

OATS | the Organic Agronomy Training Service

www.organicagronomy.org

training@organicagronomy.org

OATS to host: Effective Weed Management in Row Crops - An on-farm field day with lessons from organic farming

El Paso, IL: **OATS**, the Organic Agronomy Training Service, is hosting the workshop “Effective Weed Management in Row Crops - An on-farm field day with lessons from organic farming” on July 18th at Brett Krug Family Farm, 148 E Main St, El Paso, IL 61738. Organic crop production continues to be an enticing, if challenging, option for farmers in Illinois, and OATS is working to ensure that farmers have the knowledgeable support they need to succeed.

As the organic industry continues to grow, there remains a notable lack of quality resources for agriculture professionals seeking information about organic production practices at-scale. OATS is addressing this gap by organizing workshops for ag advisors on the topics that they need to serve the organic and transitional farmers they work with.

Why should I attend? If you are not already working with organic producers or conventional producers with organic neighbors, you probably will be soon. Understanding organic weed management and how it fits into the bigger picture of organic agronomy will help you make choices and recommendations that are in the best interests of both your organic and conventional clients. Although the OATS agenda is aimed at professional consultants, NRCS, Extension educators, and the like, it is also a great opportunity for farmers who are interested in organic production, too.

“This workshop provides a unique opportunity for ag advisors who want to improve their knowledge of organic weed management. Many extension educators, farm managers, agronomists, CCAs, government employees, and lenders are seeing an increase in demand for their services from organic farmers and landlords. Herbicide resistance is an increasing problem for conventional farmers, and this workshop provides the background and hands-on knowledge to give participants more tools to manage weeds,” said OATS National Program Director, Mallory Krieger.

Managing weeds is a serious issue on many farms, and it is helpful for farmers to have many weed control options instead of, or addition to, herbicides. This on-farm event brings a wide variety of experienced organic farmers and ag professionals together to share what works in non-chemical weed management - including techniques that can be used on both organic and conventional operations. This event will help ag advisors give their clients a wider perspective of weed management tools, a deeper understanding of organic principles, and an opportunity to network. Attendees will learn through presentations, facilitated discussions, and a farmer-led tour of fields and equipment.

The morning topics include a presentation from University of Illinois weed scientist, Dr. Adam Davis, about the latest in ecological weed management. Then Atlanta, IL farmer, Hans Bishop, will share his experience with European-style cultivating tools and camera-guided cultivators. After, a lunch where you can network with other ag professionals. In the afternoon, you’ll walk the fields with farmer-host Brett Krug, to see his organic weed management in action and the cultivators he is using. Then take a seat in the shade to hear from a panel of organic farmers with a wide variety of experience, who will share their successes and lessons in weed management.

The foundation of organic farming is relationships: between farmers and consumers, between farmer and advisor, and among farmers. This OATS event will bring many experienced advisors together, and give

you the opportunity to network with organic farmers and advisors who are willing to share their experiences with you.

What: Effective Weed Management in Row Crops, a workshop by OATS

When: Thursday July 18, 2024 9:30am - 3:00pm CST

Where: Brett Krug Family Farm, 148 E Main St, El Paso, IL 61738

Cost: \$0 - funded by TOPP, or \$20 with lunch included

Register: <https://organicagronomy.regfox.com/illinois-workshop>

Certified Crop Advisor credits will be available.

This workshop was made possible by generous support from North Central Region SARE (award number ENC22-215).

Registration for the July 18 workshop is now open. The deadline to sign up is Thursday, July 11. Visit the [event webpage](#) to learn more and to register. Questions? Contact sam@organicagronomy.org.

[Resource Photos](#)

OATS, the Organic Agronomy Training Service, is a collaboratively-managed training program for agricultural professionals working with organic or transitioning farmers in the United States. We seek to grow domestic organic production by strengthening the educational support network of agronomists, certified crop advisors, extension agents, and technical service providers. Our aim is for every transitional and certified organic farmer to have robust access to technical service expertise to provide unbiased, science-based agronomic support for their farming operation.



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