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OATS | the Organic Agronomy Training Service

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OATS to host the Intro to Organic Advising Workshop in Fargo, ND

Fargo, ND: [OATS](#), the Organic Agronomy Training Service, is hosting the workshop “Intro to Organic Agriculture Advising” on March 19 in Fargo, ND. Organic crop production continues to be an enticing, if challenging, option for farmers in the Northern Great Plains, 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 the basics of organic certification and 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 and Extension educators, 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 start working with organic clients. 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. This workshop provides the foundational knowledge of organic production that they need to serve this emerging client base,” said OATS National Program Director Mallory Krieger.

At this event, you will learn about the USDA National Organic Program and organic production practices in the Northern Great Plains. Experienced local experts and farmers will share both what works and the challenges of organic production in North Dakota and Minnesota. The morning topics will focus on the “big picture” of organic farming. Tessa Trip, an organic certification specialist with OCIA, will talk about how the organic program works. Nic Podoll, an organic consultant with Rodale Institute, will then talk about organic transition and certification for organic grain farmers.

In the afternoon, you will dive into production topics with a panel discussion on equipment needs, crop rotation, and marketing for organic grains. Panelists include organic farmers Mark Askegaard, Lynn Brakke, and Kyle Scherweit, consultant Nic Podoll, and grain buyer Scott Sinner from SB&B Foods.

The foundation of organic farming is relationships: between farmers and consumers, between farmer and certifier, and among farmers. OATS will introduce you to these relationships and give you the opportunity to network with organic farmers and advisors who are willing to share their experiences with you.

What: Intro to Organic Agriculture Advising, a workshop by OATS

When: Tuesday March 29, 2024 9:30am-3:00pm CT

Where: Ramada Inn, 3333 13th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103

Cost: \$45 (includes lunch)

Register: <https://www.organicagronomy.org/workshop-fargo-nd-march-2024>

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 March 19 workshop is now open. The deadline to sign up is Friday March 15. Visit the [event webpage](#) to learn more and to register. Questions? Contact sam@organicagronomy.org.

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[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.



Fiscal Sponsor: Organic Trade Association