



# GROWING ORGANIC EXPERTISE IN IOWA

**Tuesday, February 4, 2020  
Mason City Public Library, Mason City**

## **AGENDA**

- 9:00-9:15      **Welcome and Introductions**  
All attendees
- 9:15-10:15    **What is “Organic”?**  
Kristine Lang, Rodale Institute/Midwest Organic Center  
*(history of National Organic Program, basic steps to certification, benefits and challenges of organic, trends, and resources)*
- 10:15-10:30   **BREAK**
- 10:30-11:45   **Organic Regulations and Certification Overview**  
Matt Miller, IDALS Organic Certifier  
*(organic regulations and production considerations for crop production including nutrient management, pest/weed management, rotations, buffers, land transition, and natural resources/biodiversity)*
- 11:45-12:00   **Organic Resources in Iowa**  
Wendy Johnson, Iowa Organic Association
- 12:00-12:45    BREAK FOR LUNCH**
- 12:45-1:45    **Organic Seed Production and Systems Overview**  
Matt Leavitt, Albert Lea Seed House
- 1:45-2:00      **BREAK**
- 2:00-4:00      **Organic Producer Panel**  
*(producers describe their operation, why they farm organically, challenges, opportunities, and open Q&A)*  
- Bob Pearson, Wesley  
- Matt Miller, Allison
- 4:00              **Adjourn**