements



than on "the things we've learned by improving fertility in a natural, sustainable way over many years."

The description went on further to say, "This book offers invaluable scientific support for committed organic farmers as well as conventional farmers who'd like to reduce chemical inputs and use natural processes to their advantage. Advancing Biological Farming updates and expands upon Gary Zimmer's classic, The Biological Farmer. Technically precise yet written in friendly language, this book is for everyone who wants a future in biological farming."



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