

# 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](http://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](mailto:qasim.khan@ndsu.edu)
- Jeff Gale, SARE - [jeff.gale@ndsu.edu](mailto:jeff.gale@ndsu.edu)

### Session 2:

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

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).