



# Plan to Go Forward

<https://mosesorganic.org/organic-2051-plan-to-go-forward/>

## 1) PRODUCTION

### 1a) Cover Crops, Crop Rotations, Soil Health

Gaps & Opportunities:

- On-Farm research: “The farmer in the lab”
- Carbon sequestration: “Balancing the carbon checkbook”
- Soil health: “Unleash a soil health pandemic”

### 1b) Drift, Pollinators, Conventional Juxtaposition

Gaps & Opportunities:

- Policies, incentives & regulations to phase out use of problem pesticides
- Policy/staffing for monitoring, enforcement; food safety
- “Drift catchers” for organic farmers

### 1c) Tillage, Water Quality, Carbon Sequestration

Gaps & Opportunities:

- Policy incentives that accurately reflect the real costs, risks and benefits
- Principles-based, systems-focused best management practices that allow for reduction of tillage
- Recognition of farming as a skilled, viable profession with education and career development opportunities
- Robust networks to develop on-farm research and farmer-to-farmer information exchange

## 2) COMMUNITY

### 2a) Organic Certification, the Label, Competing Labels

Gaps & Opportunities:

- Current NOP Standards do not fully represent the principles and values of the organic movement
- Uphold organic integrity across the supply chain
- Public understanding of the broad benefits of organic food & farming

### 2b) Vertical Integration of Organic Agriculture and Its Impact

Gaps & Opportunities:

- Society-wide cultural change based on long-term thinking of agricultural impacts that drives behavior change
- Build relationship through supply chain, services, policy change, laws, education to insert organic everywhere

### 2c) Rural Community Revitalization

Gaps & Opportunities:

- Health care and social safety nets
- New narrative: map migration, advance profession of farming, rural vitality metrics
- New community economics

### 3) SOCIOLOGICAL

#### 3a) Barriers to Converting to Organic

Gaps & Opportunities:

- Investment in supply chain
- Generate demand – messaging
- Build community – peer networks

#### 3b) Reaching Disadvantaged and Underserved Farmers

Gaps & Opportunities:

- Offering career pathways – training, technical support, leadership opportunities
- De-risking farming for the individual
- Using a racial equity lens across all of these farming topics

#### 3c) Market Infrastructure

Gaps & Opportunities:

- Physical infrastructure
- Social infrastructure – fair price, market protection, supply management
- Economics of scale at all scales

### 4a) ENERGY

Fossil Fuel Reduction, Power Alternatives, Machinery, Waste Reduction Conservation

Gaps & Opportunities:

- Build local energy networks
- Local energy production
- Energy policy reform

### 4b) ECONOMICS

Business Planning, Viability, Co-ops, Labor, Justice, Scale, Local, Social Capital, Consumer Education

Gaps & Opportunities:

- Parity and supply management
- Folks don't understand what else organic can do - carbon sequestration, reduce carbon footprint
- Cost of production is still a big question – measure full costs, teach farmers how to measure

### 4c) LIVESTOCK

Regenerative Systems, Humane, Breeding, Pasture-based

Gaps & Opportunities:

- Laws and policies that exclusively support regenerative agriculture
- Antitrust laws need to be enforced across the country
- Optimal scale for regenerative production, aggregation, distribution

### 4d) CLIMATE CHANGE

Human Health, Resilience, Pests, Seeds, Mitigation

Gaps & Opportunities:

- Public funded research, farmer driven, accessible on farm-level climate change issues
- Public understanding of organic as part of climate solution

#### 4e) SEEDS

##### Perennial and Ancient Grains, Meeting Expanding Need, New Crops

###### Gaps & Opportunities:

- Breeding for organic systems
- Truly participatory methods
- Breeding for human health and culture

#### 4f) "THE EDGES"

##### Issues Not Met in Other Categories

###### Gaps & Opportunities:

- Need information on non-monetary value of organic
- Information on what practices improve the quality and nutritional content of foods
- Need farming systems research approach and techniques used and taught