



2018 Organic Farming Research Conference

Rutgers University – Tray Hall

January 26, 2018

*in Partnership with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey
and Rutgers University*

Agenda

8:00 – 8:20 Welcome and introductions

Fertility

8:20 – 8:40 **Margaret Pickoff**, *Improving legume based fertility for organic small grains: an evaluation of green manure termination methods*

8:40 – 9:00 **Theodore Radovich**, *From trash to treasure: developing organic compliant fertilizers from local by-products for crop production in Hawai'i*

9:00 – 9:20 **Brian McSpadden Gardener**, *Quantifying and enhancing the benefits of compost based fertilizers for organic growers*

9:20 – 9:40 **Amjad Ahmad**, *Utilizing locally produced rendered meat to produce high nitrogen content liquid fertilizer*

9:40 – 10:00

Break

Soil Health and Climate Change

10:00 – 10:20 **Tracy Misiewicz**, *National comparison of the total and sequestered organic matter contents of conventional and organic farm soils*

10:20 – 10:40 **Sara Via**, *How life underground builds soil health and climate resilience*

10:40 – 11:00 **Jeth Walkup**, *Impacts of organic farming management practices on soil biogeochemistry*

11:00 – 11:20 **William Sciarappa**, *Assessing soil health and fruit quality in highbush blueberry*

Animals, Pests, and Nutrition

11:20 – 11:40 **James Kotcon**, *High tannin pasture forages for intestinal parasite management in organic sheep production*

11:40 – 12:00 **Robert Cline**, *Root knot nematode infection and reproduction on Cannabis cultivars for organic production*

12:00 – 12:20 **Tiffany Fess**, *Differences in nutritional content and gene expression in organic and conventionally produced crops*

12:20 – 1:50

Lunch

Biodiversity, Environment, and Tillage

- 1:50 – 2:10 **Serpil Guran**, *Integrating food-energy-water (FEW)nexus and organic farming to achieve sustainable agriculture*
- 2:10 – 2:30 **Jose Franco**, *Organic transition approaches to facilitate conservation tillage in the northern great plains*
- 2:30 – 2:50 **Ramu Govindasamy**, *Consumer characteristics and willingness to pay for organic produce in the mid-Atlantic United States*
- 2:50 – 3:10 **Denise Finney**, *Ecosystem services from cover crop mixtures and monocultures in an organic feed and forage rotation*
- 3:10 – 3:30 **Sam Sundius and Carolyn Dimitri**, *Biodiversity, conservation and the organic systems plan*

Economics and Marketing

- 3:30 – 3:50 **T. R. Higgins**, *An economic analysis of the value of grazing organic winter cover crops*
- 3:50 – 4:10 **Haley Baron**, *Understanding the organic supply chain: the relationship between farmers and handlers in a growing market*
- 4:10 – 4:30 **Ryan Anderson**, *Crowdfunding for small farmers*

Poster Session and Social

Refreshments Served

4:30 – 6:30 **Guest Speaker:**

Mark Shepard is the founder and President of the Restoration Agriculture Development, and CEO of Forest Agriculture Enterprises. He teaches Agroforestry and Permaculture worldwide and has also written the book, *Restoration Agriculture*. He runs New Forest Farm, the 106-acre perennial agricultural savannah, considered by many to be one of the most ambitious sustainable agriculture projects in the United States.

Poster Session:

M. V. Melendez, *New Jersey farm soil copper levels resulting from copper fungicide applications*
Alex Mayberry, *Soil test nitrogen fertility for organic sweet potato production*
Omidreza Zandvakili, *Comparisons of the effects of a commercial organic liquid fertilizer with Hoagland and Arnon solution on growth and composition of lettuce*
Eugenio Giraldo, *Nitrogen recycling in organic agriculture everyone wins: farmer, environment, public health*
William Sciarappa, *Comparing conventional, hybrid, and distance learning courses in organic horticulture*
Diana Jerkins, *Financial support for organic producers from USDA-Farm Service Agency - 2018*