



For Immediate Release March 13, 2023

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The Annual Meeting of the Organic Farmers Agency for Relationship Marketing (OFARM) was held during a snowstorm week on February 22-23, 2023 in conjunction with the Marbleseed (formerly MOSES) conference in Lacrosse, WI.

A longstanding agenda item at all our full membership meetings is to review and update the OFARM Target Price List. This year was no exception especially considering the strengthening of organic grain prices due to growing interest in cooperative organic marketing as well as the market impacts from NOP actions which have significantly curtailed imported feed ingredients, most notably soybeans and corn. Recent upticks are noted and increased surveillance will be paramount.

OFARM's belief on price levels is to represent the levels OFARM organic grain producers in the United States have determined as necessary to sustain a fair and profitable return and provide opportunity to transition and maintain a solid base of available Grown in the USA organic grain and hay production. Visit our web page <https://www.ofarm.org/target-prices-1> to see our latest updates.

Our Mission and Vision Statements were reviewed and adopted:

“Establish and maintain sustainable prices for organic farm production through coordinated efforts of organic farmer cooperative marketing groups while protecting and defending the organic standards and promoting environmentally friendly production practices”

“To provide for an economically sustainable marketing platform and process for the producers of organic products, where the producers have a voice and a seat at the bargaining table in determination and negotiation for equitable market levels.”

The balance of the meeting was focused on three primary issues:

1. The review of the recently released Standard for Organic Enforcement (SOE) rule where OFARM was highly involved in its formation. We thank all those who collaborated with us in bringing this much needed rule to fruition. David Glasgow, Assistant Deputy Administrator, NOP updated us on the SOE rule and demonstrated the effectiveness of the increased resources by including part of the team, now in place, to carry out the implementation. He rendered the recognition of OFARM's involvement in the process. OFARM applauds the NOP for its action in the release and implementation of this new set of rules which will do much for the integrity of organics and significantly reduce the possibilities for fraudulent activity.
2. The approval of the USDA Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CASF) grant application was discussed at length. The Partnership of Marbleseed as the lead participant and OFARM, Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association (OEFFA), Tennessee State University and Michael Fields Institute as collaborating partners, brings together a multi-faceted initiative to evaluate and promote organic agriculture as climate smart. There will be much to be accomplished.
3. The inclusion of OFARM as a primary partner in two regional areas of the USDA'S Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) initiative was next on the agenda. We look forward to participation in both

the Midwest and the Plains regions. This initiative can serve to enhance domestic organic transition and mentor those who make the commitment to assist in their success.

The recent version of the proposed Organic Livestock and Poultry rule also garnered some attention and the comments we filed were noted. The proposed rule does very little to truly curb the continuation and growth of the CAFO type operations which make it nearly impossible for family farm size operations to access any part of the market they dominate.

Given all the anticipated activity, sessions for strategic planning will be an immediate priority.

There will be positions to be filled to accomplish the desired outcomes. If there is interest in being involved in this exciting opportunity, consider placing a resume on file with Marketing@ofarm.org.

We will be looking forward to our next in-person gathering which will likely be in the Sioux City, Iowa/Sioux Falls, South Dakota area the week of September 4 – details to be worked out soon.

OFARM's website: <https://www.ofarm.org/news>

USDA, NOP website: www.ams.usda.gov/Organic