

Notes from Unlocking Organic Innovation

FARRMS Organic Resources

- Unlocking Organic Innovation
 - [Session 1: Research Collaboration and Insight](#)
 - [Session 2: The OSP and Farmer Panel](#)
- [Let's Talk Certified Organic YouTube Playlist](#)
- [Resources from NDDA and NRCS](#)

Through our involvement with the USDA AMS Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP), FARRMS has created a resource guide to assist North Dakota's producers with the organic certification process. This guide is packed with training, mentorship programs, cost-share opportunities, and more. [Click here.](#)

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

- [Farmer Rancher Grant](#)
 - Helps farmers and ranchers explore innovative ideas and share what they are learning with their peers
 - Funding up to \$15,000 (single) or \$30,000 (two or more farmers working together)
 - The deadline has passed for this year but will be available again next fall.
 - [Farmer Rancher Grant Writing Workshop](#) - January 15th
 - [Writing an NCR-SARE Farmer Rancher Grant](#) YouTube Video
- [Other NCR-SARE Grants](#)
- [FARRMS Applying for the SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Webinar](#)

National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)

- ncat.org
- [Presentation slides](#)
- [Recordkeeping Tools - Maintaining Detailed Records](#)

Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)

- <https://ofrf.org/>
- Presentation Slides
- [Farmer-Led Trials Program](#) supports farmers and ranchers in conducting practical, on-farm research that can address their farming challenges and to support farmer-led innovations in organic farming.
 - [Farmer-Led Trials Forum YouTube Video](#)
 - [Guide to Conducting On-Farm Research](#)
- [Transitioning to Organic Resources](#)

This program is supported through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP). TOPP is a program of the USDA Organic Transition Initiative and is administered by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP).

OCIA TOPP Mentorship

The Plains Transition to Organic Partnership Program (Plains TOPP) is a coalition of organizations providing technical assistance and wrap-around support for transitioning and existing organic farmers.

The mentorship program connects beginning farmers with experienced organic operators who can offer real-world advice, answer your questions, and guide you through the certification process. As a mentee, you will learn from those who've been there, gain expert insights, and become part of a supportive network dedicated to helping you succeed in organic agriculture!

Learn more about the program and how it can help you: <https://ocia.org/plains-topp/>
Watch our video to see how it works: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lq7kjt9iTQ0>

Upcoming Organic Conferences

- [Minnesota Organic Conference](#), St. Cloud, MN - January 8-9, 2026
- [Soil Management Summit](#), Fargo, ND - January 13-15, 2026
- [NPSAS Food and Farming Conference](#), Aberdeen, SD - January 21-23, 2026
- [Marbleseed Organic Farming Conference](#), La Crosse, Wisconsin - February 26-28, 2026
- [CREC Annual Field Day](#), Carrington, ND - July, 14 2026

Speaker Contact Information

Session 1:

- Glen Philbrick, [Hiddendale Farm](#)
 - SARE Research Trial: [Brix Levels for Grasshopper Control](#)
- Dr. Qasim Khan, SARE - qasim.khan@ndsu.edu
- Jeff Gale, SARE - jeff.gale@ndsu.edu

Session 2:

- Maia Garby, OFRF - research@ofrf.org
- Ashley Dulaney, OFRF - ashley@ofrf.org
- Andrew Coggins, NCAT - andrewc@ncat.org
- Ann Baier, NCAT - annb@ncat.org
- Joanna Larson - [Prairie Gates](#)
- Jayden Mikkonen - [Mikkonen Organic](#)

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