

HEALTHY FARMS AND HEALTHY PEOPLE  
FROM THE GROUND UP  
Kansas Rural Center  
2015 Farm & Food Conference

November 13 - 14, 2015  
Four Points Sheraton Hotel  
Manhattan, Kansas

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**Friday, November 13**

**Soil Health Forum: The Nexus Between Cover Crops,  
No Till and Organic Systems**

**8:00 a.m. Conference opens, Registration**

**9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introduction**  
*Mary Fund, Executive Director, Kansas Rural Center*

**9:10 a.m. The Science of Soil Health: Opportunities and Challenges on Our Farms**  
*Dr. Bianca Moebius-Clune, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Health Division Director*

Dr. Bianca Moebius-Clune directs the new USDA-NRCS Soil Health Division. Prior to that she was Senior Extension Associate in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Cornell University. She coordinated the Cornell Soil Health Team's research and extension activities, and a number of projects on Precision Nitrogen Management. She has conducted research on agricultural management impacts on soil quality and N dynamics in the Northeast and Midwest.

**10:15 a.m. Networking, Exhibits Open**

**10:30 a.m. Soil Health and Organic Farming: "We all do better when we all do better"**  
*Klaas Martens, Certified organic farmer, Penn Yan, New York, and owner Lakeview Organic Grain*

Martens began his farming career as a conventional grower in the 1970s. He and his partner, Mary-Howell, began to transition their farm in the early 1990s. With their son, they now farm 1,400 acres of certified organic crops and operate Lakeview Organic Grain, a certified organic feed and seed business. Klaas is involved in numerous national organizations and advisory committees including the Organic Farming Research Foundation Board and the Farm Foundation's

Soil Renaissance. Organic research is a strong component of their farming operation.

**11:45 a.m. Lunch and Exhibits**

**1:00 p.m. Organic No-Till and Opportunities in Organic: Soil Health is the Foundation**  
*Jeff Moyer, Rodale Research Institute Executive Director*

Moyer is a world renowned authority in organic agriculture. His expertise includes organic crop production systems with a focus on weed management, cover crops, crop rotations, equipment modification and use, and facilities design. Jeff is perhaps most well known for conceptualizing and popularizing the No Till Roller Crimper for use in organic agriculture. In 2011, he wrote *Organic No-Till Farming*, a publication that has become a resource for farmers throughout the world.

**2:15 p.m. Networking, Exhibits Open**  
*Snacks Available*

**2:30 p.m. Concurrent sessions**

**Public Seed Varieties: Availability, Regulations and Research**

Vernon Schafer, Kansas Foundation Seed; Steve Schuler, Kansas Crop Improvement Association; and Bill Schapaugh, Kansas State University Soybean Researcher.

**Incorporating Cover Crops into Specialty Crops for Soil Health**

Cary Rivard, Kansas State University Horticultural Specialist

**Soil Health Principles (and Rainfall Simulator Demo)**

Candy Thomas, USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service State Agronomist

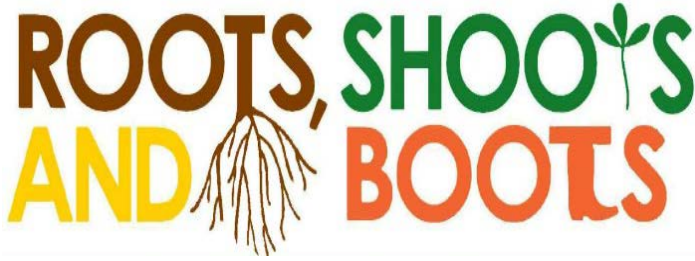
**3:45 p.m. Farmer Panel “Working Farms and Real World Implementation”**

A panel of cover crop, no till, and organic farmers Kansas farmers and leaders share their experiences and challenges in building soil health and successful farms. Speakers include:

- Gail Fuller, Fuller Farms Emporia, Kansas
- Ed Reznicek, Kansas Organic Producers
- Josh Loyd, Clay Center No Till on the Plains (Tentative)
- Jack Geiger, Eastern Kansas Organic Crop Improvement Association, Robinson, Kansas

**5:00 p.m. Closing of Day One**

**6 to 8 p.m. KRC Social and Reception. Join us at the hotel for drinks, snacks, music and conversation! Dinner on your own.**



HEALTHY FARMS AND HEALTHY PEOPLE  
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2015 Farm & Food Conference

**Saturday, November 14**  
**Healthy Farms, Healthy People: From the Ground Up**

**8:00 a.m. Conference opens, Registration**

**8:50 a.m. Welcome and Introduction**  
*Mary Fund, Executive Director, Kansas Rural Center*

**9:00 a.m. The Role and Power of Strategic Organizing to Bring about Social Change Locally & Statewide**  
*David Hunt, Founder, David Hunt & Associates, Silver Spring, Maryland*

David Hunt is a nationally recognized teacher and leader in organizing for social change. In his keynote presentation, Hunt will set a tone of action for strategizing and community building for a day packed with diverse sessions and speakers. Hunt has years of experience, teaching and practicing what he learned as one of four principal trainers at the Midwest Academy-- one of the nation's premier organizing trainers. He founded Hunt and Associates in 1996, dedicated to citizen empowerment and community development.

**10:30 a.m. Networking, Exhibits Open**

**10:45 a.m. Concurrent Workshops, Session I**

**Programs and Resources for Farmers and Ranchers**

Hear about programs that offer cost-share, credit, grants and other opportunities for farmers and ranchers including those for beginning and minority and women farmers. Presenters are Shelly Wolf, Farm Service Agency; Kerri Ebert, Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops; Dean Krehbiel, USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service; Jessica Bowser, USDA Rural Development; Kerry Wefald, Kansas Department of Agriculture.

**Production Strategies for Winter Squash**

An in-depth look at production of winter squash, a high value specialty crop. Learn from farmers who have scaled up their production. Presenters are Scott Thellman, Juniper Hills Farm; and Dan Kuhn, Market Depot.

**Native Pollinator Response to Rangeland Management Practices**

Learn about native pollinator responses to various rangeland management practices in the Flint Hills ecoregion. Presenter is Shelly Wiggam, Kansas State University PhD Candidate.

### **Kansas Voices Matter: Storytelling as Power**

In this interactive session, learn how story-telling can be used to recruit and organize people, raise money, and create public policy. Led by David Hunt.

### **Understanding Kansas Revenue and Budget Issues**

Learn the latest on the state of the ailing Kansas budget and revenue situation, and future of school finance. Presenters are Bernie Koch, Kansas Economic Progress Council; Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards; State Representative Melissa Rooker, R-25th District, Fairway, Kansas; and a Rep. or Sen. TBA.

**12:15 p.m. Lunch, Networking, Exhibits Open**

**1:15 p.m. Concurrent Workshops, Session II**

### **Opportunities to Make a Career on a Small Scale, Diverse Farm**

Learn about opportunities for direct market farming, marketing into retail or wholesale, & what you need to know about production & management including financial management. Workshop is targeted to students, second career, beginning farmers, or those wishing to add enterprises. Presenters are Stu Shafer, Johnson County Community College; Katherine Kelly, Cultivate Kansas City; Kirk Cusick, Whispering Cottonwood Educational Center; and John Crisp, Shepherd's Valley Farm.

### **Lessons Learned: Stories of Challenges and Successes**

Hear how challenges can be turned into opportunities, how limited budgets can be overcome and how to tap into resources. Panel of farmers including Jay Sleichter, Jay's Jellies, Produce and More; Hank Will, Editorial Director, Ogden Publications; Nina and Jeter Isley, Y-Knot Farm and Ranch; and Rosanna Bauman, Bauman's Cedar Valley Farm.

### **Getting Started in Beekeeping/Farmer Veteran Farm**

Learn beekeeping basics and get the resources you need to make a start in beekeeping and learn about a unique training farm being created for veterans. Presenter is Gary LaGrange, retired US Army Colonel, Golden Prairie Honey Farm.

### **Herbicide/Pesticide Drift - Risk and Responses**

How to mitigate your risk of herbicide or pesticide exposure; what you should know and can do if your crops are affected. Presenters are Jo Ann Kuhlmann, Eagle Creek Vineyards; and Gary Meyer, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Pesticide and Fertilizer Department.

### **Kansas Voices Matter - Stories on Reshaping Local Food Systems**

How to address healthy food needs and boost production in your region. Panelists share their local experiences. Presenters include: Andrea Knighton, Wichita Area Sustainability Initiative, and others.

**2:45 p.m.      Networking, Exhibits Open**  
Snacks Available

**3:00 p.m.      Concurrent Workshops, Session III**

**Building Effective Communication in Farm Families**

Find your voice & communicate within the family or farm enterprise, as well as off the farm; learn how to manage crucial conversations. Presenter: Charlie Griffin, Kansas State University, Kansas Rural Family Helpline; Daniel King, multigenerational farm manager, Jako Farm.

**Marketing 101 for Specialty Crops and Small Livestock**

Strategic marketing for livestock & specialty crop producers. Learn how to build relationships with direct market customers, and wholesale and retail venues. Presenters include Jay Sleichter, Jay's Jellies Produce and More; Kendra Horst, Jako Farm; and a Kansas Department of Agriculture representative.

**Why Trees Matter? How to Manage Forests in Kansas**

Learn about the multiple benefits of forests and trees on the farm, and about forest management practices and cost-share opportunities that benefit the farmer and the environment. Presenter is Larry Biles, Kansas Forest Service.

**2016 State Political Landscape, What to Know & What to Do**

Panelists will provide an overview of farm & food, environmental, energy, water & state budget issues. Presenters include Paul Johnson, KRC Policy analyst; Rachel Myslivy, Climate & Energy Project; Marlene Bosworth, former Delaware WRAPS Coordinator, current Regional Advisory Council member; and Senator Carolyn McGinn, R - 31st District, Sedgwick, Kansas.

**Kansas Voices Matter: Create an Action Plan for Your Community**

Participants will learn how to set goals and make an action plan for successfully winning goals. For example, to strengthen your local food system by organizing a local food policy council. Presenters: Elina Alterman, Kansas Health Foundation; David Procter, Kansas State University, Center for Engagement and Community Development and Institute for Civic Discourse and Democracy; and Cole Cottin, Kansas Rural Center.

**4:30 p.m.      Close of the Conference. Turn in Conference Evaluations -**  
**Safe travels home!**

*Agenda is subject to change prior to conference.*  
*No registration refunds after November 1.*

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