



JULY



2026

A Passion for Mentoring: Jack Geiger's Mentorship Story



Geiger shares about his mentorship journey at the Kansas On-Farm Field Day in Hiawatha, KS.

In 2016, Jack Geiger started a YouTube channel, Geiger Farm. Filming simple how-to videos in the field with his cellphone quickly revealed a need within the organic community for education on a farmer-to-farmer level.

Within a few years, the Geiger Farm channel had amassed thousands of subscribers, and Jack was helping farmers across the U.S. navigate organic transition. It wasn't uncommon for a beginning farmer to drive hours, sometimes days, just to spend a day on Jack's certified organic farm in northeast Kansas learning from him.

By the time the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) was launched in 2022, Jack already had years of

experience mentoring young farmers on top of his 29 years of organic farming experience. This made becoming a mentor for Plains TOPP an easy decision.

"I wanted to find ways to expand my mentee network and connect the members within in, and Plains TOPP had the resources to achieve that," he said.

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Through the program, Jack has helped five mentees navigate organic transition across the Plains region, in addition to the nine mentees he works with on his own. As a mentor, he walks farmers through organic certification, answers production questions, and is often a sounding board for new ideas.

Over time, Jack's mentorship infrastructure has evolved to meet the growing needs of producers today. He's compiled a resource library for soil testing, planting timelines, equipment guides - anything an organic farmer might have a question about. He's also built a WhatsApp group where mentees can ask questions and learn from him and one another.

As the mentorship group grows, Jack is continually surprised at how self-sufficient the group has become.

"Once I had a few mentees actively working with me, they began to tell other farmers they knew were struggling. Over time, some of those people also joined the group and began working actively with each other to solve problems they were encountering," Jack said. "It's been a happy karma to see these farmers not only build profitable organic farms, but also lasting relationships with their peers."

For Jack, being a Plains TOPP mentor is about more than strengthening the organic industry. It's about supporting the communities these farmers come from.

"Mentorship plays a key role strengthening rural communities and building resilient agriculture systems," he said. "We must continue teaching the next generations how to build profitable lives in our rural areas."

Become a mentee

Become a mentor



Geiger explains his crop rotation during a tour of his certified organic operation near Robinson, KS



Resource Highlight

Transition to Organic Scope Guides

The SDSPA, a Plains TOPP partner, offers free Organic Scope Guides. These documents provide an outline of key regulations, production practices, and certification requirements specific to various types of production, including fruit and berries, mushrooms, row crops, small grains, annual vegetables, and greenhouse.

[Access the resource](#)

Organic Market Update

The USDA's latest National Organic Grain and Feedstuff Report for the 6/22/2026 - 7/3/2026 period showed consistency in most feed markets, with demand remaining good.

Forward contract numbers remain high throughout the end of the year and into early 2027. Some organic feed corn forward contracts push all the way to Q2 2029. Spot market sales for most organic feed grains remain steady, with organic feed corn leading the way at \$1.00 higher than last session.

[Read the report](#)



Upcoming Events

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Mittleider Organic Farming, Tappen, ND

Meet the Rick & Char Mittleider Farm family where you'll find years and generations of experience, quality work in the industry, and a wealth of knowledge put to good use. Not only will we talk about soil health, organic farming, and transition, but we'll talk about transitioning the farm to the next generation. Learn tried-and-true strategies for success in organic farming and transition from these long-time well-respected members of NPSAS.

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Building a Market for Organic Vegetable Systems: Lessons from a Successful Transition, Virtual

Transitioning to organic is one step; building a viable business around it is another. Danielle and Steven of TendWell Farm will share how they approached that challenge. They will walk through how they developed a brand, identified market opportunities, and explored value-added products and alternative revenue streams for their diversified vegetable system.

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Transition to Organic Farming Workshop, Coweta, OK

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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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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Upcoming Events

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Advisor Call- Advancing Regional Organic Markets: A Farmer's Toolkit (National), Virtual

Join us for an in-depth discussion of an updated "Advancing Regional Organic Markets: A Farmer's Toolkit", a resource designed to strengthen regional organic economies. This toolkit provides farmers and stakeholders with data, insights, and opportunity analysis to help expand regional production of high-demand organic crops, reduce reliance on imports, and increase economic opportunities for U.S. farmers.

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Virtual Buyer-Seller Mixer for Small & Alternative Grains, Virtual

Join us for a speed-dating-style virtual mixer where sellers and buyers of small and alternative grains are connected to start conversations. This event is targeted toward businesses working with oats, barley, rye, quinoa, amaranth, buckwheat, millet, sorghum, rice, and similar grains.

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Advisor Call- Advancing Organic Markets: A Farmer's Toolkit (Plains), Virtual

Join us for an in-depth discussion of an updated "Advancing Regional Organic Markets: A Farmer's Toolkit", a resource designed to strengthen regional organic economies. During this Advisor Call, we'll discuss the Toolkit's improvements since it was first launched in December 2025 and explore how to use the toolkit to identify key market opportunities in the Plains region, support resilient supply chains rooted in local identity, and foster stronger connections between producers, processors, and buyers.

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Advancing Food is Medicine: Regenerating Communities, Edmond, OK

Join us at The Springs in Edmond, Oklahoma, on October 20 and 21, 2026, to learn how you can start or expand the important work you are already doing. During this time, we'll dive into the central role food plays in regenerating communities, food-is-medicine programs, nutrient density and testing, local food supply chains, organic and regenerative agriculture and how all of these things play a role in community, environmental, and human health.

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