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OATS | the Organic Agronomy Training Service

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OATS, OSU, and Bishop Farm to Host workshop on “Organic grain production - marketing, mindset, and weed management” in Mount Blanchard, OH

Mount Blanchard, OH: OATS, the Organic Agronomy Training Service, is hosting the workshop “Improving Organic Grain Production - Marketing, mindset and weed management” on August 19 at Bishop Family Farm in Mount Blanchard, Ohio.

Why should I attend? Organic grain can be profitable, but organic production and marketing are quite different from conventional practices. Farmers look to ag advisors to offer guidance as they consider transitioning land to organic and managing organic grain. This event will help ag advisors better understand organic grain production.

“This is an on-farm event where you’ll learn from experienced organic farmers, organic grain buyers, and other experts so that you can be more effective in helping farmers grow organic grain.” - event organizer Sam Oswald Tilton

Join Greg and Blake Bishop on their farm, along with other organic grain experts, for this event focused on the practice and profits of organic grain. The event is centered around the 3 “M’s” crucial in organic transition: mindset, machinery, and marketing. The morning features talks and discussions from experienced farmers and grain marketers. After lunch, the focus is on organic weed management in grains, with machinery demonstrations and talks by farmers and experts.

Up to 4 hours of CCA credits are also available.

Workshop Details:

- **What:** Improving organic grain production - marketing, mindset, and weed management
- **When:** Monday, August 19, 2024, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM ET
- **Where:** Bishop Family Farm, 6423 Township 80, Mount Blanchard, OH 45867
- **Cost:** \$20
- **Register:** <https://organicagronomy.regfox.com/kansas-workshop>
- **Registration Cap:** 35 participants
- **Registration Deadline:** August 14, 2024

Workshop Agenda:

- 9:30-10 – Registration
- 10-10:30 - What makes organic organic - regulatory overview, Sam Oswald Tilton (OATS)
- 10:30 - 11:25 - Farmer panel - Organic Mindset: Overcoming Transition Barriers,
 - with Shane Meyer, Jeff Dean, Greg and Blake Bishop, moderated by Cassy Brown (OSU OFFER Organic Program)
- 11:30 - 12:15 - Farmer Panel - Organic Marketing,

- with Steve Turnow, Bridget Burgess, and Brad Johnson – moderated by Eric Richer (OSU Extension).
- 12:15-1:10 - Lunch
- 1:10-1:40 - Holistic Weed Management Basics – Dr. Eugene Law (OSU)
- 1:45 - 3:15 - Equipment Discussion and Demos - Blake Bishop, Dr. Law, Sam Oschwald Tilton (OATS)
- 3:00 - Adjourn

Speakers:

- **Greg and Blake Bishop:** - Bishop Family Farms has been certified organic since 2020. Greg and Beth Bishop and their son Blake manage 1,450 acres which includes corn, soybeans, wheat, and sunflowers.
- **Cassy Brown:** -Cassy Brown is a program manager and outreach specialist with Ohio State's Agroecosystem Management Program and the OFFER organic program. Her current projects focus on crop and livestock integration, fostering farmer-led organic research, and planning for the Ohio State Organic Grains Conference.
- **Dr Eugene Law:** Dr. Law joined Ohio State this year as assistant professor of weed ecology at Ohio State with a background in weed science, ecology, and precision technologies. His current research involves holistic impacts of crop management on weed populations, harvest weed seed control technology, and developing computer-vision tools for tracking weed populations.
- **Steve Turnow:** Steve Turnow is from Curtice, Ohio which is located on the southern shores of Lake Erie. He is a 5th generation farmer. He has been in the farming business since 1980 and began transitioning to organic farming in 1995. Steve raises corn, soybeans, wheat, canola, sunflowers and hay. He currently farms in Lucas, Ottawa and Sandusky counties in Ohio.
- **Bridget Burgess:**Bridget is the farm manager at Hirzel Farms in Pemberville, OH. She manages the farm operation and seed cleaning facility. Hirzel grows a variety of crops including corn, soybeans, small grains and dry beans. The seed cleaning facility allows them some unique marketing opportunities.
- **Eric Richer:** In addition to being a statewide farm management field specialist for OSU Extension, Eric provides leadership at Ohio State to the Organic Grains Conference held in January. Eric enjoys tracking the organic vs conventional price ratio for feed grains and has led the effort to publish Ohio organic grain enterprise budgets.
- **Brad Johnson:** Brad is the Director of Grain Procurement and Risk Management at Kalmbach Feeds, Inc. in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. Kalmbach Feeds is a family-owned company that provides high-quality animal nutrition products, which include both Organic and Non-GMO lines. During his 19 years in the grain and feed industry, Brad has gained experience in grain purchasing, merchandising, and hedging as well as extensive involvement in the company's Organic program. Originally from central Ohio, Brad graduated from The University of Toledo and now resides in Findlay with his wife and three daughters.
- **Jeff Dean:** Jeff Dean has been certified organic since 1993. He farms with his son Eli in

Sandusky County, growing corn, soybeans, wheat, and clover. He is a charter member of the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association's Grain Growers Chapter.

For more information and to register, please visit

<https://organicagronomy.regfox.com/ohio-grain-workshop>. Questions? Contact Sam Oschwald Tilton at sam@organicagronomy.org.

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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