

Grain, Pulse, and Oilseed Council 2016 Annual Report

ORIGINS

The Organic Trade Association (OTA) Grain, Pulse, and Oilseed Council started up towards the end of 2015 at the request of seven OTA members involved in an ongoing collaborative effort to identify barriers to the growth of organic grain supplies, and to develop recommendations and actions that companies, farmers, and advocacy groups can take to overcome those barriers. The group's successes in this collaboration led to the need for a home for these activities, and the participating companies decided to request the formation of the Grain, Pulse, and Oilseed Council at OTA. The sector council structure will allow any OTA member to participate in discussions around issues related to this sector. Additionally, the sector council will provide a mechanism for companies to pool funds to continue the work of the collaboration, and the council will be able to utilize OTA's communication resources to highlight the achievements and milestones. The Grain, Pulse, and Oilseed Council has met twice (once in person at OTA's Policy Conference), elected its officers, and has put together a meeting schedule and work plan for the rest of the year.

WORK PLAN

As the newly formed council gets off the ground, it will provide the foundation for the next phase of the U.S. Organic Grain Collaborative effort, which has put together a three-year plan focusing its activities in four pilot regions (Aroostook County Maine, the Midwest, the Northern Great Plains, and the Pacific Northwest). The activities will include commissioning analyses of the grain supply chains in each of these regions to give companies an accurate picture of the landscape in each area. The group will host opportunity days in each region to bring together farmers, researchers, extension, government officials, and companies to identify and solve problems facing growth of grain acreage and to provide a networking forum for farmers to explore new markets. The group is hoping to showcase its work at regional conferences throughout the year as opportunities allow.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

So far, a number of OTA members have joined the Grain, Pulse, and Oilseed Council, and many have pledged funds to further the work of the U.S. Organic Grain Collaborative. The council is open to all OTA members engaged in the grain, pulse, and oilseed space. Any members interested in joining the council or contributing to the collaboration should contact OTA's Farm Policy Director Nate Lewis for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Organic Trade Association's Grain, Pulse, and Oilseed Council will continue to work together to increase the domestic supply of organic grain and serve as a forum for the industry to contribute to problem-solving.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Chair

Matt Dillon | Clif Bar

Vice-Chair

Jonathan Reinbold | Organic Valley

Secretary

Shauna Sadowski | Annie's

MEMBER COMPANIES



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Kashi



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Headquarters

444 N. Capitol St. NW, Suite 445A
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 403-8520

OTA.com | info@ota.com | @OrganicTrade

Locations

Washington, D.C. | Brattleboro, VT
Santa Cruz, CA | Corvallis, OR | Olympia, WA