

Meeting the Needs of Ohio Organic Grain Growers

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1. The Ohio State University Extension 2. Ohio State Agroecosystem Management Program 3. Purdue University Extension

The Ohio State University Organic Grains Conference

Since 2023, The Ohio State University Agroecosystem Management Program and Extension have worked together to better serve the needs of organic grain growers through a 2-day professional grain growers conference held in January.

We also use the conference registration as an opportunity to gather information about organic grain growers, including yields, production practices, and management approaches; as well as research and information needs.

GOAL: Meet the needs of commercial organic grain growers and crop consultants in the Eastern Corn belt by hosting a 2-day conference featuring farmers, researchers, and industry sharing research, technology, and practices.

Background Information

Source: 2019 USDA-NASS, Census of Agriculture



Ohio Ranks **5th** in Nation for Total Number of Organic Farms

6th in Nation for Number of Acres in Transition to Organic



Ohio is Home to **850+** Organic Grain Farmers



Ohio Farms **111,000** Certified Organic Acres

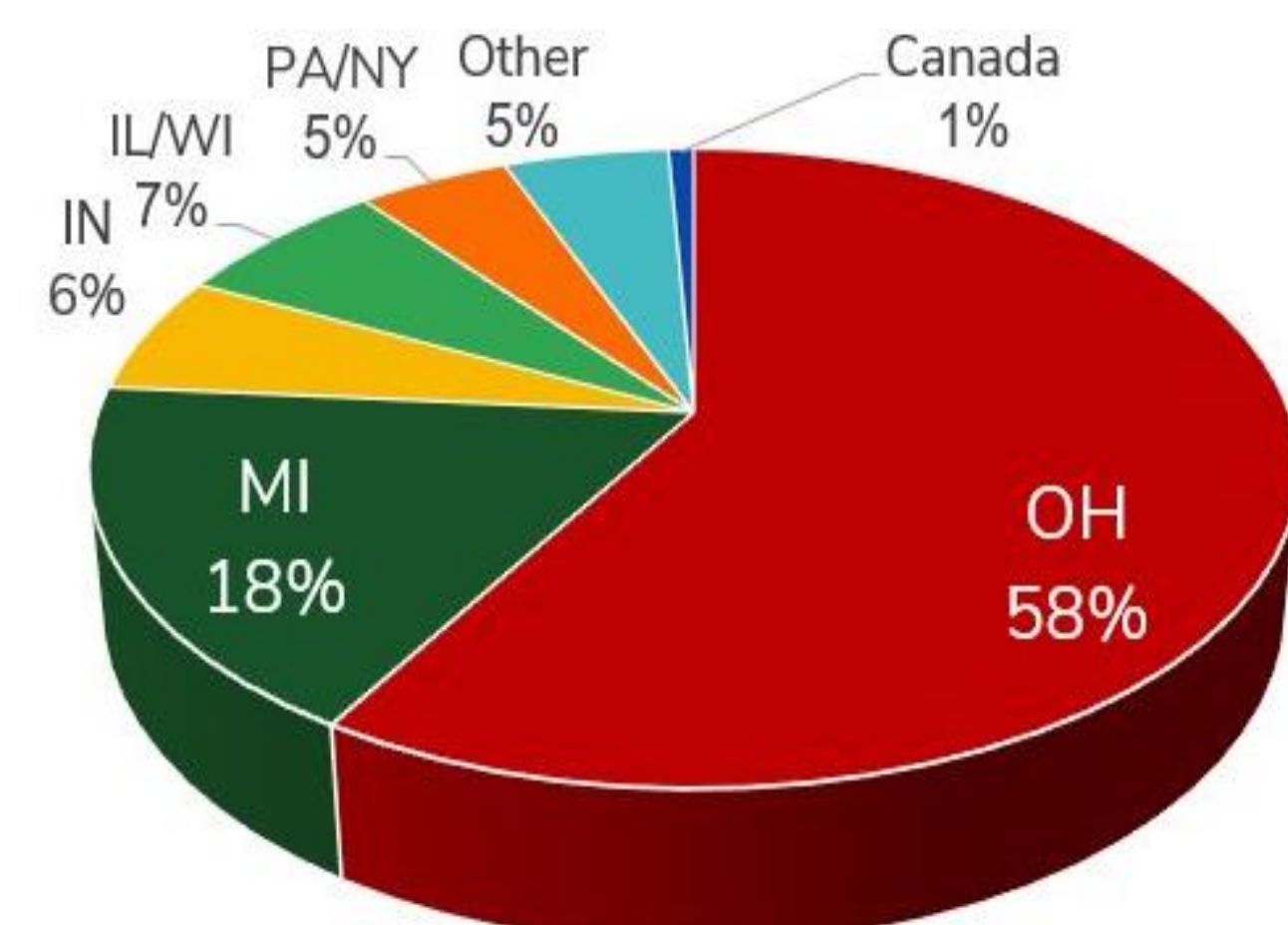
Major Outcomes

- Total registration 2025: 242
- Average organic farm size: 745 acres
- Outputs produced: Speaker slide decks, videos, factsheets, enterprise budgets
- 96% of farmers surveyed stated that they learned at least 1 new practice to improve their farm

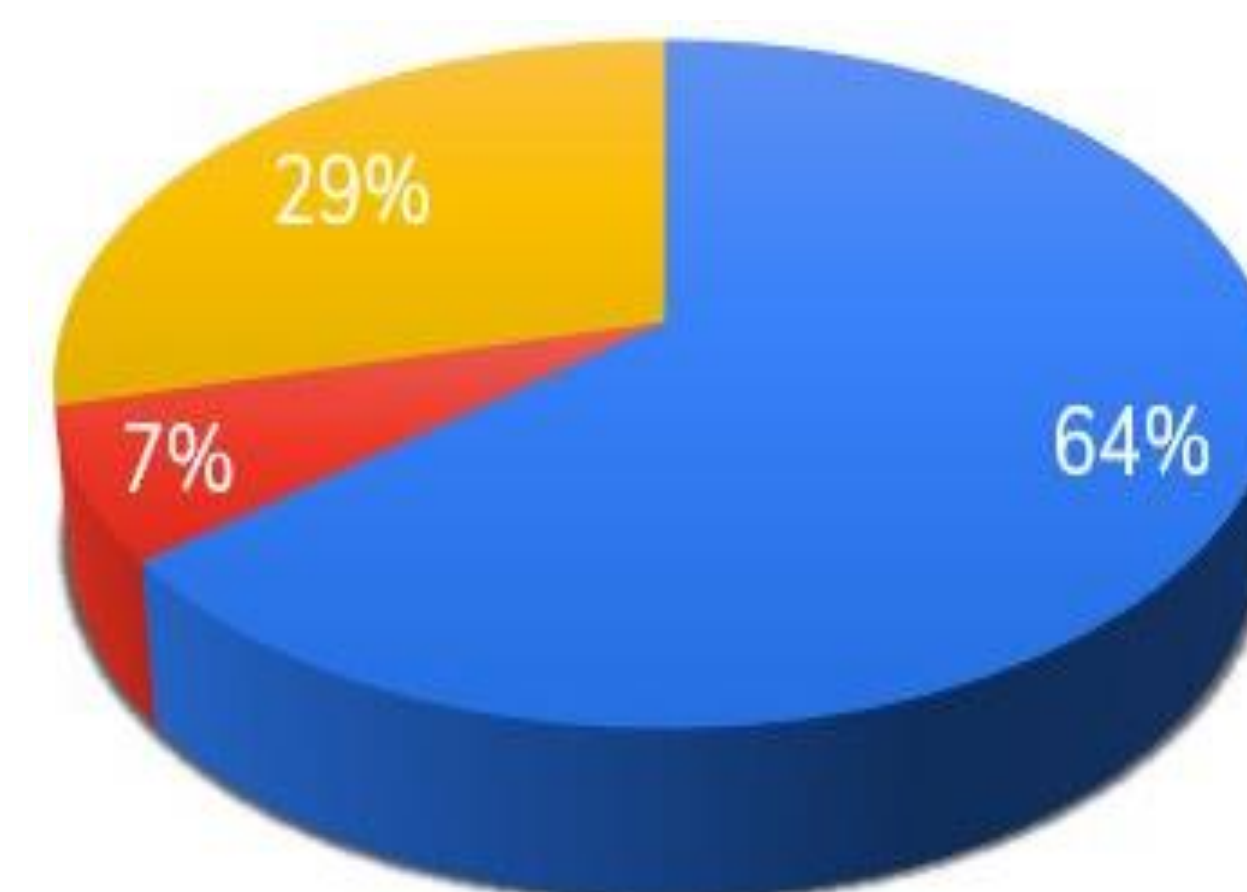
Conference Data Collected 2023-2025

- Average amount budgeted for labor and management by organic farmers: \$124/acre
- Most frequently used fertility source: poultry litter
- Percentage of grower attendees who used crop insurance for organic corn or soybeans in 2023: 74%
- Average yields for 2023-25 conference farmer attendees vs. *USDA-NASS Census of Agriculture conventional data 2024):

	Responses	Organic AVERAGE	*5-year Ohio AVERAGE	Organic as % of Conventional
Corn, bu	159	137	188	73%
Soybean (Feed), bu	120	43	57	75%
Wheat (SRW), bu	140	61	80	76%



Where Attendees Came from



Farm Acres Represented by Attendees

- Organic Acres
- Transition Acres
- Conventional

Key Areas of Planning



Educational Program



We typically have 15 sessions on agronomic & economic topics in a variety of formats including panels, networking time, etc.



Sponsors & Vendors



Conference was supported by 51 total sponsors and vendors; including 14 grain buyers & 12 equipment dealers.



Food



In 2025 we partnered with 8 food sponsors to include 10 local or organic food products on the conference menu.



Marketing & Registration



Marketing begins in July via direct mail, email, social media, attendance at related conferences, & other collaborations.