



Good afternoon, Friend --

Happy New Year! We have our sights set on building upon the growth and success of 2019 and look forward to expanding programs and resources in 2020 that further organic interests in Iowa.

NEW YEAR - NEW IOA LEADERSHIP



IOA board members met this week to review executive committee roles and board committee assignments. Scott Ausborn, with Blue River Organic Seed, has been leading the IOA team since 2017. Scott has provided remarkable leadership helping to drive organization priorities that advance organic opportunities in Iowa. IOA Bylaws require that a board member serve in an executive role for no more than three years, thus bringing Scott's term as IOA President to an end. We have identified a new organic leader and will be passing the torch to Gary Huber. Gary has strong ties to Iowa's agriculture and organic community having worked with PFI for nearly 20 years and served as founding executive director of the Iowa Food Cooperative for ten years. We welcome Gary in this role and look forward to growing from his experience and insight. Paul Mugge, organic farmer from Sutherland, has also served as Vice President of IOA for a three year term and that role will now be filled by Jack Knight, organic inspector from Luana. Cindy McCollough, organic feed mill owner in Webster City, will serve as Treasurer for one more year and Ai Wen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology at UNI, will serve as Secretary for one more year.

IOA coordinates four sub-committees for board members and volunteers to work more closely on different priority areas of IOA, this includes Education,

Policy, Finance and Annual Meeting/Member Engagement. Each board member serves on at least one of these committees. We want to welcome our members an opportunity to serve on a committee - this is a great opportunity to help drive organic priorities, without committing to a three year board term -- or a great introduction to our work for those that might be interested in serving on the board in the future. Please contact [Roz Lehman](#), executive director, if you would like to learn more about committee objectives or with interest in volunteering on one of these committees.

IOA WEBINAR: ORGANIC MARKETS WITH MERCARIS -- WED, JAN 22 @ 12PM



Join IOA and Alex Heilman from [Mercaris](#) on Wednesday, Jan 22 for a presentation and discussion about current organic market trends and future market projections. [RSVP](#)

As the market continues to grow, and demand for domestic, organic products continues to exceed supply, Iowa farmers and businesses are looking for information and resources that support questions and interest in organic transition and diversification - especially related to financial viability.

Mercaris established a service to address the gap of organic market support through two types of services. First, to provide up-to-date, accurate information on market conditions for organic and non-GMO commodities. Second, a trading platform that allows buyers and sellers to meet on-line and trade physical commodities.

GROWING ORGANIC EXPERTISE IN IOWA -- FEBRUARY SERIES



IOA is delivering our 2nd round of the "Growing Organic Expertise in Iowa" workshop series in February. This full-day workshop (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) will provide information from organic experts and presented resources about the National Organic Program, organic

certification and transition, organic standards and production practices and insight into current organic market trends and demands.

The target audience for the workshop includes: NRCS, Extension, IDALS, FSA, SWCD, RC&D, County Conservation, crop insurance agents, farm lenders, farming organizations, farmers, agriculture educators and students, and others interested in learning more about organic opportunities. Last October we reached 65 participants at four different workshops in Atlantic, Calmar, Cedar Rapids and Webster City.

The Growing Organic Expertise workshops are a series of 20 regional workshops that will be offered across Iowa in 2020. The locations for the February workshops are as follows:

- Tuesday, Feb 4 -- Mason City Public Library, Mason City
- Thursday, Feb 6 -- Oakwood Road Community Center, Ames
- Tuesday, Feb 11 -- Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield
- Tuesday, Feb 18 -- Council Bluffs Public Library, Council Bluffs

For more information or to register, visit: <https://www.iowaorganic.org/calendar>.

MIDWEST ORGANIC PORK CONFERENCE -- MARCH 13-14, HOTEL JULIEN, DUBUQUE



After a successful inaugural Midwest Organic Pork Conference, where over 120 people attended from ten different states, we are excited to announce that the 2nd Annual Midwest Organic Pork Conference will be held at the Hotel Julien in Dubuque, Iowa on March 13 and 14. We will continue to present the best resources and information available to help expand opportunities for organic pork production

and distribution. Speaker proposals, sponsor and exhibitor applications are now being accepted. For more information, visit

MidwestOrganicPorkConference.org or call Kris at 515-276-6010.