



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Organic Grain Resources And Information Network (OGRAIN)

Supporting beginning organic grain growers in the upper Midwest.

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Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development

Program Award No 2015-70017-23899



# Project Audience

- Junior operators coming into managerial roles
- New farmers exploring the organic grain market
- Beginning organic livestock operators interested in growing their own feed
- Beginning organic vegetable farmers interested in diversifying their operations



# Partners/Collaborators

- University of Wisconsin Extension (UWEX)
- The Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC)
- The Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS)
- Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service (MOSES)



# Key Approach(es)

- A three-week intensive course offered through FISC
- A full day “Organic University” course at the annual MOSES Organic Farming Conference
- Participation in MOSES’ Farmer-to-Farmer Mentoring Program
- Field walks- building a community of practitioners
- A 6-part series of How-To videos
- Online learning library



# Overall Target Outcome

By the end of this project, we will have helped:

- 40 people start a farm
- 160 early-stage farmers improve their operations through increased understanding of organic production practices, the certification process, and the marketing landscape.



# What do you have to share?

- An as-yet undeveloped curriculum focusing specifically on organic grain production
- Video direction, production, and editing





# What do you hope to learn from other projects?

- Best practices in curriculum development
  - Specifically for successful farmer integration
- Other organic grain production resources
- How best to organize a cash-cropping community



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# Keep in touch!

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