



OCIA International, Inc.
Organic Crop Improvement Association

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Network with Organic Farmers at OCIA's Annual Meeting in Springfield, MO

LINCOLN, NE: Networking opportunities abound at the 2020 OCIA Annual General Membership Meeting, February 4th-5th at the University Plaza hotel in Springfield, MO. While *EVERYONE* is invited to attend a great line-up of presentations on Feb 4th from 9am-6pm, OCIA 'members-only' will conduct the business portion of their meeting on Feb 5th. If you have ever thought about transitioning your farm to organic, this is the place for you.

Ryan Koory, the keynote presenter from Mercaris, will kick-off the meeting at 9am to provide a look at Mercaris' recent, comprehensive outlook of organic crop supply and demand, as well as a first look at crop area and production estimates for the 2020 marketing year. **Dale Softly**, Forensic Agronomist from Lincoln, NE will discuss the effects spray drift has on organic land and **Jack Geiger**, OCIA certified organic grower, will share first-hand experience with spray drift this past year. President of OCIA and certified organic grower, **Terry Sheehan**, will talk about easing the transition of transferring farm assets to the next generation.

Following an organic lunch, **Frank Kutka** will discuss participatory breeding of crops for organic systems and **Bill McDorman** from the Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance will share the educational opportunities provided after receiving a 2019 OCIA Research & Education micro grant. OCIA Executive Director, **Amanda Brewster**, will detail how to navigate the new OCIA website and online forms. Then the day will conclude with a movie showing of *Dreaming of a Vetter World*, introduced by **David Vetter** himself. This film features the self-sustaining, self-renewing farm-management experiment Donald and David Vetter created back in the 1970s. As the Vettters try to stay one-step ahead of changing weather patterns, market fluctuations, and the ever-increasing pesticide use around them, their experiment to regenerate soil through organic methods continues.

The cost to attend the Feb 4th presentations and movie showing, including lunch, is \$50 per person. For more information, please contact Angie Tunink at 402-477-2323 or by email at atunink@ocia.org.

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OCIA is a not-for-profit, member-run organic certification agency that has offered a wide variety of organic certifications to members throughout the world for over 30 years. An OCIA Annual Meeting is held each year to network with other organic farmers, elect a new board of directors, and vote on any changes to the OCIA Bylaws and Standards.