



September Highlights

Celebrate National Organic Month

September is dedicated to raising awareness about the benefits and practices of organic production for the health of our planet, our communities and ourselves. The work we all do everyday champions and supports expanding organic and sustainable farming practices and food systems for those very reasons. We recognize and celebrate the advances our Midwest TOPP team continues to make in growing the organic movement across the region through collaboration, partnership, mentorship, and community.



New Programs Specialist for Midwest TOPP



Roz Lehman is MOSA’s new Programs Specialist. Roz was hired in August to support and collaborate with the Midwest TOPP Program Director, program partners, and stakeholders throughout the 11-state Midwest Region. Roz recently served as the Iowa Organic Association’s executive director for the past six and a half years and has a background in non-profit leadership and community organizing. She has a passion for protecting the planet and expanding awareness and support for sustainable and organic food systems.

You can reach Roz at lehman@mosaorganic.org or 608-572-7320.

Welcome New Midwest TOPP Partners to the Team!



Midwest TOPP “Meeting of the Minds” – Nov 19 – 21, Minneapolis, Minnesota



Be sure to save the dates and make your reservations for the Midwest TOPP annual Meeting of the Minds, where our regional partners gather in-person to celebrate our successes, learn about partner resources and tactics, and strategize best practices for achieving TOPP’s vision and goals.



Complete the **Lodging, Travel, Meal Planning,** and **Outreach Supplies** tabs in the logistics document by **Monday, September 30th.**

[>>> READ MORE >>>](#)

Success Stories

Tennessee State University Hosts Two-Day Organic Conference in Memphis



With the support of TOPP, Tennessee State University partnered with Green Leaf Learning Farm and Knowledge Quest in Memphis, TN to host an organic agriculture conference June 12-13, 2024. Forty attendees participated in the conference and heard from experts on soil management, cover crops, pest management, and more.

[>>> READ MORE >>>](#)

CAFF Seeks New Weed Management Ideas for Mid-Scale Vegetable Production



The Center for Arkansas Farms and Food (CAFF) was developed to strengthen and expand our food and farming system by providing new opportunities to shape our current and future farmers, food entrepreneurs, and food system leaders. To lead by example and share how to effectively grow organic produce, CAFF is transitioning the fruit and vegetable teaching and production farm to certified organic.

[>>> READ MORE >>>](#)

ISU Organic Water Quality Field Day and Focus Group



On June 18, 2024, 24 farmers, students and agency staff gathered for an Iowa State University Extension Organic Water Quality (OWQ) Field Day and Focus Group at the ISU Agronomy Farm. The field day explored differences in water and soil quality between organic and conventional systems and the focus group investigated farmer perspectives for transitioning to organic.

[>>> READ MORE >>>](#)

OFARM and the Iowa Organic Association Deliver Organic Mentorship and Transition Field Day



On Friday, September 6, the Iowa Organic Association (IOA) and OFARM partnered to deliver a TOPP Field Day in Cherokee, Iowa. The program focused on highlighting a range of organic topics, including: crop rotations, tools and techniques, marketing options, resources available through the Midwest Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP), and an organic field tour at the Otto Farm.

[>>> READ MORE >>>](#)

Upcoming Midwest Events

[>>> VIEW ALL TOPP EVENTS HERE <<<](#)

Oct
02

Organic Weed Management Field Day for Professionals
CAFF Farm | Fayetteville, Arkansas

[FIND OUT
MORE](#)

Oct
09

Perspectives on Organic Certification: A Farmer Webinar Panel
Virtual

[FIND OUT
MORE](#)

Nov
25

Iowa Organic Conference
Iowa Memorial Union | Iowa City, Iowa

[FIND OUT
MORE](#)

Dec
03

Iowa Organic Association Annual Meeting
Story City Community Center | Story City, Iowa

[FIND OUT
MORE](#)

Dec
06

Farmer and Community Input Session for the Transition to Organic
Partnership Program
Virtual

[FIND OUT
MORE](#)

[>>> SUBMIT EVENTS HERE <<<](#)

Find an Accredited Certifying Agent

The Organic INTEGRITY Database (INTEGRITY) created the Organic Certifier Locator. This helpful tool is updated regularly by the National Organic Program and it provides accurate information about accredited certifying agents.

[>>> FIND A CERTIFIER HERE <<<](#)

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Transitioning to Organic

>>> **BECOME A MENTOR** <<<

>>> **BECOME A MENTEE** <<<

Midwest TOPP Partners

