

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wyoming–Nebraska Organic Farming Conference

9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Rendezvous Center, Goshen County Fairgrounds, Torrington, WY

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<b>9:00</b>	Welcome and Opening Remarks <b>Caleb Carter &amp; Jay Norton</b> , <i>University of Wyoming</i> , <b>Ted Craig</b> , <i>Wyo Dept of Ag</i>
<b>9:15</b>	Soil Fertility & Cover Crops for Organic Production <b>Gary Hergert</b> , <i>Soil and Nutrient Management Specialist, University of Nebraska</i>
<b>9:50</b>	Organic Approaches to Insect Pest Control <b>Jeff Bradshaw</b> , <i>Entomology Specialist, University of Nebraska</i>
<b>10:15</b>	Organic Weed Control <b>Carl Coburn</b> , <i>Weed Scientist, University of Wyoming</i>
<b>10:40</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:55</b>	Growing Potatoes for Organic Starch <b>Alexander Pavlista</b> , <i>Crop Physiologist and Potato Specialist, University of Nebraska</i>
<b>11:20</b>	Novel Approaches Toward Soil Fertility: Compost Carry Over/Cover Crop Project. <b>Jay Norton</b> , <i>Soil Fertility Specialist, University of Wyoming</i>
<b>11:35</b>	Organic Approaches to Crop Disease Control <b>Bob Harveson</b> , <i>Plant Pathologist, University of Nebraska</i>
<b>12:00</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>1:00</b>	Considerations for Organic Livestock Production <b>Steven Paisley</b> , <i>Wyoming State Beef Extension Specialist, University of Wyoming</i>
<b>1:25</b>	World Demand Driving Wyoming Organic Wheat Prices and Profits <b>Ted Craig</b> , <i>Wyoming Department of Agriculture</i>
<b>1:50</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>2:05</b>	<b>Producer Panel Discussion:</b> 10-15 min talks followed by discussion <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Mike Ridenour: Grass Fed Beef Production;</li><li>2. Cindy Ridenour: Organic Vegetables and Community Supported Agriculture;</li><li>3. Dennis Baker: Dryland Organic Wheat Production;</li><li>4. Mike Wyatt, Grant, NE: certified organic production considerations and inputs</li></ol>
<b>4:00</b>	<b>Conference Evaluation &amp; Adjourn</b>

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**Presenters at the  
2nd Annual Wyoming-Nebraska Organic Farming Conference  
Wednesday, February 11, 2015  
Torrington, Wyoming**

**Prof. Jeff Bradshaw:**

Jeff Bradshaw is an Associate Professor and Extension Specialist of Entomology for the University of Nebraska at the Panhandle Research and Extension Center. He has graduate degrees in zoology, entomology, and plant pathology and works on applied ecology issues in crops and rangeland in the High Plains region. His recent research has explored strategies for the conservation of beneficial insects (e.g., ground beetles in crops and dung beetles on rangeland) to improve their function or "ecosystem services" in agricultural systems.

**Prof. Gary Hergert:**

Gary W. Hergert is a Professor of Agronomy at the University of Nebraska Panhandle Center in Scottsbluff. A native of Colorado, he has graduate degrees in Agronomy from CSU and Cornell University. His current research efforts focus on soil and fertilizer management to improve crop production efficiency for major and minor crops in the High Plains as influenced by irrigation management. Other research includes soil fertility management in dryland organic production, high pH soils and iron deficiency chlorosis, irrigation water quality and manure management.

**Carl W. Coburn:**

Carl W. Coburn has undergraduate degree in Biology, and MS in Weed Science, and is currently working on his PhD degree also in Weed Science. His research has focused on environmental impacts of conventional- compared to roundup-ready sugarbeet. Carl is interested in alternative approaches to weed management and recently completed an organic weed management course at the University of Wyoming.

**Prof. Alexander Pavlista:**

Alexander Pavlista is a Professor of Agronomy and Horticulture at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has undergraduate and graduate degrees in Biology and Chemistry and is currently the Crop Physiologist and Potato Specialist. His recent research work has focused on the effects of limiting irrigation on potato, canola, camelina, fenugreek, winter wheat and cellulosic grasses. He is currently evaluating potato starch production under non-irrigated, organic conditions in western Nebraska.

**Prof. Robert M. Harveson:**

Bob Harveson is a Professor and Extension Pathologist at the Specialty Crop Specialist at the University of Nebraska Panhandle Center in Scottsbluff, with an interest in the etiology and management specialty crop diseases. His research area of focus is on soil borne diseases of sugar beets, dry-edible beans, and sunflower but his work encompasses other specialty crops including potatoes, pulse crops, edible amaranth, mustards, and many others.

**Prof. Steven Paisley:**

Steven Paisley is an Associate Professor and Wyoming State Beef Extension Specialist. His research interests focus on management of the young beef female including heifer development and selection as well as economical and practical management and feeding programs. The goal

of his work is to reduce development costs while maximizing the number of heifers cycling and bred early in the breeding season.

**Dennis Baker:**

Dennis Baker grew up on a farm. With a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Wyoming, Dennis worked for several engineering firms, including building center pivots in Libya and Saudi Arabia. He has served on the FSA Committee in Platte County, and on advisory board for growers with Kellogg's/Kashi Cereal companies. Dennis has been in the farming business since 1973 and harvested their first organic crop in 2004.

**Mike and Cindy Ridenour:**

Mike and Cindy Ridenour own and operate Ridenour Ranch in Goshen County, Wyoming. They direct-market their grassfed beef and vegetables at local food co-ops, farmers markets and through a CSA under the Meadow Maid Foods label, a company they started in 2003. Mike is a former marketing executive with a degree in Chemistry from Miami University (Ohio). Cindy is a former applications chemist with a PhD in Chemistry from Colorado State University. Now full-time agriculturalists, their production philosophy eschews the use of conventional fertilizers, herbicides, and all broad-spectrum pesticides.