

DAY 1: Getting and Staying Organic Certified

The Centennial Room ♦ Laramie County Community College ♦ Cheyenne, WY
12:30 to 5:00, Tuesday, February 27, 2018

12:00 **REGISTRATION & Coffee (*Lunch is on your own*)**

1:00 **Getting and Staying Organic Certified**

- **How to get and stay certified.** *Janis Kieft, Organic Program Manager, Colorado Department of Agriculture.* This workshop will include an overview of National Organic Program regulations, tools and tips for working with certifiers and inspectors.
- **Record keeping:** *Dan Goldhamer, CSU Extension Horticulture Specialist, Denver*

2:30 **Surviving transition to organic: Financial and technical assistance**

- **Overview of Wyoming Department of Agriculture Programs,** *Ted Craig, Wyoming Department of Agriculture.*
- **Overview of Colorado Department of Agriculture Programs,** *Janis Kieft, Colorado Department of Agriculture.*
- **USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service financial and technical assistance for organic producers,** *Clark Harshbarger, Resource Soil Scientist, USDA NRCS, Greeley, CO.*
- **USDA-Farm Service Agency: Program availability and general HEL compliance rules to consider when transitioning or currently farming organic,** *Laura Kessler, Wyoming Farm Service Agency.*
- **New materials for organic farmers from the Organic Farming Research Foundation** *Michael Stein, Esq., Policy Associate, Organic Farming Research Foundation*

4:00 **Panel Discussion: Previous speakers plus producers Rob Hellbaum and Newton Russell, who have participated in organic transition programs**

5:00 **Adjourn (*Dinner is on your own*)**

DAY 2: 5th Annual High Plains Organic Farming Conference
 "Innovative Solutions in Organic Agriculture"
 The Centennial Room ♦ Laramie County Community College ♦ Cheyenne, WY
 7:30 am to 5:00 pm, Wednesday, February 28, 2018

7:30	<i>Registration & coffee</i>
7:50	Welcome and Opening Remarks
Plenary Talks Centennial Room	8:00 Organic Livestock Systems: <i>Rod Morrison, Rocky Mountain Organic meats, Powell, WY</i>
	8:30 Intensive Organic Vegetable Production: Greenhouse organic tomato growing: <i>Mike's way: Mike Dooley, Dooley Farms, Firestone CO</i>
	9:00 Dryland Organic Grain Production: <i>Steve Tucker, dryland grain & livestock, Venango, NE</i>
	9:30 Lightning Talks: Sponsor Introductions and 1-minute poster/topical session summaries
10:00	<i>BREAK 30 minutes: Meet the researchers poster session and vendor tables. Poster contest</i>

		Dryland Systems	Intensive Vegetable Production	Livestock Systems
Concurrent Sessions*	10:30	Methods to Maximize Crop Yields. <i>Cody Creech, U Nebraska, Scottsbluff</i>	High-Tunnel Strawberry Production. <i>Chris Hilgert, UWyo Extension Specialist</i>	Organic Forage Production: Options and Considerations. <i>Anowar Islam, UWyo Extension Forage Specialist</i>
	11:15	Development and Selection of Organic Wheat Varieties. <i>Stephen Baenziger, U Nebraska, Lincoln</i>	Considerations for Effective Use of Drip Irrigation. <i>Caleb Carter, UWyo Extension Educator, SE Wyoming</i>	Intensive irrigated pasture management. <i>Allison Wickham, Soil Specialist, Aurora Organic Dairy, Boulder, CO</i>

12:00 ***LUNCH Provided: Meet the researchers poster session and vendor tables***

		Dryland Systems	Intensive Vegetable Production	Livestock Systems
Concurrent Sessions*	1:30	Build and Maintain Soil Health for Sustainable Dryland Production. <i>Jay Norton, UWyo Extension Soils Specialist</i>	Suppress® OMRI approved herbicide. <i>Tyler Mason, Specialty Crops Program, Colorado State University</i>	Ins and Outs of Managing an Organic Beef Herd: A Rancher Veterinarian Perspective. <i>Robert Taylor, DVM, Lone Tree Ranch, Lone Tree, WY</i>
	2:15	A New System of Agriculture that actually fits the High Plains. <i>Dale Strickler, Agronomist, GreenCover, Bladen NE</i>	Regional Seed for Farm Resilience. <i>Tessa Peters, Organic Seed Alliance, Missoula, MT</i>	Concerns and Options for Organic Wool and Lamb Production. <i>Whit Stewart, UWyo Extension Sheep Specialist</i>

3:00 ***BREAK 30 minutes: Poster session and vendor tables. Student poster contest.***

3:30 **KEYNOTE: Organic Momentum in 2018: Farmer Voices on the Farm Bill. *Michael Stein, Esq., Policy Associate, Organic Farming Research foundation***

4:15 ***Closing Remarks/Evaluations/Poster winners***

4:30 ***ADJOURN, followed by planning meeting for 2019 HPOFC***

*Order of concurrent session speakers is still flexible.