

# Farmers Advisory Council Annual Report | 2022



The Organic Trade Association's Farmers Advisory Council (FAC) provides the Organic Trade Association Board of Directors and staff with input from small- and medium-sized organic farmers, ranchers, and growers on matters pertinent to advancing organic agriculture, with a specific focus on OTA's policy agenda. Established in 2013, FAC was designed to formalize and improve communication between OTA and organic producers. Through open dialogue, FAC gives organic farmers a voice to directly influence OTA's policy and enables OTA to better represent the diversity of organic producers in its policy and advocacy.

The Organic Trade Association's Farmers Advisory Council is one of the largest coalitions of organic farmers and organic farming organizations in the United States. It represents nearly 9,500 organic livestock, poultry, grain, and specialty crop producers.

## 2022 Highlights:



FAC informed and unanimously endorsed OTA's 2023 Farm Bill policy priorities that will ensure responsive organic standards that move at the speed of the marketplace, thriving American farmers supported by equitable and appropriately tailored USDA programs, and resilient organic supply chains that promote organic transition and facilitate international trade.



The Council hosted USDA for a briefing on the new \$300 million Organic Transition Initiative to help build the next generation of organic producers and strengthen organic supply chains.

FAC welcomed National Latino Farmers and Ranchers, Green Heffa Farms, and Knowledge Quest as new members.

## Looking Ahead to 2023:

With the Farm Bill back on the Congressional agenda in 2023, much of FAC's work will focus on championing OTA's Farm Bill policy priorities by advocating in D.C., virtually and through on-farm visits. The Council looks forward to working with its new members Florida Organic Growers and the Organic Association of Kentucky, which joined FAC in early 2023. The Council will also form working groups to dig into organic administrative issues, including market development, technical assistance, conservation and climate-smart programs, and research.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS



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WESTERN ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

FAC is co-chaired by Doug Crabtree (Vilicus Farms) and Adam Warthesen (Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative). FAC is supported by OTA's Legislative and Farm Policy Associate Laura Holm. If you are interested in joining FAC, please reach out to Laura (lholm@ota.com).



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