



# 7<sup>th</sup> Annual High Plains Organic Conference

## Breakthroughs in Organic Agriculture

The Pathfinder Building • Laramie County Community College • Cheyenne, WY  
February 27 & 28, 2020

### DAY 1 Thursday February 27<sup>th</sup>

8:30 **Registration:** *Meet the researchers and visit our vendor tables*

9:00 **State of Organic Agriculture:** *Steve Ela, Ela Family Farms, National Organic Standards Board*

9:30 **Poster lightening talks:** *Visit the vendors*

Concurrent Sessions	Alternative Crops Room	Production Practices Room	Dryland Wheat Room	Soils Room
	10:30	Sunn Hemp, lentils, chickpeas and dry peas. <i>Carrie Eberle, University of Wyoming</i>	Post-emergent herbicides for organic systems. <i>Tyler Mason, Colorado State University</i>	Limitations of cover crops in western Great Plains wheat production. <i>Merle Vigil, USDA-ARS</i>
11:30	Bringing Kernza® perennial grain to market: new economic opportunities and agronomic challenges. <i>Tessa Peters; The Land Institute</i>	Organic market trends. <i>Dawn Thilmany, Colorado State University</i>	Soil building practices in driest dryland wheat production. <i>Jennifer Reeve, Utah State University</i>	The knowns and unknowns of soil carbon, nitrogen and other biological soil health indicators. <i>Tunsisa Hurisso, Lincoln University, MO</i>

12:30 **Organic Lunch Provided:** *Meet the researchers and visit our vendor tables*

Concurrent Sessions	The CHAMP process and hemp policy. <i>Dawn Thilmany, CSU</i>	The long-term impact of early season weeds. <i>Andrew Kniss, University of Wyoming</i>	USDA-NOP oversight and procedures. <i>2:00 Emily Prisco, USDA, National Organic Program</i>	Management levers to increase soil health in High Plains farming systems. <i>Steve Fonte, Colorado State University</i>
	2:00		Hemp seed, research, production and testing. <i>Rick Novak, CSU</i>	
3:00	Hemp policy and production panel discussion. <i>Dawn Thilmany, CSU</i> <i>Rick Novak, CSU</i> <i>Brad Lebsack, L7 Ag</i>		Combined soil health and dryland wheat problem-solving panel discussion.  Expectations and limitations in the semiarid Northern High Plains region	

4:00 **Break**

4:30 **Keynote:** *Diane E. Stott, National Soil Health Specialist, Soil Health Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), author of "Recommended Soil Health Indicators and Associated Laboratory Procedures"*

6:00 **Social at Accomplish Beer Company – Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union**  
115 West 15th Street in downtown Cheyenne at the old train depot



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<b>DAY 2 Friday February 28<sup>th</sup></b>			
<b>8:00 Welcome remarks: <i>Registration, visit the vendors &amp; coffee</i></b>			
<b>Workshops</b>			
	<b>Composting</b>	<b>Marketing</b>	<b>Organic Certification</b>
<b>Workshop Sessions</b>	<p><b>Helping compost happen.</b></p> <p><i>Tamara (Tami) Thomas, P.E., Terre-Source LLC</i></p> <p><i>Caitlin Youngquist, UW Extension</i></p> <p><i>www.terre-source.com</i></p> <p>Join this session for an in-depth understanding of the composting process.</p>	<p><b>Brand architecture and Go-To-Market strategy.</b></p> <p><i>Brandon Hernandez, Whole Brain Consulting</i></p> <p><b>Improving your brand.</b></p> <p><i>Steve Gaither, CA Branding Pillar at CA Fortune</i></p> <p>Improve your marketing strategy for new or existing businesses!</p>	<p><b>The organic certification journey and new directions for 2020.</b></p> <p><i>Janis Kieft-Colorado Department of Agriculture</i></p> <p>Learn about the process of organic certification and information to improve your organic system plan, inspection and working with a certifier.</p> <p>Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial hemp</li> <li>• Container production</li> <li>• Hydroponics</li> <li>• “Strengthening Enforcement Rule” for organic commodities</li> </ul>
<b>8:30-12:30</b>			
<b>12:30 Closing remarks: <i>Jay Norton, University of Wyoming, Conference co-founder</i></b>			