



Growing U.S. Organic Agriculture: Accessing the 2008 Farm Bill

University Place Conference Center
Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis
November 12, 2008

Final Agenda

Thank you to our scholarship sponsors

NCAT home of the ATTRA project, The Organic Institute,
and the Organic Farming Research Foundation

November 12

Light breakfast, and registration check in
8:00am, Level 1, Outside Room #118

Welcome

8:30am, Level 1, Room #118

- *Emcee:*
 - **Lynn Clarkson**, President, Clarkson Grain Company and Board Member, Organic Trade Association
- *Speakers:*
 - **David Gagnon**, Chief Operating Officer, Organic Trade Association and Board Member, the Organic Institute
 - **Mark Lipson**, Policy Program Director, Organic Farming Research Foundation
 - **Harriet Behar**, Organic Outreach Coordinator, Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service
 - **Teresa Maurer**, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Program Manager, NCAT home of the ATTRA project

Opening Keynote

8:50am, Level 1, Room #118

Caren Wilcox, former Executive Director of the Organic Trade Association, will discuss the context of where organic stands now with Congress, present an overview of organic provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill, and offer her thoughts on moving forward.

- *Emcee:*
 - **Lynn Clarkson**, President, Clarkson Grain Company and Board Member, Organic Trade Association
- *Speaker:*
 - **Caren Wilcox**, Principle, Caren Wilcox & Associates and Former Executive Director of the Organic Trade Association



Introduction to day and sum up keynote

9:10am, Level 1, Room #118

Emcee Lynn Clarkson will respond to the keynote and give a quick overview of the sessions that will be presented throughout the day.

- *Emcee:*
 - **Lynn Clarkson**, President, Clarkson Grain Company and Board Member, Organic Trade Association

General Session: Conversion Program Provision

9:30am, Level 1, Room #118

This general session on the conversion program provision will be an opportunity for attendees to get information from USDA on how to convert to organic production, discuss loan programs for starting farmers and ranchers including EQIP and others, hear about successful state programs, and learn how organic farmers can get more involved in state NRCS technical committees and advisory committees.

- *Moderator:*
 - **Harriet Behar**, Organic Outreach Coordinator, Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service
- *Speakers:*
 - **Jeff Schahczenski**, Program Specialist, NCAT home of the ATTRA project
 - **Dave White**, Staff Leader for Strategic Resource Issues, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Coffee break

10:30am, Level 2, Outside Room #206

Break Out Sessions

11:00am

- **Data Collection Provision**

Level 2, Room #206

This session will be an informational update and an opportunity to hear from USDA how you can use the data collected under this provision. Attendees of this breakout session will have the opportunity to give feedback on what they've heard and will leave understanding what USDA is planning.

- *Moderator:*
 - **Tom Hutcheson**, Regulatory and Policy Manager, Organic Trade Association
- *Speakers:*
 - **Catherine Greene**, Agricultural Economist, USDA Economic Research Service
 - **Audrina Lange**, Fruit and Vegetable Market News, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service



- **Crop Insurance Provision**

Level 2, Room #208

In this breakout session, panelists will discuss anticipated improvements to the crop insurance program; a contract to develop a new organic crop insurance policy is expected in mid-December. Attendees will learn how to engage with USDA's Risk Management Agency in the development of this new insurance product.

- *Moderator:*

- **Lynn Clarkson**, President, Clarkson Grain Company

- *Speakers:*

- **Sharon Hestvik**, RMA Organic Liaison/Small Farms Coordinator, USDA Risk Management Agency
- **Ken Ackerman**, Of Counsel, Olsson, Frank and Weeda

- **Conversion Program Provision**

Level 2, Room #216

This breakout session will provide a continuation of the discussion started in the afternoon general session, for those wanting to participate in a more in depth discussion with a focus on priorities. Attendees will get specific information on how to convert to organic production and how to become an approved Technical Services Provider to NRCS.

- *Moderator:*

- **Harriet Behar**, Organic Outreach Coordinator, Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service

- *Speakers:*

- **Jeff Schahczenski**, Program Specialist, NCAT home of the ATTRA project
- **Dave White**, Staff Leader for Strategic Resource Issues, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Lunch

12:00 Noon, Level 1, Ballroom

General Session: Research Funding Provision

1:00pm, Level 1, Room #118

In this plenary session, panelists will discuss implementation of the research program provisions and high-priority outcomes. The relationship to other Farm Bill provisions and programs will also be addressed. Attendees will learn how farmers, researchers, and extension agents can work together and meet the requirements for funding, and how USDA is planning on administering the funds.

- *Moderator:*

- **Greg Bowman**, Communications Manager, Rodale Institute

- *Speakers:*

- **Thomas A. Bewick, Ph.D.**, National Program Leader – Horticulture, USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service
- **Mark Lipson**, Policy Program Director, Organic Farming Research Foundation



Coffee break

2:00pm, Level 2, Outside Room #206

Break Out Sessions

2:30pm

- **Certification Cost Share Provision**

Level 2, Room #206

The panelists of this breakout session will explain how this program is to be managed within NOP, how the funds will be distributed, and how to apply for them. Attendees will get a national perspective on certification cost share, learn how to access the funds through their states, and hear case studies from states that are administering successful programs.

- *Moderator:*

- **Miles McEvoy**, Organic Program Manager, Washington State Department of Agriculture

- *Speakers:*

- **Meg Moynihan**, Organic and Diversification Specialist, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

- **Jim Riddle**, Organic Outreach Coordinator, University of Minnesota

- **NOP Funding Provision**

Level 2, Room #208

Attendees at this breakout session will hear from the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service on the current goals and plans for the National Organic Program. The Organic Trade Association will also discuss the appropriations process for ensuring adequate funding of the NOP.

- *Moderator:*

- **Caren Wilcox**, Principle, Caren Wilcox & Associates and Former Executive Director of the Organic Trade Association

- *Speakers:*

- **Rick Mathews**, Chief Supervisor Standards Development and Review Branch, USDA National Organic Program

- **Research Funding Provision**

Level 2, Room #216

This breakout session will provide a continuation of the discussion started in the morning general session, for those wanting to participate in a more in-depth discussion with a focus on priorities. Attendees will get a first hand look at the application forms being used, and successful research proposals.

- *Moderator:*

- **Greg Bowman**, Communications Manager, Rodale Institute

- *Speakers:*

- **Mark Lipson**, Policy Program Director, Organic Farming Research Foundation

- **Thomas A. Bewick, Ph.D.**, National Program Leader – Horticulture, USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service



General Session: Opportunities for Action

3:30pm, Level 1, Room #118

In the final session of the conference, each of the partner organizations presenting the conference will present their plans for working on the implementation of Farm Bill provisions over the next year. The focus will be on helping attendees access the programs and regulatory processes that have been discussed throughout the day, and on getting the information presented by all of the day's speakers out to farmers. Attendees will leave with take-aways that provide administrative contacts, legislative information, state committees and dates for action, lists of expected regulations for comment, and other important information to keep you engaged in this work going forward.

- *Emcee:*
 - **Lynn Clarkson**, President, Clarkson Grain Company and Board Member, Organic Trade Association
- *Speakers:*
 - **Tom Hutcheson**, Regulatory and Policy Manager, Organic Trade Association
 - **Mark Lipson**, Policy Program Director, Organic Farming Research Foundation
 - **Harriet Behar**, Organic Outreach Coordinator, Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service
 - **Teresa Maurer**, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Program Manager, NCAT home of the ATTRA project

Closing

4:30pm, Level 1, Room #118

- *Emcee:*
 - **Lynn Clarkson**, President, Clarkson Grain Company and Board Member, OTA
- *Speaker:*
 - **David Gagnon**, Chief Operating Officer, Organic Trade Association and Board Member, the Organic Institute