

Grain, Pulse and Oilseed Council Annual Report | 2022

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 oilseed space covering 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. The Council was first established in 2015 in response to concerns about organic grain shortages, both for food and animal feed, which had forced companies to import large amounts of organic grain and limited new product development. Within the Council, members work together to identify and overcome barriers to domestic organic grain acreage growth by understanding key challenges and providing recommendations for pre-competitive supply chain solutions.

2022 Highlights:



Facilitated work to incentivize and remove barriers to transitioning to organic production, including:

- Hosted a guest presentation from Mallory Krieger of the Organic Agronomy Training Service (OATS) about recent accomplishments and upcoming program opportunities.
- Discussed and informed OTA's priority areas for the NOP Pinpointed Organic Market Development Program and Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP).



Hosted a guest presentation from Ryan Koory of Mercaris about the organic grain market to garner production-level data resources for business decision-making and supply chain transparency.



Promoted organic as a solution to climate change and worked to position organic as a leader among other climate label claims:

- Hosted a guest presentation from Anna Teeter of Cargill on Cargill's regenerative agriculture program, "RegenConnect," to gain insights into the program's goals, how climate outcomes are measured and how certified organic supply chains could utilize a similar framework.
- Reviewed components of OTA's recently launched Organic Opportunity Communications Toolkit and discussed how grains sector companies are already integrating pieces into their marketing, education and advocacy efforts.

Looking Ahead to 2023:

The Grain, Pulse and Oilseed Council plans to continue work in areas such as supporting the successful implementation of the forthcoming Strengthening Organic Enforcement final rule within the grains sector, promoting consumer demand for organic grains, and other topical sector-specific issues.

COUNCIL MEMBERS



The Grain, Pulse and Oilseed Council is led by Edward Fish (Bay State Milling Company) as Chair and Tobi Strohan (Sunrise Food International) as Vice Chair. Their work is supported in the interim by Libby Mucciarone, Associate Director of Education, Technology, and Member Engagement. If you are interested in joining the Council, please contact Libby (LMucciarone@ota.com).



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