

Organicology

Call for Proposals

Program Content, Speakers and Sessions

March 12-14, 2025 | Portland, Oregon

Event Summary

Organicology brings together contributors, advocates and change-makers from across the organic trade to revolutionize food, agriculture and economic models for the better. Together we share our work, progress, and challenges, unearth possibilities and build deep connections needed to grow the organic agriculture movement today and for an ever-improving future. Organicology is designed with a rebellious spirit and forward focus and promotes cross-pollination as attendees share time and space with not only their peers, but with a wide range of trade practitioners, creating opportunities to better understand the whole of which they are part.

Event Theme

Organic is the Answer

Priority Topics

Organicology is seeking, but is not limited to, submissions from the list of topics outlined below:

State of the Trade

- Any topics related to the current state and future of the trade, such as consolidation, farmland, growth of the sector, challenges.
- The impact of the SOE & OLPP implementation and looking ahead to FSMA traceability rule.
- Retailers and their impact on the trade, ranging from independents to co-ops to large retailers. How can we adapt in the face of large retail consolidation and its impact on mid-size growers?
- How to understand, work with and influence retailers to grow sales and expand organic offerings.
- How to keep organic affordable and accessible in the face of inflation.
- How is global warming impacting the trade? What can we do to adapt in the future?

Growth and investment

- How do we grow the organic trade in the future? (Topics could include increasing the number of growers, market development piece, what's targeted, how can we be coordinated, making the industry more inclusive).
- How do we help new growers to enter the organic trade? How do we help elder growers exit the organic trade?
- What scale is needed in the face of continued consolidation?
- What does growth look like in various regions of the country; what is the value of certification in various regions of the country?
- How do we increase organic produce consumption in the future?

Research & Innovation

- New and emerging research that impacts the organic trade. Some topics could include climate smart practices, climate impacts, organic practices, soil health, food safety, waste reduction, quality preservation/shelf-life extension, packaging.
- New developments in seeds and seed research, including relating to global warming adaptation.
- Innovation in markets for rotational crops.
- Collaborative panels from different academic organizations focused on the topics above.

Advocacy

- Let's train people to be advocates - Advocacy 101 and Advanced Advocacy.
- How to make organic more inclusive/sustainable and accessible in the future?
- Should we work with conventional agricultural lobby? What does that future hold?
- What could a new federal administration mean for the organic movement?
- How do we more effectively participate in policy development?
- What is the agenda of different advocacy organizations? How can we get involved?
- Let's better understand the Farm Bill and how it impacts organic.
- What is the difference between state and federal policy/advocacy? What different tactics can we use?
- How can state organizations work together to build support for organic agriculture?

Sustainability

- Any topic on improving the sustainability of the organic trade.
- How do we reduce waste in the entire value chain, including growers?
- What is the future of sustainable packaging? What can we do to get ready in the face of consumer demand for plastic reduction?
- How do we reduce the impact of trucking and heavy equipment in the organic trade?
- Can we stop the growing trend of packaging produce and create more demand for bulk products?

Regional Expertise

- Any topic that has a focus on expertise in the Pacific Northwest that can help build an understanding of the organic trade in our region.
- A case study from an organic grower or growers.

Inclusive Leadership

- In the midst of the "Silver Tsunami," what is the succession plan for the next generation in the organic trade?
- What is our collective vision for where the organic trade should be in the next ten years?
- What is the experience of underrepresented groups in the organic trade? How do we make the organic trade more inclusive and build a sense of belonging for everyone?
- How do we understand the global implications of the trade? How do we lead globally?
- Who is writing the history books of organic? What should it say?

Proposal Selection Criteria

- **Actionable and Transferable** We want attendees to leave our sessions with a project they can implement, or new knowledge of a subject to take back to their own work. Meaningful and actionable learning objectives and ideas that transfer between organization types will increase likelihood of selection for inclusion in the conference program.
- **Creativity of Subject Matter.** We are interested in creative problem solving that goes beyond what has been tried before and will inspire action and thinking outside the box. We are particularly looking for innovative proposals that will inspire solution-building in conference sessions.
- **Connectivity.** We seek proposals that link all industry stakeholders. This event aspires to bring stakeholders together to create collaboration and to break-down traditional silos.

- **Quality.** We are looking for high quality session abstracts that describe how the proposal will convey a clearly articulated subject and objective. We are dedicated to ensuring the presentations at our conference meet the high standards of the organizations attending the conference.
- **Interaction.** Above all, our selection team is committed to proposals that will bring an engaging delivery of presentations and inclusive interaction for everyone. Preference will be given to proposals that outline participative and experiential formats that promote reflection and discussion.
- **Social Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.** OrganicoLOGY strives to weave JEDI throughout conference thematic elements, speakers and attendees. Submissions that account for this topic, either directly or indirectly, will be given preference in the selection and program development process.

Breakout Session Styles (75 minutes in length)

ORGANICOLOGY is seeking, but is not limited to, submissions for different session styles described below.

Case Study/Speakers (for inclusion as a part of a session or panel)

Submit a new and original case study that demonstrates leadership, busting the status quo and developing inventive breakthroughs in thinking. This could be combined with other case studies/speakers into one inclusive session.

Participative Panel Discussion (3-4 speakers and a moderator)

An interactive version of conventional panel presentations with 3-4 speakers and a moderator leading the group discussion; emphasis will be on drawing connections between the panelists' perspectives. The aim will be to both share fresh ideas and generate new knowledge amongst the participants in the room.

Interactive Workshop (facilitated conversations for problem solving)

Alternative formats for hands-on, experiential learning; sessions can be outlined in any structure depending on the topic areas and selected proposals. Designed to provide space and facilitation for group discussion, these sessions will bring mixed perspectives together to tackle the bigger picture challenges facing the organics industry. These sessions will require experienced facilitators to introduce the topic and provide background information to the room. Proposals will require additional information including a session timing outline and a session pedagogy including learning design, activities and engagement tasks and actionable takeaways.

PLEASE NOTE: OrganicoLOGY reserves the right to make changes to submissions and require alternative combinations of speakers and case studies to most effectively shape each session's content and the conference learning experience as a whole.

Speaker Guidelines

Presentations are not meant to be a platform for business promotion. We request that all proposals **offer educational outcomes and actionable takeaways for attendees.** Speakers are responsible for confirming that they have the right to use and will acquire the licenses needed for any copyrighted material used in their presentation. We will ask speakers to sign a release waiver to share presentation materials. Speakers with accepted proposals are expected to register for and attend OrganicoLOGY at the discounted speaker rate, at their own expense.

How to Submit

[Click here to submit!](#)

All proposals must be submitted through our **online submission form**. All information outlined below is required submitted proposals:

- Submitter's name and contact: "Submitter" is the individual completing the online form and who will be available to answer any questions about its contents, regardless of whether they are the proposed speaker.
- Proposal Title (20 words maximum)
- Abstract (500 words maximum)
- Session Description (3-4 sentences that will be published as a part of the conference program)
- Proposal type/session style
- Relevant Audience
- Learning objectives (please list 3-4 lessons/insights the audience will take away from this session)
- Additional Speakers (you should secure permission from speakers before including them in the submission)

Interactive Workshop proposals will require the below additional information:

- Session timing outline
- Session pedagogy including learning design, activities and engagement tasks and **actionable takeaways achieved from attending the workshop**. Please also make note of any special materials, room structure or capabilities your session requires.

The following information will be requested, but optional to complete in the submission form for the submitter and speakers:

- What preferred pronoun(s) do you use?
- How old are you?
- I identify my ethnicity as _____.

Call for Program Proposals Timeline

Distribute Call for Proposals	Thursday, April 25th, 2024
Call for Proposals Closes	Friday, June 21st, 2024
Call for Proposals Selections	Friday, August 16th, 2024
Full Program Published	Wednesday, December 11th, 2024
Event Dates	March 12-14, 2025

Questions? Please email organicology@socialenterprises.net