

Diversifying Organic Farms:

Integrating Organic Grains, Forages, Livestock, Specialty Crops & People

Primary Sponsor: Central Plains Organic Farmers Association

Co-Sponsors: Kansas SARE / KSCAAC, Kansas Rural Center, Kansas Farmers Union

Wednesday, August 29, 2018, Klinefelter Barn, 1724 230th St., Hiawatha, KS

Registration Fee: \$15 to help cover meal and materials costs

Contact Info.: Ed Reznicek, CPOF General Manager, 785/939-2032, amerugi@jbntelco.com

Key to expanding the sustainability of 21st century farms is increasing the ecological, economic and social diversification of agriculture at both the farm level and at the level of agriculture generally. This is what is called "Agroecology". The purpose of this workshop is to strengthen organic agriculture's diversification and sustainability, beginning at the individual farm level. The biggest production challenge with organic grains is weed control in row crops. The first part of the day long workshop will focus on improving weed control with a diversified cropping system and the knowledgeable and skillful use of low cost cultivation.

The second part of the workshop is about adding and integrating specialty crops and more diverse pastured livestock production and marketing into traditional organic grain, forage and beef cattle operations. This not only increases the diversity of crops, livestock, markets & economics of a farm, it can also significantly increase the number of people engaged in the management, work and social development of farms and the communities in which they function. For younger farmers this collaborative model of integrating traditional and specialty crop operations offers easier access to land and equipment as well as farming knowledge and experience. For older, established farmers this model offers a sustainable transition forward to a new generation of diversified farmers.

Agenda

8:45 a.m Registration

9:15 Welcome & Attendee Introductions (Ed Reznicek, Central Plains Organic Farmers Assn.)

9:30 Organic Grain & Forage Cropping Systems: Crop Rotation, Cover Crops & Weed Control
(Gary McDonald, Organic Resources)

10:30 Break

10:45 Cultivators and Cultivation in Organic Row Crop (Gary McDonald)

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Prairierth Farm: Integrating Organic Grain, Forage, Livestock & Specialty Crops (David Bishop)

Overall Farm Description – crops & livestock, labor, marketing, ownership, management & general operation
Planning, transitioning & incorporating more diversified crops & integrating livestock
How diversity works agronomically & economically
Internships & educational opportunities on the farm – the good & the bad
Geography of Markets

2:15 Break

2:30 Prairierth Farm continued (Dave Bishop)
Constructing food hub facility for additional farmers and for aggregation, packing & marketing
Questions & discussion regarding Prairierth Farm

3:15 Regenerating Small Farms with a Diversified, Poultry Based, Permaculture Production Model
(Reginald Haslett-Marroquin, Main Street Project)

4:45 Final Words & Evaluation

5:00 Adjourn

To Register: Call Ed Reznicek, Central Plains Organic Farmers, at 785/939-2032, or email at amerugi@jbntelco.com.