

# OTA Farmers Advisory Council

## 2019 WORK PLAN

*The purpose of the Farmers Advisory Council (FAC) is to provide the Organic Trade Association (OTA) board and staff with input from organic farmers, ranchers, and growers on matters pertinent to the advancement of organic agriculture, with a specific focus on OTA's policy agenda.*

### **1. Advocate for OTA's [Farm Bill Priorities](#)**

- a) Hold a second annual FAC Fly-In to meet new congress and educate them about OTA's Farm Bill Priorities**
- b) Promote advocating for the OTA's Farm Bill Priorities within the FAC organizations' memberships**
- c) Contact members of congress on organic priorities in the Farm Bill**

FAC member organizations who have endorsed OTA's Farm Bill Priority Platform include California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF), Georgia Organics, Organic Egg Farmers of America, Montana Organic Association, Oregon Tilth Certified Organic, Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative, Pennsylvania Certified Organic, and Tilth Alliance of Washington.

### **2. Advance understanding of challenges and seek potential solutions for key issues facing organic farmers**

- a) Pesticide & GMO Contamination**
- b) Dairy Industry Issues**
- c) Labor Shortage**
- d) Climate Change**

FAC members will form small groups which will meet in-between full council meetings to discuss and develop the following information: Identify and describe the specific challenge(s) that organic farmers are facing in regard to the issue; Identify and describe the reason(s) that may be causing/influencing the challenge, if known; Identify and describe the fundamental need(s) for organic farmers to overcome the challenges; Identify specific policies, positions, actions, or other initiatives (e.g. value-chain roundtable) for FAC to further develop and/or that OTA could support to address the challenges in a manner that compliments OTA's broader policy agenda.

### **3. Enhance Membership Engagement**

- a) Update the [FAC web page](#) to be more useful for the Council**
- b) Recruit more FAC member organizations**
- c) Promote OTA [Farmstead Membership](#)**
- d) Submit nomination for OTA Farmer of the Year Award**