



To Till or Not to Till? Building Soil Organically

- a workshop for ag advisors by OATS

One of the great questions in farming is whether or not to till the soil. Though progress has been made on organic no-till systems, most organic field crop farmers rely on tillage to control weeds and to prepare a good seedbed. At this field day, ag advisors and professionals will take a look into how much tillage is used on organic farms and how to protect and enhance the soil on their client's organic field crop farms.

What: A field day for ag advisors and professionals discussing tillage in organic field crop production

When: July 18, 2022, 9a-4p CT

Where: Levi Lyle's Farm in Keota, IA

AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:00am	Welcome
9:15am	Presentation - Tillage in organic field crop production <i>Mallory Krieger, OATS</i>
9:40am	Presentation - National Organic Program 101 <i>Mallory Krieger, OATS</i>
10:00am	Presentation - Implementing tillage judiciously on working farms
11:00am	Panel Discussion - Farmer perspectives on tillage in organics and strategies to protect the soil <i>Matt Leavitt, Albert Lea Seed (moderator), Margaret Smith, Doug Allert, Eric Madson</i>
12:00pm	Lunch
1:30pm	Tour of Levi Lyle's farm and Iowa State University's on-farm research <i>Levi Lyle, Kathleen Delate, Iowa State University</i>
3:30pm	Post-tour discussion
4:00pm	Adjourn

Farm Host

Levi and his family farm near Keota, IA. They raise organic corn and soybeans and as well as, aronia berries, tart cherries, and various other fruits. Levi's Indigenous Fruit Enterprises (LIFE) seeks to facilitate the profitability and sustainability of small farms. Previously an organic inspector, Levi now consults farmers transitioning to organic certified production. He recently started the Levi Lyle Podcast where thought-leaders and out-of-the-box thinking is provided a platform. He has two published books, available at www.levilyle.com and was a guest storyteller for PFIs 2022 winter conference.

Dr. Delate leads the ISU Extension organic research and extension program. Her research focuses on nutrient and pest management strategies that enhance production while lowering agriculture's environmental footprint. She works in Ames, Iowa, and at the ISU Neely-Kinyon Farm in Greenfield, Iowa. In addition to hosting the Annual Iowa Organic Conference each November, she offers a "Transitioning to Organic" course every other year at ISU, starting January 26, 2021.

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