



On-Farm Field Day Draws Attendees from Across Region



Keith Burns, Green Cover Seed, explains the value of cover crops in organic systems.

For producers beginning or considering organic transition, the to-do list and knowledge barriers can seem daunting at times.

On April 8th, people interested in organic production gathered near Hiawatha, KS, for the Kansas On-Farm Field Day to learn from industry experts. The one-day event hosted by Acres USA and Plains TOPP was full of information-dense sessions, networking opportunities, and a guided tour of a successful certified organic operation nearby.

Author, farmer, and historian Anneliese Abbott explored the history of organic farming in America, the foundational principles of organic management, and current industry trends.

American agriculture has long had an anti-organic stigma. As Abbott explained, much of this comes from political maneuvering during the Cold War that created the “feeding the world rhetoric,” which remains

pervasive. Today, organic production offers an ecologically sound alternative to conventional agriculture that often produces more nutrient-dense crops.

Keith Burns, co-owner of Green Cover Seed, helped attendees better understand how cover

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crops convert free environmental resources, such as nitrogen in the air and rainwater, into tangible soil health and yield gains.

Jack Geiger, a certified organic farmer of 33 years, shared his own organic journey with attendees. After surviving the 80s Farm Crisis, Geiger and his father began their own organic transition in an effort to reduce the high financial input per acre.

Three decades later, Geiger now runs Geiger Farm, a certified organic row crop operation in northeast Kansas, with his wife and three children. He also mentors young farmers undergoing organic transition through Plains TOPP and his YouTube channel, Geiger Farm.

The event concluded with a tour of Geiger's operation, where he walked attendees through his tillage equipment, cattle herd, crop fields, and pasture. The tour focused on how these different components of the farm intersect to create a cohesive, effective organic system.



Anneliese Abbott covers the history of organic agriculture during her session.

Mentorship

Events Like This



Jack Geiger explains his tillage schedule during a guided tour of his certified organic operation.



Resource Highlight

How to Perform Material Searches for Organic Production

Use our “How to Perform Material Searches for Organic Production” resource to determine which materials are approved for use in organic systems. Learn to access and read materials lists, and how to get answers when unsure about a material’s safety.

[Watch it and more](#)

Organic Market Update

The USDA’s latest National Organic Grain and Feedstuff Report for the 3/20/2026 - 4/10/2026 period showed a slight decline in organic feed trade activity.

New crop forward contracts for Q4 2026- Q1 2027 are now delivering \$1.02 lower than current spot markets on average, aside from feed corn, which is contracting \$0.59 higher. Trade on feed wheat and feed soybeans remained limited this period. Feed corn remained moderate, trading higher delivered at both the county elevator and feed mill.

[Read the report](#)



Upcoming Events

APR

22

Organic Office Hours, Virtual

Thinking about organic certification but not sure where to start? Join us for our free, twice-monthly webinar, where we simplify the process with an organic certification specialist.

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APR

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Spanish Organic Certification 101, Virtual

Join our Spanish Organic Certification 101 webinar and learn the fundamentals of the organic certification process, including requirements, timelines, and practical next steps.

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Organic Certification 101, Virtual

Thinking about getting certified organic, but not sure where to start? Join our Organic Certification 101 webinar and learn the fundamentals of the organic certification process, including requirements, timelines, and practical next steps.

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MAY

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AUG

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Transition to Organic Farming Workshop, North Platte, NE

Join us for a full-day, in-depth workshop designed for farmers and ag professionals interested in transitioning to organic production. This interactive event features presentations and open discussion with seasoned experts who bring real-world experience in organic farming systems, NRCS programs, organic certification, transition planning, and marketing organic crops.

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