2020 Impact

Educating, inspiring, and empowering farmers

Farmer Education

31st MOSES Organic Farming Conference

2,453 people gathered at the MOSES Conference to learn the latest organic production methods and connect with the right resources and people to support the success of their farms and businesses.

“There are no words to describe just how much great networking, learning, and connecting takes place.”

— Angela Rivers, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

We recognized Jane Hawley Stevens and David Stevens of Four Elements Organic Herbals as Organic Farmers of the Year. We introduced a new award for those working to overcome systemic challenges and build strong farming communities. 2020 Changemaker awards went to Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin, founder of the Regenerative Agriculture Alliance; Steve Acheson, co-founder of the South Central WI Hemp Producers Co-op; and, Loretta Livingston and Joy Schelble, the forces behind the Bad River Food Sovereignty Program.

Organic Field Days

In the face of the pandemic, we pivoted from on-farm field days to virtual events and connected with even more farmers. 375 people joined in our four virtual field days, while the recordings had an additional 1,087 views. We covered organic dairy, transition to organic grains, Kernza®, and medicinal herb production.

“We are going organic with our farm this year!! This conference was a great experience. We learned so many things. It was especially nice being surrounded by other organic farmers who share the same passions of transforming our communities, regenerating the land, and healing the people + planet.”

— Katelynn Knutson, Steward, Illinois

Practical Advice

When the pandemic hit the U.S., we acted quickly to get information to farmers. Our webpage with dozens of COVID-related farming resources had 1,275 visits. We gave 47 farmers free access to the recording of the conference workshop “Attract Local Customers Online” to help them set up online sales.

We launched a new podcast with advice on many aspects of farming, starting with pandemic issues and farmer mental health. MOSES Organic Farming Podcast’s 22 episodes had 7,080 plays total in 2020. Our In Her Boots podcast, now in its fourth year, had 35,354 plays.

We logged over 1,200 interactions with farmers on the Organic Answer Line.

15,555 subscribers to the Organic Broadcaster newspaper learned about the issues impacting organic farmers.

Experienced organic farmers guided 25 farmers through our Farmer-to-Farmer Mentoring Program.

We helped farmers establish Grower Groups to share ideas and find support for the work they are doing. 3 new groups formed in 2020.

Resources

Our information-rich website had 160,466 visits. Land Link-Up had 5,191 views. Job seekers checked the Farm Jobs page 6,223 times.

4,280 individuals used our Farm Production Recordkeeping Workbook. 388 accessed our Guidebook for Organic Certification, while 428 browsed the Midwest Organic Resource Directory.

Farmers downloaded 652 organic fact sheets on production and business issues.

1,416 farmers watched our video series on FSA loans, while another 822 took our Fearless Farm Finances online course.

We also moved our In Her Boots workshops online, hosting webinars on time management and networking as part of our 8-week Resilience Boot Camp that reached 3,090 women farmers.

Our Women Caring for the Land outreach connected 359 women landowners with specialists and resources in Wisconsin to support their conservation plans.
Board of Directors:
Mike Bollinger
River Root Farm, Decorah, Iowa
Sylvia Burgos Toftness
Bull Brook Keep, Clear Lake, Wis.
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Scotch Hill Farm, Brodhead, Wis.
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Blue Mounds, Wis.
Sara Tedeschi
Dog Hollow Farm, Ferryville, Wis.
Darin Von Ruden
Ruden Family Farm, Westby, Wis.

These organizations and agencies support our work through grants and gifts, ensuring MOSES can provide the training, resources, and practical advice farmers need to succeed in organic production.

2020 Financial Summary
Revenue $1,382,912
Expenses $1,382,698
Net Assets $500,604

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Thanks to Our Supporters
Major Funders
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Albers/Kuhn Family Foundation
Ciranda
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Compeer Financial
Farm Aid

Farmers Advocating for Organic
McKnight Foundation
Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)
USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Engaged Supporters
330 individuals donated a total of $46,786 to empower farmers to grow organically, a system of farming that promotes healthy soils, clean water, abundant pollinators, and combats climate change. Many of our donors are farmers who have experienced firsthand the impact of our services. Thank you to all who are investing in our work!

We are especially grateful to our Engaged Donors who gave $300 or more to support organic farming:

Amy Alpine & John Grump
Audrey Alwell & Jim Herold
Ambre Blends
Sam Atkins
Gail Barber
Bremer Bank of Menomonie
Bull Family of Union Grove Farm
Lisa Burke
ChavoBart Digital Media
Christin Cleaver
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Four Elements Organic Herbals
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People’s Food Co-op, La Crosse, WI
David & Barb Perkins
Tim & Betsy Pierce
Lori Poppie
Peter Sonstegard
JoAnn Thomas & Doug Nopar
Patricia & Gene Thomas
Dale & Ann Woodbeck

“For MOSES has kept me from giving up on my farm dream. Thank you!”
— Laura Otolski, Evanston, Ill.

Our mission is to educate, inspire, & empower farmers to thrive in a sustainable, organic system of agriculture.

Lori Stern, Executive Director

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