The Organic Trade Association (OTA)’s Grain, Pulse, and Oilseed Council is made up of member companies with a role in the organic grain, pulse, and/or oilseed space that cover the entire supply chain from growers to processors to manufacturers. Council members are committed to ensuring the resilience and profitability of organic grain, pulse, and oilseed production in the United States, and work together to identify and overcome barriers to the growth of domestic organic grain acreage by understanding key challenges and providing recommendations for pre-competitive supply chain solutions.

Highlights from 2021:

• Welcomed new slate of council officers! Chair: Edward Fish (Bay State Milling Company), Vice Chair: Matt Leavitt (Albert Lea Seed), and Secretary: Tobi Strohan (Sunrise Foods International). Together these leaders represent the organic grain sector from seed, to feed, to food.

• Received technical policy briefings on critical international trade issues impacting U.S. supply of organic soybean meal. OTA’s International Trade Director gave a special briefing to the council regarding the revocation of the National Organic Program’s recognition agreement with India, as well updates on the anti-dumping investigation of organic soybean meal imports from India.

• Evaluated best practices for communicating priorities to the research community. Scientists from The Organic Center answered questions from council members about various methods of communication for getting the council’s research priorities in front of the appropriate researchers and funders.

• Engaged in a series of member roundtable discussions on business and industry updates, inspirational organic moments, and impacts from covid on grain production and supply chain issues. Council members also discussed emerging USDA policy issues including support for organic transition and the NOP’s Human Capital Capacity Building initiative.

Looking Ahead to 2022:

Members of the Grain, Pulse, and Oilseed Council will finalize their 2022 work plan. The council’s goal is to have a succinct well-aligned work plan that addresses the highest priority topic areas for the organic grains sector, while also having a diverse mix of activities that can engage the interests of all council members. Areas of priority are expected to include: fraud prevention, climate change, organic transition, research, and data.
Edward Fish (Bay State Milling Company) serves as Chair of the Grains, Pulse and Oilseed Council, alongside Vice Chair Matt Leavitt (Albert Lea Seed), and Secretary Tobi Strahan (Sunrise Foods International). Their work is supported by OTA’s Farm Policy Director, Johanna Mirenda. If you’re interested in joining the Grains Council, please contact Johanna Mirenda (jmirenda@ota.com).

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Headquarters
444 N. Capitol St. NW, Suite 445A, Washington, DC 20001 (202) 403-8520
OTA.com | info@ota.com | @OrganicTrade

Locations
Washington, D.C. | Brattleboro, VT | Santa Cruz, CA | Corvallis, OR