

# Farmers Advisory Council Annual Report | 2023



The Organic Trade Association's **Farmer's 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.

OTA'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.

## Council Highlights | 2023



- Developing organic Farm Bill priorities
- Connecting farmer-members to various USDA support programs

## Council Priorities | 2024

- Campaign to support organic in the Farm Bill through Continuous Improvement and Organic Market Development bills
- Host USDA to give an update on the Organic Transition Initiative
- Inform communications to NOSB and USDA championing organic research priorities
- Study ways to inform youth programs about organic

## Why participate?

OTA's FAC helps connect members to other organic producers across the country. Farming can be a lonely occupation and it helps to hear that others face similar challenges and overcome the common challenges. FAC also provides timely and important information on USDA programs and activities. Finally, FAC provides a vehicle to educate OTA staff and board on issues and concerns facing organic farmers.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS



**CROPP COOPERATIVE™**  
organic and farmer-owned since 1988



FAC is co-chaired by Doug Crabtree (Vilicus Farms) and Michael Menes (True Organic Products). 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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