



OCIA International, Inc.
Organic Crop Improvement Association

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OCIA Celebrates 30 Years of Serving Organic Farmers at Annual Meeting

LINCOLN, NE: Join us as we celebrate over 30 years of serving organic farmers during the OCIA 2018 Annual Meeting. The Holiday Inn Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, MO will be the venue for this event on January 30th and 31st. There is a great line up of presenters that you won't want to miss on Jan 30th, along with a mini trade show and all organic meals. It will be a day filled with information for farmers thinking about transitioning to organic, as well as for the experienced organic farmer. General OCIA business will be conducted on Jan 31st.

Joanna (Voigt) Will, Pollinator Programming Coordinator for the Kansas Rural Center, will cover farming and conservation practices that attract or increase pollinator populations on the farm. **Kristina (Kiki) Hubbard**, Director of Advocacy and Communications for the Organic Seed Alliance, will discuss her efforts to promote policies that support organic seed systems, including managing OSA's State of Organic Seed project. **Tim Boortz**, Grain Marketing Specialist for NFOrganics, will talk about marketing organic grains and the effects of foreign grain imports. **Gregg Brandt**, of Broken Trellis Farm, will tell of his beekeeping project results from an OCIA R&E micro grant award he received. **Demetria Stephens**, a fifth-generation farmer in western Kansas, will discuss raising 'Turkey Red' hard red winter wheat, along with organic certification, growing and marketing tips. **Jeff Kienast**, OCIA certified farmer since 1996, will cover organic livestock, weed control, crop rotations, and certification tips.

Join us immediately following the speakers for a tour of OCIA certified, **Parisi Artisan Coffee Roasting Facility**, just 10 minutes away from the hotel. This tour will showcase how they roast and package organic coffee and will conclude with a trip to their Parisi Café retail shop located in Union Station, Kansas City's original train station, fully restored and still in use. Also while in town, you'll want to visit the MOA annual conference <https://moaorganic.org/> in Independence, MO located just outside of Kansas City.

Please contact Angie Tunink at 402-477-2323 or by email at atunink@ocia.org for more information or registration.

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OCIA is a not-for-profit organic certification agency that has offered a wide variety of accreditations to our members throughout the world for over 30 years. During an annual meeting, approximately 80 organic farmers from the United States, Canada and Latin America come together to meet and vote on the Bylaws, Standards and Board of Directors for this member-run organization.

OCIA: The Worldwide Standard for Certified Organic Excellence