

Announcing: New Organic Project at the University of Minnesota

PRINCIPLES FOR TRANSITIONING TO ORGANIC FARMING: E-LEARNING MATERIALS AND DECISION CASE STUDIES

Transitioning to organic farming can be a risky prospect. A transitioning farmer is thrown into a whole new world with new rules, new methods, and unfamiliar problems. When this new world is combined with a much-reduced support system, the risk of failure can be high.

Our project is based on the critical need for quality educational materials on transitioning to organic farming. Our team will create a series of online, interactive educational modules with a focus on the fundamentals of organic agriculture and how to transition to organic farming. We will cover important crop production topics including rotation, soil fertility, crops to grow during transition, weed and pest management, and many other subjects for both agronomic and horticultural producers. The materials we develop will be used for workshops and in an intensive training class on transitioning for farmers to be offered by University of Minnesota Extension.

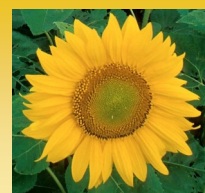


WE NEED YOUR HELP. We are looking for organic and transitioning farmers with all levels of experience to participate in listening group meetings. This will be a great opportunity to make your voice be heard, to network with other farmers, and to help your fellow organic farmers learn from your experiences. Our listening group meetings will be held throughout the Minnesota and Wisconsin region. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jill Sackett to be added to our mailing list.

Project Partners:

MOSES
eOrganic
U of MN Extension
MISA
U of WI—CIAS
Michelle Miller
Dr. Craig Sheaffer
Dr. Jeff Gunsolus
Dr. John Lamb
Dr. Tom Michaels
Dr. Steve Simmons

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National Institute of
Food and Agriculture



To join our project or
for more information,
please contact:

Jill Sackett
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University of Minnesota

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover™

Transitioning to Organic Farming – Listening Sessions Planned

MANKATO, Minn. (05/16/2014) — The transition from conventional farming to organic farming can be risky. There is a real need for quality information to help farmers during this process. The University of Minnesota and partners are working to develop educational materials aimed towards making the organic transition period easier. Information and tips on such topics as crop rotations, weed management, and National Organic Program rules will be covered and real-life experiences from organic farmers in Minnesota and Wisconsin will also be a part of the resources developed. Listening sessions with organic producers will be used to gather input and opinions on how we can develop the most beneficial educational materials for those transitioning to organic farming.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED. If you are a transitioning organic farmer or an experienced organic farmer willing to share your knowledge, join the University of Minnesota for one of four Organic Transition Listening Sessions in the month of June. Three of the listening sessions will focus on row crop production and one will focus on fruit and vegetable production. A small honorarium will be offered to attendees. Space is limited - an RSVP is needed.

DATES AND LOCATIONS:

June 18th – Row Crops – 10am to 12pm

USDA Service Center – Marketplace Mall – 110 2nd Street South, Suite 127 - Waite Park, MN
RSVP to: Jill Sackett, U of MN Extension – sacke032@umn.edu – 507.389.5541

June 20th – Row Crops – 10am to 12pm

U of MN Southwest Research and Outreach Center – 23669 130th Street - Lamberton, MN
RSVP to: Jill Sackett, U of MN Extension – sacke032@umn.edu – 507.389.5541

June 23rd – Fruits and Vegetables – 10am to 12pm

Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center – 4100 220th Street West - Farmington, MN
RSVP to: Jill Sackett, U of MN Extension – sacke032@umn.edu – 507.389.5541

June 25th – Row Crops – 10am to 12pm

U of MN Extension Regional Office – 863 30th Avenue Southeast - Rochester, MN
RSVP to: Jill Sackett, U of MN Extension – sacke032@umn.edu – 507.389.5541

Source: Jill Sackett – Extension Educator, Ag Production Systems – U of M Extension Regional Office, Mankato – 507-389-5541 – sacke032@umn.edu